OPINION 6

INEVITABLE AF-PAK

DISSONANCE

WORLD 9

CHINA SENDS 39 WARPLANES, 3

SHIPS TOWARDS TAIWAN IN 24 HRS

HISTORIC MILESTONE: RBI

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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ARCHER BACK IN ENGLAND ODI SQUAD

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY DECEMBER 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Modi warns against Covid complacency

Wear mask,

keep social

distancing,

suggests IMA

New Delhi: India's top doctors' body, Indian Medical

Association, has appealed to

people to follow Covid appro-

the impending Covid outbreak. These include wearing face

masks in public places, main-

taining social distancing, reg-

ular hand washing with soap

public gatherings like mar-

riages, political or social meet-

ngs, and international travel. It

further appealed to the people

to consult doctors in case of

fever, sore throat, cough, loose

motions etc, and getting Covid

vaccination including precau-

It also advised avoiding

and water or sanitisers.

It listed steps to overcome

priate behaviour.

2% random sampling of all flyers arriving at international airports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Covid cases in China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday warned against complacency back home, saying the pandemic is not over vet even as he directed officials to strengthen the ongoing surveillance measures, especially at international airports.

His assertion came soon after Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Parliament that the 2 per cent random sampling of all flyers arriving at all international airports has been started to minimise the risk of entry of any new variant into the country. As per guidelines, incoming fliers should be fully vaccinated against Covid in their country while masks and physical distancing needs to be adhered to. Also, any passen-ger having symptoms of Covid-19 during travel shall be isolated as per standard protocol.

Modi chaired a high-level meeting to assess the Covid-19 situation in the country, preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, and the status of the vaccination campaign and the emergence of new variants and their public health implications

The PM urged everyone to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a high-level meeting to review preparedness of public health response to Covid-19, in New Delhi, on Thursday

masks in crowded public places, at all times, especially in view of the upcoming festive season, according to a state-ment issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

During the meeting, Modi directed officials to ramp up testing and also genomic sequencing efforts and urged that precaution dose may be encouraged especially for vulnerable and elderly groups. States have been asked to share a larger number of samples with the designated INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories for genome sequencing on a daily basis.

This will support timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country and facilitate undertaking req uisite public health measures,

He stressed on the need to ensure that the entire Covid infrastructure at all levels is maintained at a high level of preparedness in terms of equipment, processes and human

Continued on Page 2 | tionary dose at the earliest.

'64% Indians wary of booster jab over rising number of heart attacks'

Amid Covid-19 infection surge in China and the return of focus on the booster dose as a precautionary measure, a survey on Thursday found that over six in 10 Indians (64 per cent) are reluctant to take the additional dose due to rising cases of heart attacks in young people.

While 53 per cent of those surveyed have not taken booster shots and do not plan to take it, 9 per cent have still not taken any Covid vaccine shots and don't plan to do so. About 2 per cent are still to decide on whether to take the booster shot or not, according to local social community engagement platform LocalCircles.

The latest survey received over 19,000 responses from citizens located in 309 districts. Following a sharp surge in the new Covid-19 variant BF-7 in countries like China, Japan, South Korea, France and the USA, the State Government officials here have started stressing on vaccination and usage of masks.

The LocalCircles study said while 28 per cent have taken the precaution of getting the



vaccination as also the booster shot, and 8 per cent are likely to do so in the next 30 days. there is a sizeable 64 per cent of respondents who are currently reluctant to take the booster or precaution dose.

While several people, especially in tier 2, 3 and 4 and rural districts, believe Covid is long gone and there is no need to take any more doses and whether a precaution dose is indeed useful, a spate of cases of heart attacks and brain strokes that have occurred in people's own networks and those reported in the media are leading a section of the population to believe that the vaccine is causing side effects.

IAF Chief flags critical dearth, seeks redressal

'Deficiencies like shortage of fighter squadrons must be addressed on priority to retain combat edge'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Days after China made its aggressive intentions obvious by positioning its frontline fighter jets close to the border on its side in Arunachal Pradesh after the recent clash with India in Tawang, Indian Air Force Chief VR Chaudhari on Thursday flagged concerns over "critical deficiencies" like fighter jet squadrons and force multipliers in the IAF.

At present, it has around 31 fighter squadrons (one squadron has 18-20 jets) against the sanctioned strength 42 fighter squadrons.

Underlining this imbalance vis-à-vis China, he also said this issue must be addressed on priority so that the force retains its combat edge. China is rapidly improving its air combat capabilities besides modernising air fields and other infrastructure all along the 4,000 km long Line of Actual Control stretching from Ladakh in the west to

In an address at a seminar, the Air Chief observed India's neighbourhood continues to remain volatile and uncertain and that the country must enhance its collective strength by partnering with nations which share common beliefs and values

Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Chaudhari's comments came amid fresh tensions

needs to evolve into an aero-

between India and China following a clash between their armies in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 that was triggered by Chinese PLA's attempt to change the status quo in the Yangtse area.
"There are certain critical

deficiencies like shortage of fighter squadrons and force multipliers which must be addressed on priority to retain our combat edge," he said addressing the 19th Subroto Mukherjee seminar on the subject 'India's Eminence in the Emerging World Order'.

The Air Chief also asserted that there can be no soft power without adequate and credible hard power. "Only when our borders, airspace and coasts are secure will India flourish," he said.

Delving into the evolving regional security matrix including the situation in Indo-Pacific, Chaudhari said the "IAF will be expected to contribute across the full spectrum of conflict. Air power has the capability to deter, defend and if required punish the adversary in a conflict"

squadrons of the IAF is going down as several of them have been phased out in recent years while a number of others are due for number-plating (retirement) in the next few years that include the Jaguar fleet. In October, Chaudhari acknowledged that his force will not be able to reach the sanctioned strength of 42 fighter squadron anytime soon, notwithstanding upcoming inductions. 'The Indian Air Force

space power and to do so, there is a need to develop the capability to fight and win tomorrow's wars," he said. The IAF chief said multi-domain operations and hybrid warfare are going to stay and "we must, therefore, realign and reform to keep pace with technology to remain relevant." In an obvious reference to China, the IAF chief also referred to that country's attempt to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific saying an established regional power is challenging an established superpower, which is seen as an oblique reference to US-China competition in the

region.
"When we look at the Indo-Pacific region, we see great power politics in play where an established super power is increasingly being challenged by an established regional power with global

ambitions," he said.

"The outcome of this great power competition will have repercussions for all major players in the region. In the existing world order, where national interests and realpolitik dictate the actions of state players, there would always be an overlap between competition and cooperation," the IAF chief said.

proposals to boost combat capabilities

In a major effort to boost **L**combat capabilities of the armed forces including the Coast Guard, the Government on Thursday cleared proposals worth ₹84,328 crore.

The acquisition will include light tanks, anti-ship missiles, new range of missiles and next generation offshore patrol vessels. Most of these weapon platforms will be procured from Indian industry.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh cleared the proposals at a time when China has adopted an aggressive stance in Arunachal Pradesh to change the status quo at the Line of

Actual Control in Tawang. Moreover, tension still persists in Eastern Ladakh where stand-offs persisted between the two armies for more than two years starting May 2020. Also, China has ramped up its drive to modernise its land, air and maritime capabilities by acquiring front-line fighter jets aircraft carriers besides improving its infrastructure all along the 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Giving details of the cleared proposals, defence ministry officials said the DAC has accorded approval for Acceptance of Necessity for 24 Capital Acquisition Proposals.

Continued on Page 2

Govt OK's ₹84K cr Rahul slams 'Covid excuse' to stop yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/ NUH (HARYANA)

Aday after Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked the Congress to consider suspending the Bharat Jodo Yatra if Covid protocol could not be followed, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the pan India foot march, said the Government is coming up with "excuses" to stop the yatra.

The yatra, which started in Kanyakumari on September 7 and will conclude in Kashmir, is currently in Haryana, after covering Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It will enter Delhi on Saturday morning and will be



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, party leader Randeep Surjewala and others during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Nuh

stationed at Rajghat for a week. "This yatra will go to Kashmir. Now, they have come out with a new idea. They wrote me a letter that Covid

was spreading, stop the yatra," Rahul said while addressing a gathering in Ghasera village in

Haryana's Nuh district. Continued on Page 2

Vadra's plea to quash ED investigation

PTI ■ JODHPUR

In a blow to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra, the Rajasthan High Court on Thursday rejected a petition seeking the quashing of an Enforcement Directorate investigation into the purchase of land in Bikaner by a company linked to Vadra and his mother.

Justice PS Bhati also turned down Vadra's petitions seeking "no coercive seeking action" in the alleged money laundering case, but extended an earlier stay on Vadra's arrest by four more weeks to allow the petitioners to appeal before a two-judge

Continued on Page 2

Raj HC rejects | ED attaches ₹55 cr land of A Raja's benami firm

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 45 acres of land in Coimbatore district worth ₹55 crore held in the name of a Benami company of A Raja, former Cabinet Minister, on money laundering charges.

"The properties (45 acres of land in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, worth ₹55 crore) have been purchased directly using the proceeds of crime, (illegal payment made as quid pro quo for obtaining Environmental Clearances) have been provisionally attached by the Directorate," the agency said in a statement.

The 59-year-old Raja is currently a DMK MP from the Nilgiris Lok Sabha seat.

During the money laundering investigation, ED found that A Raja, during his tenure as Minister of Environment and Forests had granted Environmental Clearances to Gurugram-based real-estate company Unitech, one of the largest real estate companies in the country and listed on BSE,

officials said.

"Further, during the course of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) inves-tigation, ED has found that the real-estate company has given kickbacks to A Raja as quid pro quo for awarding the Environmental Clearance, around the same period in the year 2007, in the garb of land commission income in the hands of one Benami compa-

ny of A Raja," the ED said. Continued on Page 2

Removed as

Tihar DG, IPS

officer Goel

suspended

Sobhraj a heartless killer in charmer garb

PTI NEW DELHI

t was in 1986 that Charles It was in 1986 that Charles Sobhraj scripted his great escape from Tihar by offering drug-laced sweets to prison staff on the pretext of celebrating his birthday.

As Sobhraj is expected to walk out of prison soon with Nepal's Supreme Court ordering his release, officials who had interacted with him recalled him as a heartless and ruthless person in the guise of a charmer, who could woo women with his personality.

Former Tihar Jail law offi cer Sunil Gupta said Sobhraj was someone, who would make special efforts to dress up, when he had to meet women advocates but was rather casual in his attire when he had a meeting with their male coun-



known as the bikini killer, had a natural inclination towards women. Whenever he was supposed to meet any female guest, be it a lawver or anybody else, he used to make extra effort to dress up properly, apply per-fume and look handsome," Gupta told PTI.

cial said he had never seen Sobhraj "being so attentive" towards male guests.

"He used to be rather casual in meeting men but extremely particular while encountering women to impress them. In fact, he preferred to interact with female lawyers more than the male ones. In those days since there were no limitations on the number of guests, all sorts of people used to come and meet him during the day," he added.

Sobhraj was brought to Tihar Jail in 1976 and was lodged there till 1996 before being extradited to France. He scripted his great escape in March 1986, only to be caught after 22 days by the Delhi

tota told PTI.

At the time of his escape,
he was lodged in Central Jail

number 3 of Tihar and planned his meticulous escape with his friend David Richard Hall. Some other prisoners also escaped from Tihar that day, thanks to the plan hatched by Sobhraj

Recalling the episode, Gupta said what he (Sobhraj) did was he told the jail staff that he was celebrating his birthday. In those times, since cooking was allowed inside the jail, he got sweets prepared for his

"With the help of his friend David Hall, he managed to get a drug called Larpose and got it mixed with burfi in heavy doses. The sweets laced with the drug were distributed to jail staff and security guards, specially those who were guarding the front entrance. He also distributed ₹50 each with a

piece of sweet," Gupta said.

After putting his plan into action, he went to the office of the gatekeeper, who had also fallen unconscious, and took away the keys from his waist and opened the gates and escaped with some other inmates.

Later, one of the staff members who was also drugged but was partially conscious took an autorickshaw and reached the residence of Deputy Superintendent of Jail and asked him to come to the jail

After being brought to jail following his arrest, he had claimed that he was abducted by security agencies who wanted to extract information from him and had not fled from jail, Gupta added.

India, China, Russia abstain from UN vote on Myanmar

PNS/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India, China, and Russia have Labstained from voting in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on a draft resolution calling on the military junta in Myanmar to release all political prisoners and seeking an immediate end to violence.

The 15-nation Security Council, under India's Presidency this month, adopted the resolution late Wednesday after 12 members voted in favour, none against it. India, China and Russia abstained.

This is the first Security Council resolution adopted on Myanmar in 74 years. The only other UNSC resolution on Myanmar was in 1948 after the Continued on Page 2 Continued on Page 2 | country formerly known as



Assembly "that the Union of Burma" be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, presiding over the meeting, said New Delhi believef that the complex situation in Myanmar calls for an approach of "quiet and patient diplomacy."

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday suspended senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sandeep Goel for alleged dereliction of duty during his tenure as Director General of Tihar jail. Goel, a 1989-batch IPS officer, was removed as the

STAFF REPORTER INEW DELHI

head of Delhi's Tihar Prisons last month and attached to the Delhi Police headquarters. No specific reason has been cited in the suspension order. The order came after conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar claimed that he had paid ₹12.5 crore to the officer as "protection money" for his safety in jail.

India, US to review strategic relations

Defence chiefs of both countries exchange telephonic talk amid rising tension between India, China over border row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE I **AGENCIES** ■ NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON

With the defence and strategic ties between the two countries seeking an upward trajectory in the past few years, top military chiefs of India and US have discussed the entire gamut of relationship against the backdrop of linger ing tension between India and China in Ladakh and the latest clash in Arunachal Pradesh.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and his counterpart Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A Miley held telephonic conversation late Wednesday to review their relationship.

"The two military leaders

shared assessments of the regional and global security environment and discussed ways to deepen bilateral military ties and interoperability," Deputy Staff Spokesperson Joseph R. Holstead said later in a readout of the call.

"The US and India share a strong military-to-military relationship under the US-



Major Defence Partnership," Holstead said, adding that India plays a "key role" in maintaining a free

"India is a key regional leader and an important partner in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said.

The US, India and other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific against the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-rich and strategi-

cally important region.
China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.

Beijing has built artificial

islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea.

In 2017, the US, Australia, India and Japan gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific region free of influence.

The Chinese and Indian troops engaged in a fresh clash in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector on December 9 — the first major flare-up after the deadly combat in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades

Jamia to decide on CUET for admissions to UG courses soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tamia Millia Islamia is likely to decide on the implementation of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to all undergraduate courses from the next academic session in

According to a senior varsity official, the varsity has formed a committee to decide on the possibility of adopting the CUET, which was introduced earlier this year, for all courses. This year, the university took admission of students into 10 courses. "We have formed a committee to look into the implementation of CUET. The committee is looking into the matter. The committee is expected to submit a report in this regard soon," said Jamia Millia Islamia Registrar Nazim Husain Al-



Jafri. The report submitted by the committee will be presented during a meeting of the Academic Council in January and thereafter Executive Council, which is the highest decision-making body of the university will take up the

"The academic council will discuss the matter during a meeting in January. Then after that EC will discuss the matter," Jafri added.

Only admission to 10 undergraduate courses were done through the CUET at Jamia Millia Islamia University this year. JMI opened a registration portal for candidates

seeking admission in these courses in August. The 10 courses are: BA (Hons) Turkish Language and Literature, BA (Hons) Sanskrit, BA (Hons) French and Francophone Studies, BA (Hons) Spanish and Latin American Studies, BA (Hons) History, BA (Hons) Hindi, BA (Hons) Economics, BSc Biotechnology, BVoc (Solar Energy), and BSc (Hons) Physics. Major central universities

in the national capital partially or wholly adopted CUET for admissions to UG courses in the academic session 2022-23. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had in March announced that it will be mandatory for all central universities to admit students through the CUET. More than 14 lakh candidates appeared for the CUET in the first edition of

Liquor gang busted, three held in Noida

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of three people, the Noida Police in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday claimed to have busted a Delhibased inter-state gang of liquor smugglers and also seized around 4,500 litres of alcohol estimated worth more than ₹20 lakh

The illicit liquor was brought for sale in Uttar Pradesh during the upcoming festive season of Christmas and New Year, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ashutosh Dwivedi said. Among those held is the son of Delhi liquor mafia Kamal Kishor Chaurasiya alias KP, who has over two dozen cases lodged against him, the officer said.

The suspects were held near the Rajnigandha Chowk by a team of officials from the

5 builders fined of ₹25L for delaying flat-handover to buyers in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Gurugram bench of the Haryana real estate regulatory authority (HRERA) has imposed penalties of ₹25 lakh each on five builders after they failed to deliver their housing units to buyers on time.

The regulator, however, allowed the realtors' RERA registration certificates to remain in force with new timelines for completion of their projects.

As per the official statement, Identity Buildtech Private Limited has been fined for not completing its project Ansal Highland Park at Sector 103 within the declared timeline of June 2022. In this case, the authority has allowed the RERA registration to be in force till May 2024.

ED attaches ₹55 cr land of A Raja's...

From Page 1 Raja incorporated the company Kovai Shelters in

2007 in the name of his

close family friend (Dr C Krishnamoorthy), with the sole objective of using it as a vehicle to park the proceeds of crime. The said company was never engaged in any business activity since inception and the entire money received in the company was quid pro quo from the Real Estate Deal and was used for acquiring land in Coimbatore district, offi-

family members and his

The money laundering case stems from an earlier CBI FIR against Raja, in which the agency filed a chargesheet in August before a special court in Chennai.

The CBI had charged Raja for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets to

the tune of ₹5.53 crore during his tenure as the Union environment minister in the UPA government.

The procurement of next generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard will enhance surveillance capability in the coastal areas to new

and advanced surveillance

Given the ever present threat of terrorists trying to enter India through sea routes from the vast 7,000 km coastline especially after the Mumbai terror attacks, these acquisitions will add to the Coast Guard efficiency in thwarting any challenge.

Raj HC rejects Vadra's plea to quash ED...

From Page 1
The ED filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in September 2015 based on a complaint over the purchase of 125 bighas of land in Bikaner's Kolayat by Sky Light Hospitality. Vadra, who is Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi's husband, had sought the quashing of the ECIR, a document usually prepared by the ED when it begins an investigation.

The payment for the land was allegedly made through conduits, and it was later sold at a huge profit. Forged documents were allegedly used while making the deal.

Initially, the ED served notices to Vadra, his mother Maureen Vadra — both said to be associated the company — for their interrogation. In 2018, the Vadras moved the high court in Jodhpur in 2018. The petitioners also sought a copy of the ECIR to enable them to prepare their further course of action in the court. But in his order, Justice Bhati said that providing a

copy of the document was the ED's

"The present petitioners have not been arrayed as accused, and at the given stage, seeking the intervention of this court for quashing of the ECIR in question, is premature," the judge said. The ED had argued that the ECIR was an internal document, and not an FIR. The matter was just a fact-finding inquiry at this stage, the Central agency told the

court.

"We also argued that mere registering an ECIR does not mean that a person is an accused," Additional Solicitor General Rajdeepak Rastogi said. The court had earlier granted an interim stay on the arrest of Vadra and the others on the condition that they would cooperate in the investigation, he said, adding that they also appeared before the ED for interrogation. "But later the ED prayed for the vacation of the stay seeking custodial interrogation, citing non-cooperation by Vadra during interrogation, upon which the court expedited the hearing for the final order," Rastogi said. The court listed the matter for the final hearing on December 6 and completed the hearing on Wednesday, he said. The order was pronounced

4 hurt as police lathicharge crowd flocked for Shaan concert in Howrah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

t least four persons suffered Ainjuries and had to be rushed to hospitals for treatment when the police resorted to lathicharge as the crowd that had on Thursday evening assembled in overwhelming numbers - to listen to

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general

that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has

organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

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REG. NO.HR38Y1394 -YOM -2018

REG. NO.RJ14GJ1210 -YOM-2017

REG. NO.DL1LAB6744 -YOM-2018

REG. NO.UP14GT3467 - YOM-2017

REG. NO.DL1LAC6040 -YOM-2019

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13) MAHINDRA BLAZO37 FBT GOODS REG. NO. UP53ET7164

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REG. NO.UP15ET8816 -YOM -2020

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8) SML SARTAJ

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YOM 2018

YOM -2018

YOM -2018

15) MAH_BOLMAXITRK

16) TATAMOTORS TATAACE

5) TACEMEGA TATAMOTORS

7) TATAMOTORS- ACE MEGA

Bollywood singer Shaan at the annual fest in Uttarpara college in Howrah district — went berserk, sources said.

The singer was however reported to be safe.

On Thursday evening the Uttarpara college saw an utterly mismanaged programme, insiders said adding "anything could have happened".

From Page 1
The Bharat Jodo Yatra led
by him entered the State

through Nuh on Wednesday

with excuses to stop the yatra.

Covid is spreading, these are

and Rajasthan Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot to consider sus-

pending the yatra if Covid

protocol could not be fol-

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the public at large that MR.
NITIN KUMAR, is purchasing the PIECE OF
LAND AREA MEASURING 200 SQ. YDS.
OUT OF KHASRA NO. 1009 SITAUTED AT
MAZRA LONI, NEAR NIRMAL VIHAR,
PARGANA LONI, TEHHSIL AND DISTRICT

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Lucem Legal LLP

Targeting the BJP, which is

"Now, they are coming up

Mandaviya wrote to Rahul

after its Rajasthan leg.

all excuses," he said.

Govt

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by the Prime Minister will give the final clearance for he contracts.

This unprecedented iniiative of DAC will not only help in modernising the armed forces but also provide a substantial boost to

in power at the Centre and in Haryana, Rahul said it is

scared of the truth.

"Hindustan ki shakti say, Hindustan ki Sachai say, yeh log dar gaye hain, yeh sachai hai (they have got scared of power and truth of the coun-

try. This is the truth)," Rahul

said, adding that "we do not want RSS (Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh) and

also trying to suppress the

(Opposition) Congress' voice

in Parliament and this is also

a reason why this yatra was

Parliament or raise an issue

such as the Rafale jet matter,

demonetisation, GŚT (Goods

and Services Tax) or regarding

hatred spreading in the coun-

try, do you know what hap-

pens? The mic is switched off...

