

## WORLD 5

RUSSIA LAUNCHES ANOTHER  
MISSILE ATTACK ON UKRAINE

## MONEY 6

'ONLINE GAMES WITH CERTAIN  
OUTCOME UNDER 28% GST'

## SPORT 7

MESSI TARGETS WC GLORY  
AGAINST MBAPPE'S FRANCEPublished From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL  
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI  
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD  
VIJAYWADA

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## CAPSULE

DESHMUKH BAIL: CBI  
CHALLENGES HC ORDER**New Delhi:** The CBI has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court order granting bail to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in a corruption case.BHARAT JODO PUNJAB LEG  
TO START NEXT MONTH**Phagwara:** The Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, which will begin its Punjab leg next month, will be in Punjab for eight to nine days before entering Jammu & Kashmir, the Congress' State unit said.'CHINA'S AGGRESSION DUE  
TO INSECURITY FEELING'**Jammu:** The president of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, on Saturday said China's aggression against India is the outcome of its "feeling of insecurity" and aimed at establishing its hegemony in Asia. The Tibetan leader was in Jammu as the chief guest at a Bharat Tibet Sangh meeting.CNG price hiked  
in Delhi, NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

**Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL)** has increased CNG prices in Delhi-NCR from Saturday. In Delhi, the CNG price has been increased from ₹78.61 per kg to ₹79.56 per kg. As the prices of CNG have gone up, cab service providers, such as Ola and Uber are likely to charge more.

Those who travel by auto every day will have to bear the brunt. This will also impact the price of fruits and vegetables.

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GST prosecution limit  
doubled to ₹2 croreCouncil defines  
SUVs, slaps 22%  
cess, decriminalises  
certain offences

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**The GST Council** on Saturday agreed to decriminalise certain offences and doubled the threshold for launching prosecution under the tax law to ₹2 crore, but retained the limit at ₹1 crore for fake invoicing.

The Council also clarified on the definition of SUVs (sports utility vehicles) for the levy of 22 per cent compensation cess over the 28 per cent GST and decided to come out with parameters to define MUVs (multi utility vehicles). Briefing reporters after the 48th GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Council could decide on only eight out of the 15 agenda items due to paucity of time, but added that no new taxes have been brought in.

The agenda items which could not be considered included taxation for pan masala and gutkha firms and a report by a Group of Ministers (GoM) on setting up of appellate tribunals. The report of another



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 48th meeting of the GST Council via virtual mode, in New Delhi on Saturday

GoM, chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, on GST levy on online gaming, casinos and horse racing was also not part of the agenda for Saturday's meeting.

Sitharaman said in case of SUVs, the clarification that has been given is that the higher rate of compensation cess of 22 per cent is applicable to a motor vehicle fulfilling all four conditions — it is popularly known as SUV; has engine capacity exceeding 1,500cc; length exceeding 4,000 mm; has ground clearance of 170 mm and above.

"So this clarification is not new tax, it's more to say what

defines that commodity which is under taxation as SUV," the Minister said.

Sitharaman said the discussion on MUVs began when some States asked whether sedans should be included in the SUV category. The States also suggested bringing in a definition for MUVs.

The Minister said the Council decided that if any other motor vehicle categories need to be added to the 22 per cent cess, the panel of central and state tax officers (or the Fitment Committee) will look into it. The Centre and states would attempt to widen the GST base at every level to

increase the tax mop-up which is averaging about ₹1.4 lakh crore every month.

"So the focus will be on how much all of us are putting effort... To widen the tax base," she said.

Currently, 1.40 crore tax payers are registered under GST. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said the Council took a "path breaking decision" with regard to decriminalising three types of GST offences — obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties; deliberate tampering of material evidence; and failure to supply information.

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Govt calls Rahul shame  
for 'beating jawans' jibeNo amount of  
praise for armed  
forces enough:  
Rajnath; Kharge  
seeks 'China  
pe charcha'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**A** week into the clashes between the Indian and Chinese soldiers at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, as the Congress kept up its attack against the Modi dispensation on the issue with its chief on Saturday wanting to know when there would be a "China pe charcha", the Government had its Union Ministers take on the main Opposition party by calling its former president Rahul Gandhi a "huge embarrassment for the country" and asserting "no amount of praise for the armed forces is enough".

"The bravery and valour displayed by the armed forces during the Galwan valley clashes and the recent face-off in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh is commendable and any amount of praise for them is not enough," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, leading the counter while addressing an event here.

His remarks came a day after Rahul accused the Government of downplaying the threat posed by China along the LAC saying that it



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaks during the Bharat Jodo concert, organised on completion of 100 days of Bharat Jodo Yatra, at Albert Hall in Jaipur, Rajasthan on Friday night

PTI

was "asleep" and not ready to accept the situation and that Indian soldiers were getting beaten up by their Chinese counterparts.

The Defence Minister also took an indirect dig at Rahul for always "doubting" the Government's intentions. He said politics cannot be done on the basis of "falsehood".

Rajasthan Chief Minister and Congress veteran Ashok Gehlot sought to explain what Rahul actually meant. "The country is going through a huge crisis. The crisis is not that a war is going on at the border. This is more dangerous. Our brave soldiers can fight at the border, the country is capable enough," he said, adding, "This

crisis will make the country hollow".

And this is what Rahul worries about, he maintained.

However, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, who visited Tawang and asserted that the area is fully secured now due to adequate deployment of the brave jawans of Indian Army, came out hard saying, "Rahul is not only insulting Indian Army but damaging nation's image. He is not only a problem for the Congress but has also become a huge embarrassment to the country. We are proud of our Armed Forces." He even shared a video of the locals who criticised Rahul for his comments.

Continued on Page 2

Guj Govt competent  
to decide on Bilkis'  
convicts' release: SCPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI**The Supreme Court** has dismissed the review petition filed by Bilkis Bano against the May 13 judgment that held that the State of Gujarat was the "appropriate Government" competent to examine the application for the pre-mature release filed by a convict in the gangrape and murder case.

The separate writ petitions filed by Bano and many others like CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and TMC MP Mauha Moitra against the remission of the accused persons is, however, pending before the apex court.

The order was passed by a bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath on December 13, but uploaded on the apex court's website on Saturday. In its May 13 order, the apex court had asked the State Government to consider



the plea of a convict for pre-mature release in terms of its policy of July 9, 1992, which was applicable on the date of conviction, and decide it within a period of two months.

Bano's separate petition challenging the remission of the sentences of the 11 convicts by the State Government is pending before the Supreme Court.

Bano was gangraped in the aftermath of the 2002 riots and her three-year-old daughter was among twelve people killed by a mob in Limkheda taluka of Dahod district in Gujarat.

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Why BSF needs 'so much'  
land, Mamata asks Shah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

**While Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on Saturday reminded the State Government's that apart from the Border Security Force — which comes under the Union Home Ministry — the States too were responsible for inland security, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her reluctance to allow more jurisdictional space to the BSF, sources said.

The two leaders were taking part in the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting held at the Bengal State secretariat at Nabanna in Kolkata. Among other leaders who took part in the meeting were Mamata's Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav, Odisha Minister Pradeep Amat.

The annual meeting took place amid growing concerns over unchecked infiltration, trans-border smuggling, fake currency and drugs peddling, arms and cattle rackets, etc.

While the role of the BSF



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being welcomed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the 25th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Nabanna, in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

for a second time in a private one-on-one parity with Shah. After the two-and-a-half-hour EZC meeting, Mamata met Shah at her office for about 20 minutes where she reportedly raised the BSF issue once again, sources said.

The Chief Minister asked on what basis the BSF was asking for so much land and added that it would be not possible for her Government to allot the amount of land thus demanded.

Later Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said that the Chief Minister was reluctant to provide requisite land to construct BSF outposts as also fencing the border.

"Questions are being raised as to why the long border with Bengal has not been fenced entirely ... it is the State Government which is not ready to provide the land ... we will request the Home Minister to get the land purchased for the construction of BSF posts and fencing in order to stop border smuggling and infiltration which helps the Trinamool Congress," Adhikari said.

was discussed against the backdrop of increased jurisdictional area of the paramilitary force an argument reportedly ensued between the Chief Minister and BSF brass.

The Centre had earlier increased the BSF's jurisdictions from 15 km to 50 km much to the chagrin of the Chief Ministers of the border States, including Mamata.

According to reports the Chief Minister raised the issue

Man throws infant  
son from 1st floor,  
jumps off after  
spat with wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

**Following a spat** with his wife, a 30-year-old man allegedly threw his two-year-old son from the first-floor terrace of a building in South-East Delhi's Kalkaji area under the influence of alcohol and then jumped off it on Friday night. The man was identified as Man Singh.

According to police, both father and son have been admitted to AIIMS with serious injuries. This incident was reported a day after a teacher in the MCD-run primary school hit a class 5 student with paper-cutting scissors and threw her off the first floor.

The man's wife, Pooja, has alleged they shared a strained relationship and she was living with her grandmother along with her son in Kalkaji, police officials said.

Man Singh and his wife Puja had been living separately for the past few months. He came to meet them last night when the couple got into a heated argument.

Continued on Page 2

BJP protests across  
nation against Bilawal  
shameful jibe at Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**In** countrywide protests on Saturday, BJP workers took to the streets to denounce Pakistan foreign minister's comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, burnt Bilawal Bhutto's effigies and raised anti-Pakistan slogans.

The all-India protest took place a day after the BJP had staged a massive protest near the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi against Bhutto's "highly derogatory" remark against Prime Minister Modi.

The trigger for protests came against the backdrop of Bhutto's acidic comments in response to India's sharp condemnation of Pakistan's all-out and continuous support to terrorism.

At the recent United Nations Security Council meet, the Pakistan Foreign Minister responded to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's "hosting Osama Bin Laden" comment and said, "I want to tell India that Osama bin Laden is



BJP workers protest against Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Thane on Saturday

PTI

dead, but the butcher of Gujarat lives and he is the Prime Minister of India."

In various States, BJP State unit presidents led the march of party workers. In Uttar Pradesh, the agitation against Bhutto's remark started as BJP State president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary issued a statement calling Bhutto's remarks against Modi "indecent" and "shameful". Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal led the protests in the State.

Continued on Page 2



Members from the MVA during a protest rally against the Maharashtra Government in Mumbai on Saturday. (Right) Empty roads outside the Thane railway station during a bandh called by Shiv Sena's Shinde faction over Shiv Sena (Uddhav) leader Shobha Andhare's remarks against Hindu gods, saints and varikars

T20 WC for Blind: India  
thrash Bangladesh,  
win hat-trick of titles

PTI ■ BENGALURU

**Riding on brilliant centuries** from captain Ajay Kumar Reddy and Sunil Ramesh, India thrashed Bangladesh by 120 runs in the final to win their third consecutive title in the T20 World Cup for the Blind here on Saturday.

Ramesh smashed 136 off 63 balls with the help of 24 boundaries and one six, while Reddy struck 100 off 50 balls (18X4).

The duo put on a 248-run unbeaten partnership for the third wicket to take them to a mammoth 277 for two in 20 overs after opting to bat.

Chasing the huge target, Bangladesh could only score

157 for 3 in 20 overs. Salman top-scored for Bangladesh with 77 not out.

Champions India, who remained unbeaten in the tournament, got ₹3 lakh for the title, while Bangladesh received ₹1.5 lakh.

Bangladesh rocked India top order with Salman giving a double blow in the fourth over.

He removed Venkateswara with the score reading just 28.

India suffered another blow in the same over as Salman castled Lalit Meena to reduce India to 29/2.

Thereafter it was all about Ramesh and Reddy's show as they took on the Bangladesh bowling attack.

Croatia beat Morocco to  
grab 3rd spot in FIFA WC

AP ■ AL RAYYAN

**Luka Modric** led Croatia to third place in what was likely the midfield great's last appearance at the World Cup.

The runners-up from four years ago secured another medal by beating Morocco 2-1 in the third-place match on Saturday.

Mislav Orsic scored the decisive goal shortly before halftime at Khalifa International Stadium to ensure Modric finished on a winning note, if this does turn out to be his last World Cup match. At the age of 37, that seems likely, even if there are hopes he will lead his country at the 2024 European Championship.

See P7



Croatia players celebrate at the end of the World Cup third-place playoff soccer match between Croatia and Morocco at Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday

AP | PTI



# Maha Morcha: MVA flexes muscles, demands Guv’s removal

■ TN RAGHUNATHA ■  
MUMBAI

The belligerent Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) – comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress – flexed its muscles on Saturday by rooting for the removal of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari over his controversial statements about the state icons and hitting out at the Shinde-Fadnavis government for its ineffective handling of the Maharashtra-Karnataka border row.

On a day when the MVA and scores of political smaller political parties, trade unions and various organised a massive 5 km morcha from Byculla to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), NCP chief Sharad Pawar led the Opposition attack against the Governor, by asserting that Maharashtra would “erupt” if Koshiyari was not either recalled or removed from his post.

Addressing a public rally after the MVA morcha culminated at the CSMT, Pawar

said: “A Governor, who ridicules state icons like Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule has no moral right to continue in his post. In Maharashtra, we have seen Governors of the stature of Shankar Dayal Sharma, Dr C Subramaniam and P C Alexander. But, we have not seen such a Governor in the history of the state...As of now, the people in the state are quiet. If the Governor is not removed from his post in the near future, Maharashtra will erupt over this issue”.

Mincing no words about his displeasure over the manner in which the ruling BJP leaders “defaming” Maharashtra through their criticism of state’s iconic figures like Chhatrapati Shivaji, Mahatma Phule, Jyotiba Phule and late B R Ambedkar, Pawar said: “We expect competition among the ministers and party leaders over the development matters. But, what we witnessing among them is a competition in defaming the state”.

Debunking the quality of

ministers in the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government in the state, former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray said: “There are such ministers who have such low intellectual capacity. There are ministers who insult women leaders like NCP MP Supriya Sule. These rascals have no moral right to invoke the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The rascals are in politics to loot Maharashtra”.

Former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar of the NCP, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole, Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut and speaker after demanded the immediate recall of the Governor over statements about iconic leaders Chhatrapati Shivaji, Mahatma Phule and Savitthri Phule.

In his castigation of the Governor, Patole said: “Koshiyari has no moral right to continue as the Governor. Similarly, there is a lot of anger among the people that the BJP leaders are continuously



insulting our iconic leaders”

Apart from Pawar, his nephew Ajit Pawar his MP-daughter Supriya Sule, Uddhav, his wife Rashmi, sons Aditya, Tejas, Nana Patole and Sanjay Raut, a host of MVA leaders including, state NCP President Jayant Patil, Congress Legislative Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat, State

Samajwadi Party President Abu Asim Azmi, former ministers Jitendra Awhad, Dilip Walse-Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal and Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam were present at the rally.

Thousands of activists from various opposition political parties, trade unions, workers, women, youth and

social groups, teachers, autorickshaw unions, NGOs and others participated in the morcha.

Not taking chances, the

Mumbai Police had made tight security arrangements for the rally. More than 3,000 police personnel had been deployed along the morcha route, while

they monitored the morcha from the control room through drones and CCTV cameras. The morcha passed off peacefully.

## No crowd; it was a nano morcha: Fadnavis

■ PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
MUMBAI

Senior BJP leader and former Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday dismissed the morcha organised by the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) as a “nano morcha” as there was not much of a crowd in the rally.

Talking to media persons after the MVA rally, Fadnavis said: “It was a nano morcha... We have not seen drone shots of the crowds present at the rally. There was no footage suggesting huge crowds. Wut we have seen are only close up shots”

“We had told the MVA leaders to hold their rally at the



Azad Maidan. Instead, they decided to hold their post-morcha rally on a narrow road. Because, they would have been exposed if they were to hold the rally at the Azad Maidan,” he said.

Fadnavis said that the MVA leaders had no issues to talk about “It was just a political gathering of three parties. he

three parties (NCP-Congress-Shiv Sena) put in all their strength but could not muster a big crowd,” he said.

Meanwhile, the BJP accused the Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders of making controversial remarks on the birthplace of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar held ‘maafi maango’ demonstrations in various parts of Mumbai, here on Saturday.

State BJP President Chandrashekar Bawankule, BJP Mumbai President Ashish Shelar, senior leader Pravin Darekar – along with party workers – staged protests by waving black flags and placards, raising slogans and condemning the Sena (UBT) at different places in the metropolis.

