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INTERPOL IS THE KEY
TO BETTER POLICING

WORLD 9

S KOREA LAUNCHES JETS, FIRES
SHOTS AFTER NORTH FLIES DRONES

MONEY 10

'AGRO CHEM SECTOR REVENUE TO
GROW 15-17% IN FY23'

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY DECEMBER 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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BRAZIL PURSUING
ZIDANE FOR
MANAGER'S JOB
11 SPORTSevere cold wave
to ring in New Year'Icy cold winds
from north dip
temperature'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Severe cold waves and dense fog could dampen the New Year's revelry in major parts of North India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday predicted that such adverse climate conditions will prevail at least for the next five days in Punjab, Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

The IMD said the layer of dense fog and moderate icy cold winds from north were responsible for the steep fall in temperature. Northwesterly dry and cold winds will continue over northwest India. Churu and Pilani are freezing at zero degrees, Hissar, Narnaul and Alwar at two degrees.

The National Capital witnessed the coldest day of the year on Monday as the minimum temperature in the city settled at 5 degrees Celsius in the morning, three notches below the normal for this time of the year. The maximum temperature of the Capital was also recorded as the lowest at 15.6 degrees Celsius, six notches



People sit around a bonfire to warm themselves on a cold winter day in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

es colder than the average for this season, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD said Delhi is likely to experience fog till December 31 and the minimum temperature will hover around 5 to 6 degrees Celsius. The Met Department has issued yellow alert for Delhi and the NCR. In Delhi, dense fog lowered visibility to 50 metres in some areas, affecting road and rail traffic.

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Winter storm toll in
US mounts to 34

Buffalo (US): Millions of people hunkered down against a deep freeze on Sunday to ride out the winter storm that has killed at least 34 people across America and is expected to claim more lives after trapping some residents inside houses with heaping snow drifts and knocking out power to tens of thousands of homes.

Heavy snow in
Japan kills 17

Tokyo: Heavy snow in large swaths of Japan has killed 17 and injured more than 90 people and left hundreds of homes without power, disaster management officials said Monday.

Powerful winter fronts have dumped heavy snow in northern regions since last week, stranding hundreds of vehicles on highways.

Fliers from abroad
testing Covid +ve15 at IGIA, 5 in
Gaya, 2 in Punjab,
1 in Bengal +vePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Cases of Covid-infected passengers arriving in India have started pouring in from various international airports across the country following random post-arrival tests for the virus. The tests were started two days ago. At the Delhi International airport, 455 passengers were screened, and out of them neatly 15 have tested positive, officials said.

The Government has ordered random Covid tests at all the international airports in the country and mandatory RT-PCR test for passengers arriving from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

In West Bengal, a British citizen arriving from Kuala Lumpur by an Air Asia Flight early on Monday was detected Covid-19 positive at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport. Four passengers from Myanmar tested positive for the virus at Delhi airport.

In Punjab, two persons who arrived from Dubai have been found corona positive.

The Karnataka Health Department too has detected 12 passengers arriving from



An isolation ward for Covid-19 patients is prepared in view of rising cases of coronavirus in some countries, in Kanpur, on Monday

PTI

high-risk countries with Covid at the Kempe Gowda International Airport Bengaluru. Similarly, five foreign nationals have tested positive for Covid-19 in Bihar's Bodh Gaya. Of the five patients, 3 are from England and two are from Myanmar, according to health officials.

Four of them were isolated in their respective hotels in Bodh Gaya, and the fifth — a woman — proceeded to Delhi after her report came back negative for the second time.

The five arrived in Bodh Gaya from Thailand on December 20 to participate in Kaal Chakra Puja, where Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is the chief guest.

"We have learned that 32 foreigners who came for a Kaal Chakra Puja have coughs and colds. Accordingly, we have conducted the RT-PCR tests on the direction of District Magistrate Tyagarajan SM and

found five of them to be infected with Covid-19," said Gaya Civil Surgeon Kamal Kishore Roy. "We have isolated them in their respective hotels and also provided medical kits and instructions to follow Covid guidelines. The patients have minor symptoms," he said.