Keep on speaking, (but) no

tion is changed and the (Lok

Sabha) Speaker's face is visible

and the mic is switched off in

Parliament," Rahul said, and

added that "this is why we had

to take out this yatra from

has been going on for more

than 100 days and in this peo-

The Bharat Jodo Yatra

Kanyakumari to Kashmir".

'The TV camera's direc-

one will hear," he said.

taken out, Gandhi said.

The BJP Government is

"If we want to speak in

Modi's hate filled India".

achieve the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The nod will help equip

the Indian Army with platforms and equipment such as Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles, Light Tanks and Mounted Gun System providing a quantum jump to Indian Army's operational preparedness.

The DAC also gave clearance for procurement of ballistic helmets, with enhanced protection level, for soldiers deployed on the LAC and Line of Control

ple from all faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and

Christians, men, women, and

children have taken part, he

Calling the media his friends, Rahul said, "I call

them friends, but generally

they don't do the job of

friends. Their friends are

someone else, who are seen on

TV for 24 hours. Our Yatra is

Kashmir, and lakhs are taking

part in it, but you will not see

walks even 10 to 15 steps, you will get to see this on TV for

24 hours," he said. This is not

the fault of the media and "I

am not against them

(media)...There is a controller

at the back...", Rahul said,

adding that "so, this is the sit-

Targeting the BJP, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said that pol-

itics is being played on a seri-

ous public health issue.

"Understand the chronolo-

gy," he said, pointing out that the health minister has writ-

ten to Rahul Gandhi over

Covid-19 concerns and Prime

Minister Narendra Modi is

reviewing the virus-related

situation just days before the

"Bharat Jodo Yatra" enters

uation in the country".

"But if Narendra Modi ji

this in the media."

(LOC) facing Pakistan. Approvals for procurethe defence industry to

ment of naval anti-ship missiles, multi-purpose vessels and high endurance autonomous vehicles will further enhance maritime strength giving boost to Indian Navy's capabilities. Adding muscle to oper-

ational readiness of the IAF, its capabilities will be further strengthened with enhanced lethal capabilities by induction of new range of missile system, long range guided bombs, range augmentation kit for conventional bombs

Russia...

India, China,

From Page 1

She said any other course will not help in resolving the long-standing issues which have prevented enduring peace, stability, progress and democ-

"Under the current circumstances, we are of the considered view that a UN Security Council resolution may entrench the parties in their inflexible positions rather than encourage them to pursue an inclusive political dialogue."

Kamboj, however, asserted that India strongly calls upon all parties for an immediate cessation of hostilities, abandon their extreme positions and immediately initiate an inclusive political dialogue for the restoration of democracy. India underlined that the UN system should assist the parties in dialogue so that the state of emergency comes to an end and Myanmar returns to the democratic path.

"It is therefore important to carefully weigh actions by this Council. Quiet and constructive diplomacy is the desirable recourse to seeking constructive and enduring solutions in

Myanmar," Kamboj said, adding that the consequences of instability will affect the neighbouring countries the most and it is therefore important to consider the invitor and the same of the consideration of the same of the tant to consider their views and perspectives seriously.

In view of these concerns and our firm commitment to the democratic process and the well-being of the people of Myanmar, India decided to Kamboj said. Kamboj noted that India shares a nearly 1,700 kilometres-long border with Myanmar and has historical and cultural links with its peo-

"As such any instability in the country impacts us directly. Resolving the current crisis and maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in Myanmar is therefore of direct interest to our national security. The welfare of the people of Myanmar remains our utmost priority and is at the core of all our efforts," she said. The resolution reaffirmed its support for the people of Myanmar and its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of the country. It demanded an immediate end to all forms of violence throughout the country and urged restraint and de-escalation of tensions.

From Page 1 Amod Kanth, founder of

Prayas NGO, was then the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), was tasked with investigating the case, that had led to a huge furore, At that time, the Hong Kongbased Asiaweek wrote the he had written about the escape as "Dr No. Goldfinger, Professor Moriarty, move over: Charles Sobhraj has you beat." The retired officer said he

had a very deep association with Sobhraj, who he said, was neither a 'psychopath' nor like the person projected in the public limelight. "He was a crook, a confident trickster and a cheat," he said.

Decoding the person that Sobhraj was, Kanth said that he always targeted those who were close to him.

"That was his modus operandi. He used to drug them. He became very close to his victims and unfortunately women fell prey to him. He drugged them, made them unconscious, then robbed them and many a times managed to kill them," he said.

Terming Sobhraj as "a

heartless and ruthless character" who sometimes pretended to be spiritual, intellectual, soft gentleman, the officer said he took full advantage of having mixed parentage. He was the son of an Indian businessman and a Vitenamee shop assistant and was apparently born out of wedlock with his father never

accepting him. After escaping from Tihar, national who was arrested in a case of drugs, was indebted to Sobhraj as he had got Hall released based on false medical papers. A popular businessman Rajender Sethi was also well connected to Sobhraj as he was also dealing with his case in UK and wanted Sobhraj's help," he

The conspiracy was hatched by the trio in a systematic way with Sobhraj holding complete control of jail authorities. "He always behaved as an idle prisoner if one may call him so. In 1986, they planned to organise a fest and they held it for a couple of weeks before the D-day to gain the confidence of the jail staff

and guards," he said. During investigation, Kanth found that on March 16, 1986, Sobhraj, whose birthday falls on April 6, threw a lavish

party and pretended it was his birthday.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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 belowmentioned 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.	Gopinath Nayak & Aratee Nayak-LBAUR00002375917 & LBDEL00001727736	House No.135, Block D, Sector Beta I, Allotment No.B01-9519, Greater Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201306/ December 19, 2022	July 25, 2022/ Rs. 17,86,142.00/-	Auran- gabad

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. Authorized Officer

Date: December 23, 2022

Modi

From Page 1

The PM also advised States to audit Covid-specific facilities to ensure operational readiness of hospital infrastructure, including oxygen cylinders, PSA plants, ventilators and human resources, the statement said.

India has been witnessing a steady decline in cases with average daily cases falling to 153 and weekly positivity down to 0.14 per cent in the week ending December 22. However,

5.9 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally since the last six weeks. Modi was informed that

there is adequate availability with regard to medicines, vaccines and hospital beds. He also advised regularly monitoring of prices and availability of essential medicines. Highlighting the globally appreciated work of frontline healthcare workers, Modi exhorted them to continue working in the same selfless and dedicated manner, according to the statement.

In a statement in both Modi was briefed that Houses of Parliament, Mandaviya said States have been asked to focus on heightened surveillance within the community, undertake requisite control and containment measures, and ensure coverage

of precaution doses for Covid-19 vaccination, amid a spurt of coronavirus cases in some parts of the world.

Mandaviya said two per cent random sampling of international travellers arriving at airports has already started from Thursday to minimise ingress of any new variant in the country. "Our enemy is changing with time and we need to continue our collective fight against it with perseverance and determination," he said, adding that India has been reporting 153 new cases daily on an average as against 5.87 lakh new cases being reported on a daily basis across the world. "In view of upcoming festivals and new year cel-

ebrations, states also need to

focus on ensuring effective

awareness within the community on adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour which includes use of masks, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices, besides following physical distancing," he

Mandaviya said the States should also ensure that the coverage of precaution doses for Covid vaccination should increase and required awareness for the same is undertaken within the community. The Minister said the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact health and livelihood of the world till date. "Over the last three years, the continuously evolving nature of the virus has posed a threat to global health in a way that has impacted virtually every country," he said.

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Govt poised to curb Covid spread: CM



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday assured Delhiites to not panic amid rising Covid-19 cases in China.

The Delhi Government, he said, is conducting the genome test of 2,500 samples every day and is also testing sewage from 7 spots in the national Capital and added his Government is fully geared up

to tackle any eventuality.

Kejriwal chaired a highlevel review meeting on Thursday to assess the COVID situation and take stock of the Government's preparedness and directed the health department to keep a close watch on COVID and warned officials of strict action if any kind of negligence was found in the due course of time.

In his briefing after a highlevel meet on the Covid-19 situation, Kejriwal said the Government is fully prepared to fight any spread if it occurs. The Chief Minister urged people to take precautionary doses at the earliest.

Kejriwal said the dominant sub-variant in Delhi is XBB that has been detected in 92 per cent of the samples till now. "The government has also widened the scope of testing and those with SARS and breathing issues are being compulsorily tested using the RT-PCR method," Delhi CM told.

"On the daily basis 25000 tests are being done by the Delhi government and we have reached to a capacity of doing 1 lakh test in the city if needed," he said. "Currently, we have 8,211 beds for the COVID patients, while at the second wave when the pandemic was at its peak; this number was increased to 25000 beds.

This time we will further increase this number to 36000 beds if the situation gets worse," said Delhi CM. Kejriwal further directed the officials to take prior approval for pro-curement of essential items needed and inspect machines in all hospitals. Delhi CM also gave

instructions to increase manpower in all government hospitals to deal with the emergency in view of the Corona sit-

"One of the main problems during the pandemic last year was the availability of oxygen. On the one hand, oxygen was not available and if it was made available our capacity to store it was very low.

This time we have ramped it up and we can store up to 928 metric tons of oxygen," he said. "Another key issue faced the last time around was the lack of oxygen cylinders. People

patients looking for a cylinder last year. Apart from all the cylinders that are available in our government hospitals we also have a reserve of 6000 cylinders. Last year, during the peak of the pandemic, we had imported 6000 cylinders and

"A problem that we faced the last time was if a state agreed to provide us oxygen, we did not have adequate numbers of tankers to bring it to

these are now stocked in

reserve," Kejriwal said.

Delhi. This time around the Delhi government has 12 tankers and there are another 3 private tankers that we can use if the need arises, so we have 15 tankers to transport oxygen," Delhi CM informed. He said only 24 per cent of

the eligible population have taken the precaution dose and urged people to get the jab. "The city has 380 ambulances, while we have given the order to procure more ambulances," claimed kejriwal.

Follow Covid protocol Wear masks, keep social amid lurking threat, AIIMS staffers told

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Thursday asked its staff to follow appropriate social distancing protocol including in their seating arrangements, canteens and office gatherings and take preventive measures amid the lurking threat of Covid once again.

Through another missive, the AIIMS asked all department heads to ensure availability of at least 50 per cent of the doctors on duty during winter vacation. In an office memorandum issued on Thursday, the administration advised all hospital staff to follow Covid-appropriate behavior citing reported increase in the global cases of COVID-19 and in order to prevent a fresh outbreak.

Hospital staff has been asked to use reusable cloth face cover or surgical mask in the workplace, ensure proper cleaning and frequent sanitisation of the workplace and covering of nose and mouth

with elbow or handkerchief tissue while sneezing and cough ing, and maintaining personal hygiene and physical distancing. Strict disinfection protocols should be followed in the building or room according to the guidelines in vogue.

Seating arrangement in sections/rooms may be made to ensure adequate distance between officials in the rooms and gathering especially in canteens must be avoided," reads the order.

Gathering of five or more persons at any place in the office should be avoided and entry of visitors in the office complex should be discouraged to the maximum extent, it stated. Only those visitors who have proper permission from the office, whom they want to meet, should be allowed after being properly screened.
All officials have been

advised to take care of their own health and look out for symptoms such as fever, respiratory problems and, if feeling unwell, should leave the workplace immediately.

distancing, use sanitisers, shop owners advised dent of the Mini Market

STAFF REPORTER NEWDELHI

 $S_{
m across\ the\ national\ Capital}$ asked shop owners to strictly wear masks, use sanitisers and follow social distancing norms amid concerns over the surge in Covid cases in some countries. Fearing that the possible surge will impact their business yet again, some of these associations have also called meetings to discuss their future course of action.

Amid a spike in cases in Japan, South Korea, Brazil, China and the US, the Centre has urged all states and Union Territories to gear up the whole genome sequencing of positive samples to keep track of emerging variants.

Officials had earlier said that the Delhi Government is keeping a watch on the COVID-19 situation and the chief minister has directed the health department to ensure genome sequencing of samples and take other steps needed to meet any eventuality.

Ashok Randhawa, presi-

Association at Sarojini Nagar, said shop owners have been asked to start taking precautions by wearing masks and regularly using sanitisers.

Traders had stopped wearing masks, but now we have asked them to wear them for their own protection.

"As there is no mandate from the Government, we cannot ask customers to wear masks. People have become a bit complacent but we cannot force them to wear masks,' Randhawa said.

Fearing that a possible surge may impact business, Randhawa has called a meeting of traders to discuss the further course of action.

"I do not understand why the Covid is re-merging. We cannot afford any more such

"We have called a meeting today to discuss what all pre-cautions should be taken," he added. Similarly, at Palika Bazaar, traders said customers could not care less about wear-

'Take booster dose, stay alert during fests'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

head of the rising cases of A head of the rising con-Nayak hospital medical director Suresh Kumar on Thursday urged people to take the precaution dose and not let their guard down during the apcoming festive season.

Kumar's appeal comes after the Centre urged all states and Union Territories to gear up the whole genome sequencing of positive samples to keep track of emerging variants amid a spike in Covid cases in Japan, South Korea, Brazil, China and the US. The Britishera hospital located in central were running around with Delhi has 2,000 beds and was

the first to be turned into a Covid care facility soon after the first case of coronavirus was reported in early March in 2020. At present, the hospital has 450 dedicated Covid beds, including 50 ICU beds, Kumar told. "We have a genome sequencing lab at the hospital. Covid is not over yet but at the same time we are fully prepared," he added.

In October this year, the Delhi government issued an order withdrawing the Rs 500 fine for not wearing masks in public places in the capital. The order, however, advised people to wear masks in crowded public places. In a meeting in September, the Delhi Disaster

(DDMA) had decided to stop levying the penalty after September 30 amid a decline in Covid cases. Kumar advised people to wear masks and take the booster doses of COVID-19 as it will protect them from the risk of infection. "I want to appeal to the people to take the booster dose. Only 27 per cent of the eligible population has taken the booster dose which is not good," he added.

He also suggested that people should take special care of senior citizens and children, since "we do not know the severity of the new variant". "During the festive season, we should not be careless about following the Covid protocols," he said. The senior doctor of the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital said people with comorbid conditions should not take cough and cold lightly and consult a doctor immediately.

"My special advice to those who have BP, sugar, cancer or any other ailment --please do not think cold and cough is not a disease and I will be fine on my own. Visit a doctor and get the treatment in time to avoid any further complications," he added.Delhi logged five COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 0.19 per cent along with one fatality, according to data shared by the Health

department on Wednesday. The national capital's COVIÓ-19 case tally has risen to 2,007,102 while the death toll stands at 26,520. Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal will convene an emergency meeting later in the day to discuss the Covid situation, officials said. The Delhi government is keeping a watch on the

COVID-19 situation and the chief minister has directed the health department to ensure genome sequencing of samples and take other steps needed to meet any eventuality, they had said. In the letter to states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Raiesh Bhushan had recently

urged them to gear up the whole genome sequencing of positive samples. He had said that such an exercise will enable timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country and will facilitate undertaking of requisite public health measures.

Kumar said the hospital had zero admissions due to Covid in the last 20 days. Even before that, only two Covid patients got admitted,"

The new variant BF.7 of the novel coronavirus, which is believed to be linked to surge in Covid cases in certain parts of world, has been detected in some parts of the country.

73L haven't got ration for last 2 months thanks to AAP Govt's faulty policy: BJP

Terming it a ration scam, ■ Delhi BJP on Thursday alleged 72.78 lakh people of the national Capital have not received ration for the past two months due to a faulty policy of the Arvind Kejriwal Government.

The BJP alleged that the government had allowed a transporter to supply ration from stores to ration shops which was not eligible, that led to disruption in the supply. "After Education and

Excise, this is another scam by the AAP government in Delhi. In January 2020, tenders were invited from transporters to deliver ration to shops on behalf of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (DSCSCL).

Tenders were to be given to 16 transporters out of which 15 transporters were awarded the work but one transporter Bansal Transport Company was not awarded the tender as it did not have CNG trucks as per the terms of the tender," said Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri while addressing a press conference.

The BJP leader said that after not getting the tender, Bansal Transport Company moved the Delhi High Court.



AAP MLA Somnath Bharti advocated its case in the court. The court in its decision on January 10, 2020 also refused to give any relief in this matter to the company due to not having CNG trucks.

On January 10, 2020, the Delhi government also gave an affidavit in the court that only CNG trucks would be given contracts to supply ration. That is why the court did not allow Bansal transport company. But due to inside connivance, this party was given the contract from the back door despite having a diesel truck, which is continuing till date, while the contract of the remaining 15 other transporters has ended in

December itself. Due to the expiry of validity of the tender, the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (DSCSCL) took out the tender again in July 2022, but cleverly, with the intention of entering diesel trucks in the terms of the tender, along with CNG, BS-IV trucks were also written in it, which simply

having diesel trucks could also bid in this tender. Clearly this condition was added to the tender to benefit Bansal Transport

Bidhuri said that with the intention of giving tender to Bansal Transport Company only, one more thing was added to the tender that only those transporters who have vehicles bigger than 10 tonnes can fill this tender. All CNG vehicles in Delhi range from 6.5 ton to 10 ton. Vehicles bigger than 10 tonnes are not registered in Delhi at all.

The condition of vehicle bigger than 10 tonnes was imposed only so that Bansal Transport Company could get its direct benefit, because vehicles bigger than 10 tonnes which are from 18 tonnes to 30 tonnes and run only on diesel Bansal Transport Company has all such type of

Surprisingly, Bansal Transport Company has got some vehicles from 24 ton to 30 ton registered in Delhi between 2018 and 2020, which is illegal. As per NGT rules, there is a ban on registration of diesel commercial vehicles in Delhi. It is a matter of investigation as to how the diesel vehicles of Bansal & Company got regis-

5G rollout soon for Capital users

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

elhi Lieutenant Governor approved notification of the 'Right of Way (RoW)' Policy, which is crucial for digitalisation, telephony and smooth rollout of 5G services in the national Capital. The AAP Government in Delhi decided to formulate a draft policy in January, 2020.

To be mandatorily framed in compliance with the Indian Telegraph Rules, 2016, meant to facilitate implementation of the National Broadband Mission, the policy remained stuck since 2020 due to the pointless and persistent poliby the AAP ticking"



Government and its Ministers, the sources claimed. According to sources, 32 States and Union Territories have already notified their RoW Policy for underground and overground telecommunications infrastructure. "However, the noti-

Secretary Naresh Kumar. To be draft policy in January, 2020. pliance of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 2016, meant to facilitate the implementation of the National Broadcast Mission, this Policy was stuck since 2020 due to pointless and persistent politicking on part of the AAP Government and its Ministers," they said.

Informing about the lapse on the part of the Delhi Government in implementing this policy, they said that the RoW Policy should have been notified way back, after the GoI notified the Indian Telegraph Rules in 2016, the AAP Government in total disregard

fication file was placed in front of governance responsibilities, of the L-G by the Chief finally decided to formulate a

Policy could have benefitted the local bodies in terms of revenues from telecom operators, the Deputy CM, Manish Sisodia returned the file meant for notifying the Policy, back to the UD Department with the observations that "Local Body, Administrative Authority, areas of jurisdiction, and authority for issuing permission are overlapping and contradictory and needs to be clearly defined and delineated...", in July, 2022.

This was done by him, obviously and of course, only to usurp the powers of local bodies," the sources stated.

Traffic advisory issued due to extension of **Ashram flyover**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Traffic Police on Thursday issued an advisory stating that the movement of traffic will be affected on both the carriageways of Ashram Flyover road for 45 days from December 25, 2022, due to the extension of the flyover.

According to traffic police advisory, from December 25, 2022, both the carriageways of the Ashram Flyover road will be closed for 45 days due to construction of a connecting road between Ashram Flyover and the New DND Flyover.

Food outlets gear up to welcome Christmas, New Year guests



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

fter the business of the After the business Expression Arestaurants were severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic for the past two years, the owners of the food outlets across the national Capital are geared up to welcome guests for Christmas and New Year.

'The worst is behind and we hope that this year their business will thrive once again as the festive season is around the corner and expects that everything will be like normal," sev-

eral owners of the restaurants and cafe's hoped adding that they are also a bit concerned as the coronavirus cases is rising in some countries including Japan, South Korea, Brazil, China and

Several restaurants in the heart of the city like Diggin Cafe, Zen Cafe, Farzi Cafe, are among other restaurants that have put up Christmas-themed decoration, apparel brands in old British-era shopping arcade were done ahead of festive season to invite customers to shops.

The Zen Cafe has made several decorations such as they hanged a A 'Merry Christmas right outside the main door to greet the customers, while the decor inside has also been decked up in Yuletide spirit.

"In the past two years, around 30-40 restaurants were permanently closed in the Connaught Place due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Cops grill Flipkart officials in acid attack case

In this industry, a lot of restaurants do shut down on a normal basis too, but due the

ures have been very high," said Owner of Zen Cafe.

Another restaurant owner said, who requested anonymity said that the industry is still recovering from the losses caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, but still we are hoping got the best.

As far as the reservations for the Christmas and the New Year are concerned, the number is touching the pre-Covid time and we will ensure to serve the people with the best of our abil-

MCD library shifted to towering Civic Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Library of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi set up in 1958 at the iconic Town Hall in the walled city, has been shifted to the towering Civic Centre.

The 1860s-era Town Hall in old Delhi's Chandni Chowk served as the headquarters of the MCD from the time of its inception till it was moved to the 28-storey high complex — Civic Centre. Special Officer of the MCD Ashwani Kumar on



Thursday inaugurated the library in the presence of Municipal Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti. It is located on the third floor of the E Block of the Civic Center. The Civic Centre, officially known as the

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre, the headquarters of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was inaugurated on April 22, 2010. The state-of-the-art complex houses five buildings, the tallest of which is 28-storey high.
"The old Central Library

of the MCD had about 8,000 books and nearly 6,000 books have been shifted to its new

location The Central Library set up in 1958 when the MCD began its journey, has some sion, including an original copy of the Constitution of India. It has now found a new home," an official source said. The MCD came into being in 1958 and Town Hall served

very rare books in its posses-

as its headquarters till 2009, and from April 2010 the headquarters was formally shifted to the swanky and towering Civic Centre complex in front of the New Delhi railway station. Town Hall was built in 1860s and construction completed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has questioned the officials of ecommerce firm Flipkart for allegedly selling acid on its platform despite a ban on the substance by the Supreme Court.