## One killed, 12 hurt in Mumbai’s pizzeria fire

■ TN RAGHUNATHA ■  
MUMBAI

One person was killed, while 12 others were injured when a massive fire broke out in a pizzeria at Ghatkopar in north-east Mumbai on Saturday afternoon.

The fire, which originated in the electric meter room of Juno’s Pizza outlet, spread to the ground floor in the eatery and the Vishwas housing



society building at Ghatkopar,

a north-eastern suburb of Mumbai.

At least 10 fire-tenders rushed to the scene and the fire brigade personnel doused the flames in two hours.

The fire brigade personnel identified the man killed in the mishap as Kersi Dedhia (46) who succumbed to severe burns and suffocation.

Of those injured, the condition of an unidentified man (aged 30 years), undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital, was described as critical.

## Man kills aunt, chops body into pieces; parts dumped at different places in Raj

■ PTI ■  
JAIPUR

A man allegedly murdered his aunt, chopped the body into pieces and dumped them at different places near Delhi highway here, police said on Saturday.

He then informed the police that his aunt was missing and also started looking for her along with other relatives, they said.

However, police got suspicious of him and interrogated him, following which he revealed that he bludgeoned his aunt to death with a hammer on December 11.

The man, Anuj Sharma alias Achitya Govind Das (33), was arrested on Thursday, police said.

Sharma had been associated with Hare Krishna movement for the last seven-eight years.

However, a spokesperson of the organisation in Jaipur said Sharma was not active for



the past one year after the death of his mother.

Sharma had informed the police on the night of December 11 that his aunt Saroj Sharma (65) had gone to the temple in the morning and was missing since then.

During the probe, it was found that his statements were misleading, following which his activities were monitored, police said.

In CCTV footage, he was seen leaving his house with a suitcase. A relative had seen him cleaning blood stains near the kitchen of the house, they

said.

Subsequently, Anuj Sharma was detained on December 13. During questioning, he confessed to have murdered his aunt by hitting her head with a hammer, police said.

Saroj Sharma was the wife of his father’s elder brother and had been living with them after the death of her husband in 1995, they said.

Anuj Sharma’s mother had died last year, they added.

On December 11, Anuj Sharma’s father had gone to Indore and the accused and the victim were alone in the house, police said.

Anuj Sharma wanted to go to Delhi but the woman refused. It led to a heated argument and he hit her with a hammer, they said.

The incident took place in the kitchen. The accused dragged the body to the bathroom and cut it into eight-10 pieces with a marble cutter, police said.

## CNG price hiked in Delhi...

■ From Page 1

The price hike in CNG has been worrisome since last year when CNG prices started to rise and are continuing to rise. The gap between the price of diesel and petrol has been significantly reduced. After the price hike the current fuel prices in Delhi are: Petrol ₹96.72, diesel ₹89.62, and CNG ₹78.61. The CNG prices in Delhi have gone up by more than ₹20 in the past nine months. In March this year, the CNG price was around 58 rupees in Delhi.

In Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad, the prices have been increased from ₹81.17 per

kg to ₹82.12 per kg. The CNG prices in Gurugram will now be at ₹87.89 per kg. The CNG prices in Delhi have gone up by more than ₹20 in the past nine months. In March this year, the CNG price was around 58 rupees in Delhi.

The prices of CNG have nearly doubled in a year, this is a major cause of concern for the public and goods transport sector as fuel price hikes also affect the rise in price of commodities. The rise in price of transportation also affects the public transportation system in the region as the majority of the public transport system in the region is powered

by CNG.

CNG prices are dependent on natural gas prices, which are extracted from below the earth’s surface, is converted to compressed natural gas (CNG) for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. India is a net importer of the commodity and any changes in global prices reflect in domestic prices. As much as 50 per cent of the demand is met through imports. The total consumption of natural gas in India as of 2020-21 was 48 million metric tonnes (MMT), 25 MMT of which was produced domestically while 23 MMT was imported.

## Govt calls Rahul shame for ‘beating jawans’...

■ From Page 1

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said he was not surprised by Rahul’s statement as “even at the time of Doklam he was seen drinking soup with Chinese officials”.

Earlier, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge hit out at the Modi Government asking when will India have “China pe charcha”, in a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s

campaign initiative “chai pe charcha”.

On Friday, Kharge said he was not allowed to speak about the India-China clash in the Rajya Sabha despite the Chairman giving him the authority to talk on the issue. Kharge tweeted that Chinese troops are building in the Doklam area up to the Jampher ridge which is located very close to the strategic Siliguri Corridor. He said the

matter is of “utmost concern for our national security”.

BJP president JP Nadda alleged that the Congress signing an MoU with the Chinese Communist Party and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation taking funding from Chinese embassy could be the reason why “Rahul Gandhi always speaks in favour of Chinese Government and Chinese army”.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav

Bhatia likened Rahul to Jaichand, the king of Kannauj who is projected as a betrayer to the Indian cause in some historical accounts, and alleged that the former Congress chief has constantly tried to break the armed forces’ morale, be it after the surgical airstrikes on terror camps in Pakistan or after the Galwan valley clashes, in which 20 soldiers had laid down their lives.

## Man throws infant son...

■ From Page 1

Following the fight, the man took the child to the first-floor terrace and flung him to the ground from a height of around 21 feet. He himself jumped off the terrace after that.

A case under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and a probe launched, the police said.

## BJP protests across nation against Bilawal shameful jibe at...

■ From Page 1

In Lucknow, BJP workers gathered at Atal Chowk and started marching shouting slogans against Bilawal Bhutto. Party workers also burnt Bhutto’s effigies them at the protest site.

In Maharashtra, BJP leaders, led by Maharashtra chief Chandrashekar Bawankule, held a protest at Pune’s Tilak Chowk. The party leaders burnt Pakistan’s flags and also raised anti-Pakistan

slogans.

Bawankule said, “We will not tolerate any statement against our prime minister. PM Narendra Modi is the one who is striving hard to save our Hindu religion, and Pakistan is unable to see it. That is why they are making such statements.”

In Mumbai too, party workers took to the streets to protest against the Pakistan foreign minister.

The BJP youth wing held

a protest in Karnataka and demanded an apology from Bhutto to PM Modi. They also raised slogans against state Congress leaders DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah calling them ‘DK Yesukumar’ and ‘Siddaramullah Khan’.

The youth wing also submitted a memorandum to the Governor after the protest demanding immediate action against the Pakistan minister for his remark.

In Telangana, BJP MP and

party state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar led the protest, held near Babu Jagjeevan Ram Statue, in Basheer Bagh.

In Jammu also slogan shouting members of BJP Yuva Morcha carrying placards protested against Bhutto’s comments and burnt his effigy. A protest was held in Odisha’s Capital Bhubaneswar too, against Bhutto’s remark.

The BJP had earlier dubbed Bhutto’s comments

against Modi as “highly shameful and derogatory.”

“The kind of language Bhutto has used is extremely reprehensible which does not reflect the true spirit of statesmanship and also crosses the limit of decency in public life. Does he even have the stature to comment about our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji who is a true statesman and a highly respected global leader,” the BJP said while announcing the protests.



# Najafgarh Drain rejuvenation: Stretch de-silted before Jan deadline

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The de-silting and refurbishing of Najafgarh Drain have been completed on the stretch between Timarpur and Bharat Nagar before the scheduled date of January 2023, said Raj Niwas on Saturday. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has also appealed to the people living in colonies/localities along the banks of the Najafgarh Drain, not to throw garbage directly into and on the banks of the Drain.

"Works on cleaning and rejuvenation of the 57-km Drain using the extremely cost-effective Partial Gravitational De-silting Technology and trapping of 32 feeder drains bringing in unfettered sewage and silt into the drain, in the first phase on the stretch between Timarpur and Bharat Nagar, were started under the direct supervision of the L-G from towards the mouth of the drain in September and have begun to show concrete results," as per the statement released by Raj Niwas.

"While the works of de-silting and restoration of embankments from Wazirabad to Timarpur had been completed in November end, further works on the 7.5 km stretch between Mall Road Bridge and



Bharat Nagar, scheduled to be completed by the middle of January, 2023 is going on in full earnest and is ahead of schedule," it stated.

"Any visitor to the site can see visible upgradation and change in terms of flowing water, absence of deep seated silt, repaired and refurbished embankments and trapped feeder drains that were hitherto flowing directly into the Najafgarh Drain," the statement said. "It may be noted that apathy and neglect on part of Government

Departments and agencies over the decades have converted this thriving and treasured, living water body into a stinking dead Drain, that apart from contributing maximum to the pollution of Yamuna possess a constant health hazard to the people living in its vicinity, apart from causing water-logging in its catchment area due to its inability to carry water," it said.

"The Drain has become an almost stagnant reservoir of silt sewerage and sludge with over 80 Lakh tonnes of underwater

solidified garbage / silt mounts, that has severely affected its flow and carrying capacity. Efforts during the past couple of months have led to more than 50,000 tonnes of silt getting removed and efforts are on to totally de-silt the water body in a time-bound manner," it informed.

"In addition to this, 27,000 tonnes of surface garbage / silt, mostly accumulated on the outer periphery of the Drain have been removed and deposited on the banks. This in turn, is being lifted by



Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) with immediate effect, at places, even by temporarily breaking the boundaries so as to reach, the otherwise inaccessible embankments," it claimed.

Rejuvenation of Najafgarh Drain has been a focus area of the LG has held a series of meetings involving multiple civic agencies and undertaken several visits and boat rides in the drain in the last five months to monitor de-silting operations and overall cleaning of the Drain.

Putting in place a comprehensive plan of action that is cost effective and environmentally sustainable, Saxena has ensured seamless coordination between various stakeholders, the statement read.

"Saxena, in an emotional exhortation to the residents has underlined that, now that seemingly undoable task of rejuvenating Najafgarh Drain and revival of Sahibi river, had started becoming a reality, people should own-up their valuable legacy and keep it clean," the statement further added.

## L-G approves appointment of MCD officers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the appointment of several officers in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The first meeting of the 250-member municipal House after the civic polls is slated to be held on January 6.

"The LG has "approved the appointment of three additional deputy commissioners/joint assessor and collector, and 19 administrative officers/assistant assessor and collectors in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)," a senior Raj Niwas official said.

These appointments have been done after selection through a "duly laid down procedure" through open advertisements, shortlisting by a selection committee on the basis of weightage provided to prefixed criteria and inter-



views. Ever since taking over as the LG, Saxena has been pitching for efficiency in MCD and had instructed officials to fill up vacant posts at the earliest, he said.

"Appointed on deputation from other government services and departments like CSS, IRS, NDMC, CAG, CGST & CE and Income Tax Deptt. Etc., these officers will help the understaffed Corporation to a large extent, in better discharge of its administrative, revenue generation, valuation and collection functions," official said.

## My daughter is unable to eat after assault by teacher: Father

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The father of the Class 5 girl who was assaulted by an MCD school teacher is still struggling to come to terms with the incident and said his daughter is unable to eat or speak due to a broken cheekbone. The child is still in Safdarjung Hospital.

According to her father, the girl has also suffered injuries on her legs and the side of her head. "She is unable to eat or drink anything. The doctor told us that she would be discharged today. But they informed us that she will be kept under observation for two more days," the father said.

He has demanded a harsher punishment for the teacher, saying "how could someone do this to a child". Recalling the

events of the day, the father, who is a daily wager, said he was informed about his daughter's injuries on a call from the school.

"I was at work when we received information from the school about the assault. We rushed to the school where we were told that she has been admitted to the Hindu Rao Hospital. I ran there," he said. The father said the minor cried when he saw him and his wife lost consciousness.

"Though she was unable to speak when I saw her she started crying. My wife on the other hand fell unconscious," he said. "We want the teacher to be removed and severely punished. She could harm any child.

We send our children for education. She can do same thing to other students," he added.

## Jet CEO stuck in midnight traffic, blames trucks

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Stuck for more than 45 minutes in mid-night traffic, Jet Airways CEO Sanjiv Kapoor, while leaving from IGI terminal-3 towards Gurugram, blamed the large number of trucks heading out of Delhi to Gurugram.

Reporting the problem, the airline's CEO posted the problem on Twitter and tagged Union Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari to find a solution for the problem. In the post, he also tagged the Delhi Traffic Police and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to address the issue.

It has taken 45 minutes to get from DEL T3 parking to the right turn under the highway to get onto NH-48 towards Gurgaon. And we have been stuck at this spot here for at least 15 minutes at 12.39 a.m.," he tweeted on Friday. "The cul-



prit: masses of trucks heading out of Delhi on NH48, and one car parked facing the wrong direction on the left lane of the highway with headlights on but no driver. This video at 12.45am," his tweet read.

Besides the problem of traffic, the CEO also pointed out the randomly parked trucks in the middle of the highway without any lights "As we approach the Haryana border, trucks randomly parked in the middle of the highway, not even on the leftmost lane. How many accidents and how



many lives lost due to accidents caused by this? Can this not be controlled?" he said in another tweet. Later on, describing the problem further, Sanjiv Kapoor further added, "Besides the traffic snarl at 1am getting onto the highway towards Gurgaon from T3, the bigger worry is the random parking of trucks with all lights switched off almost in the middle of the highway near the Haryana border. How is that allowed to continue so brazenly?" The Delhi-Gurugram e-way, which was built for a smooth and high-

speed travel, has lost its very objective. Lack of lay-by spots, increase in volume of vehicles and not following lane driving norms leads to massive traffic jams throughout the day. The 27.7-km stretch spans from Rao Tula Ram flyover near the Delhi airport to Kherki Daula toll plaza in Gurugram. Over 4 lakh vehicles use this stretch during peak morning and evening hours.

Traffic bottlenecks can be witnessed not just during peak hours, but also throughout the day, due to poor condition of service lanes and missing direction boards around Terminal 3 of the Delhi airport.

As thousands of people commute daily between Gurugram and Delhi for office work, jam is witnessed at the Sirhaul border. It takes an hour to reach from Shankar Chowk to Sirhaul border. Even the MCD toll at border has been disturbing movement of traffic.

## Pvt security agency should fill the vacuum: Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation Gen V K Singh on Saturday said there is a dearth of trained security personnel and the private security industry should take a lead in filling these gaps.

Addressing the annual conference of the Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI), the minister said several government establishments and places like airports and railway stations need security and the private security sector needs to train and equip its personnel to meet their requirements.

It is a good opportunity for the Indian private security industry to cater to domestic as well as international markets. Singh pointed out that several government establishments and places like airports and railway stations need security and the private security sector



needs to train and equip its personnel to meet their requirements. It is a good opportunity for the Indian private security industry to cater to domestic as well as international markets, he suggested.

The minister opined the private security sector needs to set standards and meet benchmarks which match international standards so that they could be given the responsibility of safety and security of important installations not only in the country but also overseas. Today, security is needed in all sectors, from government

to industrial and residential. The security agencies need to adopt modern technologies and use artificial intelligence to upgrade their skills to meet future challenges, he added.

Giving the example of Tequila, Singh said Mexico set up a world-class laboratory and an accreditation board to develop it as a liquor of global standard.

Today Tequila is one of the internationally known premium brands. The Indian private security industry also needs to evolve on the same model to make its personnel meet inter-

national standards, he stated. CAPSI Chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh said the association is formulating BIS standards for the private security industry so that private security personnel can get jobs at national and international level. Indian private security agencies will also be upgraded as per top ISO standards to meet global requirements, he stated.

He urged the Centre to make amendments in the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act to set up an Authority for the regulation of the sector and allow 74 per cent FDI from the current 49 per cent to spur growth of the sector. During the event the minister also launched the book "The Protectors" written by CAPSI Chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh.

The book chronicles the journey of CAPSI. Singh has narrated his experiences as the Chairman of the world's largest organisation of private security agencies.



## Ration released, didn't reach Delhiites: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP alleged that the additional ration issued by the Centre under 'One Nation One Card' also did not reach the poor of Delhi who have come from other states and are living in the city.

"The commission of ration vendors of Delhi has not been given since the last half year whereas they should have received the commission in advance and the central government has already given this

amount to the capital," said Delhi BJP Working President Virendra Sachdeva said while addressing a press conference.

"The Centre provides ration to the consumers of Delhi under the National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and 'One Nation One Card Scheme'. Along with providing ration, the Centre also pays the cost of transportation and commission of ration vendors to deliver ration from godowns to ration vendors," Sachdeva said.

## Bangladeshi infant with cyst undergoes successful head surgery at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

A three-month-old boy from Bangladesh, suffering from a rare congenital condition, got a new lease of life after doctors at AIIMS here removed a protruding part of his brain which had turned into a giant cyst, larger than the size of his head.