At the Delhi airport, as many as 455 passengers have been subjected to random coronavirus testing, starting from 10 am on Saturday till 7 pm on Sunday. Out of them, less than half per cent are positive cases, said an official of Genestrings Diagnostic Centre, the official Covid-19 testing facility at IGIA.

Officials at Kolkata Airport have reported of detecting 2 Covid positive passengers. One came from Dubai on December 24, the other came from Malaysia. The samples of both the passengers have been sent for genome sequencing.

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Zelenskyy urges
Modi to work on
peace formula

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed a peace formula to end the conflict with Russia. "I had a phone call with PM Modi and wished for a successful G20 presidency. It was on this platform that I announced the peace formula and now I count on India's participation in its implementation. I also thanked for humanitarian aid and support in the UN," Zelenskyy tweeted.

Incidentally, Modi had urged Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in September to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and said "democracy, diplomacy and dialogue have kept the world together."

CAPSULE

20 CARS GUTTED IN
ARSON IN WEST DELHI

New Delhi: Twenty cars were gutted at a multi-level parking facility in West Delhi's Subhash Nagar on Monday following a blaze that started allegedly after a 23-year-old man set afire one of the vehicles as he harboured a grudge against its owner.

SITHARAMAN AFFLICTED
WITH FEVER, IN AIMS

New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was admitted to AIIMS on Monday with symptoms of viral fever and is recovering, sources said.

Videocon's founder
Dhoot held in ICICI
Bank loan scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday arrested Videocon Group founder Venugopal Dhoot in connection with the ICICI Bank loan fraud case.

Dhoot, 71, was arrested from Mumbai after a brief questioning on Monday, hours before former CEO and MD of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar were to be produced before a Special Court for remand hearing. The duo's three-day CBI custody was set to expire on Monday.

Later the agency produced Dhoot and Kochars before a Mumbai special court which remanded them in CBI custody till December 28 in connection with the case.

The agency is seeking to file a chargesheet against the three and other suspects soon and wants to confront them with each other, officials said.

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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his memorial Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi on Monday

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Veer Bal Diwas reflects India's
identity: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, Guru Gobind Singh's sons who laid down their lives while defending their faith and said "Veer Bal Diwas" tells what is India and what is its identity.

The PM was speaking at the first "Veer Bal Diwas" event at "Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium". He said "Veer Bal Diwas" reminds us that age does not matter when it comes to extreme valour and sacrifice.

Claiming that "Veer Bal Diwas" will "remind us of the immense contribution of ten Sikh gurus and the sacrifice of the Sikh tradition for protecting the honour of the nation", Modi said, "Veer Bal Diwas will tell us what is India and what is its identity and every year. Veer Bal Diwas will inspire us to recognise our past and make our future. This will also remind everyone about the strength of our young generation."

"Aurangzeb and his people wanted to convert the religion of Guru Gobind Singh's children on the basis of sword that is why he decided to kill the two innocent children. Imagine that era when against the terror of Aurangzeb, against his plans to change India, Guru Gobind Singh ji stood like a mountain," he said.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at a programme commemorating the "Veer Bal Diwas" at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Monday

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Mother Dairy hikes
milk prices by ₹2/l;
Amul: 'Won't raise'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy has increased the prices of full-cream milk by ₹2 to ₹66 per litre and toned milk to ₹53 per litre from ₹51 per litre. Double-toned milk rate has gone up from ₹45 to ₹47 per litre. The hike will be effective from Tuesday.

Mother Dairy has decided not to raise prices of cow milk and token (bulk vended) milk variants as well.

Mother Dairy's decision to hike milk prices, the fifth time this year, will further impact the common man, already hit by consumer inflation. This will also impact the prices of all products where milk and its byproducts are being used such as paneer, curd, sweets, etc.

This is the third consecu-

tive month when Mother Dairy has hiked milk prices. In other words, the prices of milk have increased by 16 per cent in the last 12 months this year.

Mother Dairy, one of the leading milk suppliers in Delhi-NCR with over 30 lakh litres per day, attributed the hike in prices to increase in the company's procurement cost of raw milk from dairy farmers. The company claimed it passes on about 75-80 per cent of prices paid by consumers to the milk producers.

Meanwhile, RS Sodhi, MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which markets milk under Amul brand a major player in Delhi-NCR, said that there is no plan to increase its milk prices in the near future.

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CBI opens Rail project
scam case against Lalu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

The CBI has reopened a corruption case against former Railways Minister Lalu Prasad and his family.

Last year, the agency had closed the 2018 case for alleged graft in allotment of railways projects.

Lalu is currently recovering in Singapore after a kidney transplant.

The CBI move to reopen the case comes months after the Janata Dal (United) led by Nitish Kumar parted ways with the BJP in Bihar and joined hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) to form the Government.

In 2018, the CBI had started a probe into allegations of corruption in the allotment of Railway projects when Lalu held the portfolio in the UPA-I Government.

The inquiry was closed in May 2021 as "no case has been made out of the allegations",

according to sources.

Besides Lalu, his son and Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, and daughters Chanda Yadav and Ragini Yadav are among those named as suspects in the case.

Lalu allegedly received a South Delhi property as bribe from real estate major DLF Group, which was interested in rail land lease projects in Mumbai's Bandra and the revamp of the New Delhi Railway Station.

It is alleged that the property was bought by a DLF-funded shell company at ₹5 crore, way below the then prevailing market rate of ₹30 crore.

The shell company was then bought by Tejashwi Yadav and other relatives of Lalu Prasad Yadav for a mere ₹4 lakh by a transfer of shares, giving them ownership of the South Delhi bungalow, as per the case allegations.

Continued on Page 2

Pak boat with arms, ₹300 cr
drugs seized off Guj coast

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A Pakistani boat with 10 crew members carrying arms, ammunition and 40 kg of narcotics worth ₹300 crore was intercepted off the Gujarat coast in the early hours of Monday, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) said.

Based on specific inputs shared by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad, the Coast Guard deployed its fast patrol ship "ICGS Arinjay" for patrolling in the area close to the International Maritime Border Line (IMBL) on the intervening night of December 25 and 26, the ICG said in a release.

In the early hours of the day, the Pakistani fishing boat "Al Soheli" was observed moving suspiciously in Indian waters. On being challenged by the ICG ship, the boat started



Indian Coast Guard officials with the arrested crew members of the Pakistani boat

evasive manoeuvring and did not stop even after firing warning shots, it said.

The Coast Guard eventually managed to intercept and stop the boat.

As per the release, arms, ammunition and nearly 40 kg of narcotics worth ₹300 crore were found on the boat. The 10 crew members and boat are being brought to Okha port for further investigation.

This is the seventh joint operation by the ICG and Gujarat ATS in the last 18 months, and the first apprehension wherein arms and ammunition along with drugs were recovered.

A total of 346 kg of heroin worth ₹1,930 crore has been seized and 44 Pakistani and seven Iranian crew have been apprehended in the last 18 months, the release said.

House resolution
today: Shinde on
Uddhav's call for
K'taka-occupied UT

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid revived clamour by the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) for declaring the "Karnataka-occupied Maharashtra" areas as a Union Territory, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday announced that the State Government would table a resolution in both the Houses of the Legislature on Tuesday, condemning the stand taken by the Karnataka Government on the vexed border dispute.

Talking to media persons on his return to Nagpur from New Delhi where he had gone to attend an official programme, the Maharashtra CM said that the State Government would move a resolution in both the Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature.

Detailed report on P5

Bird stops Pink Line Metro for an hour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Services were affected for over an hour on a section of the Delhi Metro's Pink Line on Monday due to a disruption caused by a bird dropping an external wire on a live overhead equipment (OHE) line.

The 58-km-long Pink Line connects Majlis Park with Shiv Vihar.

"Train services between Maujpur and Shiv Vihar section of the Pink Line were affected on the down line (going towards Shiv Vihar) from 11.15 am to 12.35 pm today as one of the OHE wire parted due to scrap external wire dropped by bird on live OHE resulting in shortening of phase to earth," a senior Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official said.

The DMRC's OHE maintenance teams "rushed to the site and undertook the repair



work" of this parted catenary wire (part of OHE), which was damaged and broken between the Jauhari Enclave and Shiv Vihar section, the official said.

During the disruption, single line services were maintained between Shiv Vihar to Maujpur through the up line as maintenance work of the damaged catenary wire was in progress in the affected section on the down line, the official said.

Normal services were restored on the Maujpur-Shiv Vihar section at 12.35 PM, he said. The DMRC had also tweeted to alert commuters earlier in the day.

"Slow movement of trains between Shiv Vihar and Maujpur-Babarpur stations on the Pink Line. Services are normal on the section i.e. Between Maujpur-Babarpur and Majlis Park. Normal service on all other lines," the DMRC tweeted at 11:25 am.

Intense cold hits life in Raj; Fatehpur temp dips to -1.5 C

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Intense cold conditions and fog affected normal life in parts of Rajasthan on Monday with sub-zero temperatures being recorded in Sikar's Fatehpur. The maximum temperature in most places in the State was recorded between 16 and 25 degree Celsius.

At a minimum temperature of minus 1.5 degree Celsius, Fatehpur was recorded as the coldest place in the desert state followed by Churu and Pilani (Hunjunu) where the mercury settled at 0 degree Celsius and 0.2 degree Celsius respectively on Sunday night, according to the Met department.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ahmad Luqman Khan S/o. Naimuddin Khan, R/o. D-121, UGF Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohd. Luqman S/o Nayyoom Ahmad for all future purposes.

PD(90229)A

I, Inayat Rai D/o Harbinder Singh Rai R/o D-17A, Ansai Villas, Satbari, Chhatarpur, New Delhi-110074 have changed my minor daughter's name from Shanaia Bharti Mittal age 6 years 11 months to Zyra Rai for all purposes.

PD(90230)A

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that **MAHENDER KUMAR/ SARITA DEVI (borrower/s)** has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00004307026 located at **UNIT No 614, 2ND FLOOR, 2ND PARK VIEW AT GAUR YAMUNA CITY, (POCKET-3), MIRZAPUR SITE (LFD-3), SECTOR 19, JAYPEE SPORTS CITY EAST, YEIDA, GB NAGAR, NOIDA.**

The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **December 19, 2022** informing that **GAURSONS REALTECH PVT. LTD** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: December 27, 2022

For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: Delhi/ NCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of Work and its Location:-	30-Elect-64-T-2022-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of VRF & Ductable type air conditioning plants and repairing of defective air conditioning plants installed at various locations over Delhi Division.
Approx Cost of the works in:-	Rs. 93.91 Lacs
Address of the Office:-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security:-	Rs. 1,87,800.00
Date & time of submission of tender:-	18.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:-	18.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & Notice Board:-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Serving Customers with a Smile	

Videocon's founder Dhoot held in ICICI Bank loan...

From Page 1

The CBI had taken into custody the Kochhars duo alleging that they were not cooperating with the investigation, and giving evasive replies. Chanda has denied knowledge of any financial transactions between her husband and Dhoot, the agency had claimed during remand proceedings at a CBI Special Court in Mumbai on December 24. Senior advocate Amit Desai, appearing for the Kochhars, had opposed the remand, saying the 'main borrower of the loan has not been arrested, and the present accused were not the beneficiary of any amount.

Desai had also brought to the court's notice a letter written by the ICICI Bank to the CBI in July 2021 stating that there was no wrongful loss to it in any of the transactions under question. The CBI had named the Kochhars and Dhoot, along with Nupower Renewables (NRL) managed by Deepak Kochhar, Supreme Energy, Videocon International Electronics Ltd, and Videocon Industries Limited, as accused in the FIR registered under

IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2019. In the FIR, the CBI alleged that ICICI Bank had sanctioned credit facilities to the tune of Rs 3,250 crore to the companies of Videocon Group promoted by Dhoot in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI guidelines, and credit policy of the bank. It was also alleged that as a part of the quid pro quo, Dhoot made an investment of Rs 64 crore in Nupower Renewables through Supreme Energy Pvt Ltd (SEPL) and transferred SEPL to Pinnacle Energy Trust managed by Deepak Kochhar through a circuitous route between 2010 and 2012.

"It was alleged that the ICICI Bank Ltd. sanctioned credit facilities of about Rs 3,250 crore to Trend Electronics Ltd, Century Appliances Ltd, Kail Ltd, Value Industries Ltd and Evan Fraser & Co India Ltd, all companies belonging to Videocon Group promoted by Venugopal Dhoot.

The officials of ICICI Bank Ltd. sanctioned credit facilities to these companies in violation of Banking Regulation Act, RBI Guidelines and Credit Policy of the bank," according to the FIR.

2 more dengue deaths take toll to 7 in city: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two more deaths due to dengue in Delhi this year have been confirmed by government authorities, raising the official toll to seven, even as the total number of cases of the vector-borne disease has crossed the 4,300-mark, according to data shared by the city's civic body on Monday.

On December 19, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had said five deaths had been confirmed till then by a review panel. These fatalities had taken place during the September-November period.

However, 37 cases of fatalities due to dengue infection and its complications as reported this year from various hospitals were sent to the Dengue Death Review Committee for examination, a senior official had earlier said. In a fresh report on Monday, the MCD said a total of 4,361 dengue cases have been reported till December 23, including 766 from December 1-23.

Nearly 250 dengue cases have been reported in the national capital from December 16-23, taking the infection tally of the vector-borne disease past the 4,300 mark so far this year, according to the civic report. Of the total cases, 1,420 were recorded in November, 1,238 in October and 693 in September. In 2021, dengue claimed 23 lives in the city, the report said.

The senior official on December 19 had said out of the 37 deaths reported, the review committee declared 16 as "suspected cases", and added that six others who died had co-morbidities such as chronic liver, diabetes, hypertension, kidney and cardiac-related illnesses and other chronic illnesses.

Veer Bal Diwas reflects India's identity, says Modi

From Page 1

"I consider it to be the good fortune of our Government that we got the opportunity to declare December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas," he said.

The Prime Minister said India needs to break free from the "narrow views" of the past to take the country to heights of success.

"On the one hand there was terrorism and on the other spiritualism. On one hand there was communal violence and on the other there was liberalism. On one hand there were forces of lakhs while on the other there were just 'Veer Sahibzaade' who did not budge at all," he said referring to the two martyred children of the Guru.

Earlier in the day, Modi took to Twitter and said, "On Veer Baal Diwas, we recall the courage of the Sahibzade and Mata Gujri Ji. We also remember the courage of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. At 12:30 pm today will be joining a programme to mark this inspiring day."

The Prime Minister said the New India is correcting the mistakes of the bygone decades by restoring its long-lost legacy.

Adding that any country is identified by its principles, the Prime Minister highlighted that when the core values of a

nation go through a transformation, the future of the nation changes with time.

He emphasised that the "values of a nation can be preserved only when the present generations have clarity about the history of the land".

On the occasion of Guru Gobind Singh's birth anniversary on January 9 this year, the Prime Minister had announced that December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas'.

The Prime Minister said in the name of history, people were being taught versions which promoted inferiority complex among them and that to move forward in the 'Amrit Kaal' and to take India to the heights of success in the future, "we have to break free from narrow views of the past".

"Any country with such a glorious history must be full of self-confidence and self-respect, however, concocted narratives are taught to infuse inferiority. There is a need to get free from the narrow interpretation of the past in order to move forward," he said.

Modi said what happened in the wars of Chamkaur and Sirhind can never be forgotten while noting that these incidents occurred only three centuries ago on the soil of this land.

"On one hand there was the mighty Mughal sultanate

Delivery boy hit by car with 'judge sticker' in Noida, dies in hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

A food delivery executive died here after his motorcycle was allegedly hit by a speeding car bearing a sticker of 'district judge' early on Monday, police officials said.

The incident occurred around 1.30 am near the Parthala roundabout, under Noida sector 113 police station limits, according to an official.

The 27-year-old delivery executive of Zomato, identified as Parvinder Kumar, a native of Bulandshahr but currently living in Ghaziabad, was taken to a private hospital in Bistrah where he succumbed during treatment. The car driver fled the spot after crash, a local police official said.

"The sector 113 police station officials were alerted around 1.30 AM about a road crash near a U-turn between Ek Murti roundabout and Parthala roundabout. A car hit a biker, who was then taken to the Yatharth hospital for treatment," the police said.

IN-BRIEF

MCD INDEPENDENT COUNCILLOR JOINS BJP
New Delhi: Independent councillor Gajendra Daral, who won the recently held municipal elections from Mundka, joined the BJP here on Monday, the party's Delhi unit said in a statement. The development comes ahead of the mayoral polls due on January 6. Three Independent candidates, including two women, had emerged victorious in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections held on December 4. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won the elections with 134 seats and the BJP bagged 104 seats in the 250-member civic body. Daral joined the BJP in the presence of the party's Delhi unit working president Virendra Sachdeva and its former chief Vijender Gupta.

IITS, EUROPEAN VARSITIES TO JOINTLY WORK ON WATER
New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati and Bombay in collaboration with European universities are working towards building a low-cost technology to check the quality of potable and other water in India. The LOTUS Indo-European project, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology and the European Commission, is aimed at providing solutions for issues related to the quality of water supplied across Indian households and elsewhere. A core element of the LOTUS project is a novel water quality sensor that builds on previous work done at Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France.

WOMAN, BOYFRIEND HELD FOR EXTORTING ₹20K
New Delhi: A 21-year-old woman and her boyfriend were arrested for allegedly extorting ₹20,000 from her elder sister by threatening to make her private video viral, police said on Monday. The matter came to light on December 15 when the victim reported to the police that she had received a private video of hers on WhatsApp from an unknown number. She alleged that the unidentified person threatened to make the video viral if she failed to pay ₹20,000. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said a team collected information and after technical analyses, the accused was identified and arrested.

Mother Dairy hikes milk prices by...

From Page 1

The last hike was on November 21, when Mother Dairy increased prices of full-cream milk by '1 per litre and token milk by '2 per litre in Delhi-NCR market. In October too, the dairy increased the prices of its milk.

The hike has been mostly '2 each time. In the same month, its competitor the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which sells its dairy products under the Amul brand, raised the prices by a similar amount.

Before that, Mother Dairy had in October increased prices of full-cream milk and cow milk by '2 per litre in Delhi-NCR and some other markets in North India. Rates were raised by '2 per litre for all variants in March and August as

well.

"It is an unprecedented year for the dairy industry. We have been witnessing a significant increase in demand for milk and milk products from both consumers and institutions, even after festivals. On the other hand, procurement of raw milk has also not picked up after Diwali as was anticipated," the Mother Dairy said in a statement.

"This stress on the raw milk prices is being felt across the industry, putting pressure on the consumer prices. In our commitment to continue paying remunerative prices to farmers to ease the impact, we are severely constrained to revise consumer prices of select variants of milk in Delhi NCR effective from December 27, 2022," the Mother Dairy said.

CBI opens Rail project scam case against...

From Page 1

Reacting to the development, the ruling Mahagathbandhan alliance in Bihar on Monday cried foul over reports of a corruption case being reopened against Lalu.

The CBI is often accused by the Opposition of having become a political instrument in the hands of the BJP which is ruling the Centre.

Former State Minister and senior RJD leader Vijay Prakash recalled the "caged parrot" remark of the Supreme Court, made long back while the Congress-led UPA Government was in power, to allege "misuse" of the agency by the "Government at the Centre".

"We are sure that Lalu ji, who has been slapped with so

many cases by the CBI, will be proven innocent in all matters, including the latest one", Prakash told a news agency.

Prasad, a former Chief Minister of undivided Bihar, is serving sentences in a few fodder scam cases. Currently, out on bail, he is away in Singapore recuperating from the kidney transplant surgery.

Echoing similar sentiments, senior minister in the Bihar government cabinet and JDU leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said, "It is surprising that the CBI goes after only those who are opposed to the BJP. Never do we see the agency taking cognisance of any corruption matter against a BJP leader. Of course, these central agencies are being misused to tarnish the image of political opponents."

Fliers...

From Page 1

The Karnