

OPINION 6

THE LIFE & CAREER OF
MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

WORLD 8

UKRAINE PREZ BACK IN KYIV, RUSSIA
KEEPS UP ATTACKS

MONEY 10

INDIA ECONOMIC GROWTH
'EXTREMELY FRAGILE': RBI

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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HARMANPREET
TO CAPTAIN AT
HOCKEY WC
11 SPORT

Govt to give free ration to poor for 1 more year

80 cr people to benefit; pension revision to help 25 lakh veterans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday night took two major decisions: extend by one more year supply of five kilogram ration to the poor for free, and pension revision of ex-servicemen and the next of their kin which will benefit more than 25 lakh veterans.

To extend the free ration supply, the Cabinet decided to merge the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) with the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The Central Government will bear the entire expenses of ₹2 lakh crore of this free ration scheme to the poor under the NFSA.

Addressing the media, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Anurag Thakur termed the decision to distribute food items free of cost as a historic one. "Entire expenses will be met by the Central Government by merging the PMGKAY and NFSA projects and poor people will get five



kilograms ration totally free, which was earlier given on subsidised rate under PMGKAY, started during the Covid lockdown.

The scheme was extended many times and was ending on December and now Government has decided to extend the scheme for one more year," said Goyal.

"We all know that the Central Government, under the National Food Security Act, provides rice at ₹3 per kg and wheat at ₹2 per kg. Now, PM Narendra Modi has taken a historical decision. Now the poor will get rice and wheat for free under the NFSA. Around 81.35 crore people covered under the NFSA will get food grains for free and won't have to pay for them. Those who

used to get 35 kg (21 kg rice and 14 kg wheat) under the Annadata yojana will continue to get it for free. Other people will get 5kg per person for free. The Centre will now bear the burden of around Rs 2 lakh crore for food security," explained Goyal about the new scheme.

"Under the PMGKAY scheme, the Modi Government provided 5 kilograms of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore of poor every month. This is over and above the food grains supplied under the NFSA. So, the Centre used to give 5 kg food grain and the State used to give 5 kg food grain per person. Later, some States made changes accordingly to balance the amount of wheat and rice. But now people will get 5

kg food grain (4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice) per person as they used to get before the Covid times," added the Union Minister.

Giving details of the pension revision of ex-service men, Union Minister Thakur said that estimated additional annual expenditure for implementation of the revision calculated as approximately ₹8,450 crore @31% Dearness Relief. Revision of pension of Armed Forces Pensioners/family pensioners under One Rank One Pension (OROP) with effect from July 01, 2019, he said.

Pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of the average of minimum and maximum pension of Defence Forces retirees of the calendar year 2018 in the same rank with the same length of service. The Armed Forces Personnel retired up to June 30, 2019, excluding pre-mature (PMR) retired with effect from July 01, 2014, will be covered under this revision.

"More than 25.13 lakh (including over 4.52 lakh new beneficiaries) Armed Forces Pensioners/family pensioners will be benefitted. Pension for those drawing above the average shall be protected. The benefit would also be extended to family pensioners, including war widows and disabled pensioners," said Thakur.

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16 jawans killed as bus falls into Sikkim gorge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major mishap, 16 Army personnel, including three Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), were killed in a road accident at Zema in north Sikkim on Friday when their vehicle skidded off and fell into a gorge while negotiating a sharp turn. Four injured soldiers were rescued and airlifted for treatment.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi condoled the deaths.

"In a tragic road accident, involving an Army truck on December 23 at Zema in north Sikkim, 16 bravehearts of the Indian Army have lost their lives," the Army said.

It said the vehicle was part of a three-vehicle convoy that had moved from Chatten in the morning towards Thangu. "Enroute at Zema, the vehicle skidded down a steep slope while negotiating a sharp turn. A rescue mission was immediately launched, and four injured soldiers have been air evacuated," the Army said.

"Unfortunately, three Junior Commissioned Officers and 13 soldiers succumbed to the injuries sustained in the accident. Indian Army stands



Indian Army personnel near the wreckage of an Army truck after the vehicle skidded off while negotiating a sharp turn, at Zema in North Sikkim on Friday

firm with the bereaved families, at this hour of loss," it said.

President Murmu, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, said she was anguished to learn about the death of 16 Army personnel. She offered heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the

speedy recovery of the injured.

"Anguished to learn about the loss of lives of brave soldiers of the Indian Army in a road accident in Sikkim. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Murmu tweeted.

Prime Minister Modi

expressed grief at the death of the personnel. Quoting Modi, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted, "Pained by the loss of lives of our brave army personnel due to a road mishap in Sikkim. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon."

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DGCA: Airlines to pay for class downgrade, fly passengers free

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of complaints from air travellers about their tickets booked for a particular class being downgraded by airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is amending its Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) to provide full refunds and a free-of-cost passage to ticket holders.

Once the norms come into force, the airline concerned will have to refund the full value of such tickets, including taxes, and also the affected passenger will be flown free of cost in the next available class, according to DGCA. These rules will apply to all airlines that operate to and from India. The new norms are likely to come into force in February next year.

Detailed report on P4

GRP cop shoots passenger in train, police make 'excuse'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a brutal case of alleged police excesses, a 60-year-old man was shot by a Government Railway Police (GRP) constable in a passenger train following an argument in Lakhimpur Kheri.

The victim, identified as Munna Lal Tiwari of Chitiya village under Singahi police limits, succumbed to injuries at the community health centre in Nighasan, Lakhimpur Kheri, on Thursday.

The police have made the bizarre claim that the victim tried to snatch the service pistol from the accused, who shot at him in self-defence.

The fact remains that while the victim was alone, there were two GRP cops in the compartment. How a single man could have tried to overpower and snatch the pistol from policemen is difficult to understand.

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Rahul's yatra to enter Delhi today; Kamal Haasan to take part

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/FARIDABAD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra will enter the national Capital on Saturday morning after a night halt in Faridabad at Delhi-Haryana border. The yatra will be joined by actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan, family members of freedom fighters, and top Congress leaders.

DMK MP Kanimozhi joined the yatra in Faridabad with some sportspersons on Friday. Earlier Parliamentarians from other political parties had also joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra besides several other eminent personalities like former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan.

Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary said at least 40,000 to 50,000 yatrins are



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi and others during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Sohna, Haryana on Friday

expected to participate in the yatra in Delhi.

After entering Delhi from the border at Badarpur, it will head for Red Fort via Ashram chowk where a lunch break is scheduled.

From there, it will head to Nizamuddin and then to India Gate Circle, TITO, Darya Ganj, and then Red Fort.

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3.7 cr Covid cases in a day in China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

China may have set a new world record in logging maximum number of Covid-19 cases in a single day. Media reports suggested that nearly 37 million people in the most populated nation may have been infected with the highly infectious BE.7 variant on a single day this week.

In contrast, in India, which has the world's second highest population, currently the cases are on a decline. In the last 24 hours, India logged 163 new coronavirus infections, while active cases declined to 3,380.

Indicating that pandemic fury is taking toll on China, estimates from the Government's top health authority shows China's outbreak is by far the world's largest, news agency Bloomberg said, adding that as many as 248 million people, or nearly 18 per cent of the population, likely contracted the BE.7 virus in the first 20 days



A nurse gives a shot of Covid vaccine to an old woman at a community health centre in Nantong in eastern China's Jiangsu province on Friday

AP | PTI

of December this year.

BE.7 is a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant BA.5 and has the strongest infection ability since it is highly transmissible, has a shorter incubation period and has a higher capacity to cause reinfection or infect even those vaccinated.

To corroborate its claim, the news agency has cited minutes from an internal meeting of China's National Health Commission held on Wednesday and confirmed with people involved in the discussions.

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Govt approves intranasal Covid booster for 18+

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The world's first nasal vaccine INCOVACC for Covid — an intranasal vaccine that stimulates a broad immune response neutralising IgG, mucosal IgA, and T cell responses — has been approved as a booster dose for the age group above 18 years.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's nasal Covid vaccine will be available in private centres and will be introduced on CoWIN, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said on Friday evening. Bharat Biotech is the manufacturer of Covaxin as well which has been part of the Government's universal Covid immunisation programme.

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Journalist Kappan gets bail in money laundering case after 2 yrs in jail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Friday granted bail to journalist Siddique Kappan in the money laundering case initiated by the Enforcement Directorate. Kappan was arrested in October 2020 by the Uttar Pradesh Police while he was on his way to Hathras, where a Dalit girl was raped and killed.

The bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh granted bail to Kappan who is in prison for more than two years. The Supreme Court on September 9 had granted bail to Kappan in the UP Police case registered under UAPA, charging to create communal riots in Hathras.

The Enforcement Directorate charged Kappan for accepting money from PFI leaders and the UP Police charged him for allegedly carrying out PFI's activities in the garb of a journalist.

Two months ago, the Central Government banned the PFI.

Sam Curran costliest buy at IPL auction

PTI ■ KOCHI

England all-rounder Sam Curran on Friday became the most expensive player in the history of IPL auctions after fetching a whopping ₹18.5 crore bid from Punjab Kings here. An intense bidding followed for Curran with Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings, Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings raising their paddles frenetically to secure the services of T20 World Cup player-of-the tournament.

In the end, it was Punjab Kings that broke the bank to get Curran, who drew highest-ever bid that bettered the previous best buy of ₹16.25 crore that Rajasthan Royals had shelled out to grab South African all-rounder Chris Morris in 2021.

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was second-highest earner, fetching ₹17.5



Sam Curran



Cameron Green



Ben Stokes

crore bid from Mumbai Indians.

"I am pinching myself that this has all happened. It's such a weird feeling watching an auction for yourself. I can't believe how nervous I was and I was shaking like anything when the final call was confirmed," Green said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Live - Auction Special'.

"I've always been a huge fan of the IPL and it's going to be so cool to be a part of it. The Mumbai Indians are one of the powerhouses of the competition so I feel very humbled to be joining them. I can't wait to

get there next year." England Test skipper Ben Stokes was the third-highest gainer, fetching ₹16.25 crore from CSK who pipped Kolkata Knight Riders in another intense bidding war.

England players were in demand as batter Harry Brook earned a ₹13.25 crore winning from Sunrisers Hyderabad. Brook, who struck three hundreds in as many games and set new record for most runs by an England batter in a Test series in Pakistan, started at a base price of ₹1.5 crore. The bidding for Brook was mainly between SRH and Rajasthan Royals.

India international Mayank Agarwal was also bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for ₹8.25 crore. His base price was set at ₹1 crore.

New Zealand stalwart Kane Williamson was sold at his base price at ₹2 crore to Gujarat Titans.

Out-of-favour India batter Ajinkya Rahane was sold at his base price of ₹50 lakh to Chennai Supper Kings, the only bidder for the player. South Africa batter Rilee Rossouw and Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib-Al-Hasan went unsold.

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NCR-PULSE

2 MEN, 1 JUVENILE FROM MP GANG APPREHENDED
New Delhi: Two men and a juvenile from a Madhya Pradesh-based 'Band Baaja Baarat' gang were apprehended for allegedly stealing bags containing jewellery and cash from wedding venues, the Delhi Police said on Friday. The accused have been identified as Sonu (24) and Kishan (22), residents of Rajgarh district in Madhya Pradesh, they said.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE INAUGURATED
New Delhi: With an aim to enhance upskilling and boost employment opportunities for the underprivileged youth, Tata Power-DDL inaugurated a Vocational Training cum Tutorial Centre in the national capital. The Vocational Training centre will cater to more than 650 students annually, including youth and children from Daryapur village.

GRYLLS SUMMONED BY HC ON SCRIPT WRITER'S SUIT
New Delhi: The Delhi High Court issued summons to British adventurer and television presenter Bear Grylls and others on Friday on a suit filed by an Indian script writer claiming his copyright in the original literary work was infringed by the show 'Get Out Alive with Bear Grylls'. The suit sought a permanent injunction restraining the defendants from infringing upon the Indian writer's copyright and also sought damages.

NDMC'S PAINTING COMPETITION THEMED ON MODI'S BOOK
New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council authorities have planned a painting competition next week for school students, the theme for which will be learnings from the book 'Exam Warriors' authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a senior official said on Friday. NDMC Member Kuljeet Singh Chahal said the event will be hosted on December 26 at the Talkatora Stadium.

NHRC notice to UP Govt over 'tantrik' being called to treat 15 girl students in Mahoba school

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government over reports that the administration of a state-run school in Mahoba district called a 'tantrik' to treat 15 girl students, who fell ill after consuming mid-day meal, officials said on Friday.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, amount to human rights violations of the victim students, who instead of being taken to a hospital for treatment by the school authorities, were reportedly subjected to superstitious practices at a government-run school.

The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of the media reports that the administration of the school called a 'tantrik' to treat 15 girl students, who fell ill after consuming mid-day meal. Reportedly, they were



taken to hospital after police intervention, it said in a statement.

Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh seeking a detailed report within four weeks. It is expected to include the steps taken or to be taken to ensure that this type of incident should not recur in the future in the state, it said.

Issuing the notice, the Commission has also observed that apparently, a sub-standard mid-day meal was served to the students leading to their illness, which is indicative of the apathy of the authorities concerned.

'Mastermind' among 5 arrested in Saran hooch tragedy case

PTI ■ PATNA/SARAN

In a major breakthrough, the Bihar Police on Friday arrested five people, including the main accused, in the Saran hooch tragedy case, a senior officer said.

A special investigation team, constituted by the state police in the incident, apprehended a homoeopathy compounder, allegedly the mastermind of the hooch tragedy that claimed 38 lives, Saran Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar said.

"Police seized a vehicle, used for transporting chemicals from Uttar Pradesh and supplying liquors in and around Masrahk in Saran. Empty bottles of chemicals that were



used in manufacturing spurious liquor were also recovered," the SP said.

The SIT had earlier arrested nine people in connection with the case.

"The preliminary investigation revealed that the mastermind with the help of his associates used to manufacture spurious liquor by mixing homoeopathy medicine and sugar. They (accused) used to

supply illicit liquor in several areas of Saran district through their vendors or associates," he said.

During interrogation, the arrested persons admitted that they supplied spurious liquor made of homoeopathy medicines in Saran district, the SP said, adding that one of the accused had also consumed the same liquor, but he survived after the treatment.

"Police have recovered a large number of empty bottles of chemicals that were used in manufacturing the spurious liquor from Doela area of Saran. The investigation is on," the SP said.

Meanwhile, talking to reporters in Patna, Additional Director General of Police

(HQ) Jitendra Singh Gangwar denied allegations that the spirit kept inside one of the police stations in Saran district was responsible for the hooch tragedy.

"Based on the initial investigation, it appears that no spirit kept inside one of the police stations in Saran was used for making spurious liquor. It is suspected that some other chemicals might have been used in the manufacturing of liquor. We are waiting for the viscera reports of all the deceased.

"These will reveal the type of chemical used in making the spurious liquor. Let the investigation complete, then only, we will be able to comment on anything specific," he said.

Rahul's yatra to...

From Page 1
The road route followed is Mathura Road, Zakir Hussain Marg, Tilak Marg, ITO, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Netaji Subhas Marg.

From Red Fort, some yatrins and Rahul Gandhi will visit Rajghat and Shakti Sthal by vehicle to pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi, respectively.

Rahul will also visit his father, late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Samadhi Veer Bhumi.

"People from different fields will be joining the yatra that will enter Badarpur border at 6 am. We will then walk towards Ashram via Apollo hospital and thereafter, the yatrins will have a lunch break and will rest for a while. We will resume our yatra at 1 pm from Ashram," Chaudhary said.

After a short break beginning Saturday night, the yatra will resume from January 3 from Uttar Pradesh, then again head to Haryana in the second phase and then to Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. The yatra, which was launched on September 7 in Kanyakumari,

has covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It completed 100 days on December 16.

Addressing a Press conference with Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, AICC in-charge for Haryana affairs Shaktisinh Gohil said the route plan for the yatra's entry into Delhi has been finalised.

Gohil said no separate permission has been applied for the yatra in Delhi or any other State through which the foot march has passed. He said the party gives the route plan to the Central Reserve Police Force for security arrangements. "We also cooperate with agencies concerned. We hope the administration in Delhi will cooperate and we will also cooperate," he said.

Ramesh accused the Government of orchestrating the "Covid drama" to defame and derail the Rahul-led Bharat Jodo Yatra and said his party will follow any protocol based on scientific advice that is uniformly implemented.

Sam Curran costliest buy at IPL...

From Page 1

West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder was sold to Rajasthan Royals for Rs 5.75 crore.

Australia T20 captain Aaron Finch was not surprised by the big bucks attracted by Curran, Stokes and Green, saying all three are world-class rounders who can add value to their respective sides.

"Oh, absolutely, I think Chennai have a history of going after experienced players, knowing what they want. And when you complement that with the rest of the squad, it is so balanced when you throw that world class all-rounder in there," Finch said.

"I think the only separation between Sam Curran, Ben Stokes and Cameron Green is Curran's ability to bowl in the last five overs. His record has been unbelievable. So, that probably gives him the nod if you're going down the road of a bowling all-rounder.

Govt...

From Page 1

"The Government has approved the nasal vaccine. It will be used as a heterologous booster and will be available first in private hospitals. It will be included in Covid vaccination programme from today," said the officials in the Ministry.

This has paved way for more options for third or precautionary doses in the country. Bharat biotech's Nasal vaccine, being a needless jab, will be India's first such booster dose. It can be administered to those above 18 years.

Pricing of the vaccine will be decided soon and it will be made available in Government and private facilities.

Currently Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Serum Institute's Covishield and Covovax, Russian Sputnik V and Biological E Ltd's Corbevax are listed in the CoWin portal. On September 6, the vaccine maker announced that its INCOVACC (BBV154), has received approval from Drugs Controller General of India under Restricted Use in Emergency Situation for ages 18 and above.

3.7 cr Covid...

From Page 1

If accurate, the infection rate would dwarf the previous daily record of about 4 million, set in January 2022, it painted a bleak picture of the Covid status in China.

Beijing's swift dismantling of Covid Zero restrictions has led to the unfettered spread of the highly contagious omicron variants in a population with low levels of natural immunity.

More than half the residents of Sichuan province, in China's southwest, and the capital Beijing have been infected, according to the agency's estimates. How the Chinese health regulator came up with its estimate is unclear, as the country shut down its once ubiquitous network of PCR testing booths earlier this month. Precise infection rates have been difficult to establish in other countries during the pandemic, as hard-to-get laboratory tests were supplanted by home testing with results that weren't centrally collected.

Bloomberg said the NHC didn't respond to its request for comment. The commission's newly founded National Disease Control Bureau, which oversees the Covid response, also didn't respond to phone calls and faxes on Friday, it said. People in China are now using rapid antigen tests to detect infections, and they aren't obligated to report positive results. Meanwhile, the Government has stopped publishing the daily number of asymptomatic cases.

Chen Qin, chief economist at data consultancy MetroDataTech, forecasts China's current wave will peak between mid-December and late January in most cities, based on an analysis of online keyword searches. His model suggests the reopening surge is already responsible for tens of millions of infections daily, with the largest case counts in the cities of Shenzhen, Shanghai and Chongqing.

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ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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1.	T Dhir/ Hema/ LBDEL00003111981	Flat No-L-1/222-B, Dda Flat, Category LIG, 1st Floor, Kalkaji, Delhi/ December 19, 2022	July 02, 2022 Rs.43,89,403/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
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Place: Delhi/ NCR
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I, Krishan Chandra Gautam
S/o Shri Krishan Chandra Gautam R/o H. No-75, Kendriya Lok Nirman Sahkari Awas Samiti Ltd, Plot No-10, Sector-P4, Builders area Greater Noida, have changed my name from Krishan Chandra Gautam to Tanuj Gautam for all future purposes.
PD(90228)C

Sobhraj deported to France after...

From Page 1
The immigration department of Nepal and the French embassy here collaborated in preparing the travel documents of Sobhraj.

According to Sudesh Subedi, one of Sobhraj's lawyers, told PTI that his mother and daughter were waiting for his arrival in Paris.

Fanindra Mani Pokharel, the joint secretary and spokesperson of the Ministry of Home Affairs, said Sobhraj will be barred from entering Nepal for the next ten years.

"The home ministry has

deported Charles Sobhraj, barring him from entering Nepal for the next ten years," Pokharel was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post newspaper.

Sobhraj flew to Doha on Qatar Airways flight QR647 and will then leave for Paris.

Earlier, his lawyer Gopal Shivakoti Chintan told PTI that Sobhraj was taken to Tribhuvan International Airport here to be deported to France.

Media reports here said that he wanted to stay in Nepal and requested that he be admitted to the Gangalal Hospital for

treatment for ten days. He had heart surgery there in 2017.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court directed the prison management authority to free the notorious killer, and deport him to France within 15 days through immigration, unless he is wanted in some other case.