Giant Occipital Encephalocele is a rare congenital condition in which there is a big sac-like protrusion or projection of the brain and the membranes that cover it through an opening in the skull. If left untreated, the giant cyst can rupture, causing meningitis and then death, Dr Deepak Kumar Gupta, Professor of the Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS told PTI. During the three-hour

long surgery, doctors removed the cyst and also "covered the functional part of the brain by expanding the skull." "Large swelling from behind the skull causes difficulty in positioning of the baby, difficulty in feeding and nursing and there is always a fear of sudden rupture of the swelling containing brain tissues," he said.

Dr Gupta said the father of the child Abid Azad, Development Outreach and Communication Specialist, USAID, Bangladesh, had approached him a couple of months back. "After evaluating the baby's condition, we decided to perform the surgery. On December 12, the surgery was done during which the non-functional protruding part of the brain which had taken the shape of a cyst was excised, all

normal brain tissues were preserved and expansile cranioplasty was done at same time giving space to brain to continue to grow in future," Dr Gupta said.

Six days after the surgery, the child Arhat Aydin is doing well and is likely to be discharged on Monday.

While, Arhat's twin brother is healthy and is with his mother in Bangladesh, his father travelled all the way to Delhi for the surgery and is now taking care of him single-handedly, Dr Gupta said. In this case, the neurosurgeon said the mother didn't take any folates (Folic acid tablets) which could be the reason behind this condition. Folic acid prevents fetal neural tube defects. "This case emphasises the need for folic acid supple-

mentation in all women in the reproductive age group planning to conceive," he said.

"Mandatory folic acid fortification of centrally produced food staples to provide all woman of reproductive age who eat fortified foods with at least 150 microgram/day of folic acid has been recommended by WHO , 2009.

"This is to reduce the prevalence of spina bifida and anencephaly, encephalocele and associated disability and mortality, thereby helping countries achieve their 2030 Sustainable Development Goals," he said. Woman becoming pregnant should consume 400 microgram of folic acid/ day from fortified foods or supplements or both in addition to that obtained through a normal diet.



A child suffering from Giant Occipital Encephalocele. He underwent surgery at AIIMS, New Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP Government on Saturday announced that they will upgrade Ghonda Sewer Pumping Station (SPS), to facilitate the people of North East Delhi.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia approved a project worth Rs 16.65 crore for upgradation of Ghonda Sewer Pumping Station and replacement of existing pipelines.

"Under the leadership of Mr Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi Government is committed to make the national capital one of the cleanest and most beautiful cities in the world, Redevelopment of Delhi's sewer network a key step in this direction," Sisodia said.

Sisodia said that the existing sewage pipeline in the Ghonda area is approximately 20 years old. Over these 2 decades, the population of the surrounding areas has also increased substantially, leading



to an increasing sewage load on these pipelines. "In light of this, it has been decided that along with replacing the existing pipeline here, the sewage pump station will also be upgraded so that there is no problem like sewage overflow in the future and also the local people do not face any kind of trouble," he said.

The Deputy CM added that building and redeveloping infrastructure for water supply and sewage collection is one of government's most crucial and consequential responsibilities. People pay taxes, and are entitled to right to better quality infrastructure facilities.



# Talk to States for plan to clear CAPF dues: Parl panel to MHA

## Clearance of ₹63,156 cr outstanding for deployment of Central paramilitary forces for law & order

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

A Parliamentary panel has advised the Union Home Ministry to take up with the State Governments and Union Territories as also 44 other organisations like airports to work out a payment plan within a fixed timeline for clearance of outstanding dues to the tune of ₹63,156 crore for deployment of Central paramilitary forces for law and order roles and vital installation security.

The Department related Standing Committee on Home

Affairs, headed by the Rajya Sabha MP Brijlal, stated, “Merely reminding the States /UTs and other Organizations to pay the pending dues may not serve any purpose.”

Dues towards deployment of CAPFs in States and UTs, an amount of Rs 17,467.76 crore was deducted by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) from the devolution to the States after making adjustments against the total outstanding dues pending. After this deduction, the total outstanding dues of Rs 47,021.27 crore as on 1st April, 2022 is pending against the

States/UTs for the deployment of CAPFs.

Noting the efforts of ministries of Home and Finance to collect Rs 17,467.76 crore from States and UTs for the deployment of Central Forces, the panel expressed concern as the Union Home Ministry has not provided any precise payment instructions for the States/UTs to follow in order to pay the remaining dues amounting to Rs 47,021.27 crore.

The Committee recommended that the Home Ministry, in consultation with

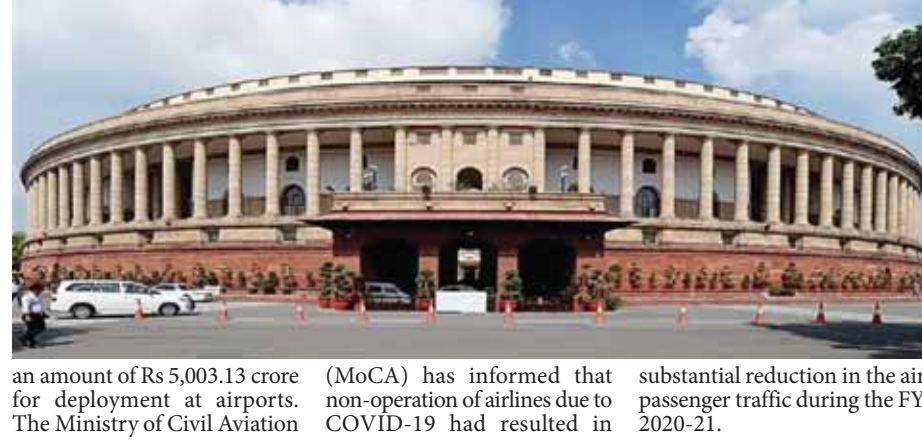
the Union Finance Ministry, create a framework for time bound future collection of dues owed by States and UTs in connection with the deployment of paramilitary forces or Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

The Committee also recommended that the issue be taken up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation at the earliest so that any outstanding dues can be recovered from them as well as all the airlines are now fully operational and the number of air passengers has returned to what it was before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The panel expressed concerns over the staggered dues of Rs 63,156 crore pending against various States/ Union Territories (UTs) on account of deployment of security provided by CAPFs including CISF at airports, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and other installations.

Rs 1,533.36 crore bills are outstanding on account of deployments in Delhi.

Outstanding dues on account of deployment of CISF at various installations including airports is to the tune of Rs 6,019.42 crore, which includes



an amount of Rs 5,003.13 crore for deployment at airports. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has informed that non-operation of airlines due to COVID-19 had resulted in substantial reduction in the air passenger traffic during the FY 2020-21.

# When will India have ‘China pe charcha’?: Cong keeps up heat on Modi Govt

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

A day after its leader Rahul Gandhi's attack on the Government over the clashes between Indian and Chinese soldiers at the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh, the Congress kept up the heat on the Modi dispensation with its president Mallikarjun Kharge asking it when India will have "China pe charcha" even as the party claimed the picture of Indian soldiers at Yangtze put out by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju was that of 2019.

The party's attack came a day after Rahul said that the government was sleeping while China was preparing for war and that the Indian soldiers were getting beaten up by their Chinese counterparts.

Claiming that Chinese build-up in Doklam is threatening the strategic "Siliguri Corridor" -- the gateway to northeastern states -- the party asked when the nation will have "China pe charcha".

"Chinese build-up in Doklam up to 'Jampheiri Ridge' is threatening India's strategic 'Siliguri Corridor' — the gateway to Northeastern States! This is of utmost concern for our National Security! @narendramodi ji, When will the nation have... 'CHINA PE



CHARCHA?" Kharge tweeted, in a swipe at Prime Minister Modi's campaign initiative "chai pe charcha".

Congress general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said in a statement that it is the political duty and moral responsibility of the Prime Minister to share his "mann ki baat" on the seven questions posed to him by his party.

"The nation wants to know...Why are you insisting that there should be no debate in Parliament on the border situation and the challenges we face from China," he asked.

"You have met the top Chinese leadership an unprecedented 18 times and recently shook hands with Xi Jinping in Bali. China launched an incursion into Tawang shortly thereafter and continues to unilaterally alter the border situation. Why are you not taking the

nation into confidence?" the Congress leader asked.

Ramesh said why did the prime minister say on June 20, 2020 that "there has been no incursion by China into Indian territory in eastern Ladakh?"

"Why have you allowed the Chinese to stop our troops from accessing thousands of square kilometres in eastern Ladakh where we were regularly patrolling prior to May 2020," he also asked.

The Congress leader also questioned why the prime minister abandoned the plan approved by the Cabinet on 17 July 2013 to establish a Mountain Strike Corps.

"Why have you allowed Chinese companies to contribute to PM CARES Fund? Why have you allowed imports from China to zoom to record levels in last two years," he asked.

## BJP calls Rahul Jaichand for ‘insulting’ Army, demands his sacking from Congress party

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Saturday made a scathing attack against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for blaming the Modi Government for "jawans being assaulted and land being taken by China". It called him a "Jaichand" for "insulting" Army personnel and demanded that the Congress "sack" him from the party.

Condemning the Congress leader's comments, BJP president JP Nadda alleged that Congress signing an MoU with Chinese Communist Party and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation taking funding from Chinese embassy could be the reason why "Rahul Gandhi always speaks in favour of Chinese government and Chinese army".

"Rahul Gandhi's statement works to demoralize our Army; no matter how much it is condemned, it is less. Indian army is a symbol of bravery and valour. We also know



that he raised questions on surgical strike and Pulwama, this tells that he doesn't speak the language of India. He speaks the same language that Pakistan speaks. I condemn such statements, this shows the mentality of Rahul Gandhi towards the country," Nadda maintained.

In another blast against the Congress leader, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that if Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is "not remote controlled" then he should immediately expel Rahul from the party for his comments, which "belittle" India and breaks the morale of its armed forces.

## Rajnath leads Govt's counter against Cong's jibe at Govt over LAC clashes

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday led the Government's counter against the Congress' attacks over the LAC clash, with his Law and Information Broadcasting counterparts Kiren Rijiju and Anurag Thakur also hitting out at the main Opposition party and its former chief.

Singh rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's contention about the government downplaying threat from China in the backdrop of latest incursion bid in Arunachal Pradesh and said the Indian soldiers have proven their valour be it in Galwan or Tawang.

He took a dig at Rahul without naming him and said, "We have never questioned the intention of opposition leaders and only held debates based on policies. Politics should be based on truth. Politics cannot be done on the basis of falsehood for a long time."

Rajnath also said, "The process of taking the society towards the right path is called



'rajniti' (politics). I do not understand the reason behind doubting anyone's intention always."

Citing the stiff opposition faced by the government in rolling out the GST (Goods and Services Tax), the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and agricultural reforms, he said the trend of opposing any decision or scheme for the sake of opposition should stop as it is not a good sign of a healthy democracy.

He was addressing the 95th annual convention of FICCI. The defence minister also said India aspires to become a superpower to ensure global prosperity, but it does not have any intention to dominate other nations or capture even one inch of land of any country, in comments seen as a thin-


ly veiled reference to China's aggressive behaviour along the borders.

His remarks came a day after Rahul Gandhi had claimed on Friday China is preparing not for any incursion but for a full-fledged war from both Ladakh and Arunachal sides and the BJP government is sleeping.

Rijiju also slammed the Congress leader and said he is not only insulting the Indian Army but damaging nation's image. Rijiju said, Rahul is not only a problem for the Congress but he has also become a huge embarrassment the country.

Rijiju made these remarks after visiting Yangtse area in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh where the Chinese troops tried to intrude on December nine leading to clash with the Indian patrol. Rijiju said the area is fully secured now due to adequate deployment of the brave jawans of Indian Army. A member of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh, he said the nation is proud of the Armed Force and put out a picture with the soldiers.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**



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

**Whereas**

A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs]). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kanhaiya Lal/ Alekh Kumar Gupta/ LBDEL00001331569	Plot No- AE-202, Avantika Chiranjiv Vihar, Ghaziabad- 201001/ December 15, 2022	March 25, 2022 Rs.14,88,896/-	Delhi / NCR


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

**Date : December 17, 2022**

**Place: Delhi/NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**Secured Creditor**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**



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

**Whereas**

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manjit Kumar Singh/ Urmila Singh/ LBNOD00004973390	Shop No- O-683, 6th Floor, Wing - B, Gaur City Centre, Plot No- Gh 01, Sector-4, Greater Noida, Noida/ December 14, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs.11,73,237/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Prashant Chandola/ Amita Bisht/ LBDEL00002179835	Flat No-748, 7th Floor Tower F, Gaur Atuliyam, Plot No Gh-01, A, Sector- Omicron-1, Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ December 13, 2022	June 23, 2021 Rs.28,65,002/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Deepak Kumar/ Parmanand Dhulian/ LBDEL00004958289	Property No- 11, 3rd Floor With Roof, Block- B, Pocket- 3, Sector- 16, Rohini, Delhi- 110085/ December 12, 2022	August 30, 2022 Rs.26,27,797/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Mohammed Shahjad/ Rashida Malik/ LBNOD00005106171	Flat No- O- 625, 6th Floor, Wing - B Gaur City Center, Plot No Gh-01 at Gaur City, Sector-4 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ December 14, 2022	July 29,2022 Rs.7,48,045/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Mohammed Shahjad/ Rashida Malik/ LBNOD00004964064	Shop No- O-977, 9th Floor, Wing B Gaur City Center Plot No- Gh-01, Gaur City, Sector-4, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida 201307/ December 14, 2022	July 29,2022 Rs.5,12,957/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Neeraj Sharma/ Vinay Kumar/ LBNOD00002198890	E-201, 2nd Floor, Tower-E, Officer City, NH-58, Raj Nagar Extn., Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziaba./ December 13, 2022	July 30, 2022 Rs.29,07,743/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Kiran Arora Kapoor/ Surinder Kapoor/ LBGUR00004663386	Property, No- C-12/160, Ground and First Floor, Block-c-12, Yamuna Vihar, Residential Colony, Shahdara, Delhi/ December 15, 2022	July 29, 2022 Rs.75,51,214/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Babita Kumari/ Updesh Kumar Ray/ LBGUR00004837466	Plot No- C-12/337, Ground Floor and First Floor, With Roof/ Terrace Rights, Block C 12,yamuna Vihar, Delhi/ December 15, 2022	July 29,2022 Rs.75,51,622/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Surendra Rao Malwai/ Durga Malwai/ LBDEL0000580801/ LBDEL0000580802	Property No - 225 & 226, Second Floor, Without Roof Rights, Block- G, Pkt-26, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi/ December 14, 2022	July 30, 2022 Rs.43,42,018/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Suman Chawla/ Manoj Kumar Chawla/ LBDEL00004364956	Flat No 0602, 6th Floor, Tower CS7, Cape Town, Plot No GH01/Asector-74, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Gautam Buddha Nagar/ December 13, 2022	July 30, 2022/ Rs. 4,287,760/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

**Date : December 17, 2022**

**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

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

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, with FICCI president Sanjiv Mehta and others, releases a publication during the 95th Annual Convention and AGM of FICCI, in New Delhi on Saturday

## BE's Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine gets DGCI nod for manufacture & sale

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Biological E. Limited (BE), a Hyderabad-based Pharmaceutical and Vaccine Company, has said that its 14-valent paediatric Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, (Investigational Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine PCV14) against S pneumoniae infection has received the nod from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for manufacture and commercialisation in India.

Streptococcus pneumoniae infection remains one of the leading causes of death among children under the age of five in India and in developing countries. BE's PCV14 Vaccine will help prevent invasive pneumococcal infection and save millions of lives worldwide, the company stated.

Mahima Datla, Managing Director, Biological E. Limited, said, "We are pleased with this important approval, which will help save the lives of millions of children in India and around the world. A BE's PCV14 will contribute to the

prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease. With this endorsement, our country has another essential paediatric vaccine. We will be working with regulators in other countries to make our vaccine available globally."

BE's PCV14 contains 14 serotypes and offers expanded protection against two new serotypes 22F and 33F. These new serotypes have been reported recently to be causing infections. In a Phase 3 infants trial BE's PCV14 was non-inferior to all the common serotypes present in the comparator's vaccine.