Police on December 15 issued a notice to Flipkart after the prime accused in an acid attack on a girl in Dwarka, Delhi said he bought the substance from the e-commerce website.

According to the police, the



Wednesday and they are not satisfied with the reply of the firm. The company had responded to the notice, saying that the acid was sold by an Agra-based firm. Police said whether they will be questioned again will be decided later. It may be mentioned that

in furtherance of the directions of the Supreme Court in the matter of Laxmi vs Union Of India & Ors, the home ministry had issued an advisory on 'Measures to be taken to prevent acid attacks on people and for treatment and rehabilitation of survivors' on August 30, 2013

The home ministry had asked all states/Union Territories to take immediate steps to implement the measures mentioned in the advisory for reduction of acid attacks and treatment and reha-

bilitation of acid attack sur-The 'consumer rights' as

defined under Section 2(9) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 include the right to be protected against the marketing of goods, products or services which are hazardous to life and property. Sale of highly corrosive

acids in an easy, accessible and unregulated manner without any due diligence whatsoever the e-marketplace entity can lead to disastrous consequences to the consumers.

States get ready to tackle BF.7 driving China's Covid surge

Govt has advised district admin to strengthen surveillance, take necessary actions for genome sequencing of samples

Not wanting to be caught unprepared as Covid rips apart neighbouring China, several States in India have started strengthening their health system and taking precautionary steps ranging from genome surveillance and conducting mock drills to RTPCR tests at airports for promotion of vaccination to keep the highly transmissible virus variant BF

So far, four BF. 7 variant cases have been reported in India since July this year—three

सुविधाएं :- लिफ्ट (06 नं.),

पार्किंग (02 नं. बेसमेंट), प्रवेश

द्वार - 02 नं. (प्रवेश-निर्गम),

फायर डिटेक्शन सिस्टम

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अनुसूचित जाति

अनुसूचित जनजाति

अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग

मण्डल कर्मचारी

स्वतंत्रता सैनानी

भूतपूर्व सैनिक/सैनिक

बुद्धिजीवी/श्रमजीवी पत्रकार

विकलांग अंश

अनारक्षित महिला

आरक्षण का प्रकार

अनुसूचित जाति

अनुसूचित जनजाति

अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग

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Odisha, with all of the patients in closed spaces and air-con-

मध्यप्रदेश गृह निर्माण एवं अधोसंरचना विकास मण्डल

आवासीय सह-व्यवसायिक परिसर

सेक्टर-'ए' दीनदयाल नगर ग्वालियर

''अटल कुँज-टॉवर''

नववर्ष के अवसर पर बहुमंजिला आवासीय सह-व्यवसायिक योजना में

दीनदयाल नगर ग्वालियर के मुख्य द्वार के समीप एवं मुख्य मार्ग (130 फूट रोड)

पर दुकान/हॉल क्रय करने हेतु सुनहरा अवसर (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

(रेरा पंजीयन क्रमांक P-GWL-22-3709) अन्तर्गत कियोस्क पर उपलब्ध

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ई-ऑफर दिनांक 23.01.2023

ऑनलाइन आवेदन

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व्यवसायिक दुकान में आरक्षित अंश निम्नानुसार रहेगा

103, 111, 120, 123, 203, 211, 220, 223, 234

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21, 28, 32, 38, 106, 121, 124, 128, 132, 138, 145, 206,

122, 135, 136, 143, 201, 202, 204, 205, 207, 208, 209, 212, 216,

हॉल क्रमांक

302, 303, 305, 306, 308, 309, 310, 402, 405, 408, 409, 502, 503,

218, 219, 222, 225, 226, 235, 236, 237, 240, 241, 242, 243

व्यवसायिक हॉल में आरक्षित अंश निम्नानुसार रहेगा

नोट :- (1) मण्डल एवं शासन के नियम व शर्त लागू तथा जी.एस.टी. एवं अन्य कर पृथक से देय होगा। (2) ऑफर स्वीकृति

के उपरांत यदि आवेदक स्वयं के कारणों से ऑफर निरस्त कराते हैं तो धरोहर राशि का 50 प्रतिशत कटौत्री कर शेष राशि बिना

ब्याज के वापिस की जावेगी। (3) दुकान/हॉल का ऑफर स्वीकृति उपरांत शेष राशि नियमानुसार किश्तों में देय होगी

(4) समय-समय पर मण्डल एवं शासन द्वारा जारी आदेश/परिपत्र हितग्राही पर बंधनकारी होंगे। (5) आवेदन एवं धरोहर राशि

जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.01.2023 (6) ऑफर राशि /बिड डालने की अंतिम तिथि 25.01.2023 (7) ऑफर खोलने की

सम्पर्क ┢ मो. ९४०६९-१२१२७, सायबू तुम्बेकर (संपदा प्रबंधक) मो. ९३२९५-२४३६९, लोकेश आर्य (उपयंत्री) मो. ९३५४८-८८८६

सुश्री नीरू राजपूत (संपदा अधिकारी) दूरभाष : 0751-2470150, कौशलेन्द्र चतुर्वेदी (सहायक यंत्री)

तिथि 27.01.2023 शाम 03:00 बजे। (8) यह प्रक्रिया किसी भी समय निरस्त⁄स्थगित की जा सकेगी।

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and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) in the state. It also decided to monitor all the international passengers at Bengaluru airport. Maharashtra and Odisha health departments have directed all the district administrations and municipal corporations to speed up the genome testing process.

According to Uttarakhand's Health Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, the state government is preparing to launch a fresh set of standard operating procedure on Covid-19 which is to be based on the Centre's guidelines.

Maharashtra Health Minister Tanaji Sawant has asked all the districts to follow a five-point programme test, track, treat, vaccinate and (ensure) Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also held a meeting to review the Covid situation and how prepared the State is.

For its part, the Odisha Government has advised the district administrations to strengthen surveillance and take necessary actions for whole genome sequencing of Covid-positive samples.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has also expressed concern over the surge in Covid-19 cases in China, and has directed health officials to form a committee of experts to keep a check on the emerging situation.

As per reports, there are currently 10 different variants of Covid in the country, BF.7 being the latest. India has reported 129 fresh infections over the last 24 hours, and the number of active cases currently stands at 3,408. One death was recorded. The Andhra Pradesh Government said it is ready to handle any eventuality in view of the sudden spurt of Covid cases in certain countries, as the state has sufficient manpower, beds,

drugs and oxygen.
Gujarat Health Minister
Rushikesh Patel on Thursday said the Covid-19 situation in the state was under control and there was no active case of the BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron, which is believed to be driving the surge in cases in China.

'Cases related to BF.7 infections are emerging in China, Japan and the United States of America. But BF.7 cases are rare in India and Gujarat.

All the three persons found infected with this subvariant in the past have recovered in home isolation. Thanks to our proactive vaccination drive, coronavirus is under control in Gujarat," Patel said. "Today, more than one lakh beds are available in government as well as private hospitals across the state to treat Covid-19 patients.

It includes 15,000 ICU and 9,700 ventilator beds. In view of the present situation, I urge people to voluntarily follow Covid-appropriate behaviour," said Patel. "Though Gujarat currently has only 23 active cases, the state administration has been working on a proactive mode and started preparations in view of the present situation," he added.

On Friday, a mock drill will be held across state to check if oxygen plants at various hospitals are in proper condition and whether they can be put to use on an urgent basis if the need arises, the minister said.

MPs wear masks in Parliament

With the new corona wave surging in China and posing a threat to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar all wore face masks in Parliament on Thursday to underline the importance of following Covid protocols.

BJP MPs and others like Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha also wore face masks as the leaders of the two Houses appealed to all MPs to

Modi and many of his Cabinet colleagues besides party MPs were seen wearing masks in the Rajya Sabha.

Chairman Dhankhar asked MPs to wear masks and

view of the surging COVID-19 cases in the world, saying the House needs to lead the nation by example. When the House met for the day, he referred to rising Covid cases in other countries.

"I urge all the members to be extra-cautious about the surging Covid cases in the world," adding "It is our ardent duty to set an example before our countrymen.'

India, he said, had overcome the challenges of COVID-19 in the past due to coordinated efforts of the administration, doctors, healthcare professionals and the sanitation workers.

Over two billion doses of free Covid vaccines were administered in record time, an unparalleled fleet in the world. Besides, these were dig-

issued, again another unparallel example in the world for its scale, size and speed. "Currently, the Covid situation is getting alarming."

We need to be vigilant and take all precautionary steps, including wearing masks, using sanitisers and maintaining social distancing. I urge all of you to wear masks inside the House as well," Dhankhar said. "Once again I request you that we need to join hands and lead the nation by example," he

The Lok Sabha Speaker advised parliamentarians to wear a mask and spread awareness about Covid-appropriate behaviour. "We should be vigilant keeping in mind the past trends of the pandemic," he said, adding masks were avail-

Stop flights from China to prevent another Covid wave: Opp, doctors

Several Opposition leaders and medical experts have demanded the Government to immediately stop all international flights from China in order to prevent another Covid wave in India. The Centre has not taken a decision on it yet but, currently, India does not have a direct flight from China, has only connecting

"We don't have any direct flights from China to India or from India to China but as of now, there is no such order issued to stop connecting flights to India which are arriving via China.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is an executing ministry, the final decision will come from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)," said sources. As China grapples with a fresh wave of coronavirus, the country's hospitals and morgues have been overrun, with experts warning of a global spread.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chaddha on Monday demanded a ban on flights from China and sought a discussion in Parliament on the issue. He said that given the seriousness of the situation, the Ministry of Health, Government of India has issued an advisory to the States, but stronger measures were needed.

Govt clears prosecution of ex, serving Naval officers in submarine graft case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has given I the go-ahead to prosecute four serving and retired Navy officers in connection with alleged corruption in purchasing spare parts to retrofit Russian Kilo-class submarines, officials said.

The CBI had filed its chargesheets in November last year, within two months of initiating a probe into a corruption case, following which it had tion to prosecute accused Navy officers Commander S J Singh (retired) and three serving commanders -- Ajit Pandey, Abhishek Kumar Shar and Jagdeesh Chander, the officials

After more than a year, the government has finally given the sanction to prosecute the four accused figuring in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chargesheets, which means that the trial in the case is likely to begin soon, they added. Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act makes it

mandatory for the CBI to get the government's nod before initiating the prosecution of an accused, the officials said. The federal probe agency has already intimated to a special CBI court that it has the government's goahead to prosecute the accused officials, they added.

The CBI had lodged the

case on the basis of inputs received by it that some serving officers at the Western Headquarters of the Navy, working on retrofitting Russian allegedly influenced by retired officers and receiving pecuniary benefits, the officials said.

After registering a case on September 2, the agency conducted searches the next day, during which two retired officers, Commodore Randeep Singh and Commander S J Singh were arrested in a trap operation, they said. During the searches, an amount of Rs 2.4 crore was recovered, which included the trap money, the officials said. Subsequently, the CBI took Commander Ajeet Kumar Pandey into custody.

The officials said an alleged "hawala" operator and the director of a private company were also taken into custody during the probe. It is alleged that the serv-

ing commander-rank officers in the Navy were leaking confidential information to retired officers in return for pecuniary

The Anti-Corruption Unit of the agency, which handles sensitive and high-profile corruption cases, was tasked with information, following which the operation was launched, the officials said.

The unit has questioned several other officers and former servicemen who were in regular touch with the arrested officers and retired personnel. 'Investigation related to alleged information leak of administrative and commercial nature being with some unauthorised personnel has come to light and is being investigated by an appropriate government agency," the Navy had said in a statement.

India, China hold 17th round of talks to discuss _adakh face-offs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India and China have held the 17th round of talks to discuss Ladakh face-offs in the western sector at a time when there is simmering tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

The latest military level the two armies was held on December 20 with a focus on resolving the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh, a joint statement issued by both the countries said on Thursday. The last meeting was held in July.

After an eyeball to eyeball confrontation for nearly two years starting May 2020 at several flashpoints in eastern Ladakh, troops from both the sides have withdrawn from all friction points with the last disengagement taking place in September. Ministry of external affairs ministry spokesper-

son Arindam Bagchi said here on Thursday the 17th round of India-China Commander Level Meeting was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side. The statement also said,

"Building on the progress made after the last meeting on July 17, 2022, the two sides lution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in an open and constructive manner.

"They had a frank and indepth discussion, keeping in line with guidance provided by State Leaders to work for the resolution of remaining issues at earliest which would help in restoration of peace and tranquility along LAC in Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations. În interim, the two sides agreed to maintain security and stability on ground in Western Sector.

Opp walks out after debate on Chinese incursion rejected LS proceedings adjourned

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday witnessed din for some time when Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected the Opposition demand to discuss the latest Chinese incursion bid in Arunachal Pradesh and an apology from Union Minister Piyush Goyal for his remarks purportedly against Bihar.

The Congress led Opposition vociferously demanded a discussion on China and many MPs trooped into the Well of the House shouting slogans soon after Dhankhar disallowed their

The Opposition later boycotted the day's proceedings. Defending the government on the China issue, Goyal, who is leader of the house, cited former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's remarks made in Parliament on the unauthorised occupation of 38,000 square kilometres of India's land by China and a part of Kashmir taken by Pakistan, alleging that "it has happened because of their mistakes"

Goyal also taunted the Congress by raising the issue of more than Rs 1 crore reportedly received by the Rajiv

Gandhi Foundation from the Chinese embassy and alleged that the opposition party is responsible for the problems that the current government has inherited.

This prompted the entire

This prompted the entire This prompted the entire

Opposition to stand together and shout back at the minister. Dhankhar pleaded with

both sides to take their seats and then directed the leader of the House and the leader of opposition to see him in his chamber at 1 pm, to which Leader of Opposition and Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge said things should be discussed in the House and not behind closed

Amid the din, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman intervened to recall an earlier incident when Kiren Riiiiu(BIP) wanted to discuss the China issue in the House but then minister Pranab Mukherjee asked him to see him in his office instead.

This saw the Opposition staging a walkout from the House, boycotting the day's proceedings. Among the parties that boycotted the proceedings were the Congress, NCP, TMC, DMK, CPI, CPI(M), SP, JMM, RJD, JD(U)

PNS NEW DELHI ok Sabha proceedings were

Ladjourned for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday following a request from the Government that the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 be taken up for consideration when Opposition members are also present in the House.

In a day of vociferous protest by Congress members in the well of the house holding placards of party president Sonia Gandhi who was interrogated by Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald money laundering case, the house proceeding remained disrupted

The question hour and zero hour were run without most of the opposition members not present and those present continued to protest. The house was the adjourned for the day. After the House reassembled at 2:15 PM following adjournment, Union minister Jitendra Singh said his



request is that the bill be taken up for consideration only when Opposition members are present as it is an important legislation.

The chair, Bhartruhari Mahtab, took the sense of the House noting that the presence of Opposition was negligible, and adjourned the proceedings for the day.

"As members are absent in large number and Opposition is not there, so it is my suggestion and request that this is a very important bill and for the first time this issue is to be discussed... So can we take it up some other time and not today," Singh asked as the House re-assembled.

the bill should not be passed without debate," Mehtab said. BJP MP P P Chaudhary said this was an important bill and the Congress should have been in the House for debate as it is the primary responsibility of lawmakers that they stay in the House and discuss an important legislation.

"It is a matter of regret that they are not in the House. If they would have been there, this bill could have been discussed," he said. Mehtab said the sense of the House is to defer this bill to a different date and adjourned the proceedings till Friday

The bill seeks to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. Earlier, Union minister Pralhad Joshi asked whether the Opposition party believes everyone is equal before the law or not.

सुनील शर्मा (उपयंत्री) मो. 79998-16632, MP ONLINE HELPLINE NO. 0755-6720200 ऑनलाइन भुगतान में असुविधा होने पर WhatsApp Help Desk Number 7974264023

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NCP STATE CHIEF SUSPENDED FOR REST OF SESSION

Ruckus in Maha House over Speaker remark

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a development that sparked a massive showdown between the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis Government, former Minister and Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil was on Thursday suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly for rest of the ongoing winter Session being held in Nagpur for his alleged derogatory remarks against Speaker Rahul

In an extreme measure, Patil — who has been an MLA since 1990 and is considered close to NCP chief Sharad Pawar — was also barred from entering the Vidhan Bhavan premises for the rest of the winter session of the State Legislature.

Patil's suspension came after heated exchanges between the NCP leader and theSpeaker. Patil joined the issue with the chair after the Speaker refused to allow the Opposition members from speaking on an issue. Upset by the chair's refusal to allow him to speak, Patil gave vent to his anger and asked the Speaker to stop "such a shameless behav-

Amid noisy scenes that rocked the Assembly over the former minister's alleged remarks against the Speaker, State Legislative Affairs Minister Chandrakant Patil moved the suspension motion against Jayant Patil. The motion was passed by the House through a voice vote.



BJP and Balasahebachi Shiv Sena MLAs protest against Maha Vikas Aghadi during the Winter Session of Assembly at Vidhan Bhawan in Nagnur on Thursday

Earlier, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Excise Minister Shambhuraj Desai came down heavily on Patil and demanded his suspension from the House. Desai described Patil's behaviour was unpardonable and insisted that he suspended from the House to set an example to deter the MLAs from misbehaving in the House. The Assembly witnessed ruckus over a vehement demand by BJP-Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction MLAs for a CID inquiry into death of Disha Salian, manager of the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, leading to multiple adjournments.

Sushant was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his sixth floor duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in northwest Mumbai, on June 14, 2020. A week prior to the actor's death, Disha had allegedly committed suicide

by falling from the 14th floor of a building in Malad in north Mumbai on June 8 2020.

The then Opposition had linked the name of Aditya Thackeray to the death of Disha Salian.

Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the State Home portfolio ordered an inquiry into the death of Disha Salian by a Special Investigation Team

Fadnavis said that the Disha Salian death was not investigated by the CBI and there was no closure as far as the investigation was concerned. After Fadnavis announced an SIT probe into Disha Salian's death, leader of the Opposition Ajit Pawar urged the Speaker to let the Opposition members to speak on the issue. However, the Speaker refused to entertain his request, leading to commotion

Dhankhar calls Sonia's remark 'inappropriate'

RS chairman urges leaders not to subject constitutional offices to partisan stances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Rajya Sabha Chairman Magdeep Dhankhar on Thursday termed "inappro-priate" the remarks made by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi that the Government is seeking to "delegitimise the judiciary" and urged political leaders not to subject high constitutional offices to partisan stances.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the chairman said Sonia Gandhi's statement is far distanced from his reflections as delegitimising the judiciary is beyond his contemplation. "The observations are severely inappropriate, indicating a lack of faith in democracy, making this exceptional response unavoidable," he

"The statement imparted by the Hon'ble chairperson of the UPA is far distanced from my reflections. Delegitimising the judiciary is beyond my contemplation. It is a pillar of democracy. I would urge and expect leaders across the political spectrum to bear in mind not to subject high constitutional offices to partisan stances," Dhankhar said.

Sonia, who is also the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, accused the Centre on Wednesday of making a calculated attempt to

"delegitimise" the judiciary, describing it as a "troubling new development". She also accused the government of making an effort to reduce the standing of the judiciary in the eyes of the public.

Her remarks came in the wake of recent run-ins between the government and the judiciary over several issues, including the appointment of judges to higher courts. Dhankhar in his first speech after taking over as Chairman Rajya Sabha criticised the judiciary earlier this month for scrapping the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) Bill related to the appointment procedure for judges in higher courts and termed it an instance of "severe compromise of parliamentary sover-

"A troubling new devel-opment is the calculated attempt underway to delegitimise the judiciary. Ministers and even a high constitutional authority have been enlisted to making speeches attacking the judiciary on various grounds.

"It is quite clear that this is not an effort to provide reasonable suggestions for improvement. Rather, it is an effort to reduce the standing of the judiciary in the eyes of the public," the former Congress

Goyal withdraws statement on Bihar, says didn't intend insult to State

Bihar MPs stage protest near Mahatma Gandhi statue seeking apology from Min for his controversial remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Pacing protests over his remarks regarding Bihar, Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday withdrew his statement and said he had no intention to insult the State or its people.

"At the outset, let me clarify that there is absolutely no intention of insulting either Bihar or the people of Bihar. And if at all it has hurt anybody, I will immediately withdraw that statement. It was not made with any malice to anybody at all," he said in the Rajva

Goyal had made the remark on Tuesday in the Jpper House when Manoj Kumar Jha(RJD) was speaking during a discussion on the Appropriation Bill seeking Parliament's nod for additional spending.

As he said the government should devote equal attention to the poor and corporate houses, Goyal responded by saying "inka bas chale to desh ko Bihar bana dein (if they have their way, they will turn the country into Bihar)."

On Thursday, when the house met for the day, Jha said an insult to Bihar is an insult to the entire country, and demanded Goyal apologise for his remark. Leader of Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge too joined Jha in demanding an apology from Goyal.

The RJD MP had on Wednesday written a letter to Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar about the minister's "demean-



Bihar MPs raise slogans stage a protest near Mahatma Gandhi statue demanding apology from Union Minister Piyush Goyal for his controversial remarks on Biharis' at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday

ing" remark and demanded an apology from the BJP leader.

In his letter to the Chairman, Jha said Goyal's remark was "demeaning" to one of the greatest states and as the Leader of the House of Rajya Sabha, he "should ponder and reflect on whether the sneering tone with which he speaks about Bihar is appropriate".

Earlier in the day, RJD

MPs and other members from Bihar protested near Mahtama Gandhi's statue in Parliament complex and raised slogans against the minister. "Piyush Goyal, apologise. We will not tolerate the insult of Bihar," the MPs shouted.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav shared the clip of the exchange between his party MP and the union minister on Wednesday in a post slamming the minister. "Look at the insult of Bihar and Biharis by a mindless and

ahankari) Union Minister. Projects worth? 2.5 lakh crore were taken away from his home state Maharashtra by Gujarat and he could not utter a word. This shows his standing," Yadav said on Twitter.