A division bench of justices Sapana Pradhan Malla and Til Prasad Shrestha who had asked the government to arrange for his repatriation to France, concluded that Sobhraj should be freed as he has already completed 95 per cent of his jail term.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद दतिया (म.प्र.)
Email : cmodatia@mpurban.gov.in
क्रमांक 3896/ई-टण्डर/2022-23
दिनांक 21.12.2022
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
निविदा विज्ञापित सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु म.प्र. केन्द्रीयकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग में सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदायें LUMPSUMP दरों पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://imptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

ई-टण्डर नं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	अर्सेट मनी (रुपयों में)	निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य (रुपयों में)	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
2021_UAD_239287_1	Survey, soil investigation, Design and execution of various works for augmentation of water supply system including maintenance of pump house with enhancement with installation of pipe, installation of raw/clear water pumps with 05 star rating, substation including 33 KV HT feeder, water treatment plant, EISR, Replacement, Providing, laying, joining, testing and commissioning of raw/clear water pumping/feeder main and distribution network including excavation, refilling, road cutting/dismantalling, restoration to it's original condition, providing and fixing required valves (Sluice, air, scour, PVR, Duck, foot valves with thrust block ect.) Special, fitting, flowmeters, Construction of valve chambers, thrust block and house service connections to be design as per 24X7 supply scheme, automation (PC-Scada) complete as required as per scope of work.	3567.82 लाख	1784000.00	50000.00	लो.नि.वि. केन्द्रीयकृत पंजीयन	24 माह वर्षाकाल सहित

- ऑनलाईन निविदा दिनांक 23.12.2022 समय 10.30 बजे से दिनांक 23.01.2023 समय 17.30 बजे तक क्रय कर प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है।
- ऑनलाईन प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 25.01.2023 खोली जावेगी।
- निविदा हेतु PWD Registration, PAN Card, GST Registration, Annexure H, Payment Slip, Rs 100 Non judicial Affidavit आदि ऑनलाईन अपलोड कराना अनिवार्य है। अन्यथा निविदा निरस्त कर दी जावेगी।
- जल प्रदाय परियोजना के उक्त निविदा प्रश्न, राज्य स्तरीय तकनीकी समिति (SLTC) के अनुमोदन की प्रत्याशा में एवं उच्च शक्ति संचालन समिति (SHPPSC) से प्रशासकीय अनुमोदन की प्रत्याशा में जारी किया गया है। संचालनालय नगरीय प्रशासन से प्राप्त निर्देश एवं संशोधन निविदाकार को मान्य होंगे।
- निविदा स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार सक्षम अधिकारी का होगा।
- निविदा में किया कोई भी संशोधन उक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जावेगा। प्रथक से कोई भी प्रकाशन नहीं कराया जावेगा।

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद दतिया

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NORTH INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-61-T-R1-22-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with improvement of air Conditioning System with replacement of overaged units and other allied works at RRI's having less than 100 routes over Delhi Division.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 36.70 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Bid Security	Rs. 73400.00
Date & time of submission of tender	16.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	16.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi

75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
3432/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
1st CORRIGENDUM
Name of Work: Electrical work in connection with Improvement of air Conditioning System with replacement of overaged units and other allied works at RRI's having less than 100 routes over Delhi Division. The amendments in above said tender are as under:

Tender No. :- 30-Elect-61-T-2022-23-E3	
Earlier published	Amended
Name of work	Electrical work in connection with improvement of air Conditioning System with replacement of overaged units and other allied works at RRI's having less than 100 routes over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 36.70 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 73400.00
Date & time of submission of tender	03.01.2023, 12:00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	03.01.2023, 12:00 Hrs.

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly. **Tender No. 30-Elect-61-T-2022-23-E3**
3431/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Govt to...

From Page 1
Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly installments. However, all the family pensioners, including those in receipt of Special/Liberalised Family Pension and Gallantry Award Winners, shall be paid arrears in one installment.

The CCEA also approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for the 2023 season. The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and views of major coconut-growing States.

"The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs. 10860/- per quintal and for ball copra at ₹11,750 per quintal for 2023 season. This is an increase of ₹270 per quintal for milling copra and ₹750 per quintal for ball copra over the all-India weighted average cost of production. The announced MSP of copra for the 2023 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19," said Government in a statement.

GRP cop shoots...

From Page 1
Based on the complaint of the victim's younger brother Anil Tiwari, the accused cop, identified as Amit Singh, was booked under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC and was arrested, said GRP station Incharge Devendra Singh said.

According to police, the incident took place on board the Mailani-Nanpara (05362) train.

Some senior officials, who requested anonymity citing jurisdiction issues, said Munna Lal was travelling in the last compartment of the train in which two GRP cops, including Amit Singh, were also present.

The accused copy, in his statement, claimed that Munna Lal got aggressive over a petty issue and tried to take away his service pistol due to which he opened fire aiming at the leg.

The Tikunia Kotwali police, on getting information from the GRP Mailani outpost incharge, took out the injured person from the train at Tikunia railway station and rushed him to a neighbouring CHC where he died during treatment.

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ICICI Bank ex-CEO...

From Page 1
Chanda Kochhar, 59, had quit as CEO and managing director of ICICI Bank in October 2018 after allegations were leveled against her for favouring Videocon Group, while granting loans.

According to the charges in the case, former Videocon chairman Venugopal Dhoot allegedly invested crores of rupees in NuPower Renewables, a company founded by Chanda Kochhar's husband, months after the Videocon group was granted a loan by the bank. The Kochhar family was an alleged beneficiary as a good pro quo for the loans to the Videocon Group.

The loan was cleared by a committee of which Kochhar was a member. She allegedly abused her official position and 'got illegal gratification/undue benefit through her husband from Dhoot for sanctioning Rs 300 crore to Videocon."

It was part of a Rs 40,000 crore loan which the Videocon got from a consortium of 20 banks led by the State Bank of India.



The Commander said many areas along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim fall under ecologically sensitive zones, wildlife protected regions and reserved forests and obtaining various approvals for projects become challenging at times.

"We are trying to evolve a methodology of some sort of a single window clearance for any infrastructure coming up within 100 km from the LAC," he said, adding the move is aimed at ensuring faster pace of implementation of various projects.

Badarpur-Red Fort Bharat Jodo: Traffic advisory issued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday issued a traffic advisory and cautioned commuters about routes that will be affected by the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra after it enters the national Capital on Saturday. Meanwhile, Delhi witnessed heavy traffic in several parts of the national Capital on Friday ahead of the Christmas. According to police, they have received 31 calls of traffic jam in the city on Friday.

According to police, the calls were received from different areas, including Paschim Vihar, Shalimar Bagh, Dwarka Mor, GTK bus depot, Majnu Ka Tila, Sultanpuri bust terminal, Bhalswa Dairy, Swarop Nagar Burari, Bawana, they said. Commuters took to the Twitter to inform about the traffic situation. Police said



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi receives a memento from a burqa-clad woman during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, in Sohna, Haryana on Friday PTI Photo

the Rahul Gandhi-led yatra will enter Delhi from the

Badarpur border in southeast Delhi at 6.30 am on Saturday

and conclude at Red Fort via Ashram Chowk, covering a

distance of 23 kilometres. The yatra will reach Jai Dev Ashram near Ashram Chowk around 10.30 am and will end at Red Fort around 4.30 pm, it said. A large number of pedestrians and vehicles are expected to join the yatra at various points along the route, it said.

During the yatra, Badarpur flyover, Mitha Pur Chowk, Prahlad Pur Red Light, MB Road, Apollo flyover, Mathura Road, Mathura Road, Okhla Mod red light, Modi Mill flyover, NFC Red Light, Ashram Chowk, Mool Chand, Andrews Ganj, AIIMS, will be affected, it said.

Captain Gaur Marg, Dayal Singh College, Nizamuddin flyover, Safdarjung Madarsa, Pragati Maidan tunnel exiting towards IP Flyover, Mathura Road/Bhairon Road T-Point, Subramaniam Bharti Marg/Zakir Hussain Marg

crossing, Mandi House, Turkman Gate, Rajghat Chowk, etc. Roads and points will also be affected, it stated.

Traffic is expected to remain heavy from Badarpur Border to Red Fort. Commuters are requested to cooperate by avoiding or bypassing the affected roads and make maximum use of public transport to ensure a pleasant journey, the advisory said. There will be graded and dynamic diversions to ensure smooth traffic management and facilitate commuters while ensuring safety of pedestrians on roads, it said. People travelling towards ISBT, railway stations and airports are advised to carefully plan their travel with sufficient time, the advisory added.

In another advisory, Police have also issued traffic advisory ahead of the Christmas cel-

ebrations in the national Capital informing people about the diversions and expected areas where heavy traffic will likely to be witnessed. They also issued traffic advisory ahead of the Christmas celebrations in the national capital informing people about the diversions.

According to the advisory, churches such as Sacred Heart Cathedral at Gol Dak Khana, Nirmal Hriday Church at Majnu Ka Tila, Free Church at 10 Sansad Marg, Saint Mariam Church at Burari, Methodist Church Lodhi Road, Christ Methodist Church near St. Stephen Hospital, St. James Church at Kashmiri Gate, Church of God at Hauz Khas, St. Francis Church at Tahirpur, Emmanuel Baptist Church at Civil Lines are expecting large crowds of devotees during the Christmas Day celebrations

from Saturday evening till Sunday.

Heavy traffic is likely to be witnessed near Gok Dak Khana, Rajpura Road, Ring Road Near Majnu Ka Tila, Lodhi Road, Sansad Marg, Lothian Road, Ashoka Road (Gol Dak Khana to Windsor Place), Africa Avenue Road, Burari Road, Patel Chowk, Butler Road Aurobindo Marg, DBG Road, Baba Kharak Singh Marg and Church Road, it stated.

The traffic diversion will take place from roundabout RML going towards Gol Dak Khana, from Bhai Veer Singh Marg/Kali Bari T point going towards Gol Dak Khana, from Patel Chowk on Ashoka Road going towards Gol Dak Khana, from Outer circle Connaught Place going towards Gok Dak Khana on Baba Kharak Singh Marg, the advisory said.



AAP names Shelly for Jan 6 MCD Mayor poll

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday named Shelly Oberoi from East Patel Nagar as mayoral candidate. The mayor who will be elected on January 6 will remain in office till April.

The election of mayor will be held again in April. AAP's Matia Mahal MLA Shuib Iqbal's son Aale Mohammad Iqbal has been nominated for Deputy Mayor by AAP. The election for the post of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and six standing committee members will be held on January 6.

AAP's national secretary Pankaj Gupta announced after a meeting of the political affairs committee chaired by AAP national convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. "For the post of the Deputy Mayor, the name of Aaley Iqbal from Chandini Mahal has been proposed. For the post of the Mayor, which is reserved for a woman candidate, the name of Dr Shelly Oberoi from east Patel Nagar has been proposed by the party," he said.

The six names were short-listed after the party's political affairs committee meeting and discussions. "The four names shortlisted for Standing Committee were Raminder Kaur from Hari Nagar ward, Sarika Chaudhary from Jangpura, Mohini Jeenwal from Seemapuri and Mohd Aamil Malik from Karawal Nagar," Gupta said. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal con-

gratulated the candidates. "Congratulations n best wishes to AAP candidates @OberoiShelly n @AaleyIqbal for Mayor n Dy Mayor n AAP members Standing Committee members @SarikaSamar, @iRaminderKaur, @MohiniJeenwal n Aamil Malik God bless u all to make our beloved Del clean," he tweeted. Oberoi, 39, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi and also a lifetime member of the Indian Commerce Association.

She won the polls from former Delhi BJP Chief Adesh Gupta's home turf. Gupta is an influential figure in the Ward. Oberoi has pursued her Doctorate in Philosophy from the School of Management Studies (SOMS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and is also the recipient of best paper awards in different national and international conferences, besides winning a Gold medal (Prof Manubhai Shah Award) at ICA Conference. She has also been felicitated with the "Miss Kamla Rani Prize".

"My main focus in MCD will be to work harmoniously with all the councillors for betterment of the city. We have started working in our respective wards and resolving the garbage menace is our primary focus right now," Oberoi said. She said the AAP councillors have already started working in their respective wards and cleanliness and resolving the garbage menace in city is their primary focus.

Hospitals told to follow Covid norms strictly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Many hospitals in Delhi have instructed their heads of department to strictly follow Covid guidelines, including wearing masks and using sanitisers, amid concerns over surge in coronavirus cases in some countries. The hospital said they have braced themselves for any eventuality.

The two waves of COVID-19 were a learning experience for hospitals in terms of bringing about infrastructural changes, but the medical facilities now assert that they are fully prepared in case the BE7 variant triggers a surge.

On Thursday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal held an emergency meeting over the Covid situation, amid a surge triggered due to the BE7 variant of the virus in some countries such as China and the US.

India has also reported some cases of the variant, although no such case has been registered in the national capital. The medical director of state-run LNJP Hospital, Suresh Kumar, said the hospital currently has 450 dedicated Covid beds, includ-



ing 50 ICU beds. "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. The Centre-run RML Hospital is motivating patients and their relatives to follow Covid appropriate behaviour, said Nandini Duggal, medical superintendent of the hospital.

"In view of the sudden surge in COVID-19 cases (in other countries), the hospital has decided to implement all precautionary measures specially wearing

mask, frequent hand washing and use of sanitizer, and social distancing strictly. All HOD's have been instructed to implement the guidelines strictly in their departments and to motivate the public and patients to adhere to these protective measures. "Posters will be installed at public areas for social awareness regarding the same," she added.

The senior doctor asserted that the hospital is geared up to face the challenges -- in terms of beds, equipment, oxygen supply and medicines. Echoing similar views, Dr Neeraj Gupta, professor in the Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi, said they have adequate preparations in place in terms of isolation beds, manpower, oxygen supply and required PPEs to face any upsurge of Covid cases. Private hospitals also said they are prepared for any eventuality.

Dr Charu Goel Sachdeva, HOD and Consultant Internal Medicine, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, Dwarka, said there is no need to panic at moment, since people have good immunity and the vaccination status in country has been steady.

Bajrang Dal disrupts namaz on open site in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Slogan-shouting Bajrang Dal members disrupted a Friday namaz being held in the open in sector 69 here, forcing a group of 100 people offering prayers to leave the venue. In 2021, the district administration designated six open sites for offering namaz.

Police said around 15 Bajrang Dal members led by its district security chief Amit Hindu disrupted more than 100 people who were offering namaz at a site on the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) land in sector 69.

After receiving the information a police team reached the spot and found that the people from the Muslim community were leaving the place, Umesh Kumar, SHO of



Badshahpur police station, said. The team asked the Bajrang Dal members to leave the place after which the situation was brought under control, he said.

"The site was one of six designated (open) sites. We have not received any complaint and if received action will be taken as per the law," he added. In a video on social media, a member of the organisation is seen telling the Muslim worshippers not to pray in open spaces.

After BJP criticism, Tytler withdraws from Yatra

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking U turn, former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Jagdish Tytler has withdrawn from the Bharat Jodo Yatra after opponents pointed out his alleged role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. A controversy was sparked off as soon as Tytler was spotted in a video of the preparation meet of Congress leaders for the Delhi leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Many within the party also felt that Tytler's participation could reopen the wounds of the Sikh community.

After withdrawing from the party's walkathon, Tytler spoke to media and said, "Rahul Gandhi's mission is more important than anything else. That's why I have decided not to participate in Bharat Jodo Yatra". Meanwhile, Congress leader and Punjab minister Pargat Singh had earlier sug-



gested that Tytler should avoid joining the yatra. "Looking at the sentiments of the people of Punjab, he should avoid joining the yatra," Singh had said.

Over past few years, the grand old party distanced itself from Tytler as he faced legal trouble related to 1984 anti-Sikh riots but recently, Congress' love for Tytler has not been hidden from anyone. From appointing him as a permanent invitee to Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee to naming him to Pradesh Election Committee for Delhi MCD elections, the grand-old party has always showered respect for the 1984 ant-Sikh riots accused.

Govt schools to remain closed till Jan 15

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Education (DoE) has issued a circular announcing that all Delhi Government schools will remain closed for two weeks from January 1 for winter vacation.

However, remedial sessions for Class 9 to Class 12 will be held from January 2 to 14 to revise the syllabi and enhance students' learning-level academic performance, the circular said. "All government schools under the Directorate of Education will remain closed for winter vacation from January 1, 2023, to January 15, 2023.

"To revise the syllabus and to enhance the learning level academic performance of the students, remedial classes will be held for classes 9 to 12. These classes will enable the students in revising the basic concepts of the subjects from examination point of view," the circular said. For schools with

double shifts, remedial classes will be held in separate wings. "However, if there is a space crunch, the head of school of evening shift schools may consult the concerned Deputy Directors of Education (DDE) - district and opt for evening timings accordingly," the circular added.

The morning shift will start at 08:30 am and will end at 12:50 pm. Whereas, the second shift will start at 01:30 pm and will conclude at 05:50 pm. The recess time is also included for the students in the timetable for the remedial classes.

The duration of one period should not be less than one hour. In Class 9 and Class 10, English, Science and Maths subjects must be taught daily mandatorily.

"The teachers will conduct revision and practice of the pre-board question papers for Classes 10 and 12 of both shifts (morning and evening). The teachers are advised to give



practice to students in the selected topics of subjects from the examination point of view.

The subject teachers are directed to guide the students on how to attempt the question paper properly," it read. Heads of schools will prepare the timetable for the remedial classes before the commence-

ment of the winter break.

A vacation and copy of the same are to be submitted to the concerned DDE (zone) well in advance. "DDEs (district and zone) must visit, at least two schools per day to ensure that remedial classes run properly during winter vacation," the circular added.

Police make security arrangements before Christmas

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Noida Police on Friday held a meeting with operators of shopping malls and bars to review security arrangements ahead of Christmas and New Year and asked them to ramp up preparations during the festive season.

The police warned that they would take strict action in cases of drunk driving but also said this time in a novel initiative they would be arranging hired cabs with verified drivers to help tipplers reach home



safe. According to industry estimates, nearly two lakh revellers are expected on New Year's eve and January 1 at

shopping malls in Sector 18, the biggest market and revenue generator of Noida. The review meeting was held at the NEA

Bhawan in Sector 6 in the presence of DCP Noida Harish Chander, Additional DCP Ashutosh Dwivedi and ACP Rajneesh Verma with representatives of malls like Gardens Galleria, DLF Mall of India, Radisson Blu, and bar operators in attendance.

The meeting came a day after Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh visited the busy markets and malls in the area. "Necessary directions have been issued to them today via a vis December 25 and December 31.

LG's interference violation of SC order: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday expressed concern over frequent interference in the day to day work of the Delhi Government by the Raj Niwas.

Calling it a violation of the Supreme Court orders, Sisodia said Saxena was "sidelining" ministers and issuing instructions. In the letter, Sisodia also alleged that officers were threatened with suspension, if they did

not follow instructions. "... the recent actions of Saxena giving orders directly to officers on transferred subjects bypassing the Council of Ministers is contrary to law and orders of the Supreme Court," Sisodia said in a letter to Lt Governor.

"It is imperative for all constitutional functionaries to work closely, cohesively and in tandem with each other so as to best subserve the interest of the people.

It is today a well settled position of law and beyond any pale of doubt or dispute

that save and except for the three reserved subjects, namely, public order (Entry 1), police (Entry 2) and land (Entry 18) of List II, Schedule VII of the Constitution of India, it is the elected Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) which is vested with all legislative and executive decision making authority in respect of the remaining subjects contained in Lists II and III of the VII Schedule which are compendiously referred to as "Transferred Subjects," reads the letter.

He also emphasised on the GNCTD Act, 1991 which states that the Section 41(1) of the GNCTD Act makes it abundantly clear that Lieutenant Governor is empowered to exercise discretion only in such matters as fall outside purview of powers conferred on the Legislative Assembly but in respect of which powers or functions have been entrusted or delegated to him by the President of India or in matters where he is required by or under any law to exercise such discretion.

Hold Winter Session of Delhi House asap: Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Friday demanded to convene the Winter Session of Delhi Assembly immediately.

Bidhuri alleged that the Kejriwal government has been running away from discussion on the problems of the people. "That's why the winter session has not been called yet, whereas it is mandatory to call three major sessions in a calendar



year - the budget session, the monsoon session and the win-

ter session," he added. Bidhuri has urged Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel to initiate the process of convening the winter session of the Delhi Vidhan Sabha as per the rules.

"The winter session of the Parliament and all the state assemblies is about to end, but the winter session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly is not yet called. Even the Kejriwal government has not yet sent any proposal in this regard to the Speaker," LoP said. "Kejriwal

government has been calling special sessions of the assembly for one or two days for the last several years to straighten its political wish, while it is constitutionally necessary that budget session, monsoon session and winter session be held in every calendar year," said Bidhuri.

The BJP leader requested that this time the winter session should be called for at least 15 days and as per the rules, 15 days notice should be given in advance so that the members

can send their questions to the Speaker with complete preparation.

"At this time, the threat of corona is rising again, Delhi is forced to breathe toxic air due to pollution, the poor in Delhi are not getting ration for two months and the entire system of mohalla clinics has collapsed.

On many such problems, the public wants answers from government. These subjects can be discussed only in the assembly," Bidhuri asserted.

Beggars near Kashmere Gate to be shifted to night shelters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 1,000 beggars living in the Hanuman Mandir area near the Kashmere Gate ISBT will be shifted to night shelters in January in view of the G20 Summit to be held here in September next year. The city government had, on December 15, asked the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB)

to remove and relocate the beggars living in the area.

A four-member committee under the DUSIB chief engineer was constituted to coordinate with government agencies, including the deputy commissioner of police of the district concerned, and prepare an action plan for shifting these people to night shelters. "More than 1,000 beggars have been identified during a survey con-

ducted in the area on Wednesday and Thursday," a senior DUSIB official said. These people will be shifted to night shelters by the first week of January.

The differently-abled beggars would be taken to institutional care facilities and the child welfare committees of the women and child development department will take care of the children.

Dhankhar defends remarks on Sonia: ‘It’s Constitution duty’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the Congress on Friday took exception to his reaction to former party president Sonia Gandhi's statement on the Government versus judiciary tussle, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar defended himself saying had he not done so he would have failed in his constitutional duty and it would have had demeaning consequences.

Jairam writes to RS Chairman protesting his remarks on Sonia

New Delhi: Following Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's strong response, AICC general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh wrote to the Vice President saying Sonia Gandhi's utterances reflect a lack of faith not in democracy, but in those who claim to be its champions today.

Ramesh alleged no previous Government has "interfered as excessively and thoroughly" in the functioning of judiciary as incumbent led by BJP. "Our statements," Ramesh wrote, "Chairman, reflect a lack of faith not in our democracy as you say, but in men and women who today claim themselves eminently positioned to be its champions."

CBI raids 16 spots in Kolkata firm's ₹4 crore bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday conducted searches at 16 locations in multiple cities, including Nagpur, Mumbai, Ranchi, Kolkata, Durgapur, Ghaziabad, and Visakhapatnam, in connection with a case against Kolkata-based Corporate Power Limited and its directors for alleged bank fraud of Rs 4.037 crore.

The CBI said the searches yielded incriminating documents and articles. The company Corporate Power Limited, promoted by Abhijeet Group, was a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for setting up a power plant in Jharkhand.

The company allegedly committed a bank fraud of Rs 4037.87 crore involving a consortium of 20 banks, according to a complaint filed by Union Bank of India which was the lead bank, officials said.

Several companies of Abhijeet Group and some of its directors are already facing CBI probes in connection with coal scam cases and have also been charge-sheeted.

NIA conducts raids against terror outfits

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir in a case relating to spreading of terrorist activities by banned outfits in the Valley.

The agency conducted searches at 14 locations across Jammu and Kashmir in the districts of Kulgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Sopore and Jammu. The case relates to the criminal conspiracy for carrying out terrorist and subversive activities hatched by the cadres and over ground workers (OGWs) of various proscribed organizations and their affiliates/offshoots, operating under various pseudo names, at the behest of their Pakistani commanders/handlers.

"They (suspects) are involved in carrying out terrorist attacks by using cyber space in Jammu and Kashmir, targeting minorities, security personnel and spreading communal disharmony," the NIA said in a statement.

done "massive" homework, having consulted former secretary generals of Parliament, before giving his observations.

He made these assertions when Congress members urged him on Friday in the Upper House to expunge his remarks from record. Sonia had on December 21 accused the Centre of making a calculated attempt to "delegitimise" the judiciary. "A troubling new development is the calculated attempt underway to delegitimise the judiciary."

"Ministers and even a high constitutional authority have been enlisted to make speeches attacking the judiciary on various grounds," she had said.

Raising the issue of Dhankhar's remarks on Thursday, senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and Leader of Opposition and Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge said, "If a Lok Sabha Member (Sonia) talks outside, it should not be discussed in Rajya Sabha. If the Chair comments, it is unfortunate. This has never happened."

"...Several rulings have been quoted by him (Tiwari) and are against this procedure. Therefore, sir, whatever is said here should be removed and withdrawn. Kindly expunge it," Kharge said, adding if the Chair's comments are not expunged, it will set a bad precedent. Opposition members K Keshava Rao (TRS) and Tiruchi Siva (DMK) also flagged the issue. Defending

his stance, Dhankhar said he suffered an "allegation that he was part of a system to delegitimise judiciary" and the Chair cannot be allowed to be dragged on partisan stance. The Rajya Sabha Chairman also said he made a subdued response to Sonia's remark in the Upper House after "massive homework" and it could not have been more "moderated and reflective of the highest level". He also said he could not have averted it.

Union Minister and Leader of House Piyush Goyal said even though the UPA chairperson is a member of the other House (Lok Sabha), she chose to cast "aspersions" on the very high office of the Chairman. "It was very appropriate that response was given. It is bound duty of entire house to maintain the dignity of the Chair and high constitutional authority," he said.

Asserting that high constitutional authorities should be respected, Goyal urged Kharge to reflect upon whether the comments were made in good taste and were appropriate and required at all in the first place, whether in the House or outside. Dhankhar said, "...The observations were with respect to what I said from this Chair on December 8."

The observations by Sonia Gandhi were to that extreme degree as Chairman Rajya Sabha and Vice President can be enlisted by the ruling party to delegitimise the judiciary..."If I were to show an escapist route to such a state-

ment, I will be creating a history that will shame me and shame this House," he said.

Dhankhar went on to say had he not reacted, it would have had "demeaning consequences" and an impression sought to be imparted that this Chair would become a party to a "pernicious and sinister design" at the instance of the government to delegitimise judiciary. "Delegitimising judiciary means the death knell of democracy."

These partisan battles have to be settled inter se," he said. On Thursday, Dhankhar had termed "inappropriate" the remarks made by UPA chairperson Gandhi that the government is seeking to "delegitimise the judiciary".



The Parliament House Complex during Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday

PTI Photo

Winter Session ends 6 days in advance

RS productivity 102% as House held 13 sittings totalling 65 hrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of Parliament concluded on Friday, six days ahead of schedule, even as the Opposition parties continued with their insistence on a discussion on the India-China face off in Arunachal Pradesh that occasionally derailed proceedings in both the houses since the last 10 days.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said there was consensus among floor leaders of all parties to cut short the winter session. The session began on December 7 and was originally scheduled to end on December 29.

However, members requested the government and

the presiding officers of both the House to end the proceedings early citing the festive season and New Year celebrations ahead. "In the Business Advisory Committee meeting of Lok Sabha, there was consensus among floor leaders of all political parties to cut short the session," Birla told newsmen here.

Birla's remarks come against the backdrop of several opposition leaders alleging that the government has been curtailing Parliament sessions. Birla further said that "agreements and disagreements on issues should be reflected in debates and not through disruptions."

He said the productivity of the House was 97 per cent dur-

ing the 13 sittings which saw passage of seven bills, including the supplementary demands for grants and the Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill.

In both the Houses, opposition members pressed for discussion on the border issue with China, which was turned down by presiding officers leading to frequent walk-outs by the Congress-led opposition parties.

Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-off resulted in "minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides", according to the Indian Army Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement in both Houses of Parliament on the attempts by China's Peoples' Liberation Army to unilaterally change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control in the Yangtze region of Arunachal Pradesh.

In Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said the productivity of the House was 102 per cent. The House held 13 sittings totalling 64 hours 50 minutes. This was Dhankhar's first session as Chairman, after his election as the Vice President on August 10.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Piyush Goyal were among those present on the last day of

the session. During the session, Rajya Sabha passed The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, three bills relating to The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment), The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, The Maritime Anti Piracy (Amendments) Bills. Lok Sabha passed four bills relating to The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) and the Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill. The lower house also conducted a short-duration debate on Drug abuse with home minister Amit Shah replying to it.

Dhankhar also took a dim view of the disruptions by the opposition in the House, saying it led to loss of precious time of one hour and 46 minutes and exhibition of unacceptable conduct, which plagued the proceedings in some measure.

"Disruption as an expression mechanism is antithetical to grace, decorum and sublimity of this solemn platform. The fall out is invariably negative as it generates disillusionment, disappointment, helplessness and hopelessness in the people," Dhankhar said.

Amid rising concern over Covid19 and its rise in many countries including in China several members in the Parliament were seen wearing Masks. Those who did not have a mask were handed one by the Parliament staff.

2-month long 'Haath se haath jodo abhiyan' to start from Jan 26: Cong



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday chaired a meeting of top leaders on ways to strengthen the organisation and to take forward the party's soon-to-be launched outreach initiative.

Kharge held deliberations with party general secretaries, in-charges of various States, PCC presidents and CLP leaders on ways to take forward the two-month long 'Haath se haath jodo abhiyan' that would start from January 26.

The grand old party has decided to launch to reach out to every household across the country. Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, general secretary organisation K C Venugopal, Leader of the House in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, other general secretaries Randeep Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik, Kumari Selja, Tariq Anwar, Avinash Pandey, party treasurer Pawan Kumar Bansal, Jitendra

Singh and all PCC presidents and CLP leaders were present at the meeting. The leaders also deliberated on the modalities of the party's initiative during which the message of the Bharat Jodo Yatra will be taken to the people's doorstep. The campaign will be launched soon after the yatra ends in Jammu and Kashmir by January end.

Addressing the top office bearers, Kharge accused the government of running away from a debate on issues such as Chinese transgressions, inflation and unemployment and said this shows its "governance failure".

He also alleged the Modi government is "rattled" by the "immense support" the Bharat Jodo Yatra is getting, and is finding excuses to stop it.

"One thing is definitely worth noting that whether it is the question of China's transgressions or providing employment to youth, whether it is the rising inflation or any other important issue related to people, the government could not answer on any one of them."

Hold mock drill to assess Covid readiness, States, UTs told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday advised States and Union Territories to undertake a mock drill across all health facilities on December 27 to ensure readiness of infrastructure with a specific focus on oxygen plants, ventilators, logistics and human resources. The move aims to ensure that India is not caught unprepared in case Covid cases surge in India too as in China.

The country's pace of adding dedicated facilities and oxygen-supported beds for severe Covid-19 cases had slowed after the first wave peaked in around April 2020, and dipped by the second wave which swept India in April last year.

During a virtual meeting with health ministers and senior officials of states in view of the recent surge in coronavirus cases in some parts of the world, Mandaviya said, "The Centre and States need to work in tandem and in a collaborative spirit as was done during the previous surges for Covid prevention and management." The



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya talks to media at Parliament House Complex during the Winter Session, in New Delhi on Friday PTI Photo

meeting reviewed the public health system's preparedness for containment and management of Covid and progress of the vaccination campaign. Principal

secretaries, additional chief secretaries and information commissioners of states also attended the meet, besides the ministers.

Referring to the high-level review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, Mandaviya also advised states to be on alert, keep all preparedness for Covid management and continue their pre-emptive and proactive approach, the health ministry said in a statement.

He asked states to strengthen the surveillance system for whole genome sequencing of positive case samples to track variants through the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network.

This will ensure timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country, Mandaviya said. "Focus is to be given to health facility-based sentinel surveillance, pan-respiratory virus surveillance, community-based surveillance, and sewage or wastewater surveillance. (There is a) Need to collectively reinvigorate the system and remove any sense of complacency and fatigue," he said. In view of the

upcoming festive season, the Union minister stressed on the importance of public awareness campaigns regarding adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour.

He requested the health ministers of states to personally monitor and review preparedness of all infrastructure and ensure there is adequate stock of essential medicines.

Irrespective of new Covid variants, the 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate' and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour' remains a tested strategy for the disease's management, Mandaviya said in a statement, adding that States and union territories were also asked to expeditiously increase the rate of testing from current rate of 79 tests per million, as on the week ending December 22.

The Minister also urged states and union territories to ramp up vaccination of all eligible people, particularly of vulnerable groups, including elderly and cautioned against misinformation and said it should be ensured that factually correct information is being disseminated in a timely manner.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress MP Sonia Gandhi and other leaders attend the customary meeting at Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's chamber at the end of the Winter Session on Friday

PNS



President Droupadi Murmu meets winners of T20 World Cup for the Blind 2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday

PNS

Airlines to pay for class downgrade, fly passengers free: DGCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of complaints from air travellers about their tickets booked for a particular class being downgraded by airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is amending its Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) to provide full refunds and a free-of-cost passage to ticket holders.

This means if an airline involuntarily downgrades a passenger who bought a business, first or premium economy ticket, to a lower cabin class at the time of check-in they could be required to refund the entire premium fare paid and fly the person free of cost. The move will help to protect the rights of air travellers affected



by the downgrading of their ticket by an airline.

According to the DGCA, it will soon be issuing guidelines on the downgrading of tickets by airlines. Once the norms come into force, the airline concerned will have to refund the

full value of such tickets, including taxes, and also the affected passenger will be flown free of cost in the next available class, according to DGCA. These rules will apply to all airlines that operate to and from India. The new norms are like-

ly to come into force in February next year.

"DGCA is in the process of amending its Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section-3, Series M Part IV "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights," to protect the rights of air travelers affected by downgrading of their ticket.

However, this proposal will go through stakeholder consultation and the final regulation shall be published and made applicable afterwards," DGCA said in a statement on Friday.

Currently, there are provisions for providing compensation to air passengers in case of denied boarding and flight cancellation. For denied

boarding, a passenger is entitled to various compensation depending on the situation.

If the airline has done overbooking, then it can ask for volunteers in exchange for benefits.

In case an airline has denied boarding to a passenger against confirmed booking, then there will be no compensation provided the airline concerned arranges an alternate flight within one hour of the original scheduled departure.

If the alternate flight is within 24 hours of the original departure, a passenger has to be paid 200 per cent of one way fare and fuel charge, with the amount capped at Rs 10,000.

The compensation will be 400 per cent of one way fare plus fuel charge and the total

amount will be limited at Rs 20,000 in case the alternate flight is after 24 hours of the original departure. In case a passenger does not opt for an alternate flight, then the airline concerned has to give full refund, and 400 per cent of one way fare plus fuel charge, with the amount cap at Rs 20,000.

According to DGCA norms, if an airline expects cancellation of a flight, then the same has to be informed to the passenger and also an alternate flight at least two weeks in advance has to be arranged.

If an airline cancels a flight in less than two weeks before and up to 24 hours of booked flight, then the airline concerned has to arrange an alternate flight within two hours of the original departure

or refund the ticket. As per the DGCA, if an airline cancels a flight in less than 24 hours of the booked flight, then various compensation are provided depending on the situation.

If the block time for the flight is less than one hour, then the passenger has to be paid one way fare plus fuel charge and the total amount is capped at Rs 5,000. If the block time is less than two hours, then it will be one way fare along with fuel charge and the total amount can be a maximum of Rs 7,500.

In cases where the block time is more than two hours, the compensation will be one way fare plus fuel charge, and the amount is capped at Rs 10,000. Generally, block time refers to the duration of a flight.

ILLEGAL PHONE TAPPING AT NSE

CBI files charges against former Mumbai top cop, NSE's ex-MD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday said it has filed a chargesheet in a case relating to illegal phone tapping of National Stock Exchange (NSE) employees against former Mumbai Police commissioner Sanjay Pandey and former Managing Director of the stock exchange Chitra Ramakrishna besides other accused in the case.

Besides Pandey who then a director of a private security firm ISEC and Ramakrishna, the agency has also charged the firm ISEC Services Pvt Ltd, then Senior Information Security Analyst of ISEC Naman Chaturvedi and Jagdish Tukaram Dalvi of ISEC.

Officials of NSE's then Executive Vice President Ravi Varanasi, then Head (Premises) Mahesh Haldipur, then Managing Director Ravi Narain, then Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian, then OSD SB Thosar and then Manager (Premises) Bhupesh Mistry have also been named in the chargesheet.

The CBI had registered a case on July 7 against the said private company and others.

During the course of investigation of another case related to the Colocation Scam in NSE, an act of illegal interception of landline phones of NSE employees was unearthed.

"It was alleged that unauthorised recording and monitoring of personal call lines in NSE started in 1997 when then MD and then Deputy MD/MD of NSE connected call lines of NSE employees to a Digital Voice Recorder provided by a private company. During 1997-2009 then DMD with the help of NSE employees allegedly supervised the interception," the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that during 2009, the work for monitoring of calls was given to another/accused private company of Delhi/Mumbai which was started and being run by then Director of said company. In order to maintain secrecy, the work order was allegedly issued to ISEC in the name of "conducting periodic



study of Cyber Vulnerabilities".

It was also alleged that during 2012, ISEC purchased and installed 4 X PRI Quad Span Digital Voice Loggers at the basement of NSE by splitting the PRI lines of MTNL. This logger was capable of recording 120 calls simultaneously. The employees of said private company were given unauthorised access to NSE premises in a manner to listen to these calls and submit weekly reports to NSE officials-then Executive Vice President and then Head (Premises). The reports in turn were being shown on a regular basis to then MD Ramakrishna and her deputy.

The work order of the accused private company was



renewed every year from 2009-2017.

"It was found during investigation that an accused (then Director of accused private company) working as Police officer was allegedly managing the affairs of said company. The NSE ended up paying Rs. 4.54 crore (approx.) in 8 years to the said private company for carrying out such illegal interception of NSE employees in the name of cyber vulnerability study. The call records of hundreds of NSE employees were allegedly kept in the custody of said private company and the entire interception was done without the knowledge or consent of NSE board and NSE employees," it added.

Cabinet Secy highlights advantages of reducing levels in decision making



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting the advantages of reducing levels in decision-making, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Friday said it will only improve efficiency besides saving precious time in taking decisions in public interest.

He was speaking during a workshop on 'good governance practices' as a part of the ongoing Good Governance Week (from 19th to 25th December).

While he said good governance is all about improving outcome and ensuring deliverables while trusting citizens, he pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call for

concerted efforts towards making a new India by 2047. And, it is possible through good governance only, he added. He said good governance provides greater efficiency, people-friendly government and higher level of transparency, according to a Personnel Ministry statement.

He said Prime Minister Modi has articulated his vision of good governance, which includes 'minimum government, maximum governance' and whole of government approach.

Gauba said in the last few years, more than 3,500 minor violations have been decriminalised and this is also part of good governance, which includes trusting the citizens.

Maha orders probe into Uddhav's bid to scuttle Amravati murder case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what the Opposition Maha Vikas Agadhi dubbed as an act of vindictive politics, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance Government on Friday ordered an inquiry by the State Intelligence Department (SID) on charges that former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray "interfered" in the investigations into the sensational murder of Amravati-based pharmacist Umesh Kolhe murder case.

Announcing an SID inquiry into the charges against Uddhav, State Excise Minister Shambhuraj Desai said in the state Assembly on Friday that pressured the Amravati Police to investigate the killing of local chemist Umesh Kolhe from the robbery angle.

After the BJP-affiliated Independent MLA Ravi Rana raised the issue in the Assembly, Desai said that the SID would investigate whether Thackeray had asked the Amravati Commissioner of Police Arti Singh to examine the robbery angle in Kolhe's



murder, which is being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The announcement about inquiry into charges against Uddhav came a day after Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis of the BJP ordered a probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the Disha Salian death case in which the name of Thackeray's son Aaditya, a former minister, has been linked by the ruling BJP.

It may be recalled that MLA and Rana and MP-wife Navneet Kaur had approached Union Home Minister Amit Shah for investigation into the Kolhe murder case, after which the Centre handed over the NIA.

J&K BJP unhappy over Guv's comments on KP employees



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has taken strong note of the recent remarks made by the Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha over stopping salaries of PM package Kashmiri pandit employees and Jammu based reserved category employees.

Without mincing any words several BJP leaders including J&K unit Chief Ravinder Raina Friday sent out a loud and clear message to the UT administration that the party leadership supported the demand of 'relocation' of these employees.

Addressing a gathering of the PM package employees

assembled outside the BJP office in Jammu Raina claimed the remarks made by the Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha clearly suggested the officers have failed to present the real picture and explain the ground realities to him.

He also appealed to LG Manoj Sinha with folded hands to invite representatives of the PM package employees and All Jammu based reserved category employees and patiently listen to their grievances in order to properly understand their demands. Raina also promised the agitated employees under no circumstances the BJP leadership would make them scapegoats in the valley. Raina said we cannot ignore the sacrifices made by the patriotic Kashmiri

pandit community and other Dogra employees while discharging their duties in Kashmir valley.

Ravinder Raina flanked by former Deputy CM Kavidner Gupta and several other party leaders also urged the LG administration to prepare a transfer policy and plan relocation of these employees.

Raina also announced the party high command is rushing two National General secretaries namely Tarun Chugh and Dalip Saikia to hold parleys with the representatives of the agitating employees in Jammu on Saturday. If required we can also accompany these employees to hold parleys with the national leadership in New Delhi, Raina added.

Thieves dig 10-foot-long tunnel to bank, decamp with 1.8 kg gold in Kanpur



PTI ■ KANPUR

Thieves broke open a chest at a bank here and decamped with gold worth Rs 1 crore after entering its strongroom through a 10-foot-long tunnel, police said on Friday. They had dug the tunnel, which was about four-feet wide, from an empty plot adjacent to the State Bank of India's Bhanuti branch, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vijay Dhull said though the thieves entered the strongroom and broke open the gold chest, they failed to prise open the cash chest that had Rs 32 lakh.

Bank officials took hours to provide an estimate of the stolen gold. They claimed that it weighed over 1.8 kg and was worth about Rs 1 crore, Dhull added.

Police and forensic officials who investigated the 'robbery'

found the tunnel dug from a vacant plot adjacent to the bank's strongroom and covered by shrubbery, he said.

"It could be an insider's job who executed the crime with the help of expert criminals. We have found some leads, including fingerprints from the strongroom, that might help crack the heist," Dhull told PTI.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the thieves must have done a recon of the area and were familiar with the construction and architecture of the bank as well as the strongroom and the gold chest.

The robbery came to light on Friday morning when bank officials found the gold chest and the strongroom door opened, Commissioner of Police BP Jogdand said.

The bank officials also found the tunnel through which the thieves had entered the strongroom, he added.

Tussle with Govt intensifies, Maha Opp boycotts Houses

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The stand-off between the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance Government and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) reached a flash-point on Friday, as the MVA constituents boycotted the proceedings of both Houses of the Maharashtra legislature in protest among other things against the suspension of senior NCP leader Jayant Patil, reopening of the Disha Salian murder case.

The Opposition parties were also protest against the "silence" of Ekanth Shinde government over the aggressive stand taken by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai over the Maharashtra-Karnataka border row.

The boycott by the proceedings in both the Houses came a day after the ruling dispensation forced the NCP leader's suspension over his remarks against Speaker Rahul Narverkar and ordered a CID inquiry into death of Disha Salian, manager of the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Sporting black ribbons, the Opposition leaders and legislators - including leader of



Opposition in the Assembly Ajit Pawar of the NCP, Sena (UBT) leaders Aditya Thackeray and Bhaskar Jadhav, Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat - demonstrated at the entrance of the Vidhan Bhavan in protest against the state government not allowing them to speak on the issues of public importance. The raised slogans against the Shinde government.

Talking to media persons, Ajit Pawar said: "We have decided to boycott the proceedings in both the Houses in protest against the suspension of our leader Jayant Patil from the House for reason and reopening of the Disha Salian case as an act of political vendetta. In addition, the State government has chosen to remain silent on the aggressive stand taken by the Karnataka

chief minister on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border row".

Hitting out at the Shinde government for reopening the Disha Salian murder case, Pawar said: "The SIT probe ordered by the state government in the Disha Salian case was unnecessary and childish. Actress Rhea Chakraborty had already clarified that AU means her friend Ananya Udhas. However, the ruling alliance is reading AU as Aaditya Thackeray".

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray and former chief minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan said that the Opposition had decided to stay away from the proceedings in the Assembly till allowed them to speak in the House.

Kerala court sentences man to 31 yrs prison for raping daughter

PTI ■ IDUKKI

A Kerala court on Friday sentenced a man to a cumulative of 31 years of imprisonment for raping and impregnating his own daughter in 2016.

Fast Track Judge TG Varghese convicted and sentenced the man based on the DNA evidence retrieved from the aborted foetus as many of the important witnesses, including the victim and her mother, turned hostile and gave statements in favour of the



accused.

A sample collected from the aborted foetus matched

against a blood sample of the accused indicated that he was the father of the foetus, Special

Public Prosecutor Shijo Mon Joseph said.

The court held that a father raping and impregnating one's own daughter was an "extremely heinous act" and the accused does not deserve any mercy, the SPP said.

While the accused was sentenced to a cumulative of 31 years for various offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he would only be serving 10 years which is the highest of the differing quantum of punishment given to

him, the prosecutor said.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 75,000 upon the man and besides that directed the District Legal Services Authority to pay Rs 50,000 to the girl for her rehabilitation.

The SPP said that the incident happened in 2016 when the man sexually assaulted his daughter (who was then 14-years-old) several times during the night in their home in Konnathadi village of Idukki district. The victim, her brother and her parents lived together, the SPP said.

Police begin probe over recitation of Allama Iqbal prayer in UP school

PTI ■ BAREILLY

Police have recorded the statements of staff at a school here over the recitation of "madrasa-type prayers", a charge levelled by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad over an Urdu prayer written by Allama Iqbal.

The school principal, Nahid Siddiqui, has been suspended and a probe ordered against shiksha mitra (para teacher) Waziruddin after they were booked by the police in connection with this, Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Vinay Kumar said.

The incident happened at a government higher primary school located in Faridpur, he said.



Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rajkumar Agarwal on Friday said, "We have recorded the statements of staff of the school and have sent a video of the alleged incident for forensic examination."