The primary immuno-

genicity objective of demonstrating non-inferiority with anti-PnCPS IgG antibody concentrations against each of the 12 common serotypes of BE-PCV14 vaccine in terms of subjects seroconverted and the ratio of geometric mean concentrations against corresponding serotypes in active comparator was met. Non-inferiority was demonstrated with anti-PnCPS IgG antibody concentrations against unique serotypes 22F and 33F specific to BE-PCV14.

The safety comparison demonstrates that the BE-PCV14 vaccine was well-tolerated and considered safe.

**IN-BRIEF**

**VETERANS CELEBRATE GOLDEN JUBILEE AT IMA, DEHRADUN**

New Delhi: Nearly 135 veterans took part in the golden jubilee celebrations of their batch in the prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun earlier this week. All of them were in 50th Regular and 34th Technical course of the IMA in 1972. A coffee table book was also released on the occasion containing photographs and write ups about the IMA days of the veterans who were then young cadets training to become officers. Many of them came from UK, US, Canada and Australia to take part in the celebrations.

**MODI TO VISIT POLL-BOUND MEGHALAYA & TRIPURA**

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit poll-bound States Meghalaya and Tripura on Sunday to participate in the golden jubilee celebration of the North Eastern Council and attend its meeting in Shillong. He will also inaugurate, dedicate and lay foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 6,800 crores in the two Northeastern States.

**29 CRORE CITIZENS GENERATE UNIQUE ABHAS SO FAR**

New Delhi: The flagship health scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has over 4 crore digital health records linked to the ABHA accounts of individuals while more than 29 crore citizens have generated their unique Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) so far, as per a statement here.

## Research team from IISc develops germ destroying air filters

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

A research team at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc) has developed germ-destroying air filters that can inactivate germs using ingredients like polyphenols and polycationic polymers commonly found in green tea. These 'green' ingredients rupture the microbes through site-specific binding.

The research led by Prof Suryasarathi Bose and Prof Kaushik Chatterjee was supported by special grants from Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic and SERB-Technology Translation Awards (SERB-TETRA) funds and a patent has been filed on this.

Over continuous usage, the existing air filters become a breeding ground for captured germs. The growth of these germs clog the pores of the filter, reducing the life of the filters.

"Resuspension of these germs can infect people in the

vicinity. The novel antimicrobial air filters were tested at the NABL Accredited Laboratory and were found to deactivate SARS-CoV-2 (delta variant) with an efficiency of 99.24%. This technology was transferred to AIRTF, a startup that is replacing the existing germ-growing air filters with germ-destroying air filters for commercialization," said a statement here by the Union Science and Technology Ministry.

As this innovation holds promise to develop antimicrobial filters that can prevent epidemics caused by air-borne pathogens, a patent was granted this year. These novel antimicrobial filters in our ACs, central ducts and air purifiers can play a crucial role in our fight against air pollution and mitigate the spread of air-borne pathogens like coronaviruses.



# Russia launches another missile attack on Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's capital came under one of the biggest attacks of the war on Friday as Russia's invading forces fired dozens of missiles across the country, triggering widespread emergency power outages, Ukrainian officials said.

Gunfire from air defense systems and thudding explosions combined with the wail of air-raid sirens as the barrage targeted critical infrastructure in cities including Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih and Zaporizhzhia. The head of the Ukrainian armed forces said they intercepted 60 of 76 missiles launched.

"My beautiful sunshine. What am I going to do without you?" wailed Svytlana Andreychuk in the arms of Red Cross staffers. Her sister Olha was one of at least three people killed when a missile slammed into a four-story apartment building in Kryvyi



Local residents watch as a bombed building is dismantled in Borodyanka, Kyiv region, Ukraine

AP/PTI

Rih. "She was so cheerful in life. She was a beauty. She helped

everybody. She gave advice to everybody. How I love you so,"

said Andreychuk. Russian strikes on electricity and water

systems have occurred intermittently since mid-October, increasing the suffering of the population as winter approaches. But the Ukrainian military has reported increasing success in shooting down incoming rockets and explosive drones.

Friday's attacks took place after the United States this week agreed to give a Patriot missile battery to Ukraine to boost the country's defense. Russia's Foreign Ministry warned Thursday that the sophisticated system and any crews accompanying it would be a legitimate target for the Russian military.

The U.S. Also pledged last month to send \$53 million in energy-related equipment to help Ukraine withstand the attacks on its infrastructure. John Kirby, spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said Friday that the first tranche of that aid had arrived in the country. More than half of the Russian mis-

siles fired Friday targeted Ukraine's capital. The city administration said Kyiv withstood "one of the biggest rocket attacks" it has faced since Russia invaded Ukraine nearly 10 months ago. Ukrainian air defense shot down 37 of about 40 missiles that entered the city's airspace, and one person was injured, it said.

Ukraine's air force said Russian forces fired cruise missiles from the Admiral Makarov frigate in the Black Sea, while Kh-22 cruise missiles were fired from long-range Tu-22M3 bombers over the Sea of Azov, and tactical aircraft-fired guided missiles.

In Kryvyi Rih, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown in central Ukraine, the apartment building hit by a missile had a gaping hole in its upper floors. Along with the three people killed, at least 13 were taken to the hospital, said Igor Karelin, deputy head of the city's emergency services.

## \$2B in loans to help Ukraine's agriculture, fuel import sectors

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Private businesses in Ukraine are in line to receive \$2 billion in financing arranged by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to help rebuild the country's agriculture and fuel import industries and other ventures, which have faced extensive losses because of the war.

The IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, provides private sector financing to developing countries. The loans differ from the billions that Ukraine has received in grants and other forms of no-strings-attached aid from donor nations, as they must be paid back. Since Russia invaded in February, at least 5 mil-

lion jobs have been lost, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Economy. The National Bank of Ukraine estimates that 11% of businesses had closed as of September and more than half were operating below capacity.

Loans to the country's private sector will become more important in coming years as Ukraine's finance ministry copes with a widening budget deficit. In addition, grants and other foreign aid are not guaranteed, and Republicans in U.S. Congress have signaled uncertain support for Ukraine when they take control of House in January. Getting private financing is difficult for countries facing war, floods and other calamities.

## UN: Thousands in Africa could face starvation

AP ■ DAKAR

More than 25,000 people could face starvation in conflict-plagued parts of West Africa next year, a United Nations official warned Friday.

Federico Doehmert of the World Food Program said violence and the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine are largely driving the threat to people in Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso.

"One of the most striking things is that where we already had issues with severe food insecurity last year, this year we're seeing a further deterioration," Doehmert said in Dakar while presenting findings from the latest food security report by regional governments, the U.N. And aid groups.

The cross-border region between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger is the epicenter of West Africa's escalating humanitarian crisis, which is compounded by climate change, severe floods and droughts placing more than 10 million people in need of assistance, the U.N. Said in a statement this week. Doehmert said nearly 80%

of people facing catastrophic hunger - some 20,000 - are in Burkina Faso's Sahel region, where jihadis linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have besieged cities and cut off assistance. Residents of the city of Djibo have been blockaded for months, unable to access their farms.

"We only get food when convoys come. Unfortunately, they are not coming on a regular basis," Sidi Dicko, a resident of Djibo, told The Associated Press by phone. "We pray for God to help us out of this situation."

Dicko said the little food that arrives gets through with military convoys, which often are attacked on the road. Aid groups need to use helicopters to transport food, which is costly.

Doehmert said that in Mali, where violence has been ongoing for a decade, 1,700 people will face catastrophic levels of hunger.

Displaced people there say they lack jobs and can't afford food. "Before (the violence), I would go to the market to work and bring back food for my family," Oumar Barry said, speaking to The Associated Press from a camp in Mopti city

where he shelters with his 10 children. His family eats twice a day now instead of three times, Barry said. Other regional nations that aren't plagued by the same levels of violence also face hunger problems.

In the last quarter of the year, Benin, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo experienced a 20% increase in food insecurity compared with 2021, according to the food security report.



## Philippine Communist Party founder Sison passes in exile at age of 83 years

AP ■ MANILA

Jose Maria Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, whose armed wing has been waging one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies, has died. He was 83.

Sison died peacefully late on Friday after two weeks of confinement in a hospital in Utrecht, the Netherlands, the party's spokesman, Marco Valbuena, said in a statement on Saturday. The cause of death was not disclosed.

Sison had lived in self-exile in The Netherlands since then-President Corazon Aquino released him from detention in 1986, shortly after the "People Power" revolt overthrew dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the father and name-



sake of the current Philippine president. Sison died 10 days before the party he founded in 1968 was marking its 54th anniversary on December 26. Its armed wing, the New People's Army, was established months later in March 1969, numbering only about 60

is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and remains a major Philippine security threat.

The communist rebellion has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead. It also has stunted economic development, especially in the countryside, where the military says about 2,000 insurgents are still active.

Past administrations had engaged in on and off peace negotiations with communist rebels represented by the umbrella organisation National Democratic Front of the Philippines, where Sison served as chief political consultant. Former President Rodrigo Duterte ended peace talks in March 2019, and negotiations have not resumed.

## Malaysia landslide death toll rises to 24, more 9 missing



AP ■ BATANG KALI (MALAYSIA)

Rescuers on Saturday found the bodies of a woman and two children, raising the death toll from a landslide on an unlicensed campground in Malaysia to 24 with nine others still missing.

Selangor state fire chief Norazam Khamis told reporters the bodies of a mother and son were found buried under a meter (3 feet) of mud and debris. The body of a little girl was discovered later. He said there was hope of finding survivors if they clung on to

poles or branches or rocks with pockets of air but that chances were slim. Authorities said 94 people were sleeping at the camp site on an organic farm early Friday when the dirt tumbled from a road about 30 meters (100 feet) above them and covered about 1 hectare (3 acres). Most were families enjoying a short vacation during the year-end school break.

The 24 victims included seven children and 13 women. Authorities were still carrying out autopsies and waiting for next of kin to identify the victims. A mother and her toddler

daughter were found Friday hugging each other in a heart-rending scene, rescuers said. Seven people were hospitalized and dozens more, including three Singaporeans, were rescued unharmed.

Wearing helmets and carrying shovels and other equipment, rescuers worked in teams Saturday to comb through debris as deep as 8 meters (26 feet). Excavators were deployed to clear mud and fallen trees and rescue dogs were sent to sniff out possible signs of life and cadavers. Officials said an estimated 450,000 cubic meters

(nearly 16 million cubic feet) of debris — enough to fill 180 Olympic-sized swimming pools — hit the campsite.

Norazam said rescuers were treading carefully as underground water streams may trigger further landslides. Authorities have said the landowners did not have a license to run a campground. Officials are unable to pinpoint the exact cause of the landslide, which came without warning, but believed it could be due to underground water movement while the year-end monsoon rains made the soil unstable.

## Minal Patel convicted in \$447 genetic testing scam

AP ■ WASHINGTON

An Indian American laboratory owner from Atlanta has been convicted of involvement in a \$447.54 million genetic testing scam to defraud Medicare.

Minal Patel, 44, who owns LabSolutions LLC conspired with patient brokers, telemedicine companies and call centres to target Medicare beneficiaries with telemarketing calls falsely stating that their package covered expensive cancer genetic tests, federal prosecutors alleged. After the Medicare beneficiaries agreed to take tests, Patel paid kickbacks and bribes to patient brokers to obtain signed doctors' orders

authorising the tests from telemedicine companies, the Department of Justice said. To conceal the kickbacks, Patel required the patient brokers to sign contracts that falsely stated that they were performing legitimate advertising services for LabSolutions.

A federal court in Florida has convicted Patel of one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and wire fraud, three counts of health care fraud, one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and to pay and receive illegal health care kickbacks, four counts of paying illegal health care kickbacks, and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

## Nobel laureate economist faces sex harassment investigation

Washington: A U.S. University is investigating a Nobel laureate over sexual harassment allegations that the economist's attorney dismisses as "professional rivalry."

Philip Dybvig, who shared this year's Nobel Prize in economics for research into bank failures, has been questioned in the past several weeks by the Title IX office at Washington University in St. Louis, his lawyer Andrew Miltenberg told The Associated Press.

Miltenberg said the allegations are "factually inaccurate". Dybvig, a longtime banking and finance professor at the university, didn't immediately respond to an email message seeking comment. Dybvig, fel-

low U.S. Economist Douglas W. Diamond and former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke won the Nobel Prize in economics in October for research into bank failures - work that built on lessons learned in the Great Depression and helped shape America's aggressive response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis. The findings in the early 1980s laid the foundations for regulating financial markets, the Nobel panel said.

The Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences recognized Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig on Monday for research that shows "why avoiding bank collapses is vital". (AP)

## Covid-linked deaths seen in Beijing after virus rules eased

AP ■ BEIJING

Outside a funeral home in eastern Beijing, dozens of people were bundled up in parkas and hats against the freezing temperatures Friday evening as workers in full protective suits wheeled out coffins one by one.

When an employee with a clipboard shouted the name of the dead, a relative trundled up to the coffin to examine the body. One of the relatives told The Associated Press their loved one had been infected with COVID-19.

Deaths linked to the coronavirus are appearing in Beijing after weeks of China reporting no fatalities, even as the coun-



try is seeing a surge of cases. That surge comes as the government last week dramatically eased some of the world's strictest COVID-19 containment measures. On Wednesday, the government said it would stop reporting asymptomatic COVID-19 cases since they've become impossible to track with mass testing no longer required.

## 'Battle of Garibpur' resulted in formation of Bangladesh: Military strategists

PTI ■ DHAKA

A fierce three-day battle took place between the Indian and Pakistani security forces in a forested finger-shaped village in a swampy area prior to the final victory in the 1971 war that resulted in the formation of Bangladesh, according to the military records.

Dhaka emerged as the free capital of independent Bangladesh on December 16, 1971 after the war between India and Pakistan broke out on December 3 when the Indian troops directly stood



Lt. Gen. Nav K Khanduri, GOC-in-C Western Command pays tribute at Balidan Stambh during Vijay Diwas celebrations, in Jammu

beside the Mukti Bahini soldiers.

Bangladesh's wartime history records that even before the Liberation War of Bangladesh started, a little-discussed but fierce three-day battle known as the 'Battle of Garibpur' was fought on the western borders of what at that time called East Pakistan.

The battle took place between the two forces and both sides used their tanks and firepower from November 20 to November 23. India used Russian-made PT-76 tanks against Pakistan's US-made

M-24 Chaffee tanks, and Indian Air Force's (IAF) Jinaat fighter jets countered attacks by Pakistani Saber F-86 fighter jets. The Pakistani side suffered disastrous losses in terms of both men and machines.

According to military strategists, the tactics of the Indian armoured troops backed by crucial artillery and Mukti Bahini support were key to the success of this crucial strategic battle, which the victors preferred to keep in a low key since the two countries were yet to enter a declared war.

"If we were allowed on that

day, we could have directly driven to Jashore (deep inside Bangladesh) expediting the victory, bringing the war itself to an end," retired armoured core brigadier Balram Singh Mehta, who took part in the battle, told PTI.

Mehta, who is in Dhaka as part of an Indian veterans' delegation coinciding with the Victory Day celebrations, led the tank troops during the battle as the commander of his Cavalry Squadron of Indian 45 Cavalry Major DS Narang was killed at the very beginning of the encounter.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION  
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Telephone No. 011-24608801-04  
Fax No.: 311-24661505

Uphokhta Nyay Bhawan  
F-Block,  
Consumer Complaint No. 990 of 2018

Brahmaputra LIG Attottee Group, through Sanjay Kumar

Versus

U.P. Housing and Development Board.

General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI- 110023

Complainants

Opposite Party

To: THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTTEES OF THE RESIDENTIAL SFS FLATS IN 1 BRAHMAPUTRA ENCLAVE, SITUATED AT SIDHARTH VIHAR SCHEME, SECTOR - 7, GHAZIABAD (UTTAR PRADESH), DEVELOPED BY M/s. U.P. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, LUCKNOW.

Whereas the above Complainants have, through Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Advocate, Chamber No. D - 216, KirtiKorona Courts, Delhi, Mobile: 9871641017, filed the captioned Consumer Complaint before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi on behalf and/or for the benefit of all the consumers who have either booked or have been allotted a flat, in the project namely

"BRAHMAPUTRA ENCLAVE", SITUATED AT SIDHARTH VIHAR SCHEME, SECTOR - 7, GHAZIABAD (UTTAR PRADESH), being developed by the Opposite Party named above for redressal of their common grievances, and seeking the following reliefs:-

(i) Handover physical possession to the complainant allottees, immediately, which could not be delivered by Opposite Party on or before 31.12.2015 (the last date of delivery of possession) as was proposed and promised by OP itself.

(ii) Pay interest, rental claims to the complainant allottees in terms of para

(iii) Stop abuse of dominant position in the housing sector by redressing the grievances raised at paras 8-A to 8-E mentioned hereinabove.

(iv) And be pleased to Set aside illegal demands of additional Cost, GST, Additional Service Tax, Restoration Charges and additional Interest raised by OP as discussed and prayed at paras 8-A, B, C, D, E above.

(v) Pass any other orders as is considered necessary in the interest of justice.

And whereas the Hon'ble Commission vide its orders dated 01.12.2022 (Copy enclosed) is pleased to direct issue of notice of the institution of the above captioned complaint to all the consumers having same interest in the matter. Accordingly, all allottees of the above referred Project having the same grievance against the Opposite Party, may appear before the Commission in-person or through an Advocate / Authorized Representative on 28.04.2023 at 10.30 a.m. They can inspect the file of the aforementioned complaint in the office of the Counsel for the Complainant (s) and apply for being impleaded as a party to the complaint.

They may also note that the decision of the Commission in the captioned complaint will be binding on all the consumers on whose behalf and/or for whose benefit the complaint is instituted.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission on this 07 day of December, 2022.

Sd/-  
(Rajesh Nath)  
Assistant Registrar

**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
FIR No 378/2022	Vehicle No. UP14DX2222, TOYOTA FORTUNER, Manu Year-2018

Auction Date: December 23, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.  
Auction Portal Name & URL Link: Car Dekho <https://auctions.cardekho.com>  
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809) / Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS NIRDESH KUMAR, CS SCJ 2490/17	Vehicle No. DL11V1048, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Year- 2014 Reserve price Rs 35,000. DD/PO of EMD of Rs 5,000 to be made in favour of ICICI Bank limited payable at Delhi.

Auction Date: January 03, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.  
Auction Portal Name & URL Link: Car Dekho <https://auctions.cardekho.com>  
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809) / Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS PREETI KUMARI, CS (COMM) NO. 1727/21	Vehicle No. DL11CB5224, Make and Model- MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LTD Baleno, Manu Year -2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS NAVEEN .. CS (COMM) 1467/21	Vehicle No. DL4CAX2396, Make and Model- HONDA SIEL CARS INDIA LTD AMAZE, Manu Year - 2017

Auction Date: December 26, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.  
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec - 17, Sukhralli, Gurugram - 122022  
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809) / Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

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.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://auctions.cardekho.com>) of our auction agency Car Dekho. The Prospective Bidders (s) must submit the DD/PO of EMD Amount (wherein applicable), self attested PAN card and self attested copy of address proof along with mobile no and email id at ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohatk Road Karol Bagh Delhi - 110005 on or before 31-Dec-22. Earnest Money Deposit (DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

The intending bidders may visit ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohatk Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.



# ‘Online games with certain outcome under 28% GST’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Central Board of Indirect Taxes chief Vivek Johri on Saturday said online games where winning is dependent on a certain outcome would attract 28 per cent GST on the full bet value.

Though the report of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on online gaming did not come up for discussion at the GST Council, the department would go by the view that 28 per cent GST is payable on full bet value put in by a player, and not net of margins.

The comments assume significance as the Gameskraft Technology Pvt Ltd (GTPL) GST evasion case is still in the court. Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in September issued a show cause notice to Bengaluru-based online gaming company Gameskraft Technology Pvt Ltd (GTPL), for not Goods and Services Tax (GST) to the tune of Rs 21,000 crore.

Asked what would be the position of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) since the Council has not decided yet on the GoM report, Johri said the department's view is that 28 per cent GST is payable on actionable claims arising out of betting or gambling and the tax is to be payable on full value, not net of margins.

“The gaming activity is



considered as gambling because the winning is dependent on a certain outcome,” Johri said.

The report of the GoM could not come up for discussions in the GST Council since it came in just two days ahead of the Council meeting and hence could not be circulated to the states. Usually, GST Council secretariat gives notice to members in the GST Council before tabling any agenda.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma chaired Group of Ministers (GoM) had on Thursday submitted its report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The GoM, in its last meet-

ing in November, had agreed on a 28 per cent GST on online gaming casinos and horse racing. However, in absence of consensus on whether the tax should be levied on only the fees charged by the portal or the entire consideration, including the bet amount, received from participants, the GoM had decided to refer all suggestions to the GST Council for a final decision.

Briefing reporter after the GST Council meeting on Saturday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the GoM report would be “discussed threadbare” when the Council takes it up for discussion.

# ‘Centre, States working on to widen GST payer base’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre and States are working out strategies to widen taxpayer base under GST and have started pilot projects on sharing of data with discoms and property tax details to identify non-GST registered businesses.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chief Vivek Johri said a pilot project on data sharing with discoms is ongoing in Madhya Pradesh, while Gujarat is undertaking a pilot on PAN-based linkage of businesses. Maharashtra is doing a pilot on sharing property tax data and geo tagging businesses and linking with their property.

“We are working out (a) strategy, we are discussing with states. Widening GST base would mean we have to see taxpayers who ought to be in tax net are they there or not. What we are looking at is robust data from all agencies,” Johri told reporters here.

Explaining how the data sharing with power distribution companies or discoms would work, Johri said the department would match data base to see who are electricity consumers with commercial use connections and not in the tax department data base.



He said the missing link can be detected if the property or electricity connection is registered for commercial use but not registered under Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Currently, there are 1.4 crore businesses registered under GST, which was launched on July 1, 2017.

Briefing reporters after the 48th GST Council meeting on Saturday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the Centre and states would attempt to widen the GST base at every level to increase the tax mop-up, which is averaging about Rs 1.4 lakh crore every month.

“The focus will be on how much all of us are putting effort... To widen the tax base,” she said.

# Have sufficient foodgrain stocks to meet needs of welfare schemes: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said it has sufficient foodgrain stocks to meet the requirements under the food security law and other welfare schemes.

The government is also regularly monitoring the prices of essential commodities.

“Government of India has sufficient foodgrain stocks under central pool to meet the requirement of NFSA and its other welfare schemes as well as for additional allocation of PMGKAY,” an official statement said.

About 159 lakh tonnes of wheat and 104 lakh tonnes of rice will be available as on January 1, 2023, as against the respective buffer norms requirement of 138 lakh tonnes of wheat and 76 lakh tonnes of rice as on January 1.

As on December 15th, around 180 lakh tonnes of wheat and 111 lakh tonnes of rice are available in the central pool. Buffer norms requirements have been envisaged for particular dates of the year as on 1st of April, 1st of July, 1st of October and 1st of January, the ministry noted.

The stock position of wheat and rice under central pool have always remained well above the buffer norms, it asserted. Around 227 lakh tonnes of wheat and 205 lakh tonnes of rice were available as on 1st of October, 2022 against



the respective buffer norms requirements of 205 lakh tonnes of wheat and 103 lakh tonnes of rice as on 1st of October.

“Though procurement of wheat during last season was on lower side due to lesser production coupled with selling by farmers at prices higher than MSP in the open market consequent to geopolitical situation, yet enough stock of wheat will still be available in central pool to cater to the needs of the country till the time next wheat crop arrives,” the ministry said.

Further, the allocations under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as well as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) have also been revised in favour of rice, to ensure having sufficient wheat stock in central pool.

Under the PMGKAY, the Centre provides 5 kilogram foodgrains per month free of cost to around 80 crore people covered under the NFSA.

The Union government has enhanced the MSP (minimum support price) of wheat crop this year to Rs 2,125 per quintal against the last year's MSP of Rs 2,015 per quintal for RMS (rabi marketing season) 2022-23.

Thus, with increase in MSP of Rs 110/quintal coupled with fairly good climatic conditions, it is expected that the production and procurement of wheat during next season shall remain normal.

The procurement of wheat would commence from April 2023 and as per initial assessment there has been a fair increase in the sowing of wheat crop as compared to last year.

# IDFC First Bank announces waiver of charges on customer-centric services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private sector IDFC First Bank has announced waiver of charges on a number of customer-centric services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, demand drafts, IMPS and SMS alerts, among others ahead of its Foundation Day on Sunday.

On the occasion of its Foundation Day on 18th December, IDFC First Bank has announced ‘Zero-fee banking’ on savings accounts, the

bank said in a release on Saturday.

The lender said it has waived fees on 25 commonly used banking services related to savings accounts such as cash deposit and withdrawal at branches, third party cash transactions, demand drafts, IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, cheque book, SMS alerts, interest certificates, insufficient balance for ATM transactions, international ATM usage and so on.

# Auto industry body hails GST Council's clarification on definition of SUVs



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Auto industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers on Saturday welcomed the GST Council's clarification on the definition of SUVs, saying it is on the lines of its discussions with the finance ministry.

Briefing reporters after the 48th GST Council meeting, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the higher rate of compensation cess of 22 per cent is applicable to a motor vehicle fulfilling all four conditions — it is popularly

known as SUV; has engine capacity exceeding 1,500cc; length exceeding 4,000 mm; has ground clearance of 170 mm and above.

In response, SIAM in a statement said this has brought in a clarity that higher rate of compensation cess of 22 per, over and above of 28 per of GST, will be applicable only on such vehicles which meet all the four conditions.

“SIAM is thankful to ministry of finance, government of India and the GST Council for issuing a clarification on the definition of SUVs,” it added.

This is on the lines of SIAM's recommendations and based on the earlier discussions SIAM had with the ministry of finance, it added.

# Yes Bank assigns ₹48K cr stressed asset loan portfolio to JC Flowers ARC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yes Bank has concluded assignment of the ₹48,000-crore stressed asset loan portfolio of the bank to JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction company.

The bank had earlier declared JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (JC Flowers ARC) as the winner of the Swiss Challenge process for sale of its identified

portfolio of stressed assets.

“The bank has now concluded assignment of identified stressed loan portfolio of the bank aggregating to up to ₹48,000 crore as on March 31, 2022 under 15:85 structure, after adjusting recoveries between 1st April 2022 to 30th November 2022,” Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

**UJVNL LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
(Tele: 0135 - 2763508, Fax: 0135 - 2763507)

पत्र सं. 924      **Corrigendum-01**      दिनांक: 16.12.2022

Section I-3-e (Similar Work) - II against e-NIT-18/UJVNL/EE (M&G)/KPS/2022-23 "Refurbishment of 12.5 MVA 6.6/132 kV Generator Transformer of Unit B at Kulhal Power Station" is hereby redefined with extension of date of submission as below:  
Section I-3-e (Similar Work) - II: Refurbishment of transformer 10 MVA, 6.6/110kV or above capacity including replacement of core winding.  
**Last date for submission of tender** : 26.12.2022, 15:00 Hrs.  
**Last date for submission of hard copy** : 29.12.2022, 15:00 Hrs.  
**Date of opening of tender** : 29.12.2022, 16:00 Hrs.  
All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

**Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal**

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**UJVNL LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508,  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं. 929      **Tender Notice**      दि: 17.12.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal Power Station, Kulhal, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
**Tender No.23/UJVNL/EE(M&G)/KPS/2022-23** "Hiring of one no.(28 seater) School Bus Model 2020 or later for academic session 2022-23 for one year on contract basis for transportation of school going children of Hydell Colony, Kulhal Power station, Kulhal.  
**Estimated Cost** : Rs. 1766620/- GST Extra  
**Date of availability of bid document on website**: 19/12/2022 11:00 Hrs  
**Last date for submission of tender**: 11/01/2023 15:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)"  
**Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal**

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the Public at large that Smt. Jasvinder Kaur Takkar W/o. Sh. Jasvinder Pal Singh is the 'Title Holder' in possession of 'Entire Residential Property Bearing Plot No. 344-D, Block-B, Sushant Lok, Phase-I, Wazirabad, Gurugram, Haryana' measuring 250 sq. mtrs., hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Sale Deed dated 24.05.2019, registered as Pralekh Kramank-3280, Bahi-1, Zild-41, p. 34 posted on Addl. Bahi No. 1, Zild-1083, PP-72-75 on 24.05.19 in the Office of Sub Registrar-Wazirabad, Gurgaon, Haryana. That the Original Documents w.r.t. the Schedule Property, i.e. Allotment Letter dated 07.10.1994, Construction Agreement dated 07.10.1994 and Handing Over Possession Letter dated 02.08.1997, have been lost/misplaced and are untraceable, in lieu of which Information Report dated 08.12.2022 bearing LR No. 1055789/2022 is filed with Delhi Police. This notice is issued to Public at Large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUFs etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the lost/misplaced original documents as mentioned herein above or otherwise having any claim, right, title, interest, possession in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., or objection to the sale of the Schedule Property, may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and as waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to sell the Schedule Property as presently intended.  
**Laft M. Gandharva (Advocate)**  
**Mob.No.9310012190**

**Government of Gujarat**  
**DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AGENCY OF GUJARAT (D-SAG)**  
(Tribal Development Department)  
Third Floor, Birsa Munda Bhavan, Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
Website:- [www.dasg.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.dasg.gujarat.gov.in) / Phone No:- 079-23258617

File No:- VKY/2021/2927/D-SAG

A National Museum of Tribal Freedom Fighters is planned to be set up at Rajpipla in the state of Gujarat to showcase the contribution of Tribal Freedom Fighters who contributed significantly to the national movement of India's freedom struggle. Currently, the execution of this museum is under progress. Applications are invited from interested candidates for 11 months contractual manpower recruitment for the museum project.

Sr. No.	Post	Number of Post	Educational Qualification and Experience	Monthly Remuneration
1.	Director	1	Ph. D in Museology or Anthoropology with Minimum 5 years of experience	Rs. 60,000/-
2.	Curator	1	Master in Museology with Minimum 3 year of experience	Rs. 50,000/-
3.	Assistant Curator	1	Master in Museology with Minimum 2 year of experience	Rs. 40,000/-
4.	Clerk cum Computer Operator	1	Any Graduate with Minimum 1 year of experience	Rs. 12,000/-

The Interested candidate are Instructed to apply online as per the below details :  
1. Online application can be done from web site : <https://dsagsahay.gujarat.gov.in>  
2. The application will be accepted from 20/12/2022 to 03/01/2023  
3. Only short listed candidates will be called for further procedure regarding recruitment process  
4. For Written Exam, Group Discussion, Interview etc., the candidates will have to appear at the venue decided by D-SAG at their own expense  
5. The above posts are on contract basis for 11 months; candidates cannot make any claim for permanent employment  
6. In case any question arises under the recruitment process, the decision of the competent authority will be final and binding on the concerned.

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Development Support Agency of Gujarat**  
**Gandhinagar**

No/INF/VPN/2022/G/107

# Edelweiss Alternatives to buy out L&T Infra Development Projects worth ₹6K cr

PTI ■ MUMBAI | NEW DELHI

Edelweiss Alternatives on Saturday entered into an agreement with Larsen & Toubro and Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board to pick up their stakes in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Ltd (L&T IDPL) at an enterprise value of ₹6,000 crore.

Edelweiss Alternatives — an alternative investment fund management platform — in a statement said that the transaction is being executed by a fund managed by Edelweiss Alternatives and it also involves absorbing the operating team.

Larsen & Toubro holds 51 per cent stake, while Canada Pension Plan Investment Board owns 49 per cent in L&T IDPL.

“L&T has entered into a share purchase agreement to transfer its entire shareholding in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited



along with its subsidiaries,” the engineering and construction conglomerate said in a BSE filing.

“Gross proceeds to L&T and CPP Investments from the sale would be approximately ₹27,234 million, before closing adjustments and other terms of the transaction,” the filing said, adding that a special purpose vehicle, Epic Concesiones Pvt Ltd, has been created for the said transaction.

The portfolio of the target company comprises eight roads and one power trans-

mission asset, spanning 4,900 lane kilometres and 960 circuit kilometres, respectively.

Following this acquisition, the infrastructure platform will scale up to 26 assets with cumulative annual revenue of nearly ₹2,700 crore. The platform will be a diverse mix of power transmission and sub-stations, renewables and high-way assets.

Sreekumar Chatra, managing director of the infrastructure yield strategy fund, said these assets have a proven track record of operations, are geographically dispersed and have long residual life, which is “consistent with our investment strategy”.

Subahoo Chordia, head of infra funds at Edelweiss Alternatives, said on completion of this acquisition, “there will be a high-quality diversified infrastructure portfolio of 26 assets across 13 states, making us a leading infrastructure investor in the country”.

# Kirloskar Oil Engines joins hands with RITES to explore export opportunities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd has joined hands with transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm RITES Ltd to explore business opportunities for the export of railway rolling stock, besides infrastructure and urban transport for both domestic and overseas markets, according to a company statement.

The two firms have signed a memorandum of understanding for the purpose and Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd (KOEL) will leverage its R&D expertise, manufacturing acumen, manufacturing facilities, supply chain network and

strong channel to develop, manufacture and supply products for RITES customers.

On the other hand, RITES will provide expertise in design, marketing, operation and maintenance, and other support required for tapping business opportunities, the statement said. KOEL Vice President, Industrial Business Vinodkumar Menon said the strategic partnership leverages the strengths of both the organisations.

“While we at KOEL are focused on developing world class products and services, RITES has great design, technical expertise and marketing capabilities,” he added.

# IMF approves deal with Egypt for \$3 bn aid package

AP ■ CAIRO

The International Monetary Fund has approved a deal that will provide a USD 3 billion support package to cash-strapped Egypt over a period of almost four years, with the agreement expected to draw in an additional USD 14 billion in financing for the Middle East country.

The announcement from the IMF's executive board late on Friday comes after a preliminary agreement was reached in October between Egypt and the fund.

That initial deal came

hours after Egypt's central bank introduced a series of reforms, including a hike in key interest rates by roughly 2 percentage points.

The Egyptian economy has been hard-hit by the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine, events that have played havoc with global markets and hiked oil and food prices worldwide.

The Egyptian pound has lost 36 per cent of its value against the dollar since March.

Egypt is the world's largest wheat importer, most of which came from Russia and Ukraine. The country's supply



is subject to price changes on the international market.

The deal announced on Friday — known as an Extended Fund Facility Arrangement — is expected to cover a period of 46 months and will give the Egyptian government immediate access to

about USD 347 million, which will help the nation bolster its balance of payments and budget, the IMF said.

The statement said the package is expected to catalyse additional financing of about USD 14 billion from Egypt's international and regional partners.

According to the IMF, the package will introduce wide-sweeping economic reforms, including a ‘durable shift to a flexible exchange rate regime’ and a ‘monetary policy aimed at gradually reducing inflation.’

It also envisages structural

changes to the Egyptian economy to re-balance “the playing field” between the state and private sector, IMF said.

For months, Egypt has been battling spiralling inflation, with its yearly rate reaching over 18 per cent in November.

For decades, most Egyptians have depended on the government to keep basic goods affordable through state subsidies and other similar schemes.

About a third of Egypt's 104 million people live in poverty, according to government figures.







# AXAR TAKES INDIA CLOSER TOWARDS VICTORY

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

Seasoned Axar Patel upped the ante with a triple strike just when it mattered as Indian bowlers compensated for an insipid first session by reducing Bangladesh to 272 for 6, closing in on a big victory, on the fourth day of the opening Test here on Saturday. Debutant Zakir Hasan (100 off 224 balls) showed a lot of character, scoring a patient hundred but saving the Test match by batting out for nearly 180 overs in two days was always going to be an uphill task, as also chasing a target of 513.

Bangladesh need another 241 runs on the final day on Sunday but skipper Shakib Al Hasan (40 batting) could be more keen on delaying the inevitable. While Zakir and his young opening partner Najmul Hossain Shanto (67, 156 balls) frustrated the Indian bowlers for an entire session and added a record 124 for the first wicket, the visitors pulled back things in the second session to regain control of the proceedings.

Axar (27-10-50-3), who had a dream Test debut against England at home in 2021, perhaps had his best performance in a short career in the longest format, considering that the fourth day wicket didn't have a lot of help for spinners. The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury track didn't show considerable wear and tear and surviving wasn't difficult with only a few deliveries turning appreciably.

Three batters — Yasir Ali (5), Mushfiquur Rahim (23) and Nurul Hasan (3) — actually preempted Axar's deliveries and made a fatal mistake.

Yasir and Mushfiquur didn't cover their off-stump line expecting arm balls but it turned enough after pitching, pegging the off-stump back on both occasions. The only difference was that Yasir plonked his front-foot while Mushfiquur went on back-foot.

In the case of Nurul, Axar gave the



ball extra flight and the batter was beaten for turn as he tried to convert it into a half-volley and Rishabh Pant effected a smart stumping. Ravichandran Ashwin (27-2-76-1) wasn't at his best in this game but he would certainly feel happy to see the back of Zakir, caught by a diving Virat Kohli at first slip. The batter's defensive prod got an inside edge onto the pads and popped up for Kohli to lunge in-front.

Kuldeep Yadav (18-2-69-1) also did his bit by prodding a fidgety Litton Das to try and loft him over mid-on but the batter couldn't check his half-scoop and

half-drive, offering an easy catch to Umesh Yadav. But no credit is enough for young Zakir, who showed admirable temperament while playing a defensive game in his first Test but also hitting those boundaries — 13 in all along with a six during his innings.

Till the southpaw got out, none of the Indian bowlers, save Umesh Yadav during a post lunch spell with old Kookaburra, could trouble Zakir.

Umesh (15-3-27-1), in the post-lunch session, bowled a beautiful spell with the old Kookaburra, getting the odd ball to reverse. Some of the deliv-

eries that Zakir decided to leave on length could have hit the off-stump but he was lucky. In fact, Umesh also had a hand in drawing the first blood after a record opening stand between Zakir and Shanto.

Umesh ended Shanto's 156-ball resilience with a fuller delivery outside the off-stump found the left-handed opener poking at it indecisively. Shanto could have still been lucky as the ball popped out of first slip fielder Kohli's grasp but Pant dived full stretch to his left and caught it on second attempt.

The second session turned out to

be an important one for India as it yielded only 52 runs and the three wickets dented any dreams of an upset that Bangladesh team could have harboured. In the first session though, Zakir and Shanto batted with a lot of purpose as their gritty half-centuries helped Bangladesh reach 119 for no loss by lunch. The two left-handers showed a lot more application on a track which looked good for batting.

Incidentally, the century-plus stand between Zakir and Shanto was the highest by any opening pair against India in Test matches.

## We got reward for being patient: Mhambrey

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

A wicketless first session on Saturday might have frustrated India in the opening Test against Bangladesh but bowling coach Paras Mhambrey said his team was rewarded for being patient on a placid track here.

Chasing a huge 513, Bangladesh openers Zakir Hasan (100) and Najmul Hossain Shanto (67) frustrated the Indian bowlers for the entire opening session and added a record 124 for the first wicket.

But, the visitors pulled back things in the next two sessions as they reduced Bangladesh to 272 for 6 at stumps on the fourth day and took control of the match.

"Batting was becoming easy. But we didn't give away freebies. It's because of our good bowling in the first session, we were rewarded in the next two sessions," Mhambrey told reporters after day four's proceedings.

"It was all about being patient as we knew wicket was going to be easy and it would be hard work (for us). The focus was on hitting the right areas, create the opportunities, even while when there's a half chance."

India had declared their second innings at 252 for 8 with less than an hour to go on day three, setting Bangladesh the stiff chase.

"We knew we had enough runs on the board, had the cushion of a big lead. There was no panic whatsoever. The

dressings room environment was calm."

"We pulled back picking six wickets next two sessions make little inroads. We still have to be patient. Overall I'm very happy with the way we bowled," he added.

With his triple strike, left-arm spinner Axar Patel was the pick of the Indian bowlers.

"What really stood out with Axar was the pace that he bowled with. It's not easy for the batters to step out to him, also the angle he created and the way he released the ball."

"It's very difficult for the batters to decide whether to leave it or play it, especially where the ball was turning a little bit, you have to play those deliveries, and that's where he stood out for me," Mhambrey said.

Kuldeep Yadav made a dream comeback to the Test side after more than 22 months and claimed a five-wicket haul in the first innings.

"It's lot of work that he has put in. People were discussing about his speed, he's slower in the air. Credit goes to him, he has made changes to his run up, angles... It allows him to be little quicker in the air. He has been unfortunate last few years, got a knee injury and got hit in nets when he returned."

On Mohammed Siraj, he said, "It's about the character and attitude he carries. Every game that he plays, he gives you that opportunity, even on a placid track like this, he created opportunity."

## England lose early wicket after dismissing Pak for 304



AP ■ KARACHI

Spinner Jack Leach snared 4-140 and England's youngest ever test debutant Rehan Ahmed picked up two wickets to dismiss Pakistan for 304 in the third and final Test on Saturday.

Pakistan hit back early through spinner Abrar Ahmed, who claimed Zak Crawley leg before wicket without scoring in his first over, and England finished the opening day at 7-1. Ben Duckett (4 not out) and Ollie Pope (3 not out) are at the crease.

Abrar had a terrific Test debut when he grabbed 11-234 at Multan in the second Test but Pakistan still lost that thrilling game by 26 runs inside four days. Leach bowled an 11-over spell in Karachi with the new ball and Ahmed overcame his nervy first five overs to finish with 2-89.

Ahmed's father, Naeem, was among a sparse crowd at the National Stadium and the proud dad was earlier in the England team's huddle when former cap-

tain Nasser Hussain handed Ahmed his Test cap before the toss. At the age of 18 years, 126 days, Ahmed is 23 days younger than Brian Close, who made his Test debut for England against New Zealand at Manchester in 1949.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam (78) and Agha Salman (56) hit composed half centuries for the hosts, but England always came back hard on another dry wicket which offered slow turn to both Leach and Ahmed.

Babar looked set for his second century of the series but couldn't beat Harry Brook's timely throw and good work by wicketkeeper Ben Foakes in the final session and was run out. Leach had Salman stumped off a delivery which spun sharply away from the righthander before wrapping up the innings.

Ahmed replaced James Anderson after England rested the 40-year-old seamer with an unassailable 2-0 lead while Foakes returned after missing the first Test due to illness.

Ahmed dismissed Saud Shakeel (23) for his lowest score in the series when he had the lefthander caught close to the wicket by a diving Ollie Pope in his seventh over, but Babar continued to dominate the leg-spinner and took Pakistan to 204-5 by tea. Ahmed then dried up the runs in the last session and also had Faheem Ashraf trapped lbw off a perfect googly from round the wicket.

England, looking for a rare 3-0 clean sweep in its first test tour to Pakistan in 17 years, had made early inroads after Babar won his first toss in the series and chose to bat.

Azhar Ali fell for 45 in his farewell test match at the stroke of lunch after Ollie Robinson's short pitch delivery down the legside caught the gloves of the righthander. Azhar, who announced his retirement from Test cricket on Friday, was snapped up by Foakes and the television replays confirmed it was a clean catch as Pakistan reached 117-3.



## INDIA DOWN SPAIN 1-0 TO WIN FIH WOMEN'S NATIONS CUP

PTI ■ VALENCIA

India clinched the inaugural FIH Women's Nation's Cup title with a 1-0 win over Spain in the summit clash here on Saturday.

The win sealed India's berth in the 2023-24 Pro League. Gurjit Kaur scored the all-important goal in the sixth minute from the penalty corner as the Commonwealth Games bronze medalists ended the eight-nation tournament with five wins on the trot.

The Janneke Schopman-coached side had beaten Ireland 2-1 via shootout in the semifinals here on Friday.

India were ranked a spot below Spain (seventh) in the FIH chart.

By virtue of winning the Nations Cup, the Indian team has been promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Women's Pro League, a key event ahead of next year's Asian Games and 2024 Paris Olympics.

It was Spain who first earned an early penalty corner but Indian captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia made an excellent save.

India earned their first penalty corner in the sixth minute and converted it to take the lead. Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur sent the ball to the left side of the Spanish goalkeeper Clara Perez and managed to beat her.

India played brilliantly at the start of the second quarter.

Lalremisiami earned a PC for the team but this time Gurjit could not manage to beat the goalkeeper with her drag-flick.

Spain soon regrouped and made several raids on the Indian circle before earning a PC at the halfway stage of the second quarter.

## Aus beat India by seven runs in 4th women's T20I



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Harmanpreet Kaur and Richa Ghosh's late power hitting proved not enough as Australia rode on Ellyse Perry's masterclass half-century to secure a series-clinching seven-run win in the fourth women's T20I here on Saturday.

Continuing her dream comeback, Perry smashed a blistering 72 not out from 42 deliveries (7x4, 4x6) to power Australia to 188 for 3 after being invited to bat. The visiting side's captain Alyssa Healy retired hurt after scoring 30 due to a calf injury.

In reply, India managed 181 for 5 in their 20 overs as Harmanpreet's 30-

ball 46 and Richa's 19-ball 40 not out went in vain.

World champions Australia thus clinched the five-match series as they have taken an unassailable 3-1 lead going into the final T20I here on Tuesday. India were down 49 for 3 inside seven overs and they needed 105 from 54 balls when Harmanpreet stepped it up against Megan Schutt.

The Indian skipper then punished Heather Graham, smashing her four boundaries from five balls in the 13th over that yielded 17 runs to revive the chase.

But Harmanpreet fell four runs shy of her half century as India still needed 68 runs from 34 deliveries when

Richa took over.

Needing 38 runs from the last two overs, Richa smashed Heather Graham for two successive sixes and followed it up with a boundary.

Defending 20 runs from the last over, the experience of Megan Schutt came handy as she bowled intelligently to concede just 12 runs. Richa managed just two strikes in the final over with Schutt brilliantly bowling to her field.

Australia suffered a big blow when their skipper Alyssa Healy strained her calf muscle while batting.

Healy cruised to 30 off 21 balls with six fours but on the penultimate ball of the powerplay.

## Head puts Australia in charge against SA

AP ■ BRISBANE

An aggressive Travis Head put Australia in charge after the first day of the opening Test against South Africa at the Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday.

After bowling out the visitors for 152 on the stroke of tea, Head came to the crease with the Australian score a precarious 27-3.

But on a wicket that all batters found difficult to score on, Head looked a different class, smashing an unbeaten 78 from just 77 deliveries.

At the close Australia were 145-5 after nightwatchman Scott Boland was dismissed last ball of the day, trailing by just seven runs.

Australian captain Pat Cummins earlier won the toss and chose to bowl on a green wicket under cloudy skies.

He would have felt vindicated by that decision after a stunning start when South Africa were reduced to 27-4 after 11 overs, a position from which they never recovered.

The only batters to defy the

Australian attack were wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne, top scorer with 64, and number four Temba Bavuma, who rescued the visitors from complete annihilation.

But once Bavuma fell for 38 midway through the second session, South Africa lost steady wickets on a surface that got faster as the day wore on.

Starc began the rout with the first ball of the third over when South African captain Dean Elgar tickled a ball down the leg side to keeper Alex Carey.

Cummins began to find his line and length and was next to strike, with Rassie van der Dussen getting a faint edge to a ball that moved off the seam to leave South Africa 27-2.

That soon became 27-3 when Sarel Erwee got a thick edge off Boland for Cameron Green to take a brilliant catch in the gully, low and to his left.

Two balls later it was 27-4 when Boland trapped Khaya Zondo lbw for a duck.

But Verreynne decided to play his strokes, and with Bavuma grafting at the other end, they began a recovery.



Australia's reply started disastrously when David Warner fell first ball of the innings after deflecting a brutal Kagiso Rabada short ball to short leg, where Zondo took a spectacular catch.

The in-form Marnus Labuschagne was next to fall, edging Marco Jansen's first ball to Elgar at second slip with the score on 18.

Anrich Nortje replaced opening bowler Lungi Ngidi and struck with his second ball when Usman Khawaja was caught at third slip by substitute fielder Simon Harmer.

After reducing South Africa to 27-4 in 11 overs, Australia found themselves 27-3 after nine overs.

But whereas South Africa's batting line-up looked vulnerable heading into the match, the Australians have been in great touch against the West Indies and Head and Steve Smith rarely looked in trouble.

But just when it looked as though they would see Australia to the close, Nortje got a ball through Smith's defences to rattle the stumps.

## Gurdeep Singh finishes 21st in World Championships



PTI ■ BOGOTA

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist weightlifter Gurdeep Singh finished a disappointing 21st in the men's +109 kg event at the World Championships here.

Competing in Group C, the 27-year-old lifted 350kg (145kg+205kg), a whopping 40kg less than his bronze medal-winning performance at the CWG earlier this year in August.

Gurdeep began his snatch by swiftly lifting 145kg. However, he did not attempt any more lifts in the section.

In the clean and jerk, the Punjab lifter started with 205kg lift but fluffed up his second and third attempts of 215kg and 216kg respectively.

The Indian contingent returns with two medals from the event — both won by star lifter Mirabai Chanu. The former world champion won two silver medals — one in the clean and jerk section and the other for her overall effort in the women's 49kg event, last week.

Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift in continental and World Championships. But, just one medal for total lift is awarded in the Olympics.

Chanambam Rishikanta Singh (61kg) and Commonwealth Games silver medallist S Bindyarani Devi (59kg) finished 22nd and 25th in their respective events.



In football, even when you do your best on the pitch, you can win or lose. That is the nature of the game  
— Gianfranco Zola



The final of the 2022 football World Cup in Qatar will take place on Sunday, December 18 as Argentina and France battle for the title of world champions. From Lionel Messi to Kylian Mbappe, discover the stars to watch in this year’s final between the albiceleste and les bleus

# STARS WHO COULD DAZZLE THE WORLD CUP FINAL

After 352 players began the opening round of matches at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, just 22 will stand on the pitch when the referee’s whistle sounds the start of the final on Sunday 18 December.

Much of the pre-game talk has revolved around Argentina’s seven-time Ballon d’Or winner **Lionel Messi** and France’s 23-year-old **Kylian Mbappe**, however there are many others who have played a key role in taking these two teams to the final.

From a re-invented French forward to a young Argentine who Messi has described as “spectacular”, here are the stars to watch in the FIFA World Cup final in Qatar.

Lionel Messi of Argentina in action during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Group C match between Argentina and Mexico at Lusail Stadium on November 26, 2022.

## LIONEL MESSI’S LAST CHANCE AT WORLD CUP GLORY

While he has long been hailed as one of the best players of all time, some have said that only a World Cup triumph can cement Messi’s position of football’s G.O.A.T.

At 35 years old, this is Messi’s fifth World Cup, with the closest he has come to winning it a 1-0 loss to Germany in the 2014 final in Brazil.

While he has dominated the game on a domestic level - **Messi has seven Ballon d’Or trophies to his name and four Champion’s League titles** - the Rosario native has been perceived to have underperformed when it came to the World Cup.

But all that’s changed this year in Qatar as **five goals and three assists** en route to the final testify to. Messi is now **Argentina’s record World Cup goalscorer with 11** and is in pole position - along with France’s Mbappe - to win this year’s golden boot.

If Argentina are to win their first World Cup since Diego Maradona lifted the trophy in 1986, it’s almost unthinkable that they can do it without the mercurial talents of Messi in the final.



## WILL KYLIAN MBAPPE WIN A SECOND WORLD CUP IN A ROW?

Pele is the only player in history to have won two World Cups before his 24th birthday, but all that could change on Sunday if France’s Mbappe triumphs in the Lusail Stadium in Qatar.

With **nine goals in two World Cups, including five so far in Qatar**, Mbappe looks like he is born for this stage. But the young PSG player isn’t just about goals - his **two assists this campaign** show he is as adept at providing as he is finding the back of the net himself.

Mbappe has tasted more success in the World Cup than Messi, having scored the fourth goal in the 4-2 victory over Croatia in the last final in Russia.

And it’s hard to forget his performance against Argentina in the last 16 of that same tournament when his brace secured a 4-3 victory for France en route to the final.



## JULIAN ALVAREZ : THE PLAYER MESSI CALLED ‘SPECTACULAR’

Just 22 years old and starring in his first World Cup, **Julian Alvarez** has proved to be a revelation for Argentina.

The young Manchester City striker started the first two games of the tournament on the bench, but has since begun every game in Argentina’s run to the final.

**Four goals represent an excellent contribution from Alvarez**, but it is the importance of those goals that have set tongues wagging. **A brace in the semi-final against Croatia** and a seemingly innate ability to link up with Messi are just two reasons why you won’t want to keep your eyes off him in the final.

He even had the great man himself salivating over his performances in Qatar, with Messi describing Alvarez as “spectacular”.



## ANTOINE GRIEZMANN : FRANCE’S NEW MIDFIELD MAESTRO

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the tournament so far has been **Antoine Griezmann’s** reinvention as a midfield mastermind.

Having had a stop-start season with club side Atletico Madrid, as contractual issues limited his game-time at the beginning of the campaign, Griezmann was not expected to play a starring role in this talented France side at this World Cup.

However, his transformation to box-to-box midfielder has been nothing short of extraordinary, as he has pulled the strings behind striker **Olivier Giroud** and played a key role in breaking up opposition attacks.

Against England in the quarterfinal, Griezmann’s ability to pull players out of position gave France space to exploit in their opposition’s backline - a feat he repeated against Morocco as he played a vital role in France’s first goal.

Enzo Fernandez of Argentina celebrates after scoring their team’s second goal with team mates during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Group C match between Argentina and Mexico.



## ENZO FERNANDEZ: TALENT AND YOUTH COMBINED

Another young Argentine who has enjoyed an excellent World Cup campaign is **Enzo Fernandez**. The 21-year-old **scored a stunner against Mexico** in the group stage and has enhanced his reputation as one of the most exciting young players in Europe.

Plying his trade in Benfica, alongside Portugal’s breakout World Cup star **Goncalo Ramos**, Fernandez is part of a midfield four that stifled Croatia in the semi-final with their grit and never-say-die attitude. However, the youngster also has the playmaking skills to open up defences and will be expected to provide strong support to Messi and Alvarez as Argentina seek their first World Cup title since 1986.

Oliver Giroud celebrates his goal against Poland which made him France’s all-time leading goalscorer.



## WILL OLIVIER GIROUD WIN THE GOLDEN BOOT?

At 36 years old, France’s Giroud hadn’t been expected to start for France in Qatar, however an injury to Ballon d’Or winner **Karim Benzema** has left the AC Milan striker as **Didier Deschamps’** first choice striker during the World Cup.

A return of **four goals so far** this tournament has led to Giroud occupying second place in the goalscoring charts, level with Argentina’s Alvarez.

A traditional number nine with a knack for finding the back of the net, **Giroud overtook Thierry Henry** as France’s **record goalscorer** during this tournament and now leads the way with a **total of 53 for his national side**.

He will be expected to lead the line alone in the final and provide a solid alternative to the attacking flair of Mbappe, **Ousmane Dembele** and Griezmann.



## KARIM BENZEMA THE SURPRISE FACTOR?

There could yet be a wildcard in the World Cup final on Sunday in the form of Real Madrid’s Benzema.

The prolific goalscorer left the France party before a ball was kicked in Qatar after suffering an injury in training but has now been given the all-clear by his club side to return for the final as he remains part of France’s 26-man squad.

While no decision has yet been made - by manager Deschamps or the player himself - about flying to Qatar for the final, the prospect of the 2022 Champions League winner playing on Sunday is a mouthwatering one.

The 34-year-old has **37 goals for the French national team** in 97 appearances and has been in the form of his life in 2022 with the Ballon d’Or recognition for a spectacular campaign.

And while it may seem unfair for some that a player who has played no part in France’s World Cup campaign could earn a place in the last match of the tournament, it may also prove to be a trump card for les bleus to turn to a goalscorer of Benzema’s calibre with football’s greatest prize on the line.





# CANCER TREATMENTS BOOSTED BY IMMUNE-CELL HACKING

Elaborately engineered immune cells can not only recognise cancer cells, but also evade defences that tumours use to fend off attacks, researchers have found. The HEALTH PIONEER brings the report

Two studies published recently in Science journal build on the success of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T cancer therapies, which use genetically altered T cells to seek out tumours and mark them for destruction. These treatments have the potential to lead to long-lasting remission, but are not successful for everyone, and have so far been effective against only a small number of cancers.

Last-resort cancer therapy holds back disease for more than a decade To bolster the power of CAR-T therapies, researchers have further engineered the cells to contain switches that allow control over when and where the cells are active. The hacked cells produce a protein that stimulates T cells, to counteract immunosuppressive signals that are often released by tumours.

Both studies are a tour de force in T-cell engineering and highlight the direction that researchers want to push CAR-T-cell therapy, says systems immunologist Grégoire Altan-Bonnet at the US National Cancer Institute. “We know a lot of the parts, now it’s being able to put them together and explore,” he says. “If we engineer the system well, we can really put the tumours into check-mate.”

## ENGINEERED IMMUNE CELLS

T cells typically patrol the body, looking for foreign proteins displayed on the surface of cells. Such cells could be infected with a virus, for example, or they could be tumour cells that are producing abnormal, cancer-associated proteins. A class of T cells called killer T cells can then destroy the abnormal cells.

CAR-T therapies involve genetically engineering T cells from a person with cancer to produce CARs, which are proteins that recognize the proteins displayed by tumour cells.

The approach has been approved to treat some leukaemias, lymphomas and myelomas. But researchers have been pursuing ways



to make the treatments safer and more effective, and to expand their use to other diseases.

## HIGHLY MUTATED CANCERS RESPOND BETTER TO IMMUNE THERAPY

In one of the new studies, Ahmad Khalil, a synthetic biologist at Boston University in Massachusetts, and his colleagues wired a complex system of 11 DNA sequences into CAR T cells. The resulting genetic circuits can be switched on and off using already-approved drugs, which allows

researchers to control when and where the hacked T cells are active, as well as their production of a protein called IL-2, which stimulates immune responses.

The other group of researchers, led by synthetic biologist Wendell Lim at the University of California, San Francisco, programmed CAR T cells to produce IL-2 only when the engineered T cell encounters a cancer cell. The team found that this IL-2 production was most efficient at fighting tumours in mice with pancreatic cancer when it was activated through a pathway that was separate

from the one used to recognize the cancer cell — a detail that could help in shaping future therapies, says Andrea Schietinger, a tumour immunologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

## SOLID PROGRESS

Both approaches could be particularly useful in crafting CAR-T therapies that can target solid tumours, Schietinger says. Solid tumours have posed a particular challenge to CAR-T approaches because the engineered cells have difficulty infiltrating the tumours and,

once there, can be disabled by signals that cancer cells use to suppress the immune response. “These engineered T cells overcome both road-blocks,” she says. “They find their way in and then, once they’re in, get the signals in the right space and at the right time to be really effective in killing the cancer cell.”

The ability to turn the T cells on and off could also help to reduce a phenomenon called T-cell exhaustion, in which T cells become inactive after a prolonged period of stimulation, says Evan Weber, a cancer immunologist at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. Some studies have found that giving T cells a ‘rest period’ can reduce T cell exhaustion and boost their overall effectiveness against tumours.3.

## BUILDING BETTER CAR-T THERAPIES

Lim plans to further develop the system for testing in clinical trials, and to tweak it to explore the effects of producing other molecules that, like IL-2, stimulate immune cells. There has been a growing realization that such molecules, called cytokines, could be pivotal to the success of CAR-T therapies, says Weber. “We know we need smarter ways of tapping into them,” he says, “rather than just turning on a receptor all the time or secreting a cytokine constitutively.”

Khalil hopes that the system that he and his colleagues have developed will be usable in other cell types, including another type of immune cell called macrophages, which are better than T cells at penetrating solid tumours. His genetic circuits were designed with adaptability in mind, so that researchers who specialize in cancer immunotherapies — or fields such as gene therapy or stem-cell biology — can tweak them to suit their needs. “I hope this will capture the imagination of a lot of researchers out there,” he says.

(Courtesy: Nature)

## Health Care Needs AI But With The Human Touch

While digitalization, AI and Big Data has solved lots of mysteries and complexities of our life and our health, what is not mysterious and complex is that when we are ill we have a fundamental need for care and validation of our personhood, notes DR HELAI GUPTA

We stand on the brink of a technological revolution so profound that not only will it alter our way of living but also how we relate to one another. At a time like this when the fourth industrial revolution is building on the third, despite the exponential rather than linear pace of this revolution, the resultant fruit is revealing a wide gender gap in its distribution.

A recent study by a well reputed think tank has revealed a huge gender gap of 53 per cent amongst internet users in India. The percentage of women having a mobile phone was 43 per cent as compared to 80 per cent men.

The study also highlighted that only 19 per cent of the total Indian population uses the internet. We can very accurately imagine then what a small blip of women may be benefitting when it comes to usage of health apps.

Currently there are about 31800 health apps, broadly of 3 main categories:

1. General health and wellness apps
2. Telemedicine apps
3. Health management apps

Those specific to women are: menstrual cycle trackers, fertility and ovulation apps, pregnancy care apps, PMS tracking apps.

While they play a major role in health education and care, and have the potential to reduce healthcare cost both for the patient and health care providers, developing a successful health care app takes careful thought, research and ingenuity. Lack of good quality scientific research into E-health is a major concern.

Nevertheless the numerous advantages are: its convenience and availability, cost effectiveness and also provi-



sion of a good data back-up, all the while encouraging self-efficacy.

The major disadvantages are data privacy and cyber security, lack of a good central regulatory body, and inaccurate information and authenticity.

For example, a study published in the Journal of American Society of Hypertension revealed that only 3 per cent of the 107 apps that used the term ‘hypertension’ for high blood pressure were developed by healthcare agencies, and none of these were approved by the FDA.

While digitalization, AI and Big Data has solved lots of mysteries and complexities of our life and our health, what is not mysterious and complex is that when we are ill we have a fundamental need for care and validation of our personhood.

The hope is that as the deficient component of healthcare is fixed through technology and as machines get smarter and take over suitable tasks, humans might actually find it easier to be more human.

As Hippocrates said more than 2000 years ago, it’s more important to know what sort of a person has a disease than to know what sort of a disease a person has.

(The author is a Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecologist at Rosewalk Healthcare)



## ‘Medicine From The Sky’ Via Drones Gradually Catching Up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh too has taken a sky route through drones to deliver medicines and vaccines in its inaccessible remote terrains and in emergency situations. Recently, it launched ‘Medicine from the sky’ project drone services at Ziro, Lower Subansiri district to provide medical help to the people residing in the far flung areas. The project was launched in the presence of Arunachal Pradesh Health and Family Welfare Minister Alo Libang. Apollo Hospital’s HealthNet Global is the clinical partner in the initiative which will oversee the training and monitoring of adherence to clinical protocols.

“By deploying drones to transport vaccines and medications to isolated areas of India, this project is fundamentally addressing deficiencies in our healthcare delivery system. Additionally, the programme is creating guidelines for policymakers and health systems to analyse the advantages and challenges of drones delivering vaccines,” Vikram Thaploo, CEO of HealthNet Global said about the project.

Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group added that drones can quickly transport supplies that can save lives of

vulnerable populations by removing excess hurdles.

“The idea of on-demand drone delivery has emerged as the nation’s ground-breaking innovation that can bring about the long-delayed goal of ensuring equal access to healthcare in order to save and improve lives. With a myriad of benefits, drones cannot only revolutionize healthcare but also logistics and transportation, bringing us one step closer to saving and improving a billion people’s lives, she said.”

“By delivering medical goods to hard-to-reach places, drones are saving lives across the world. The pandemic has accelerated the way healthcare providers use drones to deliver medicines and vaccines worldwide because they are particularly useful in places where road connectivity and refrigerated transport are a challenge.

“The transition from ineffective health supply chains to digital, resilient infrastructure that decreases waste and enhances health outcomes is being accelerated by initiatives like the ‘Medicine from the Sky’, added Thaploo. Drone based medical services are now being seen as an easy way to reach out to the people in the far off areas needing healthcare.

The Meghalaya government in partnership with startup TechEagle unveiled Asia’s first

drone delivery hub and network on December 6, 2022 in a bid to provide universal access to healthcare for the people in the state. The project is aimed at delivering vital supplies like drugs, diagnostic samples, vaccines, blood and blood components quickly and safely to different regions of the state using a dedicated drone delivery network, said an official from the State Health Department.

The authorities have started realising the potential of drones in various areas including health. While the unmanned Aerial Vehicles were deployed by the Union Health Ministry during Covid pandemic to deliver Covid-19 vaccines to access compromised areas and strengthen the vaccine delivery system, a study has found that the cutting-edge technology can play a vital role in India’s battle against Tuberculosis (TB) by reducing sputum transportation time.

A team of ICMR scientists had conducted a feasibility study comparing transportation tests between two modes of vehicles — UAVs and conventional bikes in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh. They observed that sputum transportation by UAVs was feasible, cheaper and an efficacious potential alternative to conventional modes of transportation. The study is published in the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

# Ayurveda The Ultimate Healer

The lives of Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley, Amar Singh, as well as late business tycoon Rakesh Jhunjunwala could have been saved with the help of Neo Ayurveda science. All of them died of chronic kidney disease, says Dr SM RAJU who claims that ‘Miracle Drinks’ invented by him can treat and cure many chronic ailments

Necessity is the mother of invention. I suffered from Rheumatoid Arthritis from 1973 to 1982. The pain of a penidure injection prick every 21 days pushed me to find an alternative solution through herbal medicines based on Indian classical books. I had studied a course on medicinal plants in college and that formed a strong foundation on which I carried out the research.

In 2008, my 76-year-old father suffered from Acute Renal Failure due to excessive ingestion of painkillers and was put on dialysis. This further ignited my zeal to continue and expand my research. Soon I discovered a formulation, which helped my father to come out of dialysis in three months. The regime I followed was a strict balance between herbal formulations, diet, and homemade remedies without allopathic medications during the treatment. I presented the research paper on this invention at the 9th World Ayurveda Congress in Goa between December 8 and 11, 2022.

In 2010, my second son was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (blood cancer). This is when I developed a deeper and more aggressive approach to my research. During the course of my son’s treatment I administered a combination of allopathic medicines, dietary supplements and herbal formulations for maximizing the speed and efficacy of cure and recovery. My son, now fully recovered, lives a normal life. Over the years, I came across

many people who voluntarily consumed these medicines for various health issues. These people have come from different walks of life including, but not limited to, Chief Justices of High Courts, Judges of High Courts, Union Ministers like Shri Sripad Yasso Naik, Giriraj Singh, heads of departments of medical colleges (allopathic), business persons, public figures, friends, relatives and many more. These herbal medicines/ health supplements in varied combinations, assist with more than 170 health disorders.

At present in medical science when CKD with eGFR( estimated glomerulus capillaries filtration rate ) is less than 15 percent, a dialysis or kidney transplant is necessary. When the creatinine increases the urea, uric acid and potassium increase, and hemoglobin levels, sodium level, calcium levels, and chloride level decrease. This could lead to the risk of heart attack, breathing problems, water accumulation in the lungs and other parts of the body, body pain, reduction in urine flow, no proper digestion, sleep problem, body weakness and cannot walk also. The kidney’s role is not only confined to filtration of toxins but also maintenance of all body para matters as mentioned above.

The root causes of chronic kidney disease are diabetes, hypertension, brain stroke, excessive use of painkillers, etc. The moment the blood report shows creatinine level going above 2.5 in an increas-



ing trend the doctors are prone to declare it as a case of chronic kidney disease.

To maintain the creatinine level at present in allopathic science, many synthetic medications are being advocated including those for affecting blood thinner, uric acid, pre-biotics, vitamin D, vitamin B12, calcium, sodium, acidity, etc. These synthetic tablets further damage the liver and other organs in the long-term. Nepfro dieticians will inevitably suggest to the patients to avoid the consumption of leafy vegetables, milk, and corn in their diets. All these recommendations are not properly tested on patients. No one has done any clinical trial on his own father like I dared to do.

A recent case study related to CKD due to Chronic diabetes had more than 20 years of case history. The person’s name is CG Vasudev and he is 57 years old. He is working in Bengaluru in a private company as a senior executive. His health condition was so bad that doctors suggested dialysis. He had edema, suffered from acute body pain,

and insomnia, and was not even able to walk. His blood parameter (13.10.21) E GFR rate was 9.40, serum creatinine level 5.97, hemoglobin level 10.1, potassium level 6.5.

On the 16th day of the “miracle drink” treatment, his creatinine level dropped to 3.2, on the 30th day to 2.5, on the 98th day to 1.9, on the 192nd day to 1.77,. On the 197th day, the eGFR increased from 9.40 to 45.00, and on the 290th day creatinine level reduced to 1.4, while E GFR increased to 51, and the hemoglobin level increased to 12.2. On the 410th day, creatinine stood at 1.24, urea was 27.5 and HbA1C was 6.3. Now the person is leading a normal life.

I strongly feel that dialysis is only required when the patient is having breathing problems, urination stops, and hemoglobin level is less than seven. Otherwise, dialysis is not necessary.

One has to follow a strict diet regime and can leave all the medications including statins, and blood thinners except BP and diabetes-related tablets because all these medicinal values are present in the “miracle” drink. However, I suggest that one should not leave diabetes and BP-related medications. During the course of treatment, the body’s inbuilt system starts functioning within three days, therefore from the fourth day one has to taper down Diabetes related medications, and 15th day onwards BP related medications has to be tapered down

Talking about the “Miracle” drink, Dr Arun Kumar Thakur, former professor and head of the department of pediatrics at Nalanda medical college Patna, says that Dr Raju may be the first time in the world to blend Allopathic principles with Ayurveda. “Dr Raju developed different medicines on the basis of Vedic literature with only herbal extracts as a passion for more than 40 years. Different formulations for blood thinning, cholesterol, liver care, Kidney care, acidity etc, with his own diet principles with home remedies for different incurable diseases. In his treatment protocol 9 herbal formulations in combinations take care of more than 170 diseases,” he said.

with the consultation of the doctors.

While undergoing treatment for chronic kidney disease automatically all other problems like Diabetic neuropathy, Diabetic Retinopathy, and liver and heart problems also get solved.

The lives of Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley, Amar Singh, as well as late business tycoon Rakesh Jhunjunwala could have been saved with the help of If this Neo Ayurveda science. All of them died due to chronic kidney disease.

(The author is a former bureaucrat and inventor of the “Miracle Drinks.”)



# Erdogan's goal beyond securing Syrian refugees

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has once again intervened in northern Syria, making a desperate bid to bolster his political prospects in 2023 by impressing upon many of his countrymen who are unhappy with Syrian refugees staying in his country.

For Ankara, the purported incursion in northern Syria is to create a safe zone along the border to resettle the Syrian refugees. But Erdogan's real intention, it seems, is to flush out all the rebels belonging to Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) which Turkey considers as a terrorist organisation affiliated with the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). It's a long-drawn battle wherein the vital interests of major world powers, like the US and Russia, is directly targeted by Erdogan.

The Syrian predicament has lingered for over 11 years. The conflict has uprooted nearly 13 million people, more than half of the pre-war population of that country. Further the historic crisis has left an estimated 14 million people in the lurch.

Syria, a West Asian country situated on the Eastern Mediterranean and the Levant, is in the midst of a serious humanitarian crisis and economic chaos. In French language, the word "Levant" means 'rising', but it is almost a dying nation ruled by its embattled President Bashar al-Assad, largely supported by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his forces since the upsurge that began in 2011.

However, the battle in Syria has triggered an enormous refugee crisis in West Asia. Of the displaced Syrians, 6.6 million are staying as refugees in neighbouring countries: 3.8 million in Turkey, 8,40,000 in Lebanon, 6,75,000 in Jordan, and over 2,50,000 in Iraq. In fact, there is more than 20 per cent increase in the movement of refugees from Syrian land between 2021 and 2022.

Now the moot point is why Erdogan is attacking northern Syria. Today, the US, Russia and Syria are apprehensive that Ankara might launch a full-scale attack on its border with Syria. In



Lawmakers push each other at the Parliament in Ankara on Dec 6, 2022

AP

November, Turkey's Defence Minister Hulusi Akar told his military commanders on the Iraqi borderlands that the Government is ready to "complete the tasks". It simply indicated that the Erdogan Government is all set to start a hard battle against the YPG forces operating from Syria. It is certain that for this, Turkey has to move on the ground so as to diminish the might of the YPG.

Behind this, Erdogan and his team are working tirelessly to address the growing anti-immigration sentiment among the Turks. Today, refugees flowing from all war-ravaged nations, including Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, etc, are facing animosity from the locals. The refugees in Yusufpasa of Istanbul are worried about their future. Remarkably, this particular district or town has been attracting millions of

refugees for years. In fact, though these migrants are coming from various conflict-ridden nations, the Syrians are most visibly shaping the life and times of the rest. That's why xenophobic attacks are on the rise. The Turkish capital has already become the hotspot of refugee bashing. Many Syrians are worried that Ankara type incidents might repeat in other refugee camps abroad.

Beyond the politicking of Erdogan, the elites in Turkey need to understand the reality of geopolitical calculations and accordingly set the tone for dealing with refugees in that country. The need of the hour is to change the rhetoric and devise large integration policies that may help foster social harmony and protect the new refugees entering into the country, especially from neighbouring Syria.

But why are the Turkish

people threatened by the influx of Syrian refugees? The primary reason is that these outsiders are fast changing the ethnic mosaic of the country. These new residents have turned Turkey from a relatively homogenous nation composed mainly of the ethnic Turks and minority Kurdish into a more diverse country. This trend of migration has made Turkey a place of millions of Arab and Afghan people. The demographic change has a serious impact on the lives of the locals. As a matter of fact, the indigenous Turks are not used to accommodate outsiders. But the new change heralded by international migration has virtually shaken the national identity of the Turks long defined by a strong sense of ethnic nationalism.

Erdogan is trying to make a fresh bid for another term in the presidential election in

June 2023. He has already become the longest serving leader of Turkey combining both his prime ministerial and presidential terms. He was Prime Minister of the country from 2003-2014 and has been functioning as President since 2014.

Before becoming Prime Minister, he was the Mayor of Istanbul from 1994-1998. He has already surpassed the uninterrupted rule of great Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, modern Turkey's founder and first President of the country from October 29, 1923, until his death on November 10, 1938.

Erdogan is posing as a Turkish Muslim messiah in the eyes of his supporters. He is making his own brand and competing against himself only, and hardly has left any of his opponents active in politics, particularly after the coup in the country on July 15, 2016.

Since then, Erdogan has virtually eliminated all his political rivals. Many consider him as the force resurrecting the Muslim Umma, the global Muslim community. For long he has branded the opposition as blasphemous. And anyone who is against him is publicly treated and targeted as anti-Turkish, and anti-Muslim. Finally, such people are declared as enemies of the Turkish State by Erdogan and his cronies all around the world.

While looking at Erdogan's plan to stamp out the Kurdish militias in northern Syria, it is pertinent to see what he is planning to achieve. Erdogan is treading warily with the refugee issue by camouflaging it with the threat coming from the Kurdish militants. More insidiously, he is demonising the electorate who have refused to support his AKP. And in this

plan, he includes all the leftists, liberals, seculars, social democrats and finally the Kurdish.

No wonder, Erdogan may win his next presidential bid. It is easier for him as there are hardly any strong opposition forces. It would be quite possible as since 2003, he has been making strategies to gather the conservative support base and raising popularity among the political Islamists. And fortunately, he has come at a time when the entire West Asia, particularly his neighbouring nations are all bedevilled by uncertainty, growing radical Islamic movements and a fast-changing global political calculation wherein stability is key concern for nations. Erdogan's opportunism and anti-democratic agenda is largely supported by growing uncertainties in the global governance system as well.

Finally, Erdogan seems to have forgotten that politics is the "art of the possible" as rightly echoed by German statesman Otto von Bismarck. The forces propelled by Erdogan might topple him one fine day and make democracy thrive in this country. He is omnipotent for now, no doubt. But his executive style presidency and the illiberal democracy that he has been championing for almost two decades now might give way to a true democratic order in Turkey.

It is high time he won a popular referendum as his AKP has failed to win more than 50 per cent of the popular support. His attempt to punish the alleged Gulenist plotters and proxies has morphed into a witch hunt that continues even today. And this political vendetta has been extended to include anyone whoever has defied Erdogan, including the Leftists, liberals, and Kurdish nationalists. He must be careful while pursuing his desire to remain the permanent president of Turkey simply by organising a periodic democratic festival called election simply to legitimise his stay in power.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)

**For Ankara, the purported attack in northern Syria is to create a safe zone along the border to resettle the Syrian refugees. But Erdogan's real intention, it seems, is to flush out all the rebels. Erdogan is treading warily with the refugee issue by camouflaging it with the threat coming from the Kurdish militants. More insidiously, he is demonising the electorate who have refused to support his party AKP**



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# English literature's dilemma: The Indian mind

**Literature delves into human experiences and is communicated through language. In other words, languages are not simply communicative or reductively informative; they are culturally represented and deeply symbolic. Hence, "Indianness" is hard to condense within the metaphor of the colonial tongue**



AYANA CHAKRABORTY

Literature departments in India face, at least, some sort of a double challenge to reckon with. To begin with, they are endowed with the task of defining how literature posits itself to the Indian mind. This entails how students and teachers locate "Indianness", and hence, the problem expands to explore the question of some greater identity when exposed to world literature. In this context, let us remember a couple of tenets. Literature is not another discipline under the social sciences despite its increasingly conspicuous dalliance with the latter.

It is a recent academic phenomenon, in vogue since the last five decades. If truth be told, literature has even approached a section of the natural sciences like ecology and the environmental studies to understand greater problems concerning human existence. But literature, with all its body of research, varies radically across its methodological outlooks and soars above any distinct formula to understand the human condition. In short, literature engages with human experiences and their narrative elements, which in themselves, cannot adhere to broader generalities or fit within the "accuracy" of sample sizes. The other tenet would be to understand that engagements with literary practices are essentially plural, poly-vocal and dialogical; there is a plane constructed by literature where identities are not stable. There is a constant, reciprocal process of informing and being informed by other cultures.



A Chenchu tribal man walks through Amarabad Tiger Reserve forest as he carries broom sticks to sell in a local market in Nagar Kurnool in Telangana on Friday

AP

"Indianness", thus, is a fluid and a difficult concept. In a plural society like ours, the term would spread across different languages, cultures and traditions. Indian literature would, within itself, comprise a wide, plethora of perspectives towards life and social interactions. This challenge towards defining "Indianness" within a

singular composite term seems to be an impossible task; and hence let us look upon it as an umbrella term which defines all Indian experiences of life. But the more significant caveat to remember is about our colonial past and thus to look into every idea that is still romanticised within the colonial frame of reference.

Here, the suggestion is not to eradicate every non-Indian idea but to engage with them with a critical mind. I use the term "critical" in terms of cultivating a conscious identity of being "non-western", oriental, South Asian and being "Indic".

This problem, I believe, is far more real in English departments and it isn't an

arduous task to guess why. The language itself had a foreign identity but for the recent urges of "writing back to the empire" and thus inflecting the language with an Indian flavour. This is the same cultural phenomenon that philosophers like Deleuze and Guattari use to talk about "minorising" the major. It

remains uncontested that English is the current language of power and has achieved a hegemonic status in consensus. But the question that we face today is how would an Indian mind deal with a discipline that uses an originally foreign language and a department which has the greatest of its syllabi embedded within the discourses of English speaking nations?

Most academicians would agree that translation is a step in the right discussion. True, but not too much to assure us. Literature delves into human experiences and is communicated through language. In other words, languages are not simply communicative or reductively informative; they are culturally represented and deeply symbolic. Hence, "Indianness" is hard to condense within the metaphor of the colonial tongue. However, since we are condemned to struggle in the same matrices of identities and languages, English is the most relevant medium to reach out to global readership as much as to fellow Indians with a broad linguistic divide.

The question then modifies itself. With English to be used to hear and be heard, how do we root for an "Indianised" perspective? The response might be positive if we understand what it is to have an "emic" perspective. The term "emic" is a contrast to its academic antonym "etic" where the former emphasises on understanding knowledge and culture through the "native" perspective. The etic perspec-

tive, of course, is a detached third party view to discourse of culture.

Critics in India might fret over the polarities of ethnocentric narratives against xenocentric narratives to finally lay their thrust behind cultural relativism. Maybe this grants us a safer space to tread away from historical deviances. But "emic" understanding is not essentially "ethnocentric". It is open to critiquing itself but with a more rigorous and empathetic understanding of its own. Thus it is not about ethnic narcissism.

However, what it rescues us from is a worrying detachment of one's own civilisational ethos; a scholarly, almost pedantic isolation of the scholar from their culture to identify themselves as an "intellectual" floating in some self-contained vacuum. This sardonic and disconnected identification is perhaps what categorises the majority of today's academia. And to burst those bubbles, some sort of an identifying process is necessary. There has to be some truth to one's culture, traditions and community ideas; critiquing is to pierce through those human realities where the positive and the negative are both thrown open but with a responsible approach.

(The writer is an intern at Institute for Educational and Development Studies, Noida. This article is an outcome of BGS amvahini-2 Internship Programme sponsored by IKS Division, Ministry of Education, Govt of India)