Jha in his letter to Dhankhar also urged him to delete the comment that, he said, was uncalled for and smacked of "elitism". Jha said Goyal had shown insensitivity towards Bihar and complained that the people of Bihar were "always treated like second class citizens".

Earlier in the day, the floor leaders of the Opposition met in the chamber of the Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha M Mallikarjun Kharge and discussed to continue cornering the treasury benches over a range of issues which the government never responded to including the India-China bor-

Demographic change may take shape in Bengal if TMC remains in power: Adhikari

State Opp leader attacks TMC over cross-border infiltration into WB

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Ademocgraphic change may take place in entire Bengal if the Trinamool Congress is allowed to continue in power State Opposition Leader warned adding only the BJP could stop the situation from

Attacking the Mamata Banerjee Government for allowing unchecked cross-border infiltration he said "it for the State Government that 72 border check posts planned by the BSF has been stalled ... as a resultof this massive infiltration is taking place everyday." Adhikari's comments came



on a day when a Bangladeshi infiltrator was injured when the BSF opened fire to stop some people from crossing over to Îndia. The injured Bangladeshi ed told the police that he was trying to go to Chennai in South India for treatment.

The BJP leader's statement came a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told a Christian congregation, "we don't divide people, but unite them," asking the people to "make Bengal aplace where people follow different religions, but celebrate their festi-vals together."

Adhikari who was speaking in a programme at the National Library said"earlier we used to talk about two districts of Murshidabad and Maldaand to some extent North Dinajpur ... but now there is so much of infiltration taking place that if some measure is not taken immediately then very soon districts like South 24 Parganas, North 24Parganas, Howrah, Nadia and Hooghly and even East whelmed by the infiltrators."

Iterating that he did not have anything against the Muslim population Adhikari said, "it is not against the nationalist Muslims who citizensof India and have been serving this country ... the BJP has nothing against the Muslims ... It is during the BJP regime that a patriot like APJ Abdul Kalam was made the President of India ... my issue

against the infiltrators who are not Indian citizens and whose increasing presencein this country will alter the demographic pattern of most of thedistricts of Bengal."

Assuring the people of Bengal that BJP's after the double engine government came to power in the State things would be set right Adhikari said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government has ensured that dynastic rule, polend ... În Bengal too dynastic rule, appeasement and corruption will end after the BJP comes to power ... and rest assured that it definitely will come to power in the land of Dr Shyamaprasad Mukherjee."

The central BJP leadership had assured the Bengal saffron leaders that they would not rest till the party came to power in the eastern State, Adhikari said.

Jan Vishwas Bill introduced in LS

Bill seeks to amend 183 provisions in 42 Acts to decriminalise minor offences

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday in Lok Sabha introduced the Ian Vishwas Bill. which seeks to decriminalise minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts with a view to promote ease of business. The bill was later referred to a 31-member joint committee of Parliament for scrutiny. It proposes to amend 183 provisions across 42 Acts admin-

Introducing the bill, Goyal said that there are many laws in the country, under which punishment provisions are there for minor offences and for that people have to approach courts. We have to trust people. For minor mistakes, people should not be penalised. For minor offences, there should be a provision for paying fines," he said, adding that the Government has taken a series

of measures to promote ease of doing business.

About 1,500 old laws have been repealed, 39,000 compliances have been simplified and about 3,500 norms were introduced to decriminalise offences, the Minister said. The proposed law, her said, will also help in reducing the burden on judiciary". Besides the decriminali-

sation of minor offences, the bill envisages the rationalisation of monetary penalties, depending on the gravity of the governance. "Yet another novelty involved in the proposal is an increase of 10 per cent of the minimum amount of fine and penalty levied, after the expiry of every three years, once the bill becomes a law," according to the statement of objects and

The Government is committed to make India the most preferred global investment destination by boosting



imprisonment for minor offences is a major factor hampering the growth of the business ecosystem and individual confidence," it said. number of minor offences by replacing them with monetary penalties have been iden-

"Settlement of a large number of issues, by compounding method, adjudication and administrative mechanism, without involving courts, will enable persons to remedy minor contraventions and defaults, sometimes committed unknowingly by them, and

save time, energy and resources," it said. The Acts which are being

amended include The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Public Debt Act, 1944; Pharmacy Act, 1948; Cinematograph Act, 1952; Copyright Act, 1957; Patents Act, 1970; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The other laws include Trade Marks Act, 1999; 1989; Railways Act, Information Technology Act, laundering Act, 2002; Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; Legal Metrology Act, 2009; and Factoring Regulation Act,

These 42 laws are administered by various Union Ministries, including finance, food production and distribution, financial services, agriculture, commerce, environment, road transport and highways, posts, electronics and IT.

Delhi HC quashes plea against Govt's nod to Sikhs to carry Kirpan in aircraft

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) against the permission accorded to Sikhs to carry 'kirpans' while travelling on civilian

"Dismissed," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra and Sharma Justice Subramonium Prasad said while pronouncing the order. The court rejected the plea by Harsh Vibhore Singhal, who had said that a committee of stakeholders should be constituted to "apply its mind" to the issue of permitting kripan on

flights. The petitioner, a lawyer, challenged a March 4, 2022 notification by the Centre which said Sikh passengers shall have exceptional regulatory sanction to carry kirpans having blade length of not more than six inches and total length of not more than nine inches whilst on board any civilian flight in India that is operating on all domestic routes. The bench had earlier orally remarked that it was a policy of the Government of India and the court cannot interfere with it

unless it is arbitrary.

The petitioner contended that he was "not questioning" the right to profess and practice a religion under Article 25 of the Constitution but only wanted the constitution of a committee of stakeholders to examine the issue. "I admit that Article 25 allows the carriage of a kirpan. But when you are flying, the regulator must apply its mind. I want constitution of a committee of stakeholders to examine the issue. If the committee feels that the notification is good, so be it. Not a problem," he had said.

The petitioner also said that as per the counter affidavit by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, it has not formulated the policy but was following what the Government has said. He also clarified that his intention was not to give a political overtone. The counsel for the authorities had said that safety measures have been put in place by the authorities, includ-

ing stationing marshals. The petition has said "if kirpans are deemed safe only because of religion, one wonders how knitting/crochet needles, coconuts, screwdrivers, and small pen knives, etc. areprohibited".

Azad expels 3 senior leaders for anti-party activities

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

hairman of the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday expelled three senior party leaders, including former deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand, for indulging in anti party activities with immediate effect. The ouster of the party leaders came less than three months after the party had launched its flag amid fanfare in Jammu

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Chairman, DAP has expelled Tara Chand, Dr Manohar Lal & Balwan Singh, from the party with immediate effect for anti party activities," said an official order issued by Rajinder Singh Chib, General Secretary,

Inside reports suggested



these expelled leaders were in touch with a section of the Congress party leaders and were reportedly toying with the idea of returning to the Congress fold during the arrival of the Bharat Jodo yatra, spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi, Iammu

Interacting with media persons DAP General Secretary RS Chib clearly hinted the party high command was receiving inputs from different party leaders suggesting these leaders were indulging in anti party activities and motivating lower rung leaders to quit the

CPM's kisan wing to hold Parliament march to give Modi 'farewell message'

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

ll India Kisan Sabha, the All India Risal Call.,
CPI(M)'s frontal organisation of farmers, would hold a Parliament March in New Delhi on April 5, 2023, to give a 'farewell message' to the Narendra Modi-led Central Government, according to the newly elected general secretary Vaiju Krishna

The AIKS which held its national convention at Thrissur last week declared that the Prime Ministers Fasal Beema Yojana was a total failure as private insurance companies were making a giant kill out of the crop failures faced by the farmers. "What the farmers get as insurance for crop failure is a pittance compared to the premium being paid by them. The BJP Government at the Centre was spreading false



economy. India is in the 107th position in the Global Hunger Index of 121 countries. While 22 crore people in India face gross starvation, there is no food security for 62 crore people in India, according to the FAO's latest figures. Farmers face severe shortage of fertilizers while the prices have increased manifold," said the AIKS report.

"The rally to be staged in the national capital on April 5 will see lakhs of farmers and peasants from all over the country parading against the anti-farmer, anti-people and anti-workers policies being pursued by the Narendra Modi Government. The April 5 rally will go down in history as the biggest assemble of farmers," said the AIKS leadership.

Vaiju Krishna, the youngest general secretary in the history of AIKS, said that farmers, peasants and workers would stage a Parliament March on April 5 to warn Modi and his government about the discontentment among the farming community. Government which had assured the farmers that their interests would not be jeopardized has done the exactly oppose thing. Our mission is to forge an alliance featuring the farmers and workers in the country and destroy for ever the BJP and the Sangh Parivar," said the general secretary, a PhD in political science from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

₹66 cr of Chennai-based gold jewellery store attached in Axis Bank case

he Enforcement Directorate (ED) I on Thursday said it has attached assets worth more than ₹66 crore of a Chennai-based gold jewellery store on money laundering charges in a case linked to alleged fraud with Axis Bank.

"It is alleged that Late Pallakudurai, P Sujatha and Y P Shiravan, partners of Saravana Stores (Gold Palace) approached Axis Bank, Chennai, with a criminal intention to cheat," the ED said in a statement. The store availed loans using "forged and fabricated" documents, it said.



The accused overstated the credit account that allows businesses

to avail credit facility from their bank) limits to repay the loan availed from other financial institutions (banks and non-banking financial companies), and thus misappropriated and diverted the funds for which it was not sanctioned, and committed other irregularities," the ED said. The

accused firm has generated "proceeds of crime" amounting to Rs 81.66 crore out of which immovable assets worth Rs 66.93 crore have been attached after a provisional order was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), it

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Covid comes handy

The Bharat Jodo Yatra organisers asked to abide by Covid protocols or suspend it

he recent appeal of health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to either follow "all Covid-19 guidelines" during his Bharat Jodo Yatra or suspend it "in the national interest", shows Govt's unease with the Yatra which has been getting a good response all through. The Congress party has rightly questioned the Minister's selective directive to the organizers of the Yatra as it is about to enter Delhi. The letter written by Mandaviya to Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and Rahul Gandhi read, "please ensure that in the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra in Rajasthan, all Covid-19 guidelines are strictly followed, masks and sanitisers are used, and only those vaccinated against Covid-19 participate. People must isolate themselves before and after they join the yatra... If it is not possible to follow these Covid-19 protocols, then, keeping the public health situation in mind, please suspend the Bharat Jodo Yatra in the national interest...'



The Covid cases are indeed rising and people like Himachal Pradesh CM who participated in the Yatra did contract Covid. His concern for the well-being of the yatra participants should not be doubted. The Covid has returned in China again and our vulnerability to the pandemic is no less. The government has all the right to implement the Covid protocol in the right earnest. But his call to suspend the Yatra in national interest does raise questions about the selectivity of his directive. He would of course know better whether he wants to contain the virus or the Yatra but it gives enough ammunition to Congress and other political parties to attack the government's intentions to stop the Yatra. Congress leaders have rightly asked if the

Minister had sent similar letters to the BJP's Karnataka and Rajasthan units which are also organising similar yatras. Besides, there are no signs of any restrictions on traveling by air or train, at railway stations or airports where the risk is maximum. Even the parliament is in session without anyone wearing masks or following the Covid guidelines. Many opposition leaders including Nitish Kumar have questioned the BJP's intentions to throw down the gauntlet. The Bharat Jodo Yatra completed its Rajasthan leg on Tuesday and entered Haryana on Wednesday and is all set to enter the capital. The Congress party's workers and other participants have walked over 3,000 kilometers with Gandhi since it started in Kanyakumari. Let us face it, the Yatra has not gone down well with the BJP, it made all attempts to create controversies around it, questioning the price of Rahul Gandhi's T-shirt or shoes, ridiculing his beard, and what have you, but could not dissuade people from joining it. As the Yatra enters the politically sensitive Delhi and other northern states it would like to see it wither away. A party that has an overwhelming majority in the parliament and enormous public support should have a larger heart. It would do well to stomach it than hazard opposition parties to come together in criticizing it.



Exotic macaw parrot which was found abandoned in Indore.

Nation first

It is time politicians, laid greater emphasis on the nation instead of emotions and regions

hen sentiments become the prime movers in politics, it is hardly surprising to find that sentimentalism rather than reason or common sense shapes the affairs of State—or of states. So, politicians of all parties are fighting for territory over which Karnataka and Maharashtra stake a claim. On Monday, major protests were planned at the Karnataka-Maharashtra border; Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena leaders were detained as they tried to enter Karnataka's Belagavi, which both states claim to be theirs. Politicking is in full swing over the issue: allegations and counter-allegations are being traded with the usual flourish. Union Home Minister Amit Shah met the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra, Basavaraj Bommai and Eknath Shinde, last week. After the meeting, Shah said that the two Chief Ministers had agreed to wait for the Supreme Court's judgment and not to press



their claims in the decades-long state border dispute. The issue has been lingering since Maharashtra had been carved out of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency in the mid-1960s. Maharashtra politicians are unhappy that several Marathi-speaking areas, including Belgavi, are in Karnataka. People often get emotionally charged when language or religion is in question; politicians, especially in India, capitalise on this human frailty. But this is exactly what they are doing in this border dispute too.

Consider the recent word war between Bommai and Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. Bommai asserted that some villages in Maharashtra's Sangli district, facing an acute water problem, want-

ed to merge with Karnataka. Fadnavis refuted this claim. Bommai challenged the refutation, But aren't both Bommai and Fadnavis members of the Bharatiya Janata Party? And, by the way, what is the view of the BJP on the subject? The Shiv Sena and the NCP are essentially regional parties, so it is easy for them to take up the sub-nationalist causes. National parties, however, should not lose sight of the big picture; they should rely on conciliation and dialogue rather than regional sentimentality. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen in every case. So, disputes over water (between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, between Punjab and Haryana) and borders (Karnataka and Maharashtra, Assam and Nagaland) take place frequently. It is time politicians, laid greater emphasis on reason and nation instead of emotions and regions.

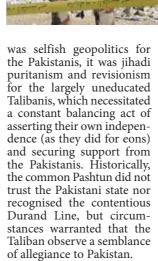
Inevitable Af-Pak dissonance



BHOPINDER SINGH

Taliban would not play second fiddle to Pakistan anymore as it would now assert its Pushtun identity and push for Afghan sovereignty

ugnacious Amrullah Saleh, former First Vice President of Afghanistan (also Head of the Afghan spy agency, National Directorate of Security from 2004-2010) never tires of calling out Pakistan's patented duplicitousness. When the US killed one of the world's most wanted terrorists, Ayman al-Zawahiri, from a safe compound in Kabul a few months back, Amrullah Saleh tweeted, "Osama Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan & Zawahiri killed in GHQ occupied Kabul. If the price tag for use of Shamsi airbase or an overflight is this high, then thumbs up to 'Directorate S' for one shot two birds. Another 10m & Head (IS-K) was born before this. Connect the dots." What the well-versed spymaster was alluding to was Pakistan's consistent double-crossing even towards its own creation i.e., Afghan Taliban, if the price for the 'deal' (in this case, leaking critical information and passively facilitating strikes on both, Osama Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri) was attractive enough for the Pakistanis. Today, it is the turn of the Afghan Taliban to realise Pakistan's incorrigible ways. In 1988, Pakistani Chief of Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, propounded the concept of 'Strategic Depth' to control the Afghan swathes, narrative and as a pawn for securing its own backyard and interests. General Beg had a shadowy past that included accusations of playing an internal role in the airplane crash that killed General Zia, nuclear proliferation, and even manipulating and financing ultra-conservative politicians his natural instinct for controlling Afghanistan in the post-Soviet era was naturally Machiavellian. Soon Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) along with political support from the likes of Naseerullah Babar, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, etc., started patronising, financing, and shaping the students in madrassas, under the ideological tutelage of Maulana posedly joining the global Mohammed Omar. While it 'War on Terror' and running



But as is always the case of supporting any religious strain of extremist insurgents, it never remains a monolithic or disciplined setup, Pakistan was content to have a client-state and curb murmurs of Pushtoonistan, as a quid pro quo. But this arrangement was given to limitations of interference and guidance that the lawless Talibanis allowed the Pakistanis, and soon by harbouring Osama Bin Laden they invited the wrath of the US. Talibanis were soon banished for 20 years and yet again the Pakistanis were their main sponsors and sustainers, with Islamabad sur



BUT AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE OF SUPPORTING **ANY RELIGIOUS** STRAIN OF **EXTREMIST** INSURGENTS, IT **NEVER REMAINS A** MONOLITHIC OR DISCIPLINED SET-UP

with the hare and hunting with the hound.

Cut to 2021, Taliban storms Kabul yet again and the then Pakistani ISI Chief, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed is amongst the first to dash to Kabul to congratulate its creation i.e., Taliban - everything looks picture perfect for the Pakistanis, except it is not, as the faultlines persist beyond the rosy optics. The cabinet formation of the Taliban government becomes the first test for Pakistani control and ambition as it leaves many factions angry with Pakistani interference. The Talibanis like to assert themselves as a proud sovereign that is not beholden to any foreign power, not even the Pakistanis - it remains a relationship of convenience that occasionally flares up. Coreligiosity with Islamabad is immaterial beyond a point, as the ethnicity of Pashtuns is a far more emotional matter, hence the ghosts of questioning the validity of the Durand Line resurface, and the Taliban cannot do much.

Today, cross-border targeting of security forces between Afghanistan and Pakistan nas become a rou tine matter. More Pakistani security forces are killed on

Af-Pak Durand Line than they are killed on the Line-of-Control (LOC). A few days back 6 people were killed and 17 injured when Afghan Border Forces were blamed by the Pakistanis for 'unprovoked and indiscriminate fire. Heavy weapons including artillery and mortars are believed to have been used this at a border post, that had recently been reopened following closure for an 'indefinite period, following yet more cross-border firing. Taliban leadership is openly ralling against the Pakistanis. The deadly revival of Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) is hardly coincidental. Pakistanis are additionally frustrated with no progress on the aspired connectivity with the Central Asian States instead, a sentiment of thanklessness and animosity persists. Clearly, Pakistan tried juggling too many balls in the air, none of which pertained to the Afghan needs -

> (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

this is a realisation and con-

sequence that is playing out.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE FOUL COMMENTS

Sir — Congress party leader Mallikarjun Kharge has made foul comments. Kharge claimed that while Congress stood for the country and helped attain Independence after its leader gave Supreme sacrifices "not even a dog of the BJP was lost". He also said the BJP government "talks like a lion but acts like a mouse". Definitely, this is not the kind of phraseology a senior politician should be employed to make a point. But he is right in his point that Congress is having leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Ğandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi who have laid down their lives in the call of duty of the nation. But in BJP, it is very hard to find any leader who laid down their life for the nation. The Karnataka Government's decision to put up Hindutva ideologue Savarkar's portrait in the assembly is not a good decision. What is the need to feature a controversial figure in the Karnataka assembly? Savarkar is considered a traitor who begged and allied with the British and survived on a British pension and now BJP is considering Savarkar as a great freedom fighter.

Savarkar was alleged to have had a role in the conspiracy for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. One of the Congress leaders has said that Smriti Irani comes to her constituency with 'latkas and jhatkas'. Within no time National women's Commission (NCW) has taken cognizance of the misogynistic remarks of a Congress leader. Where was this NCW when Modiji called Sonia Gandhi 'vidhwa' and Renuka Chowdary 'Shurpanaka?'

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

MESSI'S MOMENT Sir — Beyond any doubt, football World Cup Champion Argentina's Captain Lionel Messi is the happiest man in the world right now. Nobody wonders when he has shared a picture of himself sleeping with a gold-plated bronze replica of the trophy. The original World Cup is not allowed to be

Border disputes are best avoided



he dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra over areas that both States claim to be theirs has become nasty and noisy in recent weeks, even leading to violence. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis — both from the BJP have crossed

World Football Museum, in Switzerland.

The golden boot winner Kylian Mbappé

(with 8 goals and one assist) and the

golden ball winner Lionel Messi (with

seven goals and three assists) also

received their prize made of bronze cov-

had been billed as Messi v Mbappé, the

Argentinian hero opening the scoring

from the penalty spot and having a hand

in Ángel Di María's goal for 2-0. But

then came Mbappé, shattering the

notion that Argentina would close out

the win with the minimum of fuss. Even

in the extra time both Messi and

Mbappé had shown their ability in such

a manner that it will go down as sure-

ly the finest World Cup final of all time,

the most pulsating, one of the greatest

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Whatsoever, this World Cup final

ered by a golden sheet.

games in history.

swords publicly. The 1956 linguistic reorganisation of Indian States is not easily amenable. Carving out political units that neatly correspond with various linguistic groups is impossible in India. As a result, almost all States have linguistic minorities that are accorded special rights. The Maharashtra-Karnataka row fundamentally arises out of a lack of appreciation of that reality. Elsewhere, Maharashtra and Telangana are caught in a dispute across their border, in Chandrapur and Asifabad districts, respectively. Reports of populations wanting to have their places shift from one State to another have emerged in recent weeks. Fluid political and cultural boundaries crisscross the landscape of India. If new fires are lit through divisive politics, the judiciary can do very little

CK Subramaniam I Mumbai

PSUS WITHOUT CMDs taken home, because the original World Sir — When it can take a year for the govt Cup 36.5 centimeters in length and 13 cm in width is built of 6.175-kilogram pure gold of 18 carats (in the value of Indian currency Rs. 165.26 crores). The original is displayed at the FIFA

to fill the vacancy to the topmost post of the CDS, it should come as little surprise that so many of our key PSUs are without a CMD, MD, or full-time directors. To date there are 72 such vacancies, getting accumulated all the time. Is succession planning an unknown tool in govt corridors? But then secretaries to the government get changed overnight. This is clearly a sad reluctance to take seriously the need for the efficient functioning of so many of these public institutions that spearheaded our economy and helped set up our industrial base, adding bone and muscle to today's vibrant

Added to this is an unwillingness to disinvest them that would have helped kindle animal spirits within, under private enterprise. The huge potential of PSUs thus goes unrealised.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

There are many

NGOs that want to disintegrate India's society. There are some NGOs that

want to torture India's society. For these NGOs. the Indian government's policy

can't be the same **Home Minister**



ters for the entire world. Together, the United States and Ukraine will keep the flame of liberty burning

bright. **US** President

– Joe Biden I will do something which people like, bohot karli apne dil



Many congratulations to Argentina on doing this for Messi! Wonderful comeback from the

way they started the campaign Former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar

Congress party is repeatedly demanding a discussion. One

should think about what is important in the national interest. It is not good to rake up a sensitive issue politically and mislead (people).

The Union minister

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FIRST COLUMN

DIPLOMACY MATURES; INDIA JOINS IPEF, 12U2

India came on board two critical frameworks with the US



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

ndia made significant progress on engaging at new plurilateral forums in 2022. At the beginning of the year when the world (except China) had just begun recovering from Covid, there was renewed push for engaging with strategic partners through customised platforms. It was an evolving sense of the new geopolitical landscape where India and the world felt the need to keep China in wait for entry into group nego-

The fractured supply chain network mainly due to heavy reliance on China manufactured goods had started to make its presence felt loud across all plurilateral groupings. Meanwhile, Russia had plans of its own and just a few days before launching a full-fledged military intervention in Ukraine (thereby bringing a war right into Europe after World War two), President Vladimir Putin travelled to Beijing and announced a "No limits partnership with China".

India, a long-term ally of Russia (dependent as it was primarily for defence supplies) found itself in a tight spot. India faced severe pressure from the US and its western allies, which included threats of sanctions unless it sided with them in the wake of Russian old fashioned armed military conflict in Ukraine.

India was still recovering from the pandemic, and new threats emerged on the north western front with China, engaging in another old fashioned hand to hand combat with Indian soldiers to alter the boundary lines. The choice was limited for India. Yet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the QUAD (a group consisting of US, Australia, Japan and India) virtual leaders' summit in March emphasised the need to "return to a path of diplomacy and dialogue" without naming Russia. The other QUAD partners condemned Russia's action in Ukraine. It was a tight rope India was walking, managing conflicting interests with strategic partners. India kept its strategic neutrality on



However, the backroom diplomacy was at work and external affairs minister S Jaishankar maintained a clear line of communication with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Adviser

Meanwhile, India came on board two critical frameworks with the the UAE, which many have dubbed as the western QUAD. This group of four was formed to identify "common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in their respective regions and beyond". It was a way to have significant influence in the middle-east for the US, as it had exited Afghanistan. India saw an opportunity to engage with strategic partners on a joint forum, and slowdown China's growing influence in the affairs of the middle-

The first leadership level meeting for I2U2 was held virtually in July during US President Joe Biden's visit to the middle-east. The second strategic engagement for India with the US as the principal partner took place in Tokyo in September as a side event to the QUAD leaders' summit. India came on board the US-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which is a broad coalition of 13 countries collectively working towards economic prosperity.

IPEF since its inception in September has made significant progress including a senior ministers meeting in Brisbane towards the end of

India will be hosting the next round of IPEF meetings in February next year, and even though India has not joined the trade pillar, it is expected to play a stabilising role in the negotiations.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

Sanctions on Russia can be suicidal for G7



G7 needs to recognise that actions that restrict flow of goods and services are bound to be counter-productive

n a bid to punish Russia for its military action against Ukraine, leaders of G7 viz., the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan in June this year vowed to explore the feasibility of measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level. In September, 2022, their finance ministers (FMs) said: "They confirm our joint political intention to finalise and implement a comprehensive prohibition of services, which enable maritime transportation of Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products globally. Providing those services would only be allowed if the oil and petro-leum products are purchased at or below a price (the price cap) determined by the broad coalition of countries adhering to and implementing the price cap."

With big brothers Germany and France ensuring that all members of the European Union (EU) are on board, the G7 coalition has also been working relentlessly to rope in China and India, the two major importers of oil. Even as those efforts haven't paid off, they have gone ahead implementing their plan from December 5, 2022, fixing the price ceiling at \$60 per

The plan requires the participating countries to deny Western-dominated services, including insurance, finance, brokering and navigation to oil cargoes priced above the cap. To secure those services, petroleum buyers would make "attestations" to service providers, saying they bought Russian petroleum at or below the cap. However, services providers will not be held liable for false pricing information provided by buyers and sellers of Russian petroleum.

The G7 action is driven by its intent to weaken Russia financially by undermining its ability to generate revenue from export of petroleum products, while ensuring that supplies to them (read: G7/EU) are not impacted. They want to achieve this goal by forcing Russia to sell oil at less than or equal to the ceiling price without reducing the quantum of exports. This is a fallacious premise. Russia is a dominant player on the global oil landscape.

It is the third-largest producer of crude oil with over 12 per cent share in global crude production and the second largest exporter. As regards, natural gas (NG), it is the world's second-largest producer with a share of 10 per cent. In world export, its contribution is even higher at 25 per cent. The dependence of EU countries on Russia is even higher with the former drawing 40 per cent of their NG supplies and 25 per cent of crude from the latter.

Some countries in the bloc viz. Germany, the Netherlands and Poland, depend much more. Ignoring the fundamentals of global demand-supply which are strongly pitted against them, they expect the very country which is placed in a vantage position and has the capacity to deliver and supply (namely, Russia) at a price



THE EU WILL BE LOOKING TO SOURCE GAS NOT TAKEN FROM RUSSIA (AROUND 100 BILLION **CUBIC METER OR** 70 MILLION TONS OF LNG REPRESENTING **NEARLY 18 PER** CENT OF ITS GLOBAL TRADE) FROM THE

MIDDLE-EAST

AND THE US

(The author is a policy

analyst)

of their choice. This is anomalous.

The G7/EU intends to achieve the stated objective by ordering the 'service providers' involved in maritime transportation not to provide those services if any sale and purchase of Russian petroleum is happening at a price above the cap. Its confidence stems from the fact that most of these companies are headquartered in EU/UK jurisdictions and the Londonbased International Group of Protection & Indemnity Clubs provides marine liability cover for about 95 per cent of the global oil shipping fleet.

Things are not as simple as they are presumed to be. Seeing a big dent on their revenue due to avoiding Russian petroleum (that won't be easy to make up by extra business from other sources), they will try every tactic to circumvent the diktat. That would involve joining hands with the sellers and buyers in adopting deceptive shipping practices, refusal to provide requested price information, falsifying documentation (to hide the true origin or price of Russian oil),

This apart, there are umpteen parallel fleets and insurance companies - under non-Western ownership - which can be used for handling, shipping and insuring Russian oil. The G7 intent of securing the desired quantity of oil from Russia at the price of their choice (read: cap) will remain on paper. This is because the latter has buyers especially India and China as well as the means to deliver.

Already, Putin has threatened to withhold exports to countries

that enforce the cap. So, G7/EU won't even get the oil from this major supplier, forget the lower

Attempts to draw all their requirements (including supplies denied by Russia) from middle-east, Africa, etc., would lead to further spike in price as well as shortage. Russia has assets in other producing countries such as Libya, Iraq etc. In a hostile environment, the former can take action which could impact the latter's ability to maintain supplies thereby exacerbating the price scenario.

Meanwhile, the much touted plan of the EU bloc to cut purchase of NG from Russia by 2/3rd and substitute it with LNG supplies from other sources (besides a ban on 90 per cent of Russian oil that comes by sea) is to take effect before this year's end. These moves aim at building alternative and sustainable sources of supply, thereby reducing their vulnerability to imports from Russia. These efforts could bear fruit only in the medium to longrun but for now, they have to face the music.

source as not taken from Kussia (around 100 billion cubic meter or 70 million tons of LNG representing nearly 18 per cent of its global trade) from the middle - East and the USA. This will further escalate the gas price, perhaps touching \$100 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) - from the current high of above \$50 per mmBtu that has already led to skyrocketing energy bills for EU countries.

The execution of a cap on NG price could make it happen much

faster than the EU would have imagined. No wonder, members of the bloc haven't yet announced a cap. Ever since the start of the war, the USA and EU countries have set on a dangerous course of imposing economic sanctions on Russia. Far from hurting, their acts have ended up bolstering its coffers. From February to August, 2022, Russia received about 158 billion euros in revenue for the sale of oil, NG and coal, more than half of which - some 85 billion euros worth - was from the EU bloc. Russia's revenue increased even as overall export volumes dropped by 18 per cent compared with the corresponding period prior to invasion of

Now, their decision to impose a cap on Russian oil (and NG) is a major leap forward on this course. This is bound to bring more miseries to the people in these countries due to soaring energy bills, high inflation and economic slowdown.

The G7/EU should shun this path. They need to recognise The EU will be looking to that in a globally interdependent woria, actions that severely restrict flow of goods and services across national boundaries are bound to be counter-productive. The damage will be much more when a crucial commodity such as oil and gas is the target and the quantum involved is huge (prior to February 2022, the EU bloc was getting 40 per cent of its NG requirement and 25 per cent of crude oil from Russia).

Let them not mix up security issues with economics.

YOU AND MUMMY JI NEED TO GET YOUR MISOGYNISTIC (MISOGYNIST) GOONS A NEW SPEECHWRITER.

- MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT





MOST OF THE FACTORIES IN AMETHI ARE ON THE VERGE OF CLOSURE. SMRITI IRANI ONLY COMES, SHOWS 'LATKA-JHATKA', AND LEAVES. — CONGRESS LEADER

AJAY RAI

Many luminaries worked for empowerment of farmers

Today is Kisan Diwas, time to recall how Indian farmers gained from deep land reforms led by leading lights of the nation

⊣he quest of a national farmers' leader -- One Nation, One Voice -- has always been at the epicentre of all constructive change in the making of a vibrant India. Since time immemorial, they have been the backbone of our nation, but unfortunately do not have easy lives. Ironically, they have organized and carried various farmers' movements in India. They became a vital part of Indian history, besides also becoming the bedrock of our vibrant and robust democracy.

This day we commemorate the birthday of Chaudhary Charan Singh -- a true patriot, a skilled administrator, a clever politician -- who spoke for the farmers of India. He was a humanitarian with an impeccable personality.



BINOD ANAND

(The author is Secretary

General, CNRI, and Member

PM-MSP Committee)

Charan Singh, a longtime member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, took over as the Chief Minister of the state and also became Prime Minister of India. He's frequently referred to as the Champion of India's peasants.

On this occasion, we remember all those who have lived as legends and created today the very foundation of rural India. They must be incredibly happy with rising India under the leadership of current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marching ahead economically and taking strides globally by pushing the colonial legacy behind.

Sardar Vallabhbahi Patel, Sir Chaudhary Choturam, Swami Sahajanad Saraswati, N.G Ranga and many more are known for their contributions for the rural renaissance and empowerment of the farming community in India. With the changing times the issues of farmers changed. Goal post changed. Leaders changed. Nevertheless, for the burning questions of ownership of land-to-land reforms to various agricultural economic issues, Indian farmers have always remained at the center of all debates.

Today, there is a need to develop an integrated approach towards rural economy and to ensure income security for farmers and therefore we are working on aggregation and empowering the farmers by connecting them with the global market. Today India is the house of largest formal farmers' organization globally. A few thousand years

ago, theories which were considered for the ownership of land as theory of private own-ership of land; theory of state (King or Royal) ownership of land; and the Theory of corporate ownership of land still

Though Chaudhary Charan Singh has been the chief architect of land reforms, still we do not find nationwide impact of this important agenda of farmers. These two issues are age-old but still relevant. During medieval India, a major challenge was the taxation system in the form of part of produce. It gave birth to the Zamindari (feudalism) system. Later during the colonial era major shifts were in cotton, jute, saltpeter (raw material for gun powder) and indigo which created a tectonic change that who later announced by Neta and led the successful struggle

redefined the nature of farmers' revolt.

Farmers revolted against issues like high tax regime, blatant exploitation, underpayment, and losing rights over their land. There have been numerous farmer movements. The Champaran movement (1917) by Gandhiji, the Kheda Satyagraha (aftermath of Chappania famine), (1918), Bardoli Satyagraha Movement (1925), Tebhaga Movement (1946- 1947), and Deccan riots (1875). These movements mobilised farmers in the overall nationalist movement that led to India's freedom in 1947. This part of history has seen the emergence of a true friend of Farmers as Swami shajanand Saraswati, the monk and rebellious farmer leader

ji Subhash Chandra Bose as undisputed leader of the peasants movement of India.

Sahajanand Saraswati was truly an ascetic, a nationalist and a peasant leader of India. Although born in North-Western Provinces (presentday Uttar Pradesh), his social and political activities focussed mostly on Bihar in the initial days, and gradually spread to the rest of India with the formation of the All India Kisan Sabha. Swami ji was an intellectual, prolific writer, social reformer and revolutionary and organized the Bakasht (self-cultivated) Movement in Bihar in 1937-1938 which further led to the passing of the Bihar Tenancy Act and the Bakasht Land Tax. He was pioneer of peasant worker unity

in the Dalmia Sugar Mill at Bihta. Remarkably on hearing of Saraswati's arrest during the Quit India Movement, Subhash Chandra Bose decided to observe 28 April as All-India Swami Sahajanand Day in protest of his incarceration by the British Raj.

Unfortunately, historians categorized him differently as communist. He denounced his political affiliation and later became a Dandi sanyasi and hence, carried a long bamboo stick with him. Later, this stick became the symbol of peasant resistance. He gave the Bihar peasants the slogan "Danda Mera Zindabad" which was assumed to be "Long live the danda (lathi) of the Kisans" and became an important slogan of the movement. (*To be continued...*)

Zelenskyy's surprise visit to DC months in making

≺he idea of a daring wartime trip by Volody-myr Zelenskyy to Washington had percolated for some time before the surprise visit was revealed just hours ahead of the Ukrainian president's arrival.

During an October summit in Zagreb, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi discussed with her counterpart in the Ukrainian parliament the prospect of Zelenskyy addressing the U.S.

Congress.

Biden administration officials had similarly for months talked with Ukraine about a Zelenskyy visit to the White House, hoping for one before year's end to send an unmistakable signal of support ahead of a brutal winter that could deepen Russian President Vladimir Putin's assault.

In previous calls, Zelenskyy had indicated to Biden and other senior officials that the United States was the first country he wanted to visit when the time was right for him to travel, according to a U.S. Official with knowledge of the conversations. So in a Dec. 11 phone call between the two leaders, Biden reiterated the invitation. This time, Zelenskyy told

"I really wanted to come earlier. Mr. President knows about it, but I couldn't do it because the situation was so difficult," Zelenskyy said from the Oval Office on Wednesday

Biden, was the right time.



The trip could happen now, the Ukrainian leader said, because "we controlled the situation and ... First of all, because of your support." The behindthe-scenes details of Zelenskyy's surprise visit to Washington were described by an aide to Pelosi, a U.S. Official and a senior administration official, all of whom requested anonymity to describe planning for the secret trip. Once the wheels of

planning started to roll, Želenskyy's 10-hour visit which packed in an Oval Office meeting with Biden, a joint news conference at the White House and an address to a largely supportive Congress came together quickly.

After the two presidents discussed the trip on Dec. 11, the White House extended a formal invite on Dec. 14, according to the senior administration offi-

But the AP investigation

into life in occupied Mariupol also underlines what its residents

already know all too well: No

matter what the Russians do,

they are building upon a city of

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client IndusInd Bank Ltd, having one of its Branch at Plot No. 2E/1, 2nd Floor, Jhandewalan

Extension, New Delhi-110055 intends to grant Loan facility to M/s Horizon 9 Advertising and Brand Consultants Ltd against security of Property bearing

On Standards Ltd against Section by or Property Death No. F-1 (K), having area measuring 145.714 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Sanjay Nagar, Sector 23, Ghaziabad, U.P. (hereinafter referred as "Sale Property"). Smt. Rajeshwari Saxena was the recorded owner of the Said Property by virtue of Sale

Deed dated 29.03.2005 duly registered as Document No. 2406 on 29.03.2005. Thereafter, Smt. Rajeshwari Saxena died on 24.07.2009, leaving behind only one legal heir i.e. Sh. Rakesh

Saxena on the basis of Surviving Member Certificate dated 21.04.2011, who claimed to be the

sole and absolute owner of the Said Property by virtue of Hindu Succession Law. Thereafter, the Said

Property was mutated in the records of Ghaziabac Development Authority in the name of Sh. Rakesh.

axena vide Mutation Letter dated 15.12.2011.

Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claims(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the

said property in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing

along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim(s)/ objection(s). If no such claim i received with in a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any paramount right, title, or

interest in the said property and even if someone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have given up

cial. Zelenskyy accepted the invitation on Friday, and the visit was confirmed two days later, at which point White House officials notified Pelosi's office of the Ukrainian leader's travel plans.

"I'm delighted you were able to make the trip to be here," Biden told Zelenskyy on Wednesday. "It's an honour to be by your side in united defence against what is a brutal, brutal war being waged by Putin.'

Zelenskyy tells US Congress 'It's honour to be he proposed 10-point peace formula to US President

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the US Congress that he proposed a 10-point "peace formula" during his meeting with President Joe Biden, which he hoped would result in joint security guarantees for decades ahead.

Zelenskyy, 44, met President Biden in the Oval Office and jointly addressed a press conference at the White House on Wednesday.

He was given the rare distinction of addressing a joint session of the US Congress on a day packed with back-to-back meetings.

What came about Wednes-

day was an elaborately execut-

ed plan by U.S. And Úkrainian

officials to swiftly and safely

route Zelenskyy to Washington,

his first known trip outside the

country's borders since Russia's

crossed into Poland early Wed-

nesday, according to Poland's

private broadcaster, TVN24,

arriving at a train station in

The Ukrainian president

invasion in February.

"We need peace. Ukraine has already offered proposals, which I just discussed with Tkrainian President Tk President Biden, our peace formula, ten points which should and must be implemented for our joint security guarantees for decades ahead. And the summit, which can historic address to the joint session of the Congress.

depend on Russia's willingness to negotiate and the participation of the international legal order, even as he slammed Russian President

Przemysl, a border town and the

arrival point for many refugees

Ambassador to Ukraine, Bridget

Brink, Zelenskyy was transpor-

ted in a U.S. Embassy vehicle to

an airport in Rzeszów, where he

boarded a nonstop flight that

landed at Joint Base Andrews

shortly after noon Wednesday.

Andrews was a U.S. Air Force jet

Carrying Zelensky to

Accompanied by the U.S.

fleeing the war.

by your side': Biden tells Ukraine Prez

Ukrainian President Volod-ymyr Zelenskyy thanked President Joe Biden, U.S. Lawmakers and "ordinary people" of America for their support as he visited the White House on Wednesday. Biden told Zelensky what Librarians "" be held," Zelenskyy said in his skyy that Ukrainians "inspire the world," before the two leaders began an Oval Office summit He said that any such that was Zelenskyy's first known discussions would also trip outside his home country that was Zelenskyy's first known since Russia invaded in February. In a brief remarks before reporters, Biden told Zelenskyy that "it's an honor to be by your side" and he pledged Vladimir Putin for invading continued financial, military and humanitarian aid for

a government plane typical-

ly used for Cabinet secretaries

and other dignitaries below the

president and vice president.

The White House didn't pub-

licly announce the impending

Zelenskyy visit until 1 a.m. Wednesday — waiting until

they felt Zelenskyy was safely

out of Ukraine. Once Zelenskyy landed, Secret Service protec-

tion kicked in, as is typically

done for visiting heads of state.



Ukraine. Biden also warned that Russia is "trying to use winter as a weapon" in the war.

Zelenskyy said he wanted to visit the United States at an earlier time, but could not. He stressed that the "war is not over" and that his country faces many challenges in battling

The senior administration

fficial said the U.S. Consulted

closely with Zelenskyy on his

security, and that the Úkrainian

president felt it was sufficient for

him to briefly travel to the

traveled the world in recent

months in a ferocious defense of

Ukraine, had also been planti-

Meanwhile, Pelosi, who had

United States.

Russia scrubs Mariupol's Ukraine identity, builds on death

🗗 hroughout Mariupol, Russian I workers are tearing down bombed-out buildings at a rate of at least one a day, hauling away shattered bodies with the debris.

Russian military convoys rumble down the broad avenues, and Russian soldiers, builders, administrators and doctors are replacing the thousands of Ukrainians who have died or left. Eight months after Mariupol

fell into Russian hands, Russia is eradicating all vestiges of Ukraine from it – along with the evidence of war crimes.

The few schools still open teach a Russian curriculum, phone and television networks are Russian, the Ukrainian cur-

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICIC Bank Ltd. Hat. 5. Harjinder Singh & Mrs. Paramjeet Kaur are joint owners of Portion admeasuring 305 sq. yds. Part of Property No. 65, area admeasuring 500 sq. yds., Block-z, January School, Willow Talkery, Polity in the professor Rajouri Garden, Village Tatarpur, Delhi, vide a two registered Sale Deeds dated 05.09.2003, registration No. 12927, and Sale Deed dated 05.09.2003, registration No. 12928. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want sell the said portion to Mr. Punit Sahni & Mr. Deepak Sahn who is taking a Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. for purchase of th said portion, if anyhody has any phiertion/s upon the owner shin of S. Hariinder Singh. & Mrs. Paramieet Kaur in respe



rency is fading away, and Mariu- one European company, The pol is now in the Moscow time Associated Press found.

On the ruins of the old

Mariupol, a new Russian city is rising, with materials from at least

I, OM PRAKASH SINGH S/o SHRI RAJA PAL SINGH R/o FLAT No. C-5/709 No. 72, I.P. EXTENSION, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110092. do hereby solemnily affirm and declare that some original title documents related to the above said property has been lost somewhere and onot traceable by my best of efforts Original GPA, RECEIPT and othe transfer documents dated 21.07.2004 in

Original GPA, RECEIP1 and other transfer documents dated 21.07.2004 in the name of VIBHA CHOPRA in respect of the above said flat. I have already lodged a Lost Report in this regard, Vide LR No.1105093/2022, Dated 21.12.2022. OM PRAKASH SINGH

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and or behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system fo

S.	Tender No.	Brief description	Qty.	Closing
No.				date
01	82224731B	Advance Hand Instrument With OEM	45 Nos	16-01-2023
		Certified Compatibility With Valley Lab		
		Machine in OT/NRCH- Assorted Length, The		
		name valley lab has changed to meditronics.		
		Assorted advanced hand instruments for		
		Lap/ open surgeries.		

Note: -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. Surgery item Date: - 21.12.2022

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate) Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE E-mail Address: alolegals@gmail.com

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD. (Govt. of M.P. Undertaking) ISHTHA PARISAR, BIJALEE NAGAR, GOVINDPURA, BHOPAL-462023

Phone No.: 0755-2602033-36, Fax: 2589821, 2586636 Ref.: MD/MK/04/NIT/2481 Date: 22.12.2022

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wing	bids	from	manufacturers	through	e-tendering

MP	MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering.							
Sr. No.		Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee Including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender		
1.	MD/MK/ 04/857	Procurement of PVC Insulated 2 Core 4Sq. mm & 6Sq. mm Armoured Aluminium conductor 1100 Volts	1679.02	11800	04.01.2023 03.00 PM	12.01.2023 03:00 PM		
2.	MD/MK/ 04/858	Procurement of PVC Insulated 4 Core 6Sq. mm, 10Sq. mm & 16 Sq. mm. Armoured Aluminium conductor 1100 Volts	607.80	11800	04.01.2023 03.00 PM	13.01.2023 03:00 PM		
3.	MD/MK/ 04/859	Procurement of PVC Insulated PVC Sheathed 3.5 Core 35Sq. mm, 70 Sq. mm & 150 Sq. mm. Aluminium conductor 1100 Volts	157.34	5900	04.01.2023 03.00 PM	17.01.2023 03:00 PM		
4.	MD/MK/ 04/860	Procurement of XLPE insulated Single Core 35 Sq. mm, 70 Sq. mm, 150 Sq. mm & 300 Sq. mm Aluminium conductor Unarmoured Cable	129.01	5900	04.01.2023 03.00 PM	18.01.2023 03:30 PM		

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on Company website https:// portal.mpcz.in & Govt. Website https://mptenders.gov.in shortly CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.) M.P. Madhyam/107815/2022

to Ukraine will aggravate war The Kremlin warned Wednesday that increasing the

supply of US arms to Ukraine would aggravate the devastating 10-month war ignited by Russia's invasion, and Russia's defense minister called for expanding Moscow's military by at least 500,000 people.

Speaking during a meeting with his top military brass, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow would take lessons learned in the conflict to "develop our armed forces and strengthen the capability of our troops." He said special emphasis would go to developing nuclear forces, which he described as "the main guaran-tee of Russia's sovereignty." The bullish rhetoric from

Moscow came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Washington, where U.S. Officials announced a huge new military aid package for

Putin also said the Russian military's new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile will enter service shortly. The Sarmat is intended to replace aging Soviet-built ballistic missiles and form the core of Russia's nuclear forces. Putin has hailed its capacity to dodge missile defenses.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said the beefed-up Russian military will include 695,000 volunteer contract soldiers, 521,000 of whom should be recruited by the end of 2023.



Kremlin warning: More US arms

The Russian military had about 400,000 contract soldiers as part of its 1-million-member military before the fighting in Ukraine began.

All Russian men ages 18 to 27 are obliged to serve in the military for one year, but many health exemptions to avoid the draft. Shoigu said the draft age range will be changed to 21 to 30, and the recruits will be offered a choice between serving for one year as draftees or signing a contract with the military as volunteers. He also said Russia would form new units in the country's west in view of ambitions by Finland and Sweden to join NATO.

The Kremlin's plans marked a return to the Soviet-era military structure, which Russia abandoned during recent reforms that saw the creation of smaller units. Some Russian military experts have argued that the more compact units

intended for use in local conflicts were undermanned and underequipped for a massive conflict like the action in

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the expansion of Western weapon supplies to of the conflict and, in fact, does not bode well for Ukraine." Peskov's comments were

the first official Russian reaction to news that Zelenskyy was heading to Washington in his first known foreign trip since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion triggered a war that has killed thousands and laid waste to towns and cities across Ukraine.

The White House announcement of the military aid came just hours before Zelenskyy paid a defiant wartime visit to Washington to thank U.S. Leaders and "ordinary Americans" for their support in fighting off Russia's invasion and to press for continued aid.

Biden said the U.S. And Ukraine would continue to project a "united defense" as Russia wages a "brutal assault on Ukraine's right to exist as a nation." The massive \$1.8 billion

package includes for the first time a Patriot missile battery and precision guided bombs for fighter jets, U.S. Officials said. Volodymyr Fesenko, head

of the Kyiv-based Penta Center independent think tank, said Zelenskyy's visit could help map out future strategy.

"This is indeed a very sig-

nificant and symbolic visit, Fesenko told The Associated Press. "Zelenskyy for the first time dared to leave Ukraine and is counting on being able to maintain, and possibly even strengthen, U.S. Military and economic assistance to

Moscow also was involved deputy head of Russia's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, met Wednesday with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Medvedev, a former Russian president, said in a video statement that he and Xi discussed an array of topics, including "the conflict in Ukraine." Medvedev did not elaborate

China has refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and criticized sanctions against Moscow. Beijing has only referred to the invasion as the "Ukraine situation" in deference to Moscow, and accused the U.S. And NATO of provoking Putin by expanding into eastern Europe.

ng the seeds for months for a Zelenskyy address to Congress. IAEA discusses Ukraine nuclear plant protections



The head of the UN nuclear watchdog met on Thursday in Moscow with officials from Russia's military and state atomic energy company as he pursues a long-running drive to set up a protection zone around a Russian-occupied nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Russian company Rosatom described the talks on measures needed to safeguard Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power region as "substantive, useful and frank". International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi indicated that more negotiations were needed after "another round of necessary discussions".

"It's key that the zone focuses solely on preventing a nuclear accident," he tweeted. "I am continuing my efforts towards this goal with a sense of utmost urgency." The meeting in Moscow came a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a defiant wartime visit to the US capital, his first known trip outside his country in the nearly 10 months since Russia invaded.

उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण टीडीएस सिटी, गाजियाबाद। E-Mail- ed2@upsidc.com अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना । सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में विद्युत संबंधी विकास कार्यों हेतु विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों / निगमों / प्राधिकरणो / परिषदों / नगर निकार्यों में पंजीकृत

त्ररकारी विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों / निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / पां कर्मों / टेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन ईं–निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्व की तागत रू। (तास में कार्य का नाम

Providing LED Lighting High Mast Lighting System in Central Park at IA. Khurja Bulandshahar. 10.10 Providing and fixing of 11 kv overhead line network allotted industrial plots no. D-38, 38/1, 38/2, 38/3, 38/4, 38/5 and 38/6 7.94 in Surajpur Site-B Industrial Area. Upgradation High Mast Lighting System by replacement old and on conventional HPSV Luminnaire to LED at I.A. TDS City, SEZ oradabad and Surajpur Site B&C

निविदा दिनांक 23,12,2022 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 30,12,2022 को 18:00 बजे तक अपलोड की सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 31,12,2022 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा। निविदादात द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्य दिवस में पंजीकृत डाक / व्याक्ति हप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। **नोटः** 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर प प्प से कायालय न जाना था जा जनता है। जन से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु शि०एस०टी० सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निर्विदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विमान" उठाश शासन, लखन श्रेणी, अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विमान" उठाश शासन, लखन श्रेणी, अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider गयेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तत् जानकारी website: www. upsidc.com पर स्थापित लिं गीएलसी की website: https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

N.I.T. No.: 32/22-23/WE Name of work with its location: (A) Provision of additional water storage capacity Under ground tank of one lac litre and Extension of storage on Vth floor and other allied works for Ministry of Railway Health in COFMOW building in the s/o SSE/W/BH under ADEN/E-III

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Approx. Cost of work: (A) Rs. 71,07,549.82 EMD amount : (A) Rs. 1,42,200.00 Completion period of work: (A) 06 Months

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Closing date of tender on 17.01.2023 at 15:00 hrs. Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be

seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in No.: 128-W/269/OET/22-23/WE/NIT/32 Dated: 21.12.2022 Serving Customers with a Smile

Sight of half-burnt victim of Sobhraj spurred child to become his nemesis

Kid grew into a cop to arrest Charles in 2003

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

former Nepalese police officer who A former inepaiese poince cannot have a sinstrumental in the high-profile arrest of the notorious French serial killer Charles Sobhraj in 2003 on Thursday said it was the painful childhood memory of the sight of a half-burnt body of a slain American woman in a river here that spurred him to become a detective. Ganesh KC was 40 and the

Deputy Police Superintendent in 2003 when he nabbed Sobhraj from a casino in Kathmandu.

Nepal's Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the release of Sobhraj, 78, a Frenchman of Indian and Vietnamese parentage, who has been in jail here for close to two decades on murder

For Ganesh, it was the painful childhood memory of the sight of a half-burnt body of American tourist Connie Jo Bronzich that encouraged him to become a seasoned and hardened detective.

Kathmandu on the pretext of "I was barely 12 when I saw filming a documentary. He was people rushing near the spotted near Royale Casino in

Manahara river in Kathmandu to get a glimpse of the dead body of Connie Jo Bronzich, the American backpacker who was killed by Sobhraj," he told PTI. Bronzich and Canadian

friend Laurent Carriere were the two backpackers killed by Sobhraj in 1976. It was only ironic that 27

years later, Ganesh would be entrusted with the task of hunting down the serial killer.

Ganesh recounted with glee the chain of events that lead to Sobhraj's sensational arrest. "He (Sobhraj) landed in

"His arrest in Nepal shows the country's robust criminal judicial system," he added. There were two cases regis-

Ganesh said.

tered against him — one in Kathmandu District Court and another in Bhaktapur District Court — for the murder of the two backpackers in two different areas in two days.

crete evidence to nail Sobhraj in

the twin murder case, the police

first arrested him on charges of

violating the immigration law,

then charged him with the mur-

ders on the basis of circum-

stantial evidence, including his

signature in the hotel registry,

"We are proud to have arrested Sobhraj nearly three

decades after the murder of the

backpackers," Ganesh said.



China sends 39 warplanes, 3 ships toward Taiwan in 24 hrs

hina's military sent 39 planes and three ships toward Taiwan in a 24 hour display of force directed at the island, Taiwan's defence ministry said on Thursday.

China's military harassment of self-ruled Taiwan, which it claims is its own territory, has intensified in recent years, and the Communist Party's People's Liberation Army has sent planes or ships toward the island on a near-daily basis.

Between 6 am on Wednesday and 6 am on Thursday, 30 of the Chinese planes crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary once tacitly accepted by both sides, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence.

Those planes flew to the island's southwest and then horizontally all the way to the southeastern side before doubling back, according to a diagram of the flight patterns provided by Taiwan.

Among the planes were 21

North Korean hackers have stolen an estimated 1.5 tril-

lion won (USD 1.2 billion) in

cryptocurrency and other virtual

assets in the past five years, more

than half of it this year alone,

South Korea's spy agency said

Experts and officials say North Korea has turned to cryp-

to hacking and other illicit cyber

activities as a source of badly

needed foreign currency to sup-

port its fragile economy and fund its nuclear programme following harsh UN sanctions

and the COVID-19 pandemic.

LOST AND FOUND , KANTA SEHGAL W/oSHRI RAJINDER KUMAR SEHGAL R/o137, GAGAN VIHAR EXTN. DELHI-110051 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare

That I am the owner of the Propert No.137, Measuring Area 100 Sq.Yds Situated at Gagan Vihar Extn. Delhi-

110051. some original title documents related to the above said property has

been lost somewhere and not traceable by my best of efforts. Original GPA, ATS RECEIPT and other transfer documents

dated 15.06.1981 executed by Shr

Subhash Chander in favour of Shri Charanjeet Singh, Original GPA, ATS,RECEIPT and other transfer

by Shri Charanjeet Singh in fovour o

Suman Sehgal. I have already lodged a Lost Report on this regard, Vide LR

No.1061427, Dated 08.12.2022.

KANTA SEHGAL

ments dated 15.04.1985, execute

South Korea's main spy

Thursday.

Seoul: North Korean

1.2B in virtual assets

hackers stole USD



J-16 fighter jets, 4 H-6 bombers and two early-warning aircraft.

Taiwan said it monitored the Chinese moves through its landbased missile systems, as well as on its own navy vessels.

China's military held large military exercises in August in

agency, the National Intelligence Service, said North Korea's

capacity to steal digital assets is

response to US House speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Beijing views visits from foreign governments to the island as de facto recognition of the island as independent and a challenge to China's claim of

In its largest military exercises aimed at Taiwan in decades, China sailed ships and flew aircraft regularly across the median of the strait and even fired missiles over Taiwan itself that ended up landing in Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Temperatures fall far and fast as winter storm threatens US

AP MISSION (US)

Temperatures plunged far considered among the best in the world because of the coun-■ and fast on Thursday as a try's focus on cybercrimes since winter storm began forming UN economic sanctions were ahead of Christmas weekend, toughened in 2017 in response promising heavy snow, ice, to its nuclear and missile tests. flooding and powerful winds The UN sanctions imposed across a broad swath of the in 2016-17 ban key North country and complicating hol-Korean exports such as coal, texiday travel.

The National Weather tiles and seafood and also led member states to repatriate Service reported that temperatures across the central High North Korean overseas workers. Its economy suffered further set-Plains plummeted 50 degrees backs after it imposed some of Fahrenheit in just a few hours. In much of the country, the Christmas weekend could be the world's most draconian restrictions against the panthe coldest in decades. The NIS said state-spon-

e-Tender Notice

Name of work: Civil Repair & Maintenance of B-Type Residences of

Date of availability of bid document on website: From 17:00 hrs of Last date for submission of bids on website: Up to 17.00 Hrs of

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No.21/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2022-23

Estimated cost : ₹ 33,84,979.55 (GST Extra)

Tons Colony at Dakpathar (Dehradun).

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Civil Maintenance Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd., Dakpathar (Dehradun) invites online bids from

"This is not like a snow sored North Korean hackers day when you were a kid," are estimated to have stolen 1.5 President Joe Biden warned Thursday in the Oval Office trillion won (USD 1.2 billion) in after a briefing from federal virtual assets around the world officials. "This is serious stuff."

since 2017, including about 800 billion won (USD 626 million) The frigid air will move through the central United this year alone. It said more than 100 billion won (USD 78 mil-States to the east, with windlion) of the total came from chill advisories affecting about 135 million people over the

Executive Engineer(PCM)

coming days, weather service meteorologist Ashton Robinson Cook said on Thursday.

Forecasters are expecting bomb cyclone - when atmospheric pressure drops very quickly in a strong storm — to develop near the Great Lakes, which will increase winds and create blizzard conditions, Cook said.

In Texas, temperatures were expected to quickly plummet on Thursday, but state leaders promised there wouldn't be a repeat of the February 2021 storm that overwhelmed the state's power grid and was blamed for hundreds of deaths.

plan adopted after Fukushima Tapan on Thursday adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy to ensure a stable power supply amid glo-bal fuel shortages and to reduce carbon emissions, in a major

Japan reverses nuclear phaseout

into the future.'

and prolonging the operating life "Green transformation in year limit, and by developing volves a major economic and next-generation reactors to social transformation, and the technological development and Anti-nuclear sentiment and effort by each country can safety concerns rose sharply in change the situation,'

Prime Minister Fumio Kisdisaster, and restart approvals hida said, noting he planned to have since come slowly under get the Cabinet to approve the olicy and submit necessary bills to Parliament for approval.

The Economy and Industry Ministry has drafted a plan to allow extensions every 10 years for reactors after 30 years of operation while also permitting utilities to subtract offline periods in calculating reactors' operational life beyond the current 60-year limit. The plan was approved on Wednesday by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, Japan's nuclear watchdog, paving the way for the policy to be adopted.

New safety inspection rules

still need to be compiled into law and approved by Parliament.

Most nuclear reactors in Japan are more than 30 years old. Four reactors that have operated for more than 40 years have received permission to operate, and one is currently online.

The policy paper says Japan will also push for the development and construction of "nextgeneration innovative reactors" with safer features to replace about 20 reactors now set for

decommissioning.
Thursday's adoption of the new policy comes less than four months after Kishida launched the "GX (Green Transformation) Implementation Council" of outside experts and ministers to "consider all options" to compile a new policy that address-es global fuel shortages amid Russia's war on Ukraine and seeks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Hong Kong leader praised for reviving economy

AP ■ HONG KONG

hinese Premier Li Keqiang praised the Hong Kong government's efforts in revitalizing the economy as it rolls back COVID-19 restrictions, in a meeting on Thursday with the territory's leader in Beijing. Hong

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee is on his first trip to the capital to deliver an annual year-end report to leaders. He is expected to meet with President Xi Jinping to discuss the city's political, economic and COVID-19 situations before returning to Hong Kong on Saturday.

Li expressed his approval of Lee's work over the past six months, during which most of the city's COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed, helping to restore Hong Kong's image as a vibrant financial hub.

"The fates of Hong Kong and the motherland are closely intertwined," Li said. "I hope the Hong Kong government will unite and lead the people of Hong Kong to contribute its advantages as it integrates into the national development plan in accordance with the country's needs."

How female Iranian activists use powerful images to protest oppressive policies

THE CONVERSATION EUGENE (US)

mages of unveiled Iranian women and adolescent girls standing atop police cars or flipping off the ayatollah's picture have become signature demonstrations of dissent in the past few months of protest in

reversal of its phase-out plan fol-

The new policy says Japan must maximise the use of exist-

ing nuclear reactors by restart-

ing as many of them as possible

of old reactors beyond their 60-

Japan after the 2011 Fukushima

Utility companies have app-

lied for restarts at 27 reactors in

the past decade. Seventeen have

passed safety checks and only 10

have resumed operations. That

was in line with Japan's earlier

plan to phase out nuclear ener-

cy says nuclear power provides

stable output and serves "an

important role as a carbon-free

basel oad energy source in

achieving supply stability and carbon neutrality" and pledges to "sustain use of nuclear power

In a reversal, the new poli-

stricter safety standards.

replace them.

gy by 2030.

lowing the Fukushima crisis.

In fact, among the Iranian protest photos selected for inclusion in Time magazine's list of the "Top 100 Photos of 2022" are one of women running from military police brigades and another of an unveiled woman standing on a car with hands

As a scholar studying the

due on monthly basis has not been paid on due date and thereafter.

Total Debt= Non current borrowings + current maturities of non-current borrowings

Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR)= (EBDIT-Current Tax)/Gross Interest

Total equity = Equity share capital + Other equity + Compulsory convertible instruments to equity

the Company's business activity falls within a single business segment in terms of Ind AS 108.

Ratios has been computed as follows "Debt Equity Ratio = Total Debt / Total Equity"

2 The rating for the listed non-convertible debentures of the Company as assigned by the CARE Ratings Limited is "D".

use of images in political movements, I find Iranian protest photos powerful and engaging because they play on several elements of defiance.

They draw on a longer history of İranian women taking and sharing photos and videos of actions considered illegal, such as singing and dancing to rotest gender oppression. Pictures in past Iranian movements Iranian women did not stage mass public demonstrations against restrictions on their freedoms for nearly three decades following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when protests against compulsory hijab laws were brutally crushed by the Islamic regime.



In the 2009 Iranian Green Movement against election fraud, however, women played a major role. Images of one young female protester, Neda Agha-Soltan, who was fatally

shot by security forces during the protest, went viral, catalysing millions of Iranians to join the

In subsequent protests, visuals have been at the heart of women's efforts to mobilize against the Islamic Republic. In 2014, women began

recording themselves walking, cycling, dancing and singing in public unveiled, under the banner of the "My Stealthy Freedom" movement.

Started by Masih Alinejad, an Iranian-born journalist based in New York, the movement protested the forced wearing of the hijab and other restrictive laws by showing women breaking them.

FEEDBACK INFRA PRIVATE LIMITED

CIN-U74899DL1990PTC040630
Registered Office: 311, 3rd Floor, Vardhaman Plaza, Pocket 7, Plot No. 6, Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078, India Ist Floor, Plot No. 77A East Tower, Iffco Road, Sector-18, Gurugram - 122015, Haryana, India Telephone: Board: +91 124 4169100 || Fax: +91 124 4169155

E-mail: feedback.legal@feedbackinfra.com || Website: www.feedbackinfra.com

STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR HALF YEARLY PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

(Rupees in Lakhs) Quarter Ended Quarter Ended Six Months Ended Six Months Ended For the Year Ended

Particulars	September 30,2022 Unaudited	June 30,2022 Unaudited	September 30,2022 Unaudited	September 30,2021 Audited	March 31, 2022 Audited
1 Total Income from Operations	4,974	5,215	10,189	9,033	19,978
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-2,147	-1,685	-3,831	-5,914	-11,306
3 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-2,569	-1,263	-3,831	-7,793	-17,414
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1,568	-1,263	-2,830	-5,870	-13,503
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit /(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-1,568	-1,263	-2,830	-5,870	-13,061
Paid up equity share capital (face value of Rs.10/- per share each)	1,636	1,636	1,636	1,636	1,636
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(13,721)	(12,153)	(13,721)	(1,960)	(9,152)
Securities premium account	1,739	1,739	1,739	1,739	1,739
Net Worth	(10,346)	(8,778)	(10,346)	(324)	(7,515)
Paid up debt capital / Outstanding Debt	52,822	52,546	52,822	52,295	52,235
Outstanding Reedeemable Preference Share	(*)		(*f)	•	(€)
2 Debt Equity Ratio *	-7.66	-9.32	-7.66	57.21	-10.33
3 Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
Basic	(9.58)	(7.72)	(17.30)	(35.87)	(82.53)
Diluted	(9.58)	(7.72)	(17.30)	(35.87)	(82.53)
Capital Redemption Reserve	- E	-	1 120	-	
Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210	1,210
Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) *	0.14	0.19	0.14	(0.22)	(0.30)
7 Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR) *	0.14	0.19	0.14	(0.22)	(0.30)

1 During the period ended September 30, 2022, Principal payment which was overdue on Non-Convertible Debenture was not paid during the said period. The interest which was

3 Debentures are secured by way of first pari- passu charge by hypothecation of entire current assets, movable fixed assets of the Company both present and future, Corporate

Guarantee of the Promoter Company and pledge of shares of subsidiary Company. These are to be secured against first pari- issue charge over total assets to the extent of total assets cover of atleast 1.5 times. The total asset coverage ratio is 0.81 times as on September 30, 2022.

"Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) = (EBDIT-Current Tax)/(Gross interest + Principal Repayment of long Term debts excluding repayment from refinancing of debt)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Principal Chief Materials Manager Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001

https://uktenders.gov.in"

13.01.2023

South Korea

Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme- 2022-23

Dated. 20.12.2022

e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. January/2023

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under

e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'January, 2023.

S.	Depot conducting auction	Time	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
No			round	round	round	round	round	round
1	Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257	10:00	2	7	11	16	23	31
2	Shakurbasti 011-27015387	10:00	4	9	14	18	25	31
3	Jagadhari 01732-252388	10:00	3	7	12	17	24	31
4	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	10:00	3	6	12	17	24	31
5	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	11:00	5	10	13	19	27	31
6	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	11:00	4	9	13	18	25	31
7	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	10:00	5	10	13	19	27	31
8	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	11:00	2	6	11	16	23	31

- 1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
- 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.
- 3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.
- 4. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway

website 'www.ireps.gov.in'. 3405/2022







a) The above is an extract of the unaudited interim financial results required to be filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended). As prescribed interim financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www. feedbackinfra.com

Assets Coverage Ratio = (Total assets) / (Total borrowing excluding unsecured borrowings and compulsary convertible instruments to equity)

b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www. feeedbackinfra.com

c) The above interim financial results as at and for the half year ended September 30, 2022 have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held

d) The Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards ("Ind AS") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and in terms of Regulation 52(2) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended) and SEBI's circular no. SEBI/HO/DDHS/CIR/2021/0000000637 dated October 5, 2021. e) The Company is primarily in the business of consultancy. The Board of Directors of the Company, which has been identified as being the chief operating decision maker (CODM), evaluates the Company's performance, allocate resources based on the analysis of the various performance indicator of the Company as a single unit. Therefore,

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Badrinath Behera

Date: 21st December 2022

Launch of digital rupee historic milestone: RBI

¬erming the launch of digi-T tal rupee a historic milestone, RBI executive director Ajay Kumar Choudhary on Thursday said the currency would bring in a lot of operational efficiency in the system and will foster financial inclu-

As per the central bank digital currency (CBDC) tracker, almost 105 countries representing 95 per cent of the world's GDP have taken steps to inculcate digital currency in their ecosystem.

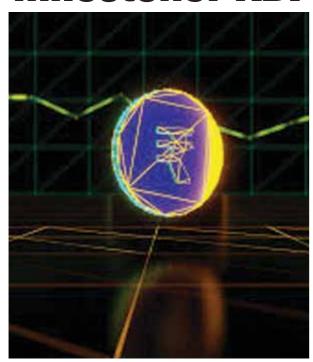
Around 50 countries are at the advanced phase of exploration to launch the digital currency, while 10 countries have fully launched the digital currency, he said at an event organised by PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Digital rupee will add the resilience associated with innovation in the way payments are made, he said, adding, it will also boost innovation in the

cross-border payment space.

CBDC will give the public the desired experience while ensuring consumer protection but avoiding the damaging social and economic cores. social and economic consequences, he added.

RBI has already launched the Central Bank Digital Currency CBDC-W and CBDC-R on a pilot basis for the Indian market. CBDC-W and



CBDC-R refer to wholesale and retail, respectively.

Digital currency is expected to complement rather than to replace the current forms of currency and it would provide an additional avenue to the users as a payment instru-

He stated that the Reserve Bank of India would be taking all steps to ensure that the issuance of CBDC follows a calibrated and nuanced approach with adequate safeguards to

82.79 to a dollar, showing gains of 5 paise over the previous

by 14 paise to settle at 82.84 on

Wednesday. Investor sentiment

improved after a report showed

that the US consumer confi-

dence is holding up despite the Federal Reserve's campaign to

fight inflation by raising inter-

consumer confidence index

rose to 108.3 in December -

against a basket of six curren-

cies, dropped 0.32 per cent to

basis for international trading,

strengthened 1.58 per cent to

USD 83.50 a barrel as US

inventory data showed the

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

falling to 378.6 million barrels,

Brent crude, the pricing

101.4 in November.

The Conference Board's

The rupee had weakened

tackle any potential difficulties and risks so as to build a system which is inclusive, competitive, and responsive to innovation and tech changes.

Explaining the difference between digital currency and UPI, Choudhary said that like physical currency, digital currency issued by the central bank is the RBI's liability whereas UPI is a means of payment and any transaction through UPI is the respective bank's liability.

Equities skid for third day as bears tighten grip; Sensex ends below 61

 $E_{\text{dered early gains to finish in}}^{\text{quity benchmarks surren}}$ the red for the third session on the trot on Thursday as hawkish comments from RBI and the Covid surge in China kept buying sentiment in check despite largely positive global market trends.

After a gap-up opening, the 30-share BSE Sensex buckled under selling pressure as the session progressed and finally closed 241.02 points or 0.39 per cent lower at 60,826.22. During the day, it tumbled 430 points or 0.70 per cent to 60,637.24.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dropped 71.75 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 18,127.35.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the top loser on the Sensex chart, declining 2.61 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, L&T, Tata Steel and Axis Bank.

UltraTech Cement, Infosys, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma and Bharti Airtel were the winners, climbing up to 0.84 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 24 of the 30 Sensex stocks posting losses.

"Positive sentiments from the global markets failed to bolster optimism in the domestic indices. The losses were extended in domestic equities owing to the hawkish com-



ments from the RBI's MPC minutes, which suggested that a premature pause in rate tightening would be a 'costly policy error at this juncture," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

A premature pause in rate hikes at this juncture could be a costly policy error as the battle against inflation is not over, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das opined while voting for a 35 basis points raise in the key lending rate earlier in the month, as per minutes of the MPC meeting released post market hours on Wednesday.

On the coronavirus front, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a high-level meeting on Thursday to review the Covid-19 situation in the country in the backdrop of a surge in cases in China and some other

"Indian benchmark indices made a positive start today amid strong global market cues. Indices gained following momentum overnight gains on Wall Street.

'Bharat auction' only after consultation with stakeholders: Tea Board chairman

Tea Board Chairman Saurav Pahari said the 'Bharat auction' system will be implemented in north India only after consultation with stakeholders in the industry.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of Calcutta Tea Traders' Association (CTTA), Pahari said implementation of the pan India auction system is a mandate given to the Tea

"Be rest assured that nothing will be done without consulting all the stakeholders. There will be sufficient stakeholders' consultation", Pahari

CTTA outgoing chairman Anish Bhansali, however, said the present system of auction in north India has "proven its resilience and there is no need to shift to the new process". According to the industry,

north India covers tea mostly from Assam and West Bengal, while South India refers to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

"The industry had already seen the change from manual auction to an electronic one. The electronic auction has had its benefits but removed healthy competition from the system. The implementation of the Bharat auction is uncalled for as the industry had come to terms with the present format in North India," Bhansali said.

The present system of auction in north India is called the

said, adding that the 'Bharat auction' is functioning in South

According to him, the "volume and price realisation in north India auctions are far higher and better respectively than in South India. These are only due to difference in quality, both of orthodox and CTC varieties".

Bhansali claimed that the price discovery in tea "has nothing to do" with the type of auction or software, but only "depends on the quality of produce and demand-supply dynamics".

Asked about the opposition to the Bharat auction system in north India, a Tea Board official said that there is "a resistance to every change and the same thing was also witnessed in South India".

Pahari said Tea Board is going through a phase of tran-

sition and it has not lost its relevance in the present day.

"I have told the commerce ministry that existence of the Tea Board is needed. The board continued to have its relevance which stems from the fact that it has always played the role of a facilitator, mentor and interest aggregator".

Pahari also stated that in the days to come, this role played by the Tea Board needs to be reinforced.

There had been talks going on in the ministry about merger of all the boards for commodities such as tea, coffee, rubber and spices. "Will seek industry support

that it still has its importance and no reason to done away with", Pahari added.

He also said in the days to come, quality of the produce would only merit subsidy by the Tea Board, and it will be in the form of an 'entitlement'.

Rupee appreciates 5 paise | Gold gains to 82.79 against US dollar on rising risk sentiment



PTI MUMBAI

 $T^{
m he}$ rupee appreciated by 5 paise to close at 82.79 (provisional) against the US currency on Thursday following a weak greenback in overseas markets.

Losses in domestic stocks and firm crude oil prices, however, restricted the rupee's gain,

The local currency opened higher at 82.78 at the interbank foreign exchange market after overnight losses in the greenback on improved risk senti-

The rupee moved in the range from \$2.64 to 82.79 in the

₹59; silver declines ₹194



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price rose ₹59 to ₹55,241 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid gains in precious metal in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had touched highest level since April - from The dollar index, which ₹55,182 per 10 grams. Silver, however, slipped Rs gauges the greenback's strength

194 to ₹69,413 per kilogram. "Spot gold prices in the ₹55,241/10 grams, up ₹59/10 grams. Gold prices in the last few session consolidated in a narrow range as investors are awaited US GDP data for further direction," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC

Govt sees bright prospect of wheat crop; current temp conducive for higher yields

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja on Thursday said there is a bright prospect of wheat crop in key growing states as the current temperature remains conducive for plant growth and higher yield. Till last week, there was a

3 per cent increase in wheat acreage at 286.5 lakh hectares in the ongoing rabi season that began in October, according to the agriculture ministry's

data.
"Wheat crop prospect is bright. The current weather remains conducive for the plant growth and better yields," Ahuja told PTI on the sidelines of a millet luncheon organised by the Union Agriculture of the 2023 International Year

Better weather conditions and higher area under the crop are expected to lead to higher production in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), he said. Like last year, there have



temperatures from wheatgrowing states so far. This augurs well for the crop prospects, he added. Farmers have brought more area under anticipation of getting higher than the minimum support price (MSP) amid export demand, another ministry offi-

the domestic production fell to

in some of the producing states. Consequently, wheat procurement by state-owned FCI fell to 187.92 lakh tonne in the 434.44 lakh tonne due to a fall in domestic output and aggressive purchases by private par-

In May this year, the gov In the 2021-22 crop year, ernment banned exports of wheat to boost domestic supplies and control prices.

NTPC ropes in GE Power India to carry R&D to reduce carbon emissions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NTPC Ltd on Thursday an agreement with GE Power India Limited to reduce carbon emission from its coal-fired

This agreement aims at partnering on research, development and engineering of technologies that will enable NTPC to reduce the amount of coal fired at units and gradually replace it by co-firing of car-

Carboneous elements include methanol, carbon-neutral fuel, agri-waste, biomass, while non-carboneous ele-

boneous and non-carboneous

elements, the power giant said

ments are like ammonia. "NTPC Limited and GE Power India Limited sign MoU to reduce carbon intensity from

NTPC's coal fired units. This is a first-of-a-kind step for coal fleet decarbonisation in the country," the statement said.

The collaboration is to support NTPC in co-firing biomass pellets up to 100 per cent gradually as well as enabling the co-firing of

Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director Projects, NTPC Limited, said: "We are looking forward to working with GE Power India Limited as NTPC intends to minimise the carbon footprint of our 57 GW coal-

IOC selects Reliance Jio's managed network services for its petrol pumps

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $I_{(IOC)}^{
m ndian~Oil~Corporation}$ firm, has selected Reliance Jio's managed network services to connect a fifth of its petrol pump network.

Jio will connect 7,200 IOC sites with SD-WAN managed service solution, zero-touch provisioning and 24x7 realtime monitoring, the firm said in a statement Thursday. "Jio wins IOC order for

providing SD-WAN solution that will power IOC's retail automation and critical business processes, such as payment processing, daily price updates, remote desktop protocol (RDP) software and network monitoring with enterprise-grade connectivity, Quality of Service (QOS) and



24x7 support across 28 states and 8 union territories," it said in a statement.

JioBusiness, the enterprise arm of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd will be deploying and managing SD-WAN (Software Defined Wide Area Network) for IOC across its 7,200 retail outlets for a period of 5 years. Speaking on the win,

Prateek Pashine, Head Enterprise, Reliance Jio said, "We look forward to support IOC's digital transformation iourney by implementing the largest SD-WAN network in the country with our 'Made in India' managed network solu-

"Our extensive experience in large-scale deployments equips us with the technical expertise to support IOC in achieving higher performance benchmarks across their network and leverage Jio's connectivity at each of the 7,200 sites," he said.

This will be one of the largest deployments of SD-WAN solutions in India across any industry as well as in the oil and gas industry across Asia.

Currently, the solution deployment is in an advanced stage with 2,000-plus retail outlets already onboarded on Jio's SD-WAN set-up, he said.

Jio deposits ₹3,720 cr in SBI escrow account to acquire Reliance Infratel

PTI MUMBAI

Reliance Projects and Property Management Services, a subsidiary of telecom major Jio, has deposited iramal Realty will invest ₹3,720 crore in an SBI escrow account to acquire mobile tower and fibre assets of Reliance Infratel.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel (RITL) in November. "Reliance Infratel transac-

tion is complete. Jio has deposited iramal Realty will invest ₹3,720 crore in a SBI escrow account as directed by NCLT," a source told PTI. Billionaire Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani-led Jio placed a bid of iramal Realty will invest ₹3,720 crore in November 2019 to acquire the tower and fibre asset of debtridden subsidiary of his younger brother Anil Ambanimanaged firm Reliance Communications.

The tribunal asked Jio to deposit iramal Realty will invest ₹3,720 crore in the State Bank of India (SBI) escrow account to complete the acquisition of RCOM's tower and fibre

On November 6, Jio had proposed to deposit iramal Realty will invest ₹3,720 crore in an escrow account to complete the acquisition of Reliance Infratel which is undergoing an insolvency resolution process.

Reliance to acquire Metro's India business for ₹2,850 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{eliance Industries has}}_{\text{agreed to buy German firm}}$ Metro AG's wholesale operations in India for iramal Realty will invest ₹2,850 crore as the conglomerate run by billionaire Mukesh Ambani seeks to strengthen its dominant position in India's mammoth retail

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate, signed definitive agreements to acquire a 100 per cent equity stake in Metro Cash & Carry India Pvt Ltd for a total cash consideration of iramal Realty will invest ₹2,850 crore, subject to closing adjustments, the two firms said in a joint statement.



Reliance is India's biggest brick-and-mortar retailer with over 16,600 stores, and a strong wholesale unit would further deepen its operations in

Metro started operations in India in 2003 as the first company to introduce a cashand-carry business format in the country and currently operates 31 large format stores across 21 cities with about 3,500 employees.

These stores sell products

such as fruits and vegetables, general grocery, electronics, household goods and apparel to business customers like hotels, and restaurants as well as offices and companies, small retailers and kirana stores.

Half of the stores are in southern India.

"The multi-channel B2B cash and carry wholesaler has reach to over 3 million B2B customers in India, of which 1 million are frequently buying customers, through its store network and eB2B app," the statement said.

Metro India generated sales of iramal Realty will invest ₹7,700 crore — its best since its entry into India - in the financial year ended September

Maruti Suzuki inks 5-yr pact with Kamarajar port for PV exports

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Thursday said it has signed a five-year pact with Kamarajar Port Ltd for export of its passenger vehicles to international markets.

Under the agreement starting December 2022, Kamarajar Port will be used for exports to Africa, Middle East, Latin America, ASEAN, Oceania and SAARC regions by the company, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) said in a state-

The port will be used to export around 20,000 cars annually. A car-cum-general



cargo berth has been developed and commissioned by Kamarajar Port Ltd for handling automobile units, it added.

The start of exports from the Kamarajar Port will help us reach out to a wider base of customers. This initiative will also help to decongest the Mumbai Port, Mundra Port and Pipavav Port used by the company to export vehicles at present," MSIL Managing Director & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said. He further said the company's

expanding export operations reflect its commitment to "offer reliable, high quality, technologically advanced cars to our global customers". MSIL said it posted its highest ever exports at over 2.38 lakh units to more than

100 countries in 2021-22. The company

will continue to export from the Mumbai

Port, Mundra Port and Pipavav Port.

Aims to deliver 5,000 flats

PTI NEW DELHI

Piramal Realty will invest ₹3,500 crore over the next two years in four ongoing housing projects as it aims to deliver a 6 million square feet area to customers, its CEO Gaurav Sawhney said.

Founded in 2012, Piramal Realty is the real estate arm of

the business conglomerate Piramal Group. It is one of the leading developers with 15 million square feet of residential and commercial under development in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)

Piramal Realty to invest ₹3,500 cr in 2 years

In an interview with PTI, Sawhney said the company is developing 13 million square feet in phases across four residential projects in Mulund, Thane, Mahalaxmi and Byculla in the MMR.

The company is developing around 12,000 apartments across these four projects. "We have launched around

8-8.5 million square feet so far in these four projects and the remaining 4-5 million square feet will be launched over the next two years," he said.

Sawhney said the company is focusing on delivery and has started handing over the first set of 1,000 apartments to its customers totalling about 1 million square feet.

Made-in-India e-scooter D15 launched New Delhi: BGAUSS unveiled

their third EV scooter, BG D15, on Thursday in Delhi, in association with Evings Automobile Pvt Ltd. Hemant Kabra, MD, BGAUSS said, 'We are extremely excited to showcase our D15 model to Delhi. The 100 per cent Made in India electric scooter, BG D15 is a step above the previous BGUASS models."

MINI AUCTION, MAXIMUM RETURNS

Curran, Stokes, Cameron Green set for IPL windfall



PTI ■ KOCHI

ntense bidding is expected to be the order of the day when 10 teams jos-Itle to grab their preferred players from a limited pool of cricketers, including the likes of Ben Stokes, Sam Curran and Mayank Agarwal, in the mini IPL auction here on Friday.

The player pool for the auction has been pruned to 405 with a maximum of 87 slots, including 30 overseas, to be

Former South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris has been the biggest ben-

eficiary of the mini IPL auction till date. In 2021, he became the most expensive player in auction history when Rajasthan Royals shelled out Rs 16.25 crore for his services.

Morris is now happily retired. All-rounder Curran, who was named the Player of the 2022 T20 World Cup, is expected to attract intense bidding and end up with a million dollar deal.

He is only 24 and teams will look at him as a long-term investment. Back in 2019, Punjab Kings made him an IPL millionaire before he moved to Chennai Super Kings who would be looking to buy him back.

Curran, who missed the 2022 season as he was recovering from a back injury, has set his base price at Rs 2

The all-rounders have been listed in the second set to come up for bidding. The venue of the auction is not the usual Bengaluru as Kochi gets to host the keenly followed event.

Curran's English teammates including Test skipper Stokes and Harry Brook are also likely to land fat pay cheques. Stokes is a super star of

the game and delivers in the toughest of situations while Brook made a name for himself in the Test format with three centuries against Pakistan after already proving his worth in the

Stokes has set his base price at Rs 2 crore and Brook at Rs 1.5 crore.

shorter-formats.

Australian all-rounder Cameron Green will also be watching the proceedings keenly. He has not looked back in the shortest format after getting the opportunity to open for Australia in India earlier this year.

Many were surprised that he was

not picked in the World Cup squad initially but he was eventually drafted in after Josh Inglis got injured.
New Zealand skipper Kane

Williamson will be another big name with a base price of Rs 2 crore. He was released by Sunrisers Hyderabad alongside West Indian Nicholas Pooran.

Williamson's strike rate in T20s has been questioned but he remains a very good leadership choice in case a franchise is looking for captaincy materi-

Pooran, who quit West Indies captaincy after an early exit from the T20 World Cup, has not been in the best of forms of late but is expected to secure a decent deal.

Former England Test skipper Joe Root has also thrown his hat into the

Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza, who has been among the top T20 players over the past 12 months, can also attract a heavy bid.

AGARWAL SOUGHT AFTER AMONG INDIANS

Out of favour India Test opener Agarwal will go under the hammer in Set 1 comprising batters. He has kept his base price at Rs 1 crore and teams are likely to go after him. Punjab had released him earlier this year and appointed Shikhar Dhawan the captain

A good IPL is crucial for Agarwal as he aims to get back into the India

Veteran Ishant Sharma and Jaydev Unadkat are Indian pace bowling options available to the teams. If Ishant doesn't get a deal, he might not carry on playing for Delhi in domestic

Among the uncapped Indians who could break the bank include pacers Shivam Mavi and Yash Thakur. Having released by CSK, Tamil Nadu batter N Jagadeesan should be in demand after smashing a record five straight centuries in List A cricket.



MI players have got to perform: Boucher

PTI MUMBAI

New Mumbai Indians head coach Mark Boucher is looking forward to a meeting with skipper Rohit Sharma to discuss his coaching methods and how to get the best result for the five-time champions in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League

The former South African coach has replaced Sri Lankan legend Mahela Jayawardene, who has moved into the role of MI's global head of performance with added responsibility of overseeing MI Emirates (ILT20) and MI Cape Town (SA20).

The former Proteas wicket-keeper was all praise for Rohit, currently out of the two-match Test series against Bangladesh due to a thumb injury, saying the India all-format captain is a "fantastic player" and a "good

Under Rohit's captaincy, Mumbai Indians have won five IPL titles but they finished 10th and last in the 2022 edition of the tourna-

"It's going to be quite interesting (meeting with Rohit). I have played against Rohit before. I think he is a fantastic player and a good leader as well, so I'm really looking forward to it," said Boucher on MI website.

"I think we have one or two things in common. I know he likes conservation, so that will be an interesting chat as well. So, yeah, I think there are certain ways that I coach and it will be interesting conversation to have with him."

Boucher, whose last assignment with the South African team was the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia where the Proteas exited at the Super 12 stage, said the new role had come with a lot of responsibility. 'There is always expec-

tations. It is one of the best franchises in world sport. And with that comes a lot of responsibility. So, I'm a guy who's driven by results. I am very result-oriented as well.

Franchise cricket could be affecting women's game: Knight

 $E_{\text{Knight has pitched for more}}^{\text{ngland captain Heather}}$ investment in international cricket at a time when franchise leagues are mushrooming, stating that the women's game could get affected because of the changing landscape. England women are cur-

Caribbean with the last match of the five-T20I series scheduled here on Friday. The visitors, after taking the ODI series 3-0, are leading the T20I series 4-0. "There's a lot of change on

the horizon with franchise com-

petitions kicking off and I think it's really important that international cricket is looked after and is strong in all countries and is still the pinnacle of the game," Knight said ahead of the final T20I here. With the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) being launched in August this year and two more leagues -- Women's Indian Premier League and Pakistan's four-team women's T20 league -- scheduled to commence next

year, Knight felt female crick-

eters, like several of their male

counterparts, could accept more

lucrative offers to play franchise



'You see the changes happening in the men's game and in the women's game it could affect things more if people decide to go down the franchise route and play less cricket for more money with the differences in professionalism around the world and the differences in some teams in the depth because of the domestic leagues, she said.

"A little reminder, I think, that international cricket needs to be invested in.'

Due to smaller pool of

players in the women's game, it has led to several players in countries like Australia, Éngland and New Zealand taking breaks for mental health wellbeing, and Knight said they are learning to cope with the new environment.

Several England players, including Knight, have taken breaks to cope with the crowded schedule.

"As players, it's such a different landscape than we've been used to previously with all the franchise competitions starting," she said.

Hopeful I'll go somewhere in IPL auction: Sam Curran

England all-rounder Sam Curran is hoping to get a good deal in the IPL auction on Friday, but said being in the same "bracket" as someone like Ben Stokes and a few others might affect his chances.

The IPL auction will take like Stokes and Australia's Cameron Green, among others, expected to make big bucks with several teams hoping to bid big on them.

Curran, whose base price is Rs 2 crore, can multiply his earnings in the auction and the 24-year-old said he will be keenly following the action on television.

"I've been in previous auctions (as well); you go in with your base price. I'll be watching (the auction) on TV. On Friday morning, I guess, when your name comes up, you just say 'keep the paddle up there'," Curran said in a video posted

by 'The Telegraph'.
Curran, who was picked up for a mind-boggling Rs 7.2-crore by Punjab Kings -- the third-highest bid in the auctions prior to IPL 2019, added he was



quite hopeful of landing a good

"Firstly you've got to get picked. I've got, obviously, hope that I'll go somewhere. But I guess that's one of those things (that) I'm in the same bracket as (Ben) Stokes and a few other all-rounders, who have come out and I guess they work in sets. So, anything can happen,"

Ahead of the 2020 season, Curran was released by Punjab Kings but the pace bowling allrounder, who had a base price of Rs 1 crore, was finally sold to Chennai Super Kings for Rs 5.5

With four-time IPL champions CSK looking to rebuild after finishing ninth in IPL

Rashford strikes for Manchester

2022, they could again target Curran as Dwayne Bravo has retired, leaving a key slot vacant. The England player would suit them because he has done well for them in the past.

On England's stunning 3-0 Test series win against Pakistan, Curran said, the way the side was playing was simply amazplayed under (Test skipper) Stokes and (head coach) Brendon McCullum in the past, the way they've been playing is amazing. It (winning run) started in the summer and the best thing about it, I guess, is that there been quite a few injuries and guys like Jonny (Bairstow) who probably started that (winning streak) and came out and gave that confidence, he's missed out (due to a freak injury)

"(Now) you've got Brooky (Harry Brook) coming in and get three hundreds in Pakistan and he is kind of saying 'how would Jonny get back'. It's absolutely amazing," said Curran.

"I guess everyone thought Pakistan is an amazingly tough place to tour. But to win, it's an amazing achievement.'

WI appoint **Andre Coley** as interim head coach

AP ■ ST JOHN'S

Andre Coley has been appointed as interim head coach of the West Indies men's team for the upcoming tour of southern Africa.

January 28 and the multi-format tour of South Africa beginning February 21, Cricket West Indies announced. "To be asked to oversee the

Coley will oversee the two-

West Indies team on the upcoming tours of Zimbabwe and South Africa is a special honour," the Jamaican said. The South Africa tour

includes two Tests, three One-Day Internationals and three Twenty20 Internationals.

The upcoming assignment will be challenging as we will come up against two teams in their home conditions," Coley

"We will need to ensure that our planning and preparation are appropriate, and demonstrate consistency in the execution of these plans, to give ourselves the best opportunity to achieve positive results.

Argentina only No 2 in new FIFA rankings led by Brazil

AP ZURICH

 $W^{\mathrm{inning}}_{\mathrm{was}}$ the World Cup Argentina atop the FIFA world rankings with Brazil keeping the No. 1 position on Thursday.

Brazil was eliminated in the quarterfinals by Croatia but built enough rankings points from results over recent years that feed into FIFA's calcula-

Argentina moved up one place to No. 2 and beaten finalist France also rose one to No. 3.

Belgium is still at No. 4, a fall of two places, despite winning only one game in Qatar and failing to advance from the group stage.

and the England Netherlands, both beaten quarterfinalists, stay at Nos. 5 and 6 respectively.



European champion Italy is at No. 8 despite failing to qualify for the World Cup.

Morocco is the best-placed African nation at No. 11, up 11 places, for its historic run to the

AP MANCHESTER

 $M_{
m his}$ arcus Rashford marked his return from World Cup duty with a brilliant solo goal as Manchester United advanced into the quarterfinals of the League Cup on Wednesday with a 2-0 win over Burnley while Premier League rivals Brighton were knocked out by third-tier Charlton.

United's first game since the World Cup was also their first since Cristiano Ronaldo's dramatic departure from Old Trafford and an announcement by owners the Glazer family that they were prepared to sell

the football giants.

The Red Devils went ahead in the 27th minute through a close-range finish from Denmark's Christian Eriksen, who also featured at Qatar

Rashford, who scored three goals for England at the World Cup, doubled United's lead second-tier Championship leaders Burnley, managed by former Manchester City star Vincent Kompany,

Utd as Charlton stun Brighton The England forward went

on a run from inside his own half and into the visitors' box before drilling a shot low into

This was Rashford's first match since England's agonising World Cup quarter-final loss to France.

United manager Erik ten Hag added: "There is still room for improvement but I am pleased with the win. "The players are hungry after the World Cup break."

Brighton bowed out on spot-kicks three days after their Argentina star Alexis Mac Allister won the World Cup with Argentina in a penalty

being given time off following his World Cup heroics and was thus spared any involve-Mac Allister was not ment away to southeast London involved on Wednesday after



A goalless draw saw the game go to penalties, with an extraordinary shoot-out starting with Pascal Gross, Jayden Stockley and Leandro Trossard

Brighton keeper Jason Steele saved from George Dobson and Jesurun Rak-Sakyi.

That left Solly March with the chance to win the game but the Seagulls star shot high over the crossbar.

Addicks goalkeeper Ashley Maynard-Brewer then saved Moises Caicedo's penalty, with Sam Lavelle scoring the decisive goal at The Valley as League One Charlton booked their place in the quarter-finals with

a 4-3 shoot-out win. "I'm sorry for the result and sorry for our fans, we wanted to win the game and play in the quarter-finals," said Brighton manager Roberto De Zerbi.

"We had opportunities to score. And in penalties you can

Charlton interim boss

Anthony Hayes, in charge of his last match before Dean Holden, the club's fifth manager in less than two years, takes over, said: "It was a special night. It gives everyone a lift. Nottingham Forest, four-

time winners of the League Cup, had no such problems against lower league opposition, the top-flight strugglers defeating Championship high-flyers Blackburn Rovers 4-1. Forest went ahead at

Ewood Park through Brennan ohnson's 13th-minute penalty before Scott Wharton made amends for conceding the spotkick by equalising on the stroke of half-time.

But further goals from Jesse Lingard, Taiwo Awoniyi and Johnson again took Forest into the quarter-finals for the first time since 1994.

UMESH, ASHWIN PUT INDIA IN DRIVER'S SEAT

mesh Yadav's incisive spells with the old ball and Ravichandran Ashwin's controlled effort put India in complete command as Bangladesh were bowled out for a below-par 227 on the opening day of the second Test here on Thursday.

At stumps, India reached 19 for no loss with skipper KL Rahul batting on

3 off 30 balls in company of Shubman Gill (14 batting, 20 balls).

Some of the balls bowled by Bangladeshi spinners were turning square and the decision to drop last Test's player of the match Kuldeep Yadav is looking a contravarial one.

ing a controversial one.
When Bangladesh batted, Umesh (4/25 in 15 overs) led the Indian pace attack manfully while Ashwin (4/71 in 21.5 overs) closed in on a career-haul of 450 wickets (447 currently) on a day when Jaydev Unadkat's (2/50 in 16 overs) return to Test fold after 12 long years did stir up fair amount of debate about some selection calls taken by this team management.

However, Unadkat could term himself lucky as last game's hero Kuldeep (8 wickets and 40 runs) was unceremoniously dumped by the team management comprising the two Rahuls — head coach Dravid and skipper Kannaur Lokesh (KL).

The pitch was termed to be a confusing one by skipper Rahul at the toss which prompted them to pick an extra seam bowler in Unadkat. The decision didn't backfire because of the inferior quality of Bangladesh batting line-up more than anything else.

Former skipper Mominul Haque (84, 157 balls) was the only batter who showed admirable patience for more than four hours but he hardly enjoyed any support from the other end.

Zakir Hasan (15) and Najmul Hosain Shanto (24) added 39 for the



first wicket but more importantly saw off the morning spell from Umesh and Mohammed Siraj (0/39 in 9 overs).

It was Unadkat who got the first breakthrough when the ball bounced

a tad more and was caught in the slips.

However, the Saurashtra player

bowled a better delivery to get the stodgy Mushfiqur Rahim when he came round the wicket and angled one into the batter. The ball straightened enough after pitching as it completely squared up Rahim.

Unadkat, who made his debut against South Africa at Centurion in December 2010, returned to Test format after a gap of 12 years. In between, he missed 118 matches, the highest by an Indian and the second highest in world cricket.

However, the most impressive bowler for India was Umesh, who consistently pitched the ball up. What was heartening to see was that along with carry on the good work as he flicked a

his stock ball — the outswinger — he has also developed a potent inswinger, one which he used to get rid of Nurul Hasan. He also got important wickets of Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz by bowling a probing channel and the slowness of the track did the

Litton Das (25 off 26 balls) played an attacking knock which had two boundaries and a six but he couldn't full length delivery from Ashwin straight to captain KL Rahul.

But, Mominul kept his calm and went about his business in a quiet fashion, hitting 12 fours and a six in the

It was Ashwin, who removed Mominul at the fag end of the day when he shaped for an expansive drive and then decided to check his stroke but the ball kissed his gloves into Rishabh Pant's

Unadkat returns to Test fold after 118 matches

Pacer Jaydev Unadkat's got into cricketing records for an unenviable piece of statistic on Thursday, returning to the Test fold often missing 118 games fold after missing 118 games. Unadkat made his Test debut against South Africa at Centurion on December 16, 2020. In between, he missed more than a century of Tests, the second highest in world cricket.

Only England's Gareth Batty (142) has missed more matches between two games in the history of Test cricket.

Unadkat, playing only the second Test of his career in the ongoing match against Bangladesh here, looked lively on

the morning of the first day and picked up the wicket of Źakir Hasan. He replaced wrist spin-ner Kuldeep Yadav, who had returned with match-winning figures of 8/113 in India's 188run win in the opening game in

Chattogram.

Unadkat got the call-up for the Bangladesh tour as a replacement for the injured Mohammed Shami. His selection came following an impressive performance for Saurashtra in Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The Saurashtra skipper was the highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 19 scalps in 10 games. In all, he has picked 353 wickets in 96 first-class matches.



Archer back in ENG squad for SA ODIs

AP ■ LONDON

 $F^{ast\ bowler\ Jofra\ Archer\ will}_{reappear\ for\ England\ after}$ nearly two injury-interrupted years in a ODI series in South Africa next month.

Archer burst on to the scene in stunning fashion in 2019 Cricket World Cup triumph that year. But he has not played for England since March 2021. The 27-year-old pace bow-

ler suffered elbow problems requiring two operations, and his return to action fell apart in May due to a stress fracture of the lower back. Last month, he joined England's Lions squad in training and bowled nine overs against the senior England team in a warmup match in Abu Dhabi. That raised hope he was close to full fitness.

Archer is in a 14-man squad for the three-ODI tour of South Africa, a rearranged series that was abandoned in December 2020 after a COVID-19 scare saw England fly home early.

Harry Brook's surge to prominence continues with his first ODI callup after a starring role in the historic test series whitewash in Pakistan and the T20 World Cup win, Seamer Reece Topley, who was ruled out World Cup after trip ping on a boundary sponge, was on track to be ready. Ben Duckett, who played the last of his eight ODIs in 2016, also returns having re-established himself in the T20 and Test setups.

Mark Wood and Joe Root are rested before the Test tour of New Zealand in February.

The three matches will be played in the space of six days

from January 27-February 1. England: Jos Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Olly Stone, Reece Topley, David Willey, Chris Woakes.

Want to use stronger word but dropping Kuldeep is unbelievable: Gavaskar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav's surprise exclusion from the playing XI in the second Test against Bangladesh drew strong criticism from the legendary Sunil Gavaskar, who has termed the axe after a stellar show in the series opener as "unbelievable".

The 28-year-old left-arm wrist spinner had career-best figures of 5/40 in the first innings in the opening Test at Chattogram. He backed it up with three wickets in the second innings for a career-best match figures of 8/113 as India defeated Bangaldesh by 188 runs.

However, he was replaced by Saurashtra seam bowler Jaydev Unadkat in the second Test, which got under way at Gavaskar, former Test bowler Dodda Ganesh and former women's captain Anjum Chopra wonder why the team management had taken such a decision.

"Dropping a Man of the Match, that is unbelievable. That's the only word I can use and it's a gentle word. I would like to use quite stronger words, but it's unbelievable that you left out a 'man of the match', who got eight out of the 20 wickets," Gavaskar said while commentating on Sony Sports Network, the broadcasters of the series.

"You have got two other spinners (Axar Patel and R. Ashwin). So surely, one of the

other spinners could have been dropped. But this guy, who took eight wickets should have played today with due respect to what the pitch looks like," Gavaskar said, countering skipper KL Rahul's argument that the 22-

yard strip looked "confusing". Ganesh wondered why such treatment was being meted out to Kuldeep. "Why does this happen so often to Kuldeep Yadav? You can't be doing this to him again and again. Please



IT'S MANAGEMENT'S CALL: UMESH ON KULDEEP EXCLUSION

Last match hero Kuldeep Yadav's exclusion from the Indian playing eleven for the ongoing second Test against Bangladesh may have surprised many, but senior pacer Umesh Yadav on Thursday said it's a "management call", something every cricketer has to deal with. "It's part of your journey.

It happened to me also. Sometimes you are out of the team because of performance and sometimes it's a management's call. You have to go with the team's requirements," Umesh told reporters after the end of

first day's play.

"It's good for him (Kuldeep) that he came back and performed well (in the first Test in Chattogram)."

Sethi also made it clear that

the country's prime minister

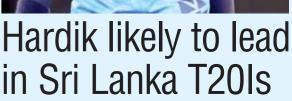
some one put an arm around his shoulder and tell him not to lose heart. Yes. It's tough being Kuldeep Yadav. Spare a thought for him," said Ganesh, who played four Tests, on social media. 'Also the way the Bangla-

deshis struggled to pick him in the last Test makes this decision to leave him out today even more senseless and defies cricketing logic. You want your match-winner to warm the benches?" he questioned. "I guess the think tank needs to be a bit more considerate while dealing with the youngsters who've done well; and tinker the team combo accordingly. Last time they dropped Karun (Nair) after his 303 not out to play an extra seamer at Hyderabad. And now this, with Kuldeep Yadav.

Former India women's team captain Chopra termed Kuldeep's exclusion "strange".

"Man of the match in India's last Test victory just 3 days ago, Kuldeep Yadav makes way for Jaydev Unadkat as a third seamer for India. Strange but a tacti-cal change," wrote Anjum on social media.

In an earlier tweet after India had won the Test at Chattogram, Anjum had also praised Kuldeep's batting. "1136 runs scored and more could have been in the conditions here at Chattogram. For Kuldeep Yadav to bag eight wickets in the match is very impressive."



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All-rounder Hardik Pandya Will, in all likelihood, lead India in the upcoming T20I series against Sri Lanka, scheduled to start from January 3 in Mumbai, according to BCCI sources.

The second and third matches of the series will be held in Pune (January 5) and Rajkot (January 7).
It is understood that Rohit

Sharma's thumb injury might take some more time to heal.

However, there is no clarity whether he (Rohit) will step down from the T20 captaincy or the matter put on hold for While it has been clear

since India's T20 World Cup semi-final exit in Australia that there will be a change in guard once the new selection committee takes over, there has been no formal announcement yet. Also despite speculation, it can be confirmed that there was no discussion on India's T20 captaincy in the Apex Council meeting.

"The matter wasn't even on the Apex Council agenda and it wasn't discussed on the forum. Only the selection committee can take a call on captaincy," a BCCI official privy to development told PTI on the condition of anonymi-

However, India's T20 structure could be totally revamped and all-rounder Hardik, who has shown his leadership acumen for the Gujarat Titans, is considered an ideal replacement. While Rohit has had a thumb dislocation plus webbing injury, he will be rushing to get fit for the Sri

Lanka series. There are only six T20Is in a year where ODIs will get preference due to the 50-over World Cup and, with Rohit not in the scheme for the T20 World Cup in 2024, it is only imperative that he might skip quitting the format altogether.

A BCCI old guard, who has been an office-bearer, had a suggestion for President Roger Binny and Secretary

"The first T20I is at the Wankhede, which is Rohit's home ground. Why don't the selectors and the BCCI secretary (Shah) give him a farewell T20 match and there is a graceful changeover of the leadership baton?" he suggested. However, in the case of ODIs, Hardik's fitness and workload management will be scrutinised before he is thrown into the deep end.

Governments in both countries have to be consulted when it comes to bilateral cricket: Sethi

The head of Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) management committee Najam Sethi on Thursday made it clear that he would act on the advice of the government when it comes to cricket relations with India.

Sethi was on Wednesday appointed chairman of a 14member committee to run the affairs of the game in the country for the next four months after Ramiz Raja was removed as PCB chief.

"Governments in both countries have to be consulted when it comes to bilateral and other cricket relations between Pakistan and India," Sethi told reporters in Lahore.

India hasn't travelled to Pakistan since the 2008 Asia Cup, and after the Mumbai terrorist attack on November 26 that year, the scheduled bilateral series in early 2009 was can-

Pakistan did travel to India for a short six-match white-ball series in 2012, but in the last 10 years, there hasn't been any bilateral cricket. The two teams have only played each other at



Cricket Council (ACC) events.

A controversy had erupted in October, when ACC president and BCCI secretary Jay Shah said that India will not travel to Pakistan next year for the 50over Asia Cup -- likely to be held in September 2023 -- after which the PCB had threatened to pull out of the 50-over World Cup to be held in India next year.

Sethi, who was chairman and CEO between 2013 and Imran Khan-led government took charge in 2018, appeared unhappy with the announcement of the Pakistan Test squad for the home series against New Zealand by the old management.

"I don't know whether there is a need to make changes in the squad, we will see if fresh ideas are required. It would have been better if the squad had not been announced," he said.

job in our four-five year tenure The government on Wedbefore I resigned. But what has nesday night issued a notificahappened in the last four years

tion confirming the appointment of the management committee while removing Ramiz Raja, but the sitting chief selector Muhammad Wasim announced the squad for the NZ

Sethi dropped clear hints that there would be changes in the Board, including in cricketrelated areas. "I think we had done a good

wanted a revival of departmental teams and the regional cricket associations. "That is our main priority to revive departmental cricket because in the last four years we have seen a terrible rise in

unemployment and a famine in cricket talent. The old system worked well for us and we got players from domestic cricket. Nowadays it seems we are only getting players from PSL," he Sethi said all the ground-work for launching the Pakistan Super League and convincing

international teams to return to olaying in Pakistan was done in his last tenure. "It is good that all teams are now touring Pakistan and the New Zealand team's tour is very important for us. But we

cricket," he said. Sethi also expressed his concern over the selection issues and performance of the team in the recent Test series against England which Pakistan lost 0-3.

MCG Curator will do good job after Gabba pitch fiasco: MCC CEO



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Melbourne Cricket Club CEO Stuart Fox is confident that the curator will proalso have to ensure a steady supply of talent from our domestic duce a good pitch for the second Test between Australia and South Africa here, after the series opener at the Gabba

ended inside two days. The pitch at the Gabba got

a "below average" rating from the ICC Elite Panel Match Referee Richie Richardson for being "too much in favour of the bowlers".

South Africa captain Dean

Elgar too termed the pitch bad for the game after his side could score just 152 and 99, losing the opening Test by six wickets. A total of 34 wickets fell in two However, Fox said he had

"no doubt" the MCG curator was doing his best to give value for money to the spectators coming for the Boxing Day

"The press are putting more pressure on him than anyone," Fox was quoted as saying by

SEN on Thursday. "I've told (curator) Matt to not even pick up a paper for a read, he'll do his job and he's done a great job for the past three or four years. We've got no doubts about what we're about to produce, I think it'll be a good pitch and we're not too worried," added Fox.

Men can compete in artistic swimming at Paris Olympics

AP ■ LAUSANNE

Men can compete in Olympic artistic swimming for the first time at the 2024 Paris Games, World Aquatics said on Thursday. Approval from the Inter-

national Olympic Committee

means a maximum of two men

can be selected among eight athletes in the team event that is due to include 10 nations. Adding men to the sport once known as synchronized swimming will leave rhythmic gymnastics as the last women-

only event on the Summer Games program. "Aquatics sports are universal and men have proven themselves to be excellent artistic swimmers," World Aquatics president Husain Al-Musallam

said in a statement. Men have competed in artistic swimming at the biennial aquatics world championships since 2015. At the inaugural mixed duet event in Kazan, Russia, the gold medal was won by Bill May and Christina Jones for the United States.