In the video children can be heard singing, "Mere Allah burai se bachana mujhko, nek jo rah ho us rah pe chalana mujhko...Lab pe aati he dua ban ke tamanna meri..."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a book titled 'India: The Mother of Democracy' by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the presence of Ministers of State for Education Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and Subhas Sarkar. Chairman & Member Secretary, ICHR, Prof Raghuvendra Tanwar and Prof Umesh Ashok Kadam were also present on the occasion. The book prepared and published by the ICHR is an evidence-based account of the origin of democracy in India

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Om Prakash/ Meera Devi/ LBGUR00004807039	Shop No-119, 1st Floor, ILD Trade Centre, Village Tikri, Sector-47, Sohna Road, Gurgaon, Haryana/ December 21, 2022	January 18, 2022 Rs. 22,59,871/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Rajesh Pandey/ Sushila Pandey/ LBDEL00001466900	Flat No- JA CO4/12, (Nova) 2nd Floor, Shipra Sun City Vaibhav Khand Indirapuram, Ghaziabad- 201010/ December 20, 2022	August 30, 2022 Rs. 4,79,724/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : December 23, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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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.	Sarita Chaturvedi / Shivam Chaturvedi / LBAGR00004191091	Flat No. G39, Ground Floor, Tower-B, Khasra No. 187, 200, 201 & 202 Minjulia, Singhal Dream City, Mauza Laramada, Tehsil & District Agra, Uttar Pradesh / December 19, 2022	July 30, 2022 Rs. 9,74,032/-	Agra / Noida

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : December 23, 2022
Place: Noida

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Image makeover

Industrialists from Punjab are looking for investment in UP because of better law and order

In the 1980s, the prominent demographic and economic expert Ashish Bose coined an acronym Bimaru to denote a group of poor and backward Hindi-speaking states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The acronym was a play on the Hindi word bimar (sick). The term was widely used by policy makers and commentators. Punjab, on the other hand, had (still has) the image of a state which had robust, fun-loving folks who eat good food, drink lassi (and whiskey), and do bhangra. But the times, they are a-changin.’ About 50 industrialists from different states recently met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on December 19 to explore the investment opportunities in what was once the biggest Bimaru state. The delegation included “15 tycoons from Punjab,” TR Mishra, a Ludhiana-based industrialist and chairman of Punjab Dyeing Federation, told the media. The Punjab businesspersons included Avon cycles MD Onkar Singh Pahwa and Hero Group Chairman-cum-MD Pankaj Munjal. Industrialists from Punjab are reportedly worried about the “deteriorating law and order situation” in their state, disappointed with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann’s “lack of interest.” They also think that UP has a “better industrial policy.” Even after discounting the excellent PR work the UP Government may have put in to get good press, it is indeed creditable that businesspersons are showing interest in the country’s largest state.

What industrialists find attractive about UP are its improved law and order situation and infrastructure. For instance, Pahwa is thinking of some expansion in UP “as infrastructure has improved a lot in UP, manpower is available and law and order situation has also improved a lot.” Industrialists’ meeting with CM Adityanath has not just delighted the Bharatiya Janata Party for obvious reasons, but also Congress, which lost power in the border state earlier this year. Leader of the opposition in the state Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa took a potshot at the Aam Aadmi Party Government in the state, tweeting: “Badlav (change) has arrived!!!” Senior Congress leader and former deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa also attributed the exodus of the industrialists to the “worsening law & order situation in Punjab.” While the Congress leaders are correct in blaming the Mann government for the law and order mess in the state, they themselves are also responsible for the problems the state is facing. They must be reminded that in August last year too Punjab industrialists were contemplating to set up nearly 150 new units in Uttar Pradesh. There are several lessons that AAP and other parties (including the BJP) need to learn from this development. First, law and order is the sine qua non of attracting investment. Second, you can win elections by distributing freebies but not run a government. And, finally, government should focus on governance and not moralizing.



A visitor clicks a photo at Parliament House complex, in New Delhi.

Zelenskyy’s US visit

The US assured him support to his war-ravaged country which he had asked as ‘future investment’

The Ukraine President’s visit to the US is indeed a turning point in the Russian-Ukraine conflict. The ten months old war has been inconclusive so far though most of the cost of war is being borne by Ukraine in terms of human lives, and economic meltdown; not to mention billions of dollars and effort that would be required to rebuild the country. Though Ukraine is no walkover it would not have survived the war this far had the Western powers not supported it with financial and military aid. The trip was almost a “thanksgiving” and a bid to ask for more as Ukraine sees no letup in the Russian efforts to subvert it despite suffering huge losses and worldwide condemnation resulting in isolation and sanctions. With this high-profile meeting in Washington, Zelenskyy and Joe Biden have sent a clear message to Russia that the US support for Ukraine is unflinching and likely to go up in the coming days.

This is a message not only to Russians but also people in the US who are weary of US aid to Ukraine. The American president described Russia’s attack on Ukraine as an attack on “liberty and democracy and one that demanded an American response. Zelenskyy called the US aid to Ukraine an “investment” that will strengthen global security. Indeed the Ukrainians are the worst sufferers of the war and are paying a heavy price for it. But war has brought hardships to the people of the West as well. US allies in Europe are facing a long, hard winter of high energy prices and accompanying economic hardships. And the American public is now skeptical about the aid the US is providing to Ukraine. However, the American “investment” in Ukraine would not be decided by Joe Biden alone, especially after the Republicans got an upper hand in the parliament. It is Congress that has to decide the quantum of support and the Ukrainian President did his job well by addressing them and convincing them. Congress over ten months has approved approximately \$67bn in economic and military assistance to Ukraine. In a 2023 package, Congress would give an additional \$45bn to Ukraine in aid. The Republicans argue why the US was spending so much money on a distant war, while cost-cutting on border security back home. This time Zelenskyy had a successful tour of the US but if the war doesn’t come to an end, he might have very few options at hand and Putin may have the last laugh.

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The life & career of Mohammad Ali Jinnah

Thoughts on the eve of 147th birth anniversary of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan

Beyond the normal human equation, a metaphysical question arises as to what could be the mission behind the life and career of Mohammad Ali Jinnah. A former correspondent of the Pakistani daily Dawn who was stationed in Delhi, but now has settled in the UK, says: “Partition saved Hinduism”.

We say that without Jinnah, Partition was unlikely to have been possible. There was no other leader amongst the Muslims who could argue or negotiate with the British Viceroy and officials. Jinnah was the only Muslim who could argue and negotiate with the taller Congress leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhulabhai Desai and of course, Jawaharlal Nehru. Nor did any other Muslim Leaguer have an all-India stature. None else had shown to acumen a tactical scheme that could lead to Partition, such as the Direct Action of July-August 1946, which convinced the British as well as the Hindus that an undivided India would be a scabbard with two swords. Little wonder therefore, that Viceroy Mountbatten coming to Delhi was convinced that there was no alternative to Partitioning India before the British departed.

Jinnah was a second-generation Muslim. His grandfather was Poonjabhai Thakkar, a businessman, prominent in Dhoraji, not very far from Rajkot. Yet, as businesses do fluctuate in their fortunes, Poonjabhai’s happened to dip; he diversified into fish trading. This upset his vegetarian Lohana caste. Poonjabhai had no alternative for survival, except to stick to the trading of fish. The friction between the caste and its members led to Poonjabhai’s expulsion from the Lohana fold. On the rebound, Poonjabhai converted to an Ismaili Khoja, a follower of Sir Aga Khan. The post-conversion unease eventually led to the family’s migration to the port city of Karachi. His father Jinabhai continued in his paternal trade, although he wanted his son to become a chartered accountant from London. Jinnah’s passport read



“Mohammad Ali Jinabhai” and began to be known as such among his early acquaintances in London. “Jina” in Gujarati means tiny, and “bhai” means brother. Before long, he realized that accountability was not his cup of tea. On the suggestion of his ‘dig’ or hostel mates he tried his hand at attending lectures and having dinners at the Lincoln’s Inn of law, which he liked. After he passed the Barrister-at-Law two years later, Jinnah learnt that he was too young to be presented with his certificate. He had to wait till he was 21.

The other activity Jinnah pursued was attending sessions of the House of Commons whenever he could and also assisting politicians. He served as a secretary of Dadabhai Naoroji, who became a Liberal Member of Parliament representing the Finsbury constituency from 1892 to 1895. All in all, Jinnah enjoyed life in London and became a brown Englishman before he returned to India. There is little evidence of his having evinced any interest in religion or matters of spirituality. His legal career dazzled as he progressed at the Bombay

IN 1934, WHEN NAWABZADA LIAQUAT ALI KHAN CAME VISITING LONDON, HE HAD DINNER WITH JINNAH TO PROPOSE THAT THE QAID-E-AZAM RETURN TO INDIA TO HEAD THE LEAGUE AND PUMP LIFE INTO IT

High Court. Many of his friends were Hindu, and he particularly enjoyed the company of high class Parsis. His brother Ahmed Ali told his friend and my grandfather Dharamdas Vora that “Culturally we brothers are Parsi. We did not pray nor did we have suitable clothes until Mohammed was made life president of the Muslim League”. Most Muslim Congressmen were members of the League, just as many Hindu Congressmen attended Hindu Mahasabha meetings. Until the Congress’ 1928 plenary session in Calcutta, Jinnah was a secular politician. The manner in which he was booed at the 1928 session left him sour and while leaving Calcutta, he told his friend Dewan Chaman Lal with tears in his eyes, “This is the parting of ways”. From Bombay, Jinnah migrated to London to pursue a fulltime legal practice. He was already the highest paid barrister in all of the British Empire.

While Jinnah led an upper-class life living in his own elegant house at Hampstead, he did miss his politics. In 1934, when Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan came visiting London, he had dinner with Jinnah to

propose that the Qaid-e-Azam return to India to head the League and pump life into it.

Having ascertained that he was welcome, Jinnah returned to Bombay in 1935. Thereafter, the new president’s mind was focused on what aim and strategy thereof was needed for the League to be able to make its mark. The well known Pakistan Resolution was passed in the open session of the League on March 23, 1940. The resolution said that “The Hindus and Muslims are, opposite communities and cannot coexist in the same country. The answer therefore, was the partition of the country into Hindustan for the Hindus and & Pakistan for Muslims”.

Since Jinnah knew only English and some Gujarati, he addressed mass meetings in English, but yet set out to campaign for Partition. Partition therefore, ended up by becoming an event that was for the name and fame of Jinnah and his place in history as the founder of a nation. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RAMANUJAN’S BIRTHDAY

Sir — December 22 is a special day for all of us as it marks the birthday of world-acclaimed mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan, who through his zeal, curiosity, and dedication to the subject made a great contribution in this sphere despite hardships. He proved to be an embodiment of sacrifice, grit, determination, and perseverance, hard work to become the greatest mathematician that the world has ever produced. In 2012, Former PM Manmohan Singh declared this day National Mathematics day to acknowledge his contribution to the world of Mathematics.

Even after 100 years of his death his findings and discoveries continue to have a profound influence on young scientists in terms of stimulating new avenues of mathematical research. Centuries of experimentation with right triangles in Mesopotamia, India, Babylon, and China among others ultimately produced the Pythagoras theorem that is ascribed to the latter but other countries including India’s, incessant endeavour and contribution too, cannot be brushed aside. For instance, the discovery of zero is attributed to India and no calculation cannot be made without it. His abstract theorems are closely linked to physical reality. It was

in 1994 when several results from Ramanujan’s notebooks were proven automatically by a code developed at Carnegie Mellon University. Such mathematicians inspire us to go beyond textbooks to encourage critical thinking and logical reasoning.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

FARMERS’ DAY

Sir — Farmer’s day is celebrated on 23 December, the birth anniversary of former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh who contributed to the welfare of farmers. Farmers do what other people don’t have time for. A Nation prospers if its farmers prosper. And only a healthy nation can be a wealthy nation. Peace progress prosperity is showered if we

Game of politics



Surely, it’s a game of politics. Aam aadmi is sure that the Modi government and BJP are suffering from Rahul Gandhi’s ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ (yatra) phobia. If not then, before serving notice to Congress to follow ‘Covid protocol’ in the yatra, is it not the high handedness of the health ministry. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is sure that by this yatra Congress hasn’t been able to dent BJP votes at all then why is BJP reacting to Rahul Gandhi so cynically? Who forgets when people were dying in the ear-

lier peak times, was not the message from our PM Modi very clear, stand at your doors, and balcony and show gratitude by either clapping or beating steel plates and ringing bells?

Wasn’t the PM and his cabinet busy in the political rallying of elections (ignoring all protocols? This time also BJP has taken out yatras in Karnataka and Rajasthan, but no such advisory has been issued by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to them. As a senior citizen of the country, I want to know from Mandaviya why he has not asked for a complete travel ban on China, Japan, and other Covid-related countries. Why are general COVID restrictions like mask-wearing and social distancing not enforced in public? Even two days back, the PM held a rally in Tripura where no Covid protocol was followed. Don’t these things pose a greater risk of covid than Rahul’s yatra?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

take care of kissan. If you can eat a square meal, thank a farmer.

TS Karthik | Chennai

HUMILITY OF KYLIAN MBAPPE

Sir — Apart from the skills stamina perseverance of the French which enabled them to make stunning comebacks throughout the final game; the humane qualities of Kylian Mbappe were to be seen to be believed! So we were fortunate enough to witness that heart-rending scene following Morocco’s semi-final loss to France. Mbappe not only consoled the devastated Moroccan players but embraced Achraf Hakimi with warmth from the innermost core of the heart and later twitting “Don’t be sad bro, everybody is proud of what you did, you made history!” Yes, no might of economic clout and glamour has succeeded in deviating Mbappe from his basic sense of empathy and humanity! In contrast, the Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez had taken the lead in rendering vulgar chants of “A minute’s silence for Mbappe who is dead” in the dressing room while celebrat-

ing the World Cup win! Not only a brute expression of haughtiness following the victory but how crudely can the Golden Boot winner of the tournament and all-time top goal-scorer in World Cup finals be specifically targeted! Leaving aside certain vulgarities exemplified by Martinez during the prize distribution ceremony; the Argentine goalkeeper carried on his mock-Mbappe gestures during the felicitation ceremony back home also with none other than Lionel Messi either watching as a mere spectator or joining the “fun”! This height of insensitivity or tacit approval to such antics has driven many sensitive people morally away from Argentina; not to forget that “Hand of God” saga which was a treacherous goal to say the least! To a genuinely civilised Indian, a sober humble Kylian Mbappe and like-minded footballers are closer to heart than the “street-smart” Argentines!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The Congress will follow all the pre-cautions related to the prevention of Covid, but the yatra will not stop.



Congress leader — Salman Kurshid

When I met President Zelenskyy in Munich on the eve of Russia’s war, I told him the United States would stand firmly with the people of Ukraine.

US vice President — Kamala Harris

Negativity increases social media consumption and thereby increases its commercial value as well. Such pursuits enclose the collective narrative, making it divisive and destructive.



Actor — Shahrukh Khan

Dropping a Man of the Match (Kuldeep Yadav)... you left out a ‘man of the match’, who got eight out of the 20 wickets.

Former cricketer — Sunil Gavaskar

Delegitimizing the judiciary is beyond my contemplation. It is a pillar of democracy.



Vice President — Jagdeep Dhankar

FIRST COLUMN

PHARMA SECTOR SET FOR FAST SCALING UP IN 2023

Innovation, digitization will drive the sector




NIKKHIL K MASURKAR

The pharmaceutical sector has evolved rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic and become more agile and responsive to the new market realities and demands of healthcare across the globe. As digitization transformed the whole healthcare sector across the globe, technology disruption in pharma also contributed to new developments in this space. The sector is now increasingly looking at new strategies and approaches to enhance the process and product efficiency.

Top trends in pharma marketing in 2022, like patient-centricity, personalization in healthcare solutions, and changing relationships between healthcare providers and patients will continue to dominate the sector in 2023 as well. The pharma sector is an evolving space with a focus on improving the expertise of human resources, leveraging technology to optimize both cost and quality of outcomes, as well as encourage scientific innovation.

As we step into 2023, let us explore trends that will take center stage in India's pharma setup and the new market realities for the sector in the upcoming year.

With the pandemic having a ripple effect, the digital transformation of the pharma sector will take a center stage in 2023 as one of the trends. There is no doubt that the latest technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), AR/VR, Machine Learning (ML), and additive manufacturing are helping pharma companies. This includes conducting trials in less time, improving the R&D process, and adding innovation to the products as well as improving compliance and efficiencies in manufacturing.



To move up the value chain, the pharma industry needs to focus on innovation. The sector needs new product launches and a strong innovation pipeline every year along with more R&D for emerging diseases or infections. The idea should be to have a core focus on patient needs while enhancing pharma's significance in new drug development, biologics, and innovation. Pharma companies are also expected to put more focus on the usage of technology, biological sciences, and cell, and gene therapy, as part of the trend.

When medication is produced based on a specific patient diagnosis, it refers to personalized medicine. The purpose is to ensure the drug is tailored for optimal effectiveness and patient outcomes. According to reports, the use of precision medication has demonstrated a higher level of effectiveness than other options. However, the problem that manufacturers are facing is that a smaller quantity of medication is produced, which means there is more than one treatment variation.

Pertinent to mention here that the production of precision medicine requires facilities that are specialized and smaller than most factories. The year 2023 is expected to give space to this trend as the methods used to produce precision medicine are refined, though it has posed problems for manufacturers.

To take on the new challenges and grab opportunities in 2023, regulators and industry stakeholders can align with each other, to chart an impressive growth trajectory. The pharmaceutical industry in India is the third largest by volume across the world and the fourteenth largest in terms of value. As per the Economic Survey of 2021-2022, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to reach \$65 billion by 2024. Keeping this in mind, a close-knit association between regulators and industry leaders or stakeholders is imperative, but at the same time, no compromise on quality should be made for the sake of competition.

(The author is CEO, Entod Pharmaceuticals)

Icon of nationalism, governance: Vajpayee

Tomorrow is the birth anniversary Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose life and work continue to inspire Indians

December 25 is a special day for the people of the country. Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on this day. With years passing by since he left this world, the people are becoming more aware of his contributions to India. His towering contributions to the making of 'New India' deservingly make him one of the greatest political institutions. Time may fly, but Vajpayee remains in the hearts of the people. He's still around us in spirit, as India marches on his ideals and foundations that he laid during his several decades of political life.

Politics is an instrument of service to the people. Yet, politics is not at all an alibi to become a slave of crowds. Politicians lead the people for better opportunities and fulfillment of aspirations. Politicians have to look into the future and make a sense of the moment to bring the best of the opportunities to the people. The nation is made of the people. The national interest is people's interest. A nationalist can only lead the people in the truest sense.

Vajpayee was a nationalist in thought and action. He was a poet of eloquence. His heart was large. He was a dreamer. He was an optimist. He was a believer. He was also a doer. He had a sense of history. Late Vajpayee knew that India's journey is ridden with struggles. The journey would be long and tiring. He knew that India has to build a foundation for the future generations to realise the true potential of the people and the nation. That set him on a journey to India.

Politics without ideology is hollow. Vajpayee had the ideology at the core of his politics. He was a man of organization. He led the organization, and thus groomed hundreds of leaders during his several decades of politics. He allowed the political workers to come close to him. This left an indelible mark on the mental constructs of the political workers, who still carry forward the vision of Vajpayee in thoughts and actions. The foremost message that he left behind was that ideology can never be abandoned.

Even while the Jan Sangh in the national interest joined hands with the socialists after the Emergency was lifted, late Vajpayee had made it clear that he and his colleagues had not abandoned the ideology. He demonstrated that ideology will be aligned to the national interests. Vajpayee was honest in action and words. He never hid his taste. He was a man of taste buds. He loved food. He loved children. He loved the company of friends. He rejoiced in conversations. He was a debater. He loved arguments. He was thus a great democrat. Even the Communists sought his company. He was accessible to all. He discussed issues.



THE GOOD WORK OF VAJPAYEE AS PRIME MINISTER WAS FRITTERED AWAY BY THE MANMOHAN SINGH-LED UPA GOVERNMENT'S SCAMS. BUT THE PEOPLE OF INDIA DID A COURSE CORRECTION AND BROUGHT THE BJP BACK TO POWER WITH A RECORD MANDATE

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



His arguments in Parliament came from the edge of the sword. He vanquished his foes with wit and argument. Yet, he was a friend to them outside Parliament. The political divide didn't make a personal wall for him. He was thus special to all. He enriched parliamentary debate. He thus established a tradition of debate and discourse in Parliament.

In the 1971 War, the late Vajpayee made a call for unity within the country. India with one voice supported the valour of the armed forces. He demonstrated that no political division came in the way of India's national interests. There can be no two voices about the valour and capacity of the armed forces. Late Vajpayee by his words and actions built the Parliamentary tradition that there can be no divisive discourse in the matters of securing India's national interests.

Indeed, the Opposition can learn from the conduct of late Vajpayee. He never sought shortcuts to gain political mileage at the expense of India's national interests. But the current Opposition has for the past few years been sending out divisive voices on matters of India's national interests. There is definitely a need for the Opposition to study late Vajpayee and imbibe his virtues in their conducts.

Late Vajpayee was an architect of modern India. India had come out of centuries of foreign rules. Naturally, self-doubt crept in the

psyche of the people. India had to rediscover her strength. The people had to know their capabilities. India had to find a deserving position in the world order. That set late Vajpayee to go for the Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998. He was never scared, and no threat and intimidation from the global power could dissuade him from attaining the nuclear deterrence. That was an epochal moment for India to shake off self-doubts.

Be fitting a true democrat, Vajpayee ran coalition governments with remarkable success. India's fragile polity of the 1990s had brought fractured mandate in elections after elections. But late Vajpayee brought a semblance of political stability. In those fluid polities of India, late Vajpayee laid the foundation of modern India.

Connectivity had to be the pathway to progress. Vajpayee took personal interests to take India on the path of connectivity in roads, ports, air and communication. It's to his credit that India's connectivity resilience helped the country raise the stake in the global supply chains in the post-pandemic world order.

Vajpayee was the father of the telecom revolution in India. It is to his credit that India is now reaping the gains of a digital economy. It again is to his credit that India could scale up the digital strength for targeted delivery of the benefits of the welfare schemes.

Vajpayee believed in bridging the gaps. He realised that the rural parts of the country were left behind in the journey of India. That set him on an intense policy journey to connect rural India. Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) has now bridged the rural-urban divide. Now, the people can access the urban amenities in the rural parts of the country. This is to the credit of late Vajpayee. He never hesitated from taking tough decisions in the interests of the people. He demonstrated that the politics of good governance is doable. This is in contrast to the politicians who embrace populism in their bids to gain an easy route to power.

The meticulous work of Vajpayee helped the Indian economy to embark on a major expansion of capacity. He gifted India the golden decade of the economy. Sadly, the good work of Vajpayee as Prime Minister was frittered away by the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government's scams. But the people of India did a course correction and brought the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) back to power with a record mandate. The people paid their tributes to the good governance of late Vajpayee to bless with a mandate that steered India back on the path of development and fulfillment of the core ideology of Atal ji. He remains 'Atal' even now in the hearts of the people.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE TASKS SET WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION WILL BE FULFILLED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GROUND SITUATION, — RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON MARIA ZAKHAROVA




THE WORLD IS TOO INTERDEPENDENT ... TO FEEL SAFE WHEN SUCH A BATTLE CONTINUES — OUR TWO NATIONS ARE ALLIES IN THIS BATTLE. — UKRAINE PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

Many luminaries worked for uplift of farmers (II)

We need to rethink about creating one voice of farmers which can together take forward the farmer movement

Swami Sahajanand Saraswati established the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha (BPKS) in 1929. With this, he emerged as the foremost kisan leader in India. The membership of this Sabha was estimated 80,000 in 1935 with the numbers, increasing to 250,000 in 1938, thereby making it the largest provincial body in India.

Further, this movement became political as 'The All India Kisan Congress' and later 'All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS)'. Though Sahajanand was elected its first president, the sabha comprised many eminent leaders of that time, like NG Ranga, EMS Namboodiripad, Pandit Karyanand Sharma, Pandit Yamuna Karjee, Pandit Yadunandan (Jadunandan)



BINOD ANAND

(The author is Secretary General, CNRI, and Member PM-MSP Committee)

Sharma, Rahul Sankrityayan, P Sundarayya, Ram Manohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev, and Bankim Mukerji.

It demanded the abolition of zamindari system and cancellation of rural debts. With Sardar Patel, Sahajanand addressed many 'Kisan Sabhas' in Bihar and advocated for their rights. As the chairman of the reception committee of the All India Anti-Compromise Conference at Ramgarh, Sahajanand worked with Netaji for whom he was a friend, philosopher, and guide.

Following Swamiji's lead, a large number of front-rank leaders of the peasant movement were intimately associated with the Forward Block.

He wrote and campaigned in Hindi. He was the only leader of farmers who integrated people from all walks of life and ideology. His writings are still contemporary and sources of progressive farmers in India.

A few important literary works related to farmers empowerment are "Kisan kaise ladten hain?", "Kisan ke dost aur dushman", "Bihar prantiya kisansabha ka ghoshna patra", "Kisanon ki phasane ki taiyariyan", "Bhumi vyavastha kaisi ho?", "Kisan andolan kyun aur kya?", "Gaya ke Kisanon ki Karun Kahani", and "Kisan sevak". Another true beacon of light for farmers was 'Rahbare Azam Deenbandhu' Chaudhary Chhotu Ram who was the voice and the messiah of farmers.

He fought for the rights of farmers in British India and strengthened the society by crossing every challenge and played a key role in rebuilding India. A true and robust voice of the farmers, labourers, the deprived and the oppressed section of the society, he fought valiantly against every powerful force that divided the society.

He closely observed and understood the issues related to agriculture, farmers and the challenges faced by the small businessmen and tried to address those challenges. Later, during his tenure as a minister in the provincial government, he worked for the welfare of the farmers of not only Punjab but the entire nation as well as the agricultural labourers.

He pioneered the work in the field of revenue system, and made laws for marketing of crops that are still part of our system, besides ensuring easy access of loans to the farmers along with laws related to Minimum Support Price and Mandis.

He was the man behind the idea of Bhakra Nangal dam. He along with the Raja of Bilaspur signed the papers for Bhakra Dam. Today we can clearly see the benefits that the people of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are reaping as a result of this decision.

Today, with one of the largest number of formal organisation (in the form of FPOs and cooperatives) of farmers after 75 years of Independence, when we are standing here for a new beginning and time of neglect has come to an end, the time of priority has begun. We need to rethink about creating one voice of farmers which can together take forward the farmer movement.

We will have to think about it in a new way. We will have to underline it in a new way. We will have to increase our scope of work and bring stability in the work, besides transparency in dialogue with the values we own from our ancestors from Vedic science. There is no other way of development for crores and crores farmers, deprived, backward, Dalit, poor, neglected women of the country than the medium of collaborative action.

To many people who question the relevance of these farmer-led dialogue, who think that the creating formal organization as cooperatives and FPOs and their respective federation is irrelevant. I would like to say from my heart and with humility that if this movement had ever been relevant, it is most relevant today and there is a long way to achieve greater heights.

Today it's worth remembering that "Let us speak together, Let our thoughts be one, Let us be of one mind. Let the place be common, Assembly be common, Mind and thought be common. Let the resolve be the same, And the mind be of one accord. May we live in harmony and agreement". It will be true tribute to the farmer leaders. Let us carry forward this legacy!

Ukraine Prez back in Kyiv, Russia keeps up attacks

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sounded another defiant note on his return to his nation's capital on Friday following his wartime visit to the United States, saying his forces are “working toward victory” even as Russia launched new strikes across the country.

Zelenskyy posted on his Telegram account that he’s in his Kyiv office following his US trip that secured a new USD 1.8 billion military aid package, and pledged that “we’ll overcome everything.” Zelenskyy’s return comes amid relentless Russian artillery, rocket and mortar fire as well as airstrikes on the eastern and southern fronts and elsewhere in Ukraine. Moscow repeated that there would be no end to the war until its military objectives are achieved.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the war would end at the negotiating table once the “special military operation” achieves “the goals that the Russian Federation



has set,” adding that “a significant headway has been made on demilitarisation of Ukraine.”

The Kremlin spokesman said no reported Ukrainian peace plan can succeed without taking into account “the realities of today that can’t be ignored,” a reference to Moscow’s demand that Ukraine recognises Russia’s sovereignty over the Crimea Peninsula, which was annexed in 2014, as well as other territorial gains.

Peskov said Russian President Vladimir Putin

would on Friday visit a weapons factory in Tula, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) south of Moscow, and chair a meeting on the country’s arms industry there.

The Ukrainian military said Russian forces fired multiple rocket launchers “more than 70 times” across Ukrainian territory overnight, while fierce battles raged around the city of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region where regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said four people were killed and seven others were wounded over the past

day. The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said Bakhmut and Lyman in the neighbouring Luhansk region as well as the front line between the Luhansk and Kharkiv regions bore the brunt of the Russian strikes, but didn’t specify to what degree. In the Kherson region, as many as 61 Russian rocket, artillery and mortar fire attacks over the past 24 hours killed one person and wounded two others.

Kherson regional Gov. Yaroslav Yanushevych posted on Telegram that Russian forces attacked from dug-in positions on the right bank of the Dnieper river, hitting educational institutions, apartment blocks and private homes.

In the eastern Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions, Ukraine’s military said Russia launched six missile strikes and as many air attacks on civilian targets while Ukrainian forces repelled Russian ground attacks on or near 19 settlements in the north and east.

The peculiar Russian missile ‘cemetery’ in eastern Ukraine



AP ■ KHARKIV

The eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv has a peculiar “cemetery,” one that recalls some of the worst damage done since the Russian invasion: the debris of rockets used against this town and its people.

The graveyard has more than a thousand missiles, or parts of them. Local authorities hope they can help provide information for any prosecution case against Russians authorities and soldiers. And one day, maybe, they will become part of a museum of the atrocities in the country.

The blueish cylinders are lined up in rows according to

their size, making an impressive if shocking sight from the air.

Dmytro Chubenko, spokesman for the Kharkiv region’s Prosecutor Office, said that the rockets have been collected since the first attacks, and after some time officials decided to organize them by type.

“These are pieces of evidence that an international criminal court would use,” he said during a visit to the place.

He mentioned that some specialists have already come to the city to analyze the material. The missiles, he added, were used against some important residential areas, like North Saltivka and Oleksiivka.

He said that the authorities estimate that at least 1,700 people have been killed by shelling, including 44 children, in Kharkiv and its surroundings. In summer, the buildings in areas like Saltivka were severely damaged, some blackened and others crumbling. There were practically no activities, with shops closed and apartments destroyed.

The winter has not improved anything. “We have lost everything, and it is not clear at all what we can expect in the future,” said Anna, a North Saltivka resident who left months ago and who didn’t give her last name for security reasons.

Ihor Deshpetko, 44, still lives in Kharkiv, despite what he has to suffer.

“There is no heating in my house, (and) unfortunately there won’t be until the end of the winter,” he said, adding that he now tends to call the area he lives the “black neighbourhood.”

Back in the missiles “cemetery,” Chubenko, from the prosecutors’ office, said that they will keep the rockets as long as needed so any expert or prosecutor can take the information they need to use as evidence against Russians.



Ukrainians hail Zelenskyy after US visit dismissed by Putin

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainians hailed President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s wartime visit to the United States as a success, while Russian officials said Thursday that it only fueled the conflict.

The U.S. Has announced a new \$1.8 billion military aid package, including supplies of the Patriot air defense systems, the most powerful such weapons to be delivered to Ukraine yet. Ukraine also stands to receive an additional \$44.9 billion in U.S. Aid as part of a massive government spending bill the Senate approved Thursday.

“We are returning from Washington with good results, with things that will really help,” Zelenskyy said on a video message shared Thursday night on his Telegram account. He thanked President Joe Biden and the U.S. Congress for supporting Ukraine’s fight against Russia. Neither Zelenskyy nor any other Ukrainian authorities have confirmed if he’s already back in Kyiv.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin had a different assessment of Zelenskyy’s trip, which included an Oval Office meeting with Biden, a joint news conference at the White House and an address to a largely supportive Congress.

“They say they may send Patriot there, fine, we will crack the Patriot too,” Putin told reporters, adding that the deliveries will only extend the fighting. “Those who do it do so in vain, it only drags out the conflict.” Ukrainians saw their president’s trip as a rousing success. “It’s an historical visit, the first one since the war began,” said Illia Shvachko, a 32-year-old computer specialist in Kyiv. “Getting weapons helps.” Putin reaffirmed that Russia is ready for talks with Ukraine on ending the conflict.

“One way or another, all armed conflicts end with talks,” Putin said. “The sooner this understanding comes to those who oppose us the better. We never rejected the talks.”

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mr. Nasir Ahmad S/o Mr. Kashim Rani W/o Mr. Surinder Kumar in respect of Plot No. 7, AREA MEASURING 44.22 SQ. YARDS (E. 36.97 SQ. METERS, OUT OF KHASRA No. 26, 27 & 51, SITUATED AT CHAKANAPUR, IN THE AREA OF SHAHD NAGAR, PARGANA LONI, DISTT. GHAZIABAD, (U.P.) (said property) vide Sale Deed Dated 16.03.2016, Documents No. 2960, SR-1, Ghazabad. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Khushboo W/o Mr. Anish Ahmad Rio F-300, Block-C, Shahed Nagar, Chikanapur, Ghazabad, UP, is purchasing the said property from Near Concern Court in respect of said property. And if any person, who has got, rights, interest, title, claim, encumbrances, charges, any kind of dispute of any nature whatsoever in respect of the above said Property or any part thereof, can send their objections with their documentary evidence and kindly inform the undersigned in writing at below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, I shall be presumed that the said Property is entirely free from all such claims, interest, charges, encumbrances etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Be it known all general public that my client Mr. Himanshu Sharma s/o Late Mr. Ram Pal Sharma Residence of –L/214, New Mahavir Nagar New Delhi, executes the said deed in favour of Mr. Surinder Singh dated 08.11.2018. Thereafter, Unfortunately, Mr. Ram Pal Sharma died on 01.05.2011 leaving behind Binla Sharma (wife), Himanshu Sharma (son) and Manita Sharma (daughter) as his legal heirs. We have received SMC certificate no. 9060000128419 from his legal heirs mentioned above. Thereafter, Binla Sharma (wife) and Manita Sharma (daughter) relinquished their respective shares in the said property Plot No. WZ-152-A area measuring 286 sqyds vide Document No.31617, Volume No.19358, Pages 141 to 143, Book No.1 in favour of Mr. Himanshu Sharma through Relinquishment deed dated 26.11.2011. If any person has any objection regarding the above mentioned property Plot No. WZ152-A area measuring 286 sq yds vide Document No.31617, Volume No.19358, Pages 141 to 143, Book No.1 kindly contact on 9599801188 within 07 days from the date of publication. Place : Delhi Date : 24.12.22 Sd/- Advocate Amarendra K. Dubey, Usha Kiran Bldg, Comm. Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-33 M. 959801188.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION SERVICES LLP LLPIN: AAZ-6347 Registered Office: House No. MPL No. XVII/3057, Kharsa No. 307/20, 2nd Floor, Gali No. 5 A, Ranjit Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 Email : himanjalin1975@gmail.com Phone No: 9520101626. Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014) Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of Thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies at New Delhi that Limited Liability Partnership International Quality And Accreditation Services LLP (LLPIN: AAZ-6347) having its registered office at House No. MPL No. XVII/3057, Kharsa No. 307/20, 2nd Floor, Gali No. 5 A, Ranjit Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi -110008 may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares. 1. The Principal objects of the company are as follows:- To carry on the business of accreditation of certification, testing and medical laboratories and undertake and set up all kinds of projects related to national and international quality accreditations and for this purpose do all such activities as may be necessary such as training, coaching, recruitment, staffing, project execution and management etc. 2. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at House No. MPL No. XVII/3057, Kharsa No. 307/20, 2nd Floor, Gali No. 5 A, Ranjit Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi -110008. 3. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. Dated this 23rd day of December, 2022 By the Order of Partners INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION SERVICES LLP LLPIN: AAZ-6347 Ratan Singh Rana Designated Partner DFIN: 07290842

AP ■ WASHINGTON

At a time of grave consequence, a wartime leader crossed the Atlantic to arrive at a White House decked in holiday decor to consult with the American president about a war in Europe.

The moment was Dec. 22, 1941, as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill landed near Washington to meet with President Franklin D. Roosevelt just weeks after the attack on

Pearl Harbour. Almost 81 years later to the day, the pageantry of that trip was echoed on Wednesday as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived for a surprise visit with President Joe Biden and an address to Congress.

Zelenskyy is a changed leader since he last came to the White House more than a year ago, when Russia's bloody invasion of Ukraine was still over history's horizon. The former comedian



PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given to the General public that by Mrs. Aruna are the owner of Residential Property Plot No. 92, area measuring 43 sq. Yds., Kharsa No. 194, Khewat No. 11, Situated at Village Gondoli Colony, Shankar Nagar Extension, Gali No. 5, Shandara, New Delhi-110051, vide registered sale deed dated 29.10.2021 (Document No 9647). All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Vimesh Kumar S/o Mr. Awadhesh Kumar is purchasing entire property of the above-mentioned 43sq. Yds. property from MRS ARUNA. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Place : Delhi Date : 24.12.22 Sd/- Advocate Amarendra K. Dubey, Usha Kiran Bldg, Comm. Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-33 M. 959801188.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 To be known to all that I, Shri Amit Manchanda S/o Sh. Kuldev Raj Rao, Flat no 671, 7th Floor, Neelkanth Apartments, Rohini, Sector-13, Delhi-85 owner of Flat no 671, The Tagalog Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., Plot no 49, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-85 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no LD26011GHCONH16112022 dated 16.11.22 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. share certificate and Allotment Letter of the above property have been lost, A FIR dated 01.02.21 bearing LR no 92133/2021 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/Ph No.9810373947 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (GH), C-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-23.

was somber, even grim, in a black suit as he spoke about threats to his country’s security. Now perpetually dressed in army green fatigues, he evokes comparisons to Churchill for his fierce defense of a country facing an existential crisis.

His heightened stature on the world stage was reflected as soon as he entered the White House grounds, where he was greeted by a colour guard lining the driveway on a brisk winter day. A red carpet was waiting for him, and Zelenskyy

shook hands with Biden and first lady Jill Biden. Together, they posed for pictures before ducking into the building.

The two presidents walked to the Oval Office, where they sat in armchairs in front of a portrait of Roosevelt. There was a roaring fire in the fireplace and a Christmas garland draped over the mantle, giving the room a cozy holiday ambience despite the grim reason for the meeting.

Biden told Zelenskyy that the Ukrainian people “inspire the world” and said that “you are the man of the year in the United States of America,” referencing Zelenskyy’s recognition from Time magazine.

Zelenskyy, speaking in English, thanked Biden with “all my heart” for the American support. He presented Biden with a medal that had been awarded to the Ukrainian captain of a HIMARS battery, a rocket system provided by the U.S.

“He’s very brave, and he said, give it to a very brave president,” Zelenskyy said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad is going to destroy all in-patient records between pertaining to the period from to January 1, 2016 - December 31 2016 in January 2023. Any person (s) who would like to preserve their records for reference must contact the Medical Record Department (email-ID pawan.sharma2@fortishealthcare.com) of the hospital within one month from the date of this notification.

Fortis Escorts
Fortis Escorts Hospital
Neelam Bata Road,
Faridabad-121001 (Haryana)
Ph. 0129 7116000

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
 Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	02221875B	ESTI PROTECTION SWITCH WITH CARTRIDGE 130 DEGREE FOR HEATER	717 NOS	16-01-23
02	14230857	DISSOLVED ACETYLENE GAS	81867 CUM	16-01-23
03	19220662	SPHERI BLOC FOR TORQUE ARM/ AXLE GUIDE ROD FOR WAP-7	504 NOS	18-01-23
04	02222514A	MAINTENANCE FREE VALVE REGULATED LEAD-ACID BATTERIES SET FOR 110V	702 SET	19-01-23
05	15225008	ONE SET OF EQUIPMENTS FOR PMS	235 NOS = 01 SET	20-01-23
06	11222045B	MANUAL METAL ARC WELDING ELECTRODE, CLASS M-2	239160 MTR	23-01-23
07	07220212	CENTRING DISC FOR LHB COACHES.	2576 NOS	23-01-23
08	07220207	CONTROL ARM LOWER LEFT CONSISTING OF 02 FOR LHB COACHES	1024 NOS	23-01-23
09	11222046D	SOLID MIG / MG WELDING FILLER WIRE, CLASS VI	68400 KGS	30-01-23
10	03222217	VINYL COATED UPHOLSTERY FABRIC ARTIFICIAL LEATHER FOR ACCOACHES	30215 MTR	06-02-23
11	07223486	SAFETY WIRE ROPE ASSEMBLY FOR RFIAT BOGIE	19789 NOS	20-02-23
12	11222022	MANUAL METAL ARC WELDING ELECTRODES, CLASS A-2	275193 MTR	17-04-23

NOTE-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. 2022-2023 Dated: 23.12.2022
 3420/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
 तेन नं.-1, तरुण विहार, मोहरोवाल रोड, देहरादून-248001
 Phone No:- 0135-2671940, E-mail:- eemdujs@rediffmail.com

दिनांक: 23.12.2022
ई-निविदा संशोधन
 इस कार्यालय प्रांशं स0-4010/ ई-निविदा सूचना / 2022-23 दिनांक 09.10.2022 से आमंत्रित निविदा को एवं प्रांशं स0-4163/ ई - निविदा सूचना / 2022-23 दिनांक 19.12.2022 के द्वारा संशोधित किया गया अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदाओं की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।
 निविदा सम्य सागरी (मुख्य तिथियों) निम्नवत हैं:-

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि	27.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	27.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि	30.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	03.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	09.01.2023 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाइन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निश्चित शुल्क, बिड सिक्कोरिटी, स्टॉय पेरर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	09.01.2023 up to 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	10.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि	सूचना प्रपत्रक से दी जायेगी

शेष नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा के अनुसार व्यवहृत रहें।
‘जल संचय-जीवन संचय’
 अधिशासी अभियन्ता

KPH Fabrics P Ltd.
 Notice is hereby given to the General public that by Mrs. Rakhi Solanki w/o Parvash Solanki (40%) and Mrs. Jyoti Ahuja w/o Harsh Ahuja (60%) are the owner of Residential Property Plot No. 57 area measuring 200 sqyds part of Kharsa No. 25/11 situated at Village Dabri Colony known as Dabri Extension, Block-C, New Delhi 110045 (Document No. Document No. 1804, Volume No. 11281) All persons are hereby informed that: Will (within Family) executed by Mrs. Dello Kaur in favour of her son Mr. Manmohan Singh Gali in respect to Said Plot i.e Plot No. 57 area measuring 200 sqyds vide Document No. 330, Volume No. 44, pages 1 to 3 Book No. 3 dated 12/04/2018. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Place : Delhi Date : 24.12.22 Sd/- Advocate Amarendra K. Dubey, Usha Kiran Bldg, Comm. Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-33 M. 959801188.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that my client M/s KPH Fabrics P Ltd. is the owner of land area measuring 16817.85 sqm. part in kharsa no. 12/11/22, 12.13.14,14/1, 14/2, 9/1 situated at Majia Patli khurd, palwal, Haryana, having acquired the same vide 6 sale deeds duly registered in the office of SR palwal as Doc No. 6338, 6344, 6345, 6346, 6347 and 6200 dated 21/9/2018. And whereas they have lost the following document pertaining to the said property, an FIR has already been lodged in lieu of that dated 22/12/2022:- 1. Original Sale Deed dated 1.07.2011 (document no. 3355) executed by Ram Prasad, hoshiyar singh @ hukam in favour of mukesh kumar. All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement, or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb. U.P., Mob. 9810063351

Senate OK's \$1.7 tn bill to fund Gov't, aid Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Senate passed a massive \$1.7 trillion spending bill Thursday that finances federal agencies through September and provides another significant round of military and economic aid to Ukraine one day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dramatic address to a joint meeting of Congress.

The bill, which runs for 4,155 pages, includes about \$772.5 billion for domestic programs and \$858 billion for defense and would finance federal agencies through the fiscal year at the end of September. The bill passed by a vote of 68-29 and now goes to the House for a final vote before it can be sent to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. “This is one of the most significant appropriations packages we have done in a very long time,” said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “The range of people it helps is large and deep.”

Lawmakers were racing to get the bill approved before a partial government shutdown would occur at midnight Friday, and many were anxious to complete the task before a deep freeze and wintry conditions left them stranded in Washington for the holidays. Many also want to lock in government funding before a new GOP-controlled House next year could make it harder to find compromise on spending.

Senators heard from Zelenskyy about the importance of U.S. Aid to his coun-



try for its war with Russia on Wednesday night. The measure provides about \$45 billion in military, economic and humanitarian assistance for the devastated nation and NATO allies, more than Biden ever requested, raising total assistance so far to more than \$100 billion. “Your money is not charity,” Zelenskyy told lawmakers and Americans watching from home. “It’s an investment in the global security and democracy that we handle in the most responsible way.”

Lawmakers were in disagreement over which amendments were to be voted upon to lock in a final vote on an expedited basis. The impasses had the potential to prevent passage of the bill before the midnight Friday deadline. But negotiations overnight led to a breakthrough and senators gathered early Thursday morning to work through more than a dozen amendments before getting to a final vote.

The spending bill is supported by Schumer and Senate Republican leader Mitch

McConnell, though for different reasons.

McConnell cited the bill’s 10% boost in defense spending, which he says will give America’s Armed Forces the funding and certainty needed to ensure the country’s security. “The world’s greatest military will get the funding increase that it needs, outpacing inflation,” McConnell said. “Meanwhile, non-defense, non-veterans spending will come in below the rate of inflation, for a real-dollar cut.”

McConnell faced pushback from many Republicans who don’t support the spending bill and resent being forced to vote on such a massive package with so little time before a potential shutdown and the Christmas holiday. “There has not been enough time for a single person to have read this entire bill. The bill and process ignores soaring inflation, rising interest rates and our ballooning debt of \$31 trillion,” said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. “Enough is enough.”

China is US only competitor with intent to reshape international order: Blinken

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken poses an immediate threat to the free and open international system and acknowledged China to be Washington's "only competitor" with the intent to reshape the international order.

Addressing his year-end news conference here on Thursday, Blinken also underlined that diplomacy is the only way to definitively end the Russian conflict in Ukraine.

"For while Russia poses an immediate threat to the free and open international system, the PRC (People's Republic of China) is our only competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to advance that objective," Blinken told reporters here.

The US has indicated solidarity with several Asian nations, several of whom have conflicts with an aggressive China



which is flexing its muscles in the strategic Indo-Pacific 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.

The South China Sea and

the East China Sea are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade.

Although the US lays no claims to the disputed waters, it has challenged China's growing territorial claims in the South China Sea by deploying warships and fighter jets to assert freedom of navigation and overflight patrols in the strategically vital region.

The US Secretary of State reaffirmed Washington's commitment to preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and we continue to raise concerns and take joint action around China's human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Tibet, the erosion of freedom of speech and the press in Hong Kong.

China views Taiwan, a self-governing island, as a rebel province which should be reunited with the Chinese mainland, even by force.

"Until President Putin changes course, the best way to improve the prospects of a just and durable peace, to actually advance the prospects for meaningful diplomacy, is sustaining our strong support for Ukraine," Blinken said.

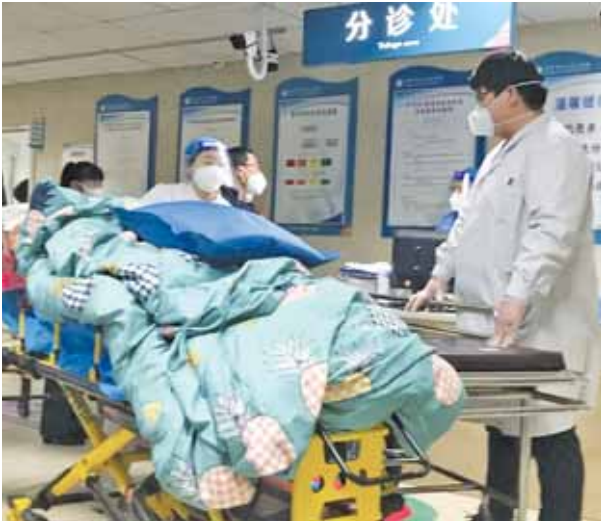
The Kremlin warned on Wednesday that increasing the supply of US arms to Ukraine would severely aggravate the devastating 10-month war ignited by Russia's invasion, with Russia's defence minister Sergei Shoigu calling for expanding Moscow's military by at least 500,000 people.

Responding to a question on the North Korean nuclear issue, Blinken said China has an important role to play in resolving it. "It has the strongest, deepest relationship of any country in the world with North Korea. I think it's in China's interest not to see these kinds of provocative actions continue. And we have conversations with China; this is something President Xi and President Biden talked about," he said.

"I expect I'll continue that conversation when I get to China early next year, about what we hope that China will do to try to convince North Korea to move in another direction," Blinken said.

"We have said very clearly, and it remains the case, that we're open to diplomacy without any preconditions. We remain committed to seeing the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. To date, North Korea's not engaged on that basis, but that remains a possibility. And I think China can play a role in helping to move things in that direction," he added.

'Very hard road ahead' for China as Covid cases spiral



AP ■ BAZHOU (CHINA)

Nearly three years after it was first identified in China, the coronavirus is now spreading through the vast country. Experts predict difficult months ahead for its 1.4 billion people.

China's unyielding "zero-COVID" approach, which aimed to isolate all infected people, bought it years to prepare for the disease.

But an abrupt reopening, which was announced without warning on December 7 in the wake of anti-lockdown protests, has caught the nation under-vaccinated and short on hospital capacity. Experts have forecast between a million and 2 million deaths next year.

Predicting deaths has proven tricky throughout the pandemic, since it is influenced by varied factors and China presents an especially complicated case because of opaque information sharing.

It's not clear exactly how large the current outbreak is, as China has reduced testing and stopped reporting most mild cases.

But in cities and towns around Baoding and Langfang, in Hebei province, an area that was among the first to face an unchecked outbreak, Associated Press reporters saw hospital intensive care units overwhelmed by patients, and ambulances being turned away.

Across the country, widespread reports of absences from work, shortages of fever-reducing medicine, and staff working overtime at crematoria suggest the virus is widespread.

China belongs to a small club of countries that managed to stop most domestic transmission of the virus in 2020, but it's the last to end restrictions. Experiences of ending vary: Singapore and New Zealand achieved high vaccination rates

and bolstered medical systems during restrictions, and reopened relatively smoothly.

Hong Kong, where omicron overcame defenses while many elderly people were unvaccinated, suffered a disruptive COVID-19 wave in 2022.

Nearly 11,000 people died of the illness this year in the city of 7.4 million, with 95 per cent of them older than 60, according to Hong Kong's department of health. Data from the city showed a 15 per cent fatality rate for those older than 80 and unvaccinated, said Jin Dong-yan, a virology expert at Hong Kong University.

AN UNDER-VACCINATED POPULATION

China has higher vaccination rates than Hong Kong did at the time of its omicron outbreak, but many people are vulnerable to infection, especially the elderly. The country has exclusively used domestically made vaccines, which rely on older technology than the mRNA vaccines used elsewhere that have shown the best protection against infection.

A study conducted in Hong Kong, which has administered both an mRNA vaccine and Sinovac's CoronaVac, suggested that CoronaVac requires a third shot to provide comparable protection, especially for the elderly. An ordinary course of the vaccine is two shots, with an optional booster later.

Most people vaccinated in China have received either CoronaVac or a similar vaccine produced by SinoPharm, but the country has administered at least five other vaccines.

Jan 6 report: Trump lit fire of Capitol insurrection

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House January 6 committee's final report asserts that Donald Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol, concluding an extraordinary 18-month investigation into the former president and the violent insurrection two years ago.

Trump "lit that fire," the committee's chairman, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, writes. The 814-page report released late on Thursday comes after the panel interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses, held 10 hearings and obtained more than a million pages of documents.

The witnesses — ranging from many of Trump's closest aides to law enforcement to some of the rioters themselves — detailed Trump's "premeditated" actions in the weeks

ahead of the attack and how his wide-ranging efforts to overturn his defeat directly influenced those who brutally pushed past the police and smashed through the windows and doors of the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

The central cause was "one man," the report says: Trump.

The insurrection gravely threatened democracy and "put the lives of American lawmakers at risk," the bipartisan nine-member panel concluded, offering so far the most definitive account of a dark chapter in modern American history. It functions not only as a compendium of the most dramatic moments of testimony from months of hearings, but also as a document meant to be preserved for future generations.

In a foreword to the report, outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the findings should be a "clarion call to all Americans: to vigilantly guard our Democracy and to give our vote only to those dutiful in their defense of our Constitution."



The report's eight chapters tell the story largely as the panel's hearings did this summer — describing the many facets of the remarkable plan that Trump and his advisers devised to try and void President Joe Biden's victory.

The lawmakers describe the former president's pressure on states, federal officials, lawmakers and Vice President Mike Pence to game the system or break the law.

In the two months between the election and the insurrection,

the report says, "President Trump or his inner circle engaged in at least 200 apparent acts of public or private outreach, pressure, or condemnation, targeting either State legislators or State or local election administrators, to overturn State election results."

Trump's repeated, false claims of widespread voter fraud resonated with his supporters, the committee said, and were amplified on social media, building on the distrust of government he had fostered for his four years in office.

And he did little to stop them when they resorted to violence and stormed the Capitol, interrupting the certification of Biden's victory.

The massive, damning report comes as Trump is running again for the presidency and also facing multiple federal investigations, including probes of his role in the insurrection and the presence of classified documents at his Florida estate.

N Korea fires ballistic missiles after US-S Korea drills

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters on Friday, its latest weapons demonstration that came days after US and South Korean warplanes conducted joint drills that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

North Korea has conducted an unprecedented number of missile tests this year in what some experts call an attempt to bolster its weapons capability and pressure its rivals to make concessions such as sanctions relief in future negotiations.

Recently, the North also claimed to have performed major tests needed to acquire its first spy satellite and a more mobile intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the US mainland.

South Korea's military



detected the two missile launches from North Korea's capital region at around 4:32 pm on Friday. Japan said it also confirmed at least one missile launch by North Korea.

It wasn't immediately clear exactly what kinds of missiles North Korea fired. South Korea's military said the missiles travelled about 250 kilometres (155 miles) and 350 kilometres (220 miles) respectively before landing in the

waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

Japanese Vice Defence Minister Toshiro Ino said that one missile detected by Japan flew as far as 300 kilometres (180 miles) at a maximum altitude of 50 kilometres (30 miles). He said that missile might have showed an "irregular" trajectory, a possible reference to North Korea's highly maneuverable, nuclear-capable KN-23 missile, which was

modeled on Russia's Iskander missile.

South Korea's military called the launches "a grave provocation" that hurts international peace. It said South Korea will maintain a firm readiness and closely monitor North Korean moves in coordination with the United States.

Ino also accused North Korea of significantly raising tensions with repeated weapons tests. The launches could be a response to the US-South Korean aerial military exercises near the Korean Peninsula on Tuesday, as North Korea has said its torrid round of testing activities in past months were meant as a warning over its rivals' previous combined drills.

Washington and Seoul have said their drills are defensive in nature, but North Korea calls them practice for an invasion.

3 dead, 3 wounded in Paris shooting; suspect arrested

AP ■ PARIS

A shooting targeting a Kurdish cultural center in a bustling Paris neighbourhood on Friday left three people dead and three others wounded, authorities said. A 69-year-old suspect was wounded and arrested.

The Paris prosecutor's office opened an investigation for murder and attempted murder. The Paris prosecutor said the suspect had a prior police record, including an arrest for attacking migrants living in tents, and that investigators are considering a possible racist motive for the shooting.

The shooting occurred at midday at a Kurdish cultural center and a restaurant and hairdresser nearby, according to the mayor for the 10th arron-



dissement, Alexandra Cordebar. Speaking to reporters at the scene, she said the "real motivation" for the shooting remains unclear.

As she spoke, a crowd nearby chanted, "Erdogan, terrorist" — referring to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — and "Turkish state, assassin."

Police cordoned off the area in the 10th arrondissement of the French capital, on a busy street with shops and restaurants near the Gare de l'Est train station. The shooting came at a time when Paris is buzzing with activity before the Christmas weekend. The Paris police department warned people to stay away from the area.

Paris Prosecutor Laure Beccuau said three people hit in the shooting have died, one is in critical condition and two others are hospitalised with less serious injuries. The attacker was also wounded in the face, she said.

She said anti-terrorism prosecutors are in contact with investigators, but haven't indicated any sign of a terrorist motive.

1 cop, 2 TTP ultras killed in suicide attack in Islamabad

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

One police officer and two suspected militants, including a woman of the dreaded Pakistani Taliban outfit, were killed in a suicide attack here on Friday, prompting authorities here to issue a "red alert" across the federal capital.

The incident took place in Sector I-10/4 in Islamabad's upscale residential area, located barely 15km away from the garrison city of Rawalpindi, where Pakistan's powerful military establishment is located.

"The bomber, accompanied by a female and driving an explosive-laden vehicle, was stopped by police for checking," Deputy Inspector General of Police Sohail Zafar Chattha told the media.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti/Northern Railway, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 was invites e-tender for the under noted work the same could not uploaded on IREPS website. So now it has been uploaded to IREPS website on date 22.12.2022.

1. Name of work and location	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 kV AC single phase OHE for electrification work of - 1) Construction of LOCO out pit for maintenance of Electric Locomotive at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Station Yard, 2) Extension of loop lines at the 05 station (BHD, NDKR,DHDM,SHDM,MOY) in DUK Section of Delhi Division and 3) Electronic interlocking of 06 stations (GRA,BZJT,KUN,BZK, SHDM,MOY) in DUK Section.
2. Tender Notice no.	01-DyCEE-GSU-NDLS-22-23-R
3. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) Now	Rs. 3,49,000/-
4. Approximate cost earlier	Rs. 3,97,97,928.47
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender now	Tenders uploaded on date 22.12.2022 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 16.01.2023
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document now	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 02.01.2023 to 16.01.2023. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 01-Dy CEE/GSU/NDLS/ 2022-23-R-1 Dated : 22.12.2022

3414/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. Edelweiss
CIN - U67100MH2007PLC174759
Registered Office : Edelweiss House Off CST Road Kalina, Mumbai 400098
+91 22 4088 6090 / 6620 3149

APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) r/w proviso to Rule 9(1)]
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Public Notice for E-auction sale of immovable property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) r/w proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and Borrower & guarantor in particular that the immovable property described herein below ("Secured Asset"), mortgaged to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC Trust SC- 30, ("EARC"), the physical possession of which has been taken by Authorised Officer of EARC on October 31, 2022, will be sold by way of E-Auction on **January 10, 2023 at 12:00 Noon** with unlimited extension of 5 Minutes each through e-Auction Agency M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) on the website/portal <https://edelweissarc.auctiontiger.net> on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of aggregate dues of **Rs. 168,68,69,408.00/- (Rupees One Hundred Sixty Eight Crores Sixty Eight Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eight Only)** being due as on September 26, 2013, together with interest at contractual rates and other costs and expenses thereon to EARC from **KLG SYSYTEL LIMITED (in Liquidation) ("Borrower")** and **Mr. Kumud Goel and Ms. Pushpa Lata Goel ("Guarantors")**.
The Description of Secured Asset, Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit for the Secured Assets shall be as follows:

Description of Secured Asset	Reserve Price	EMD
All that piece and parcel of Industrial plot of land being Plot No. 24, admeasuring 1000 sq. mtr. in Sector 18, Electronics City, Gurgaon, Haryana along with all the building/structures being thereon (total built-up structure - 15,750 Sq. Ft.) and bounded as follows : North: Access Road, South: Plot No.22, East: Access Road, West: Plot No. 23	Rs. 12,75,00,000/-	1,27,50,000/-

Other important details

Site Inspection	25/12/2022 to 03/01/2023, between 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Document Verification	On working days between 02/01/2023 to 06/01/2023
Bid Document Purchase	On working days between 04/01/2023 to 07/01/2023.
Last date of submission of bid document	By 5pm on 09/01/2023
Commencement of e-auction sale	12 Noon on 10/01/2023
Bank details	Ac No. 0004103000054719, IFSC No. IBKL0000004, IDBI Bank, Mittal Court, Nariman Point, Mumbai.
Officer contact details	7506642534 Meghraj_deshmukh@edelweissarc.in

For detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale, please refer to the link provided in the Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.edelweissarc.in/PropertySale

Date : 24.12.2022
Place : Mumbai

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Contact No: 7506642534

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-22763808 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC022686 Website www.ujvn.com

RO No. 942 e-Tender Notice Dtn: 22.12.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Asan Barrage, Jal Shakti Bawan, Dhakrani, Dehradun invites online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. :- e-NIT/09/EE (E&M)/Asan Barrage/2022-23:
Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Early Warning Systems (EWS) for Asan Barrage.
Estimated cost: Rs. 1,78,95,000/- + GST.
Date of availability of bid document on website: 23.12.2022
Last date for submission of bids on website: 14.01.2023 upto 17:00 Hrs
For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in" Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

"APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on **30.01.2023** from 02.00 PM to 04.00 PM, for recovery of **Rs. 87,29,524/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Four only)** pending towards **Loan Account No. HLAPN00161643**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **12.12.2022** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **13.12.2022** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **Vishal (Proprietor, August Consultants) and Din Dayal**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 1,22,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Two Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 12,20,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Twenty Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Ground Floor DDA MIG Flat No.195-B, situated at Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, alongwith proportionate land rights underneath the said Flat with all its appurtenances, easements, rights of ingress and egress and all fixture and fitting in and around the said property, falling in the West District of NCT of Delhi.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshome loans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 16.12.2022 Sd/-
Place : NEW DELHI Authorized officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF
FORTIS HEALTHCARE HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of corporate debtor	Fortis Healthcare Holdings Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	27/12/2001
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC - Delhi
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U65993DL2001PTC152641
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	G - 16, Marina Arcade, Connaught Circus, New Delhi - 110001
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	16.12.2022 (certified true copy received on 22.12.2022)
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	14.06.2023
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Mr. Ashish Singh IBBI/IPA-002/IPN00416/2017-18/11230
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Flat No 901, Tower A-3, Cleo County, Sector 121, Noida - 201301 ashishsinghscs@gmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Unit No-153A, Fifth Floor, Tower-A, A-41, The Cornerium, Sector-62, Noida- 201301 Email:fortishealthcareholdings.crp@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	07.01.2023
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	a) www.ibbi.gov.in b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the **Fortis Healthcare Holdings Private Limited** on **16.12.2022**.
The creditors of **Fortis Healthcare Holdings Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before **07.01.2023** to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date: 24.12.2022 Ashish Singh
Place: Noida Interim Resolution Professional
Reg No-IBBI/IPA-002/IPN00416/2017- 2018/11230

India economic growth ‘extremely fragile’: RBI

‘Needs all support’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India’s economic growth is now ‘extremely fragile’ and needs all the support that it can get, as private consumption and capital investment are yet to pick up, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Jayanth R Varma said on Friday.

Varma further said out of the four engines of growth for the economy, exports and government spending supported the Indian economy through the pandemic, but other engines need to pick up the baton now.

“I like to think in terms of the four engines of growth for the economy: exports, government spending, capital investment and private consumption.”

“...While exports cannot be the main driver of growth because of the global slowdown, government spending is necessarily limited by fiscal constraints,” he told PTI.

Observing that experts are waiting for many years for private investment to pick up the slack Varma said that concerns about future growth



prospects appear to be deterring capital investment.

“The critical question is whether the fourth engine of private consumption will remain buoyant after the pent-up demand dissipates over the coming months.”

“I, therefore, fear that economic growth is now extremely fragile and needs all the support that it can get,” he said.

Earlier this month, the RBI revised its growth estimate for FY23 to 6.8 per cent from the earlier 7 per cent, while the World Bank revised upwards its GDP growth forecast to 6.9 per cent, saying the economy was showing higher resilience to global shocks.

Varma, a professor at the Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad),

however, asserted that India does not face a threat of recession unlike many other countries of the world.

“In fact, the Indian economy is faring better than most other large economies in the world today,” he said, adding that the problem is that India’s aspiration level is also higher, particularly after two lost years due to the pandemic.

Varma pointed out that India is enjoying the benefits of a demographic dividend, and it, therefore, needs high growth to provide employment opportunities for the young people joining the workforce.

“I do not fear that India will grow slower than the rest of the world. I fear that we may grow slower than our own aspirations and our own needs,” he said.

Sensex crashes 981 pts, Nifty finishes below 18,000

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex plunged 981 points to end below the 60,000-mark following across-the-board selling on Friday, marking its fourth straight day of losses during which investors have lost over ₹15 lakh crore.

Surging Covid cases in China and a few other nations have fanned fears of another global pandemic wave, while stronger US growth data has cemented expectations of the Federal Reserve continuing with its hawkish stance, experts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 980.93 points or 1.61 per cent to settle at 59,845.29 — closing below the psychologically key 60,000-mark after October 28 this year.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dropped 320.55 points or 1.77 per cent to end at 17,806.80.

Barring Titan, all Sensex stocks closed in the red, led by Tata Steel (down nearly 5 per cent), Tata Motors, SBI, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, Wipro, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki and L&T.

Investors have now lost ₹15.78 lakh crore in four sessions, with the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies standing at ₹2,72,12,860.03 crore.

“Markets were caught in



frenzied selling as weak global cues and bearish external factors pushed both the key benchmark indices below the psychological levels.

“Besides spurt in Covid cases in China and Japan, the better-than-expected US Q3 GDP numbers further raised concerns that the Fed will go for more rate hikes to tame inflation, which further accentuated selling pressure in the markets,” said Amol Athawale, Deputy Vice President - Technical Research at Kotak Securities Ltd.

The US economy grew at an unexpectedly strong 3.2 per cent on an annual basis in the quarter ended September.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex has tumbled 1,492.52 points or 2.43 per cent, while the Nifty tanked 462.20 points or 2.52 per cent.

Bharat Highways InvIT files draft papers with Sebi to raise ₹2K crore via IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infrastructure investment trust Bharat Highways InvIT has filed draft prospectus with the capital markets regulator Sebi to mop-up ₹2,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

Proceeds of the issue will be used to repay certain loans obtained by the Project SPVs (special purpose vehicles) and for general corporate purposes, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

These SPV projects include Porbandar-Dwarka Expressway, Varanasi-Sangam Expressway, GR Sangli-Solapur Highway, GR Akkalkot-Solapur Highway, GR Phagwara Expressway and GR Gundugolanu-Devarapalli Highway.

Bharat Highways InvIT was set up in August 2022 to acquire 100 per cent stake in each of Project SPVs from GR Infrastructure Ltd including

GDDHPL, wherein the InvIT proposes to initially acquire 49 per cent stake.

As per the draft papers, Bharat Highways InvIT (infrastructure investment trust) would issue units aggregating up to ₹2,000 crore.

The issue will be made through the book building process wherein 75 per cent of the portion size will be available to institutional investors and the remaining 25 per cent to non-institutional investors.

The sponsor to the issue, Lokesh Builders Pvt Ltd, part of the GR Group, will subscribe to 15 per cent of the total post-issue unit capital of the InvIT in order to comply with the sponsor lock-in requirements, post which the issue size will be reduced.

The total income of the SPV Group for the financial years ended March 31, 2022, 2021 and 2020 was ₹447.23 crore, ₹160.01 crore, ₹217.03 crore and ₹309.27 crore, respectively.



Anti-competitive practices in digital markets: CAIT seeks regulatory body for e-commerce



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders’ body CAIT on Friday demanded that the Government should immediately roll out a robust e-commerce policy and form a regulatory authority for the segment.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) reiterated its demands a day after a Parliamentary panel suggested digital market entities to desist from “anti-steering,” “deep discounting,” “self preferencing,” “search & ranking preferencing” and other practices that will impact competition in the market.

To curb anti-competitive practices in digital markets, a Parliamentary panel on Thursday proposed an ex-ante regulation, classification of “systemically important digital intermediaries” based on their revenue, market capitalisation and number of users, and a new digital competition law.

The suggestions are part of the Standing Committee on Finance’s report on ‘Anti-Competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies’ tabled in Parliament on Thursday and have come against the backdrop of rising concerns over unfair business practices in digital markets.

Gold declines ₹372; silver flat at ₹69,273/kg



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by ₹372 to ₹54,853 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak trends in precious metal in global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had ended at ₹55,225 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver climbed marginally by ₹15 to ₹69,273 per kilogram from ₹69,258 per kilogram in the previous trade.

“Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi market traded at ₹54,853 per 10 grams, down ₹372 per 10 grams,” Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said. In the international market, gold quoted lower at \$1,797.8 per ounce while silver traded flat at \$23.74 per ounce.

Rupee falls by 7 paise to 82.86 against US dollar on firm crude oil prices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 7 paise to close at 82.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday due to firm crude oil prices and steep losses in domestic stocks amid growing concerns about interest rate hikes.

A weak greenback in the global markets restricted the local unit’s losses, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened marginally down at 82.81 against its previous close of 82.79. It moved in a range of 82.77 to 82.88 in the day’s trade. The rupee finally finished at 82.86 against the US dollar, showing a loss of 7 paise over its last close.

Analysts said investors are concerned that strong US economic data will lead the Federal Reserve to double down on its interest rate hikes to control inflation.

Revised figures showed the US economy grew a lot more in



July-September than initial projections, while jobless claims were less than expected last week. The Fed has already increased the interest rates to 15-year high levels.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, dropped 0.14 per cent to 104.49. Brent crude oil, the pricing basis for international trading, advanced 2 per cent to USD 82.61 per barrel on expectations of lower Russian crude exports from the Baltic region in December.

Domestic stocks dropped over 2 per cent in line with losses in Asian markets. Benchmark Sensex tumbled 980.93 points to end at 59,845.29 while the broader Nifty plunged 320.55 points to 17,806.80.

Wheat acreage up 3.18% at 312.26 lakh ha so far; crop prospects bright

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Area sown to wheat has increased by 3.18 per cent to 312.26 lakh hectares (ha) so far in the ongoing rabi (winter) season with higher acreage reported from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, according to the agriculture ministry’s data released on Friday.

Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja on Thursday said the crop prospects were bright as the current weather conditions are conducive for plant growth and better yields.

Sowing of wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, begins in October while harvesting in April. Mustard seed and gram are other major crops sown in the rabi season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June).

As per the ministry’s data, wheat has been sown in 312.26 lakh ha as of December 23 of the ongoing rabi season, as against 302.61 lakh ha in the year-ago period.



“Thus 9.65 lakh hectare more area has been covered compared to last year,” the ministry said.

Higher area is reported from Rajasthan (1.99 lakh ha), followed by Gujarat (1.74 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (1.57 lakh ha), Bihar (1.51 lakh ha), Maharashtra (1.43 lakh ha), Madhya Pradesh (0.83 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (0.64 lakh ha), West Bengal (0.24 lakh ha), Jammu & Kashmir (0.23 lakh ha), Karnataka (0.15 lakh ha) and Assam (0.01 lakh ha).

Landmark Cars shares decline nearly 10% in debut trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of automobile dealership chain Landmark Cars made a weak market debut on Friday and ended nearly 10 per cent lower against the issue price of ₹506.

The stock listed at ₹471.30, a discount of 6.85 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it dipped 11.76 per cent to ₹446.45. The stock ended at ₹456.45 apiece, registering a decline of 9.79 per cent.

On the NSE, the stock made its debut at ₹471, lower by 6.91 per cent. It ended at ₹456.15 per share, lower by 9.85 per cent.

The company commanded a market valuation of ₹1,807.18 crore on the BSE.

In the broader market, the 30-share BSE Sensex continued to remain under selling pressure for the fourth day running and tumbled 980.93 points or 1.61 per cent to settle at



59,845.29.

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Landmark Cars got subscribed 3.06 times last week.

The company’s public offer had a price range of ₹481-506 a share.

The IPO of Landmark Cars had a fresh issue of up to ₹150 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹402 crore, aggregating up to ₹552 crore.

TPG-backed Landmark Cars is a leading premium automotive retail business in India with dealerships for Mercedes-Benz, Honda, Jeep, Volkswagen and Renault.

HDFC gets \$400 million IFC loan for financing green affordable housing units

PTI ■ MUMBAI



financing green affordable housing units.

It is estimated that 275 million people in the country or 22 per cent of the over 1.4 billion population do not have access to adequate housing, and rural housing shortage is twice that of urban areas. As of 2018, the urban housing shortage was 29 million units, increasing by over 54 per cent since 2012.

“Given our long-standing

partnership, we welcome IFC’s expertise to help strengthen our green affordable housing lending portfolio. We are keen to increase our footprint in funding affordable and green housing and are committed towards supporting the nation’s efforts for a sustainable and green, low-carbon economy,” Renu Sud Karnad, managing director of HDFC, was quoted as saying in the statement.

This timely investment will help galvanize HDFC’s efforts to cater to the underserved segments of the population, boosting economic resilience and supporting the government vision of housing for all, she added.

Residential housing accounts for around 24 per cent of the country’s electricity consumption.

Indian Bank ties with Honda Cars to offer financing solutions

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Public sector Indian Bank has tied up with automaker Honda Cars India Ltd towards offering financing solutions to its customers, the city-headquartered bank said on Friday.

This partnership would allow customers to bring home their favourite Honda vehicles through financing options provided by the bank.

“The association with Honda Cars India Ltd will allow us to provide faster financing to a large number of our customers across the country,” Indian Bank retail-assets general manager Vikas Kumar said.



“We are confident that our digital loan procedure, will provide customers who want to acquire a new vehicle for themselves and family, ease and comfort at its best,” he said.

The financing options would be available across 5,700 branches of the bank present in the country.

Google challenges CCI order on Android devices, says it is setback for phone users

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Google has challenged a CCI order on the tech giant abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem, saying the verdict is a setback for Indian users and will make such devices more expensive in the country.

The Competition Commission had slapped a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on Google for anti-competitive practices in relation to Android mobile devices. In the October ruling, CCI had also ordered the internet major to cease and desist from various unfair business practices.

Google has now approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) challenging the CCI’s order.

A Google spokesperson told PTI: “We have decided to appeal the CCI’s decision on Android as we believe it presents a major setback for our Indian users and businesses who trust Android’s security features, and potentially raising the cost of mobile devices.”

“We look forward to making our case in NCLAT and remain committed to users and partners,” the spokesperson added.

Android has greatly benefited Indian users, developers, and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and

powered India’s digital transformation, the company said.

Google has sought a stay on the order, sources said, adding that the company believes that CCI failed to appreciate strong evidence on record from OEMs, developers, and users demonstrating that the open Android business model supports competition for the benefit of all stakeholders, including in India specifically.

The CCI decision exposes Indian users to unprecedented security risks, and will make Android devices in India more expensive, less functional and less safe than they are today, the sources claimed.

Sources aware of the the company’s stance said Google believes that the ruling will harm Indian developers whose costs will increase.

PhonePe completes separation from Flipkart

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



the move to make PhonePe a fully India domiciled company, a process that started earlier this year,” the statement said.

Walmart will remain the majority shareholder of both business groups.

“Flipkart and PhonePe are proud, homegrown Indian brands with a user base upwards of 400 million each. We are looking forward to the next phase of our growth as we invest in new businesses – like insurance, wealth management and lending, while also enabling the next wave of growth for UPI payments in India. This will help propel our vision to provide billions of Indians with financial inclusion,” PhonePe Founder and CEO Sameer Nigam said.

Blue-collar jobs see 121% rise

New Delhi: The blue collared industry has evolved drastically in 2022 and job opportunities grew by 121.29 per cent overall in India as compared to 2021; with growth visible in all top metropolitan cities such as Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi, according to WorkIndia, India’s largest blue-collar recruitment platform. :2023 promises a positive transformation for the sector,” said Nilesh Dunganwal, WorkIndia COO.

ESIC scheme adds 11.82L in Oct

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 11.82 lakh new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in October 2022, according to official data released on Friday.

The data is part of a report — Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective - October 2022 — released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). It

showed that the gross new enrolments with the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) rose to 1.49 crore in 2021-22, from 1.15 crore in 2020-21. It was 1.51 crore in 2019-20 and 1.49 crore in 2018-19.

From September 2017 to October 2022 were 7.49 crore. The NSO report is based on the payroll data of new subscribers of various social security schemes run by ESIC, the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

from September 2017 to October 2022 were 7.49 crore.

Skilling excellence awards

New Delhi: The annual awards ceremony of the Rubber, Chemical and Petrochemical Skill Development Council witnessed one of the largest gatherings of stakeholders to celebrate skilling excellence. KK Dwivedi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, said, “The Central Government is taking Rubber, Chemical and Petrochemical as a priority sector and is committed to creating an empowering ecosystem.”

Vinod Patkotwar, Chairman, RCPSCD, emphasised the need to bring more scale to the skilling programmes.

HARMANPREET TO CAPTAIN INDIA AT HOCKEY WORLD CUP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Harmanpreet Singh was on Friday named the captain of the 18-member Indian squad which will compete at the FIH men's Hockey World Cup, commencing on January 13 in Odisha.

Defender Amit Rohidas will serve as Harmanpreet's deputy. Harmanpreet had also captained the side in the recent series against Australia, where the side fought hard before losing the five-match rubber 1-4.

Mid-fielder Manpreet Singh had led the team at the Tokyo Olympics where India won a historic bronze medal but he will feature in the team as a player this time as coach Graham Reid has handed the captain's band to different players over a period of time. Reid's endeavour has been to create leaders from the senior group.

In the past Amit Rohidas has also led India. The World Cup squad was selected after two-day trials in SAI Centre in Bengaluru where 33 players were put to test. It features a good mix of experienced and young players who will strive to end India's wait for a podium finish at the prestigious event.

Gurjant Singh and Dilpreet Singh, who were part of the Tokyo Olympic squad, are not



part of the main team but will be there with World Cup team as standbys.

"The team is purely picked on the basis of current form and performance of players. There was no other criteria," a Hockey India selector told PTI.

Krishan B Pathak and PR Sreejesh, who will be playing his fourth World Cup - his third on home soil, have been chosen as goalkeepers. Captain Harmanpreet will spearhead the team's defence along with vice-captain Rohidas, Surrender Kumar, Varun Kumar, Jarmanpreet Singh and Nilam Sanjeev Xess.

The midfield will see the return of young prodigy Vivek

Sagar Prasad, who missed the recent tour of Australia as well as the FIH Hockey Pro League due to an ankle injury.

He will be joined by Manpreet, Hardik Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh and the experienced Akashdeep Singh. The forward line will feature Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and youngsters Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh who have been impressive since making their debuts earlier this year. The two alternate players chosen are Rajkumar Pal and Jugraj Singh.

Talking about the team selection, Reid said, "A home World Cup puts extra impor-

tance and extra pressure on this event like no other. Every country chooses the best team they believe is available to them at the time and tries to provide their team with the best preparation they can."

"We have also tried to do both with the selection of our Indian World Cup team, choosing a mixture of experienced and younger exciting players who can provide something special."

India will begin their World Cup campaign against Spain on January 13 at the newly-built Birs Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela followed by their second pool D match against England.

They will move to Bhubaneswar to play their third pool match against Wales.

The knockout stage will begin with crossover matches on January 22 and 23. The quarter-finals will take place on January 25 and the semifinals on January 27. The bronze medal match and the final will be held on January 29.

"We have also had a great preparation over the last two months including a home Pro League series and a very tough tour to Australia against the World No.1.

"We are looking forward to getting to Odisha and put the finishing touches to our preparations for what will be an exciting and challenging tournament ahead," Reid said.

SQUAD:

Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran.

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surrender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (Captain), Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas (Vice-captain), Nilam Sanjeev Xess

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Akashdeep Singh.

Forwards: Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh.

Alternate Players: Rajkumar Pal and Jugraj Singh.



Lanning back to lead Aus women after indefinite break

AP ■ SYDNEY

Skipper Meg Lanning was Friday included in the Australian women's one-day squad to face Pakistan, ending an indefinite months-long break and allaying fears that she had played her last international.

The record-breaking 30-year-old announced she was stepping away from the game in August after leading her all-conquering team to Commonwealth Games gold.

She said at the time it was to "focus on myself" after a hectic string of successes for Australia

and Lanning that included a World Cup triumph.

It was unclear whether she would return, but national selector Shawn Flegler said Friday that Lanning was "all in" to take on Pakistan at home next month.

"We had always hoped she would come back and play, and a great story really," he added.

"Obviously, she's taken this time to work out what's really important for her; things she needs to do to manage herself.

"You know, it's a tough gig being the Australian captain and she has done it for a long

time, so just really pleased she's refreshed, happy and knows what she wants to do."

Debuting at 18, Lanning's skill with the bat shattered records from early on, holding the mark for the most centuries in women's one-day international cricket.

Becoming Australia's youngest-ever skipper at 21, she has led the side since.

Australia face Pakistan in three ODIs from January 16 in Brisbane and Sydney with Alyssa Healy, who captained the side in Lanning's absence, ruled out of the series with a calf injury.

Martinez gets a hero's welcome in his hometown



AP ■ MAR DEL PLATA

Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was greeted by a crowd estimated at 100,000 in his home town, Mar de Plata.

It was Argentina's third title but Martinez is the first World Cup winner from the resort town south of Buenos Aires, where tennis player Guillermo Vilas was previously the most famous sports personality.

Martinez showed the crowd in front of the beach on Thursday his trophy as goalkeeper of the tournament and told them it was "not only for me but for all the kids, the little goalkeepers, who dream of going for the fourth star."

"This is a beautiful thing, that a goalkeeper gets this recognition, because this is almost

always given to strikers," said Martinez, who left Argentina at 17 to join Arsenal in England and now plays for Aston Villa in the Premier League.

He has developed a reputation as a penalty shootout specialist after his success in the 2021 Copa America final against Brazil and then against France in Doha.

"On penalties I become strong and I know that people respect me, I know because opposing players have told me so," he said.

Martinez defended his strategy of trying to disconcert penalty takers.

"When you take the first penalty in a world final, you know the other guy is going to be very nervous," he said. "I try to play them, to push the ball away a little bit, to talk to them."



Sports Minister Thakur launches Khelo India Dashboard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday launched the 'Khelo India Dashboard', a one-stop platform, which will give people all the information they need with regards to the various schemes that come under the programme. The digital platform will have statistical data on athletes, coaches, venues and schemes related to Khelo India programme.

The dashboard will be updated in real time and will aim to give "every citizen of the country access to all the information regarding the various offerings of Khelo India," said a Sports Authority of India (SAI) statement on Friday. "Easy accessibility and transparency has always always been given top priority (by the government), be it ease of living or the ease of

compliance. Keeping the same thought in mind, the Khelo India dashboard has been launched.

"This platform will help every person, be it a common man or an athlete, get all the information that they need with regard to the Khelo India schemes and they will not have to visit multiple places to get any information," said Thakur. Minister of State for Sports, Nisith Pramanik said, "The platform will not only help people get information regarding the Khelo India schemes but also help them access information regarding progress made regarding the development of sports infrastructures, Fit India and play-field development."

The platform also has a database on Khelo India Centres (KICs), Khelo India Academies, SAI Training Centres and

National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), which in turn will help athletes find the closest centre where sports training is available in various disciplines. The centres are geo-tagged on the country's map to help any athlete pursuing a certain sport find the centre of their choice across India.

On the Covid-19 surge in China and a sense of unease whether the Asian Games in Hangzhou will take place or not, Thakur said he was aware of the situation but the Indian team's preparations won't be hampered. "I am aware of the situation (in China), but the preparation of our athletes is an ongoing process," he said. On the BCCI's stand to not send the Indian team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup next year, Thakur said, "I am not the right person to decide on this."

Man City win 5-goal thriller vs Liverpool

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Nathan Ake's header proved decisive as Manchester City knocked holders Liverpool out of the League Cup in a dramatic 3-2 win at the Etihad Stadium on Thursday. This last-16 clash marked the return to competitive action of two of English football's heavyweights following the World Cup break and their latest encounter was a high-octane affair.

Premier League champions City twice led through Erling Haaland and Riyad Mahrez, only for Liverpool to waste little time in drawing level thanks to goals from Fabio Carvalho and Mohamed Salah.

But after Ake made it 3-2 shortly before the hour mark, the visitors were unable to fashion a third equalizer.

City manager Pep Guardiola named six World Cup players in his starting XI. Ake, Manuel Akanji, Aymeric Laporte, Rodri, Kevin De Bruyne, and Ilkay Gundogan were all involved from the kick-off.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, whose side pipped Chelsea 11-10 in a marathon penalty shootout at Wembley in February as the Reds won the League Cup for a record ninth time, also named a strong side.

The German's forward line included Salah, making his first appearance in the League Cup outside of finals since October 2020, Darwin Nunez, and Carvalho. Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson was included on the bench but fellow England international Trent Alexander-



Arnold was not involved at all, with Netherlands defender Virgil van Dijk also omitted after his World Cup stint.

Haaland and Cole Palmer both missed the target when well-placed to score early on, but it was not long before the Norway star made amends.

Haaland, seemingly given a free run against Liverpool's defence, turned in De Bruyne's near-post cross in the 10th minute after getting in front of Joe Gomez to score his 24th goal of the season.

Liverpool, however, were level within 10 minutes when Carvalho finished from a James Milner cross after the former City midfielder was allowed too much room in the penalty area.

The visitors made two changes at half-time, Fabinho and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain coming on for novice midfielder Stefan Bajcetic and Carvalho.

But Liverpool fell behind again before either of the two substitutes could get into the game. Only 76 seconds into the second half, Mahrez fired home

from the right side of the penalty area following a cross by Rodri.

City's lead, however, evaporated just over a minute later as Nunez sprinted past Laporte down the left, with Salah making light of a mediocre centre to draw Liverpool level at 2-2.

But a rollercoaster contest then saw City go ahead for the third time when, after a quickly-taken corner, Ake powered in a 58th-minute header from a superb pinpoint cross by the outstanding De Bruyne.

Oxlade-Chamberlain went down in the penalty after a collision with Ake in the 69th minute, but David Coote denied the Reds a spot-kick and, with VAR not in use, the referee's decision stood.

Liverpool, however, had an excellent chance to make it 3-3 when a superb ball from Naby Keita left the onside Nunez free down the right touchline.

But after sprinting clear of the City defence, Nunez, albeit from an acute angle, pulled his shot wide of the far post.

Lasker — a champion who was ahead of his time

BY PRAVIN THIPSAY

In our column 'Champion' born this month, we will go through a game by a champion who was not only the 'most objective annotator' but also an 'extremely subjective player', who took decisions based on the style and character of the opponents rather than the 'objectivity' emphasised by Steinitz and other Chess strategists. This psychological strategy, coupled with clarity of mind regarding objective assessment, enabled this Champion to reign supreme for as many as 27 years, from 1894 to 1921. Yes, it is none other than Dr Emanuel Lasker!

Emanuel Lasker (December 24, 1868 - January 11, 1941), a doctor of mathematics and a philosopher, was born at Berlinchen in Neumark (now Barlinek in Poland). During his long regime of 27 years as the World Chess Champion and even in the after years, Lasker contributed to mould the modern Chess strategy with dynamism and creativity. The players like David Bronstein, Ruben Fine and a few others, who had the privilege of watching Lasker's thinking process, were always amazed by the enormous intel-

lectual energy and clarity of mind while discussing Chess positions objectively.

Lasker became the world champion for the first time by defeating the strategist Wilhelm Steinitz, also known as 'Austrian Morphy'. In his prime, Lasker was one of the most dominant champions, and he is still generally regarded as one of the strongest players in history. His contemporaries used to say that Lasker used a "psychological" approach to the game, and even that he sometimes deliberately played inferior moves to confuse opponents. Recent analysis with computers, however, indicates that he was ahead of his time and used a more flexible approach than his contemporaries, which mystified them. Lasker knew contemporary analyses of openings well but disagreed with many of them. He published Chess magazines and five chess books, but players and commentators often found it difficult to draw lessons from his methods.

Lasker believed in initiating a thinking process in the mind of students, something which today's spoon-feeding coaches will never understand. Lasker's dictum "The duty of the teacher is to teach the pupils think

independently" makes him the greatest Guru in my eyes.

Lasker made contributions to the development of other intellectual games too. He was a first-class contract Bridge player and wrote about Bridge as well. Lasker was excellent at 'Go', a Chinese game aiming to acquire more board territory than the opponent. He invented a game called 'Lasca' — also known as 'Laska' — as a more interesting variant of Draughts (British checkers), American checkers and 'Bashni' (Russian checkers). Lasker's books about 'games' presented a problem that is still considered notable in the mathematical analysis of card games.

Lasker was a research mathematician who was known for his contributions to commutative algebra, which included proving the primary decomposition of the ideals of polynomial rings. His philosophical works and a drama that he co-wrote, however, received little attention. Lasker was awarded a doctorate in mathematics in 1902. His most significant mathematical article, in 1905, published a theorem of which Emmy Noether developed a more generalized form, which is now



regarded as of fundamental importance to modern algebra and algebraic geometry.

As a professional mathematician, Lasker held short-term positions as a lecturer in various countries such as USA, England, Netherlands and Russia. However, he was unable to secure a longer-term position anywhere due to Chess and his other hobbies, and therefore, he pursued his scholarly interests independently. In 1906 Lasker published a booklet titled 'Kampf' (German word for 'Struggle') in which he attempted to create a general theory of all competitive activities, including Chess, business and war.

During World War I, Lasker invested all of his savings in German war bonds, which lost

nearly their entire value with the wartime and post-war inflation. His poor result in his match against Capablanca (1921) was the due to his depression caused by loss of lifetime savings. However, Lasker was a great fighter. In just a couple of years, he made a great comeback by winning the Moravská Ostrava 1923 Chess tournament (without a single loss), the New York 1924 chess tournament (1172 points ahead of the then world champion Capablanca) and finishing second at Moscow in 1925 (172 point ahead of Capablanca). However, due to inability to raise funds for a return match against Capablanca, Lasker effectively retired from serious Chess.

In 1933 Adolf Hitler start-

ed a campaign of discrimination and intimidation against Jews, depriving them of their property and citizenship. Lasker and his wife Martha, who were both Jewish, were forced to leave Germany the same year. After a short stay in England, in 1935, they were invited to live in the USSR by the Soviet Sports Minister, who was an enthusiastic supporter of Chess.

In the USSR, Lasker renounced his German citizenship and received Soviet citizenship. He took permanent residence in Moscow, and was given a post at Moscow's Institute for Mathematics and a post of trainer of the USSR national Chess team. Lasker returned to competitive chess to make some money, finishing third in Moscow 1935 (undefeated), ahead of Capablanca and just 1/2 point behind the winner -- Mikhail Botvinnik). His performance in Moscow 1935 at age 66 was hailed as "a biological miracle".

In 1937, Lasker decided to leave the Soviet Union, and moved (via the Netherlands), to the United States. In 1940, he published his last book, 'The Community of the Future', in which he proposed solutions for

serious political problems, including anti-Semitism and unemployment.

For today's article, I have selected a little-known game by Lasker which greatly impressed me as a child when I saw for the first time in 'Kurs Debyutov' by Grandmaster Estrin. I am extremely glad that Garry Kasparov has chosen this game in his various writings. Lasker's miniature victory against the master of attack Frank James Marshall is an all-time delight to every Chess player.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Be6?! This game changed the course of Black's strategy of Petroff defence. Exchange of queens is

considered mandatory nowadays instead of this Bishop move played.

8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 h6 10.Bh4!?! g5! 11.Bg3 Nh5 12.d4 Nxg3 13.hxg3

Black has equalised but in next ten moves, Lasker proves what he always claimed 'Chess games are not won or lost by one or two mistakes in the opening.'

13...g4?! 14.Nh4! d5 Beginning of a logical

sequence of moves which eventually leads to a disaster for Black.

15.Qb5! 0-0-0 16.Qa5! "Avoiding the insidious Marshall trap 16.Nxd5?? Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Qg5+! 18.Qxg5 hxg5 winning the poor knight". -- Garry Kasparov.

16...a6? 16...c6 was the only way to keep on the fight, the text loses by force.

17.Bxa6! bxa6 18.Qxa6+ Kb8 19.Nb5 Nb6 20.Rd3! Qg5+ "An attempt to keep the White Rook away from 'b3' with 20...Nc4?! doesn't work. The game could go 21.Rb3! (anyway!) 21...Qg5+ 22.Kb1! Nd2+ 23.Ka1 Nxb3+ 24.cxb3! Bd6 25.Qa7- Kc8 26.Nxd6+! cxd6 27.f4! gxf3 28.Nxf3 Qe3 (Black can't allow Rc1 check) 29.Re1 and wins" - Garry Kasparov.

21.Kb1 Bd6 22.Rb3 Rhe8 23.a4! Bf5 24.Na7! Bd7 25.a5 Qd2 26.axb6 Re1+ 27.Ka2! c6 28.Nb5! cxb5 29.Qa7+ "Black resigned.29.Qa7+ is met with 29...Kc8 30.Qa8+ Bb8 31.Qa6# An impressive demolition" — Garry Kasparov.

(Pravin Thipsay, is an International Chess Grandmaster and Arjuna Awardee)

MAGNIFICENT PANT, STEADY IYER PUT INDIA IN COMMAND IN SECOND TEST

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Rishabh Pant enhanced his reputation of being team's biggest game-changer with a scintillating 93 that put India in a commanding position for a series clean sweep against Bangladesh, here Friday.

Pant, who got out in the 90s for the sixth time in his Test career, again brought his 'A' game to the fore with a counter-attacking knock that formed the cornerstone of India's first innings score of 314 on the second day of the second Test.

Between the lunch and the tea, the match which seemed to be hanging in balance was single-handedly changed by Pant, whose 104-ball innings had seven fours and five huge sixes -- a few of them were one-handed lofted shots.

Shreyas Iyer, who has been consistent since his Test debut last year, also batted with a lot of intent but missed his second hundred of the series, getting out for 87 off 105 balls.

Riding on the 159-run fifth wicket stand between Pant and Iyer, India, who were tottering at 94 for four, will fancy their chances for a fourth-day finish and consolidate their position in the World

Test Championship table.

Trailing by 87 runs, Bangladesh were seven for no loss at stumps on Day 2. The batting will only get difficult on the third day and playing Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel on this track will be a Herculean task.

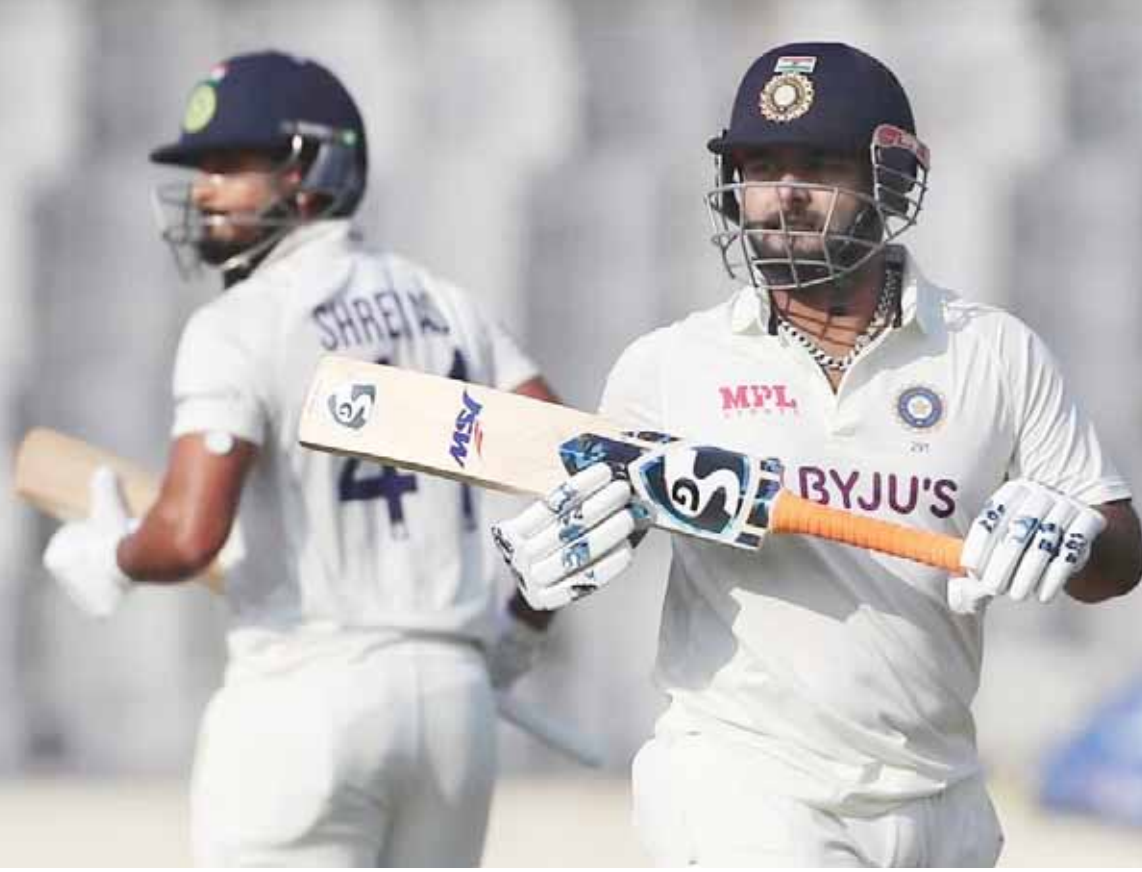
"I love and thrive under challenges. Pressure lifts me, that's the situation I wanted to be in. Pant kept me calm and composed. It was crucial," Iyer said after day's play.

Asked further about his conversation with Pant, Iyer said, "It wasn't an intense chat. I didn't want to disturb his focus. We tried to communicate with actions, he maintained calm and targeted the right bowlers."

The morning session belonged to Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Taijul Islam (4/74), who rocked the top-order by dismissing skipper KL Rahul (10), Shubman Gill (20) and Cheteshwar Pujara (24) but by the end of afternoon session, Pant had blown the hosts away.

It only helped Iyer at the other end, who was equally aggressive and a surface that looked difficult to bat on suddenly appear to be a willow wielder's paradise.

Pant literally manhandled the Bangladeshi spin troika by smashing five sixes -- two off Taijul, a cou-



ple off Mehidy Hasan Miraz and one off skipper Shakib Al Hasan.

The visitors were in trouble at 94 for four when Virat Kohli (24, 73 balls) once again nicked one off Taskin Ahmed outside the off-stump channel before Pant propelled the Indian innings.

But Taijul was made to look pedestrian by the maverick keeper-batter from Rourkee.

Pant hammered Taijul into submission by repeatedly dancing down the track and carting him either in the arc between the mid-wicket and long-on or by lofting him down the ground.

The most exhilarating one was a one-handed down-the-ground shot off rival captain Shakib. And it was not at all surprising when he repeated the stuff off Miraz over long-on for a 100-metre long maximum.

The Bangladeshi bowlers, who were pumped up at the lunch break, had drooped shoulders by the time tea was called.

Pant's beast mode did rub off on Iyer as he also lofted Miraz for his first six and duly completed his second half-century of the series with a single.

By the time, Pant nicked one to Nurul Hasan behind the stumps, missing out on yet another Test

hundred, he was completely done and didn't come out to keep after experiencing cramps.

Earlier, having misread the track on day one, Rahul paid the price for his ultra defensive mind-set on a pitch that offered fair bit of turn on the opening day itself.

Not for once during his 45-ball stay did he look comfortable, save the cover driven boundary off a seamer at the start of the day.

Gill, on the other end, looked more assured even as Taijul kept his deliveries on good length and bowled a nice trajectory.

The delivery that got Rahul, seemed like an armiger that came in with the angle and then straightened enough to trap him in-front of the wickets. Umpire had dismissed the LBW plea but Bangladesh got the decision in their favour after taking DRS review.

In case of Gill, it was more of a straightforward decision where he was caught plumb as he missed a straighter one while attempting a sweep shot.

Pujara looked assured till the time he was at the crease but with the deliveries stopping and turning, there was always the danger of negotiating that ball which would send him back.

ENGLAND'S GOT TALENT

English trio of Curran, Stokes & Brook bag big contracts in IPL 2023 players auction

PTI ■ KOCHI

England all-rounder Sam Curran on Friday became the most expensive player in the history of IPL auctions after fetching a whopping Rs 18.5 crore bid from Punjab Kings here.

An intense bidding followed for Curran with Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings, Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings raising their paddles frenetically to secure the services of T20 World Cup player-of-the tournament.

In the end, it was Punjab Kings that broke the bank to get Curran, who drew highest-ever bid that bettered the previous best buy of Rs 16.25 crore that Rajasthan Royals had shelled out to grab South African all-rounder Chris Morris in 2021.

"I didn't sleep much last night, was a bit excited, also nervous about how the auction was going to go. But yeah, absolutely overwhelmed and incredibly humbled that I managed to get what I did. I never had any expectations to receive that," Curran said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Live — Auction Special'.

Curran is going back to the franchise where he started his IPL journey. Back in 2019, then Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) made him an IPL millionaire before he moved to Chennai Super Kings.

"Obviously, going back to where it all started for me in the IPL with Punjab, where I did my debut season four years ago. So, to be going back there seems fantastic and I am looking forward to joining a few English team mates as well," the 24-year-old all-rounder said.

"It will be very different, but like I said, I know the stadium. I know Mohali pretty well, so that obviously is a little bit of an



advantage, having some familiar team mates who'll help me. I feel confident going into this tournament, where I've come off a fantastic World Cup.

"It's amazing, I'm just incredibly excited it's just a few months away till I will be coming to India. A massively big opportunity...There are so many things running through my mind and yeah it's absolutely incredible, very overwhelmed."

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was second-highest earner, fetching Rs 17.5 crore bid from Mumbai Indians.

"I am pinching myself that this has all happened. It's such a weird feeling watching an auction for yourself. I can't believe how nervous I was and I was shaking like anything when the final call was confirmed," Green "I've always been a huge fan of the IPL and it's going to be so cool to be a part of it. The Mumbai Indians are one of the powerhouses of the competition so I feel very humbled to be joining them. I can't wait to get there next year."

England Test skipper Ben Stokes was the third-highest gainer, fetching Rs 16.25 crore from CSK who picked Kolkata Knight Riders in another intense bidding war.

England players were in

demand as batter Harry Brook earned a Rs 13.25 crore winning from Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Brook, who struck three hundreds in as many games and set new record for most runs by an England batter in a Test series in Pakistan, started at a base price of Rs 1.5 crore.

The bidding for Brook was mainly between SRH and Rajasthan Royals.

India international Mayank Agarwal was also bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 8.25 crore. His base price was set at Rs 1 crore. New Zealand stalwart Kane Williamson was sold at his base price at Rs 2 crore to Gujarat Titans.

Out-of-favour India batter Ajinkya Rahane was sold at his base price of Rs 50 lakh to Chennai Super Kings, the only bidder for the player. South Africa batter Rilee Rossouw and Bangladesh al-rounder Shakib-Al-Hasan went unsold.

West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder was sold to Rajasthan Royals for Rs 5.75 crore.

Australia T20 captain Aaron Finch was not surprised by the big bucks attracted by Curran, Stokes and Green, saying all three are world-class rounders who can add value to their respective sides. "Oh, absolutely, I think Chennai have a history of going after experienced players, knowing what they want. And when you complement that with the rest of the squad, it is so balanced when you throw that world class all-rounder in there," Finch said.

"I think the only separation between Sam Curran, Ben Stokes and Cameron Green is Curran's ability to bowl in the last five overs. His record has been unbelievable. So, that probably gives him the nod if you're going down the road of a bowling all-rounder."

I turned a deaf ear on outside talk of my issues with short ball: Iyer

PTI ■ MIRPUR

The constant talk about his apparent weakness against short pitched delivery did affect him at one point of time but Shreyas Iyer on Friday said that he turned a "deaf ear" to outside comments and focussed on taking corrective measures which is yielding results.

Iyer, who scored 87 off 105 balls to take India out of trouble in the second Test against Bangladesh here, was targeted for a brief period with short balls by the home side bowlers. He said he was confident of doing well against the tactics as he had done a lot of practice.

"The (Bangladesh) bowlers started targeting me (with short balls) when I came to bat. When the ball was seaming, they were bowling short balls," Iyer said at the press conference at the end of second day's play.

Iyer had also scored 86 in India's lone innings in the 188-run win in the first Test in Chattogram.

Asked about outside talk about his weakness against short balls, he said, "That (short ball issue) has been something the commentators talk about. Off-the-field, people keep saying that I have that issue. It had gone into my head at some point in time. But if I leave (the ball) or keep it down, I don't have any prob-



lem. Runs were not coming (against short balls), that was the situation.

For him, it was important to shut the outside noise.

"It does play in the mind of a batter when people from outside talk about issues and it's important as a player to turn a deaf ear to them. The rest will take care of itself. At the end of the day, ignorance is bliss," said the 28-year-old right-handed batter.

Iyer said there was no change in his approach and he continued with the way

he had batted in the first Test.

"When I went in to bat, the ball was not turning that much and that was the communication I had with Rishabh. I was just trying to play the line of the ball, very much similar to how I played in Chattogram.

"The fast bowlers were operating from one end and my mind set was to just play the session out and see how it goes. Obviously, at the same time, I'm not going to restrict my strokes, if I see the ball pitching in my area, I'm going to go

for it. I backed myself today and thankfully got a good score."

Iyer also defended himself for getting out while playing a sweep shot, saying he went with his natural instincts.

"Today, I went with my instincts. Sweep shot was something I have been trying in the nets. I could execute the first one well, but the second one stayed a bit low.

"But I don't regret (getting out) because I was doing a lot of practice (for sweep shots) and my natural instinct stood over in that situation and I played that shot.

"I could not execute well but it does not matter, next time it will come good. My decision making was decisive."

Asked if he was disappointed at not getting a hundred, Iyer said, "Definitely, it hurts as a batsman but at the same time I looked at it in a positive way.

"I went there in a tough situation and was able to bring the team out of it. That is more important for me than getting personal landmark."

He also said that Pant's "phenomenal" innings of 93 off just 105 balls eased the pressure on the other end.

"It (Rishabh's innings) was a phenomenal knock. He is such an aggressive batter. In the end, it takes two to tango," Iyer said.

Lovlina cruises to quarters of Women's National Boxing C'ships

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain put up a dominating display to enter the quarterfinals of the Women's National Boxing Championships, here on Friday.

Living up to the expectations, the Assam pugilist made light work of Pujya Nayak from Odisha in the 75kg last-16 match. Lovlina's relentless attack and powerful punches proved too strong for her opponent as the reigning Asian champion was declared the winner by Referee Stops the Contest (RSC) verdict after just a few minutes



into the first round of the bout.

Meanwhile, the 2016 world championships silver medallist Sonia Lather of Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) also made her way into the 57kg quarterfinals after she was given a walkover by Karnataka's Divyani.

Tamil Nadu's S Kalaiyani was the other pugilist to secure a last-eight berth as she outperformed Swati Arya of Rajasthan by 5-0 margin in 48kg pre-quarterfinal contest.

Rajasthan's Arshi Khanam and Jhalak Tomar also produced dominating performances to progress to the quarterfinals with identical 5-0 wins in their

respective matches. While Khanam beat Uttar Pradesh's Ice Prajapati in the 54kg bout, Tomar (50kg) thrashed Assam's Kampi Boro comfortably.

For Haryana, Kalpana emerged victorious in the 50kg category by a 5-0 margin against Maharashtra's Janhavi Waghmare. Rajni Singh (48kg) and Rinky Kishore (50kg) were the boxers from Uttar Pradesh to progress into the quarterfinals.

While Rajni beat Punjab's Suvidha Bhagat 5-0 without breaking a sweat, Kishore claimed a RSC win against Kavitha Paravada of Andhra Pradesh.

Chopra, Kalsi ensure draw for Himachal against Bengal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Himachal players Prashant Chopra (109) and Ankit Kalsi (82) batted with gumption on the final day of their Ranji Trophy Group A match to deny hosts Bengal victory at the Eden Gardens on Friday.

The visitors, who faced an uphill task to save the match on day four, lost just three wickets as the game ended in a draw with Himachal scoring 348/4, denying the hosts a golden opportunity to take full points.

Chasing a target of 472, Himachal, who were 79/1 overnight with Chopra and Kalsi unbeaten on 44 and 17 respectively, started the tough journey to save the game with a positive mind-set.

Chopra, especially, was very cautious with his strokes, building his innings brick by brick as he inched closer to the century mark. Kalsi was the first to be dismissed but before that the partnership had virtually ensured the match could only progress in one direction -- a draw.

From 191/2, Chopra continued to consolidate the

innings and when he was dismissed by Akash Deep after he had crossed the century mark, Himachal could only lose if they committed harakiri.

Then, Amit Kumar (38 retired hurt), Akash Vasisht (28 not out) and skipper Rishi Dhawan (31) played with caution to ensure a draw.

Bengal's Anustup Majumdar, centurion in the first innings, was adjudged Player of the Match.

Vidarbha beat Tripura by 220 runs, register second win on the trot in Group D

Spinners Akshay Wakhare and Aditya Sarwate shared seven wickets between them to guide Vidarbha to a 220-run win over Tripura, their second consecutive in the Ranji Trophy Group D on Friday.

Vidarbha declared their second innings on 379 for 8 after resuming the day at 348 for 6, thereby setting Tripura an improbable target of 345 runs.

Ganesh Satish (151) top-scored for Vidarbha in their second innings while wicketkeeper Akshay Wadkar made 88.

Chasing, Tripura were



bowed out for 124 in 51.2 overs with off-spinner Wakhare (4/50) and left-arm twacker

Sarwate (3/45) shining with the ball for Vidarbha. Medium pacer Rajneesh

Gurbani (2/14) also chipped in with two wickets. This was Vidarbha's second

win on the trot in Group D after having defeated Railways by 194 runs in their opening match.

In another Group D match, Punjab and Railways played out a draw. But Punjab took home three points from the contest by virtue of first-innings lead, while Railways had to be content with one point.

Shorey hits unbeaten ton as Delhi-Assam match ends in draw

Opener Dhruv Shorey continued from where he had left off in the first innings, scoring an unbeaten 150 on the last day to add to his unconquered 252 in the first innings as Delhi managed to secure a draw against Assam in a Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Friday.

Shorey, thus, ended up scoring a total of 402 runs and would like to continue his rich form when the team takes on Tamil Nadu in its third Ranji fixture from December 27.

The 30-year-old flourished in the company of fellow opener Anuj Rawat (109), who after his first-innings disappointment, scored a century as Delhi lost just one wicket on way to 292 on the concluding day.

Earlier, Assam declared

their first innings at 443 for 9 after being 435 for 8 overnight.

Rishav Das emerged as the highest scorer for his side, scoring 160, while Gokul Sharma (140) was the other centurion.

The duo gave Assam the psychological first-innings lead of four runs over Delhi.

The day belonged to Shorey and wicketkeeper-batter Rawat who stitched together a 226-run partnership for the opening wicket and made Assam bowlers toil all day long without success.

Both the openers scored at a brisk pace with Shorey's unbeaten 150 coming off just 188 deliveries at a strike rate of nearly 80 and was studded with 18 boundaries and two sixes.

Rawat, after being dismissed for 2 in the first innings, dug in his spikes to score at a brisk strike rate of 80.74, smashing 10 fours and four maximums.

Shorey was adjudged 'Player of the Match' for his massive effort in both innings. Maharashtra had defeated Delhi by nine wickets in the Ranji first-round match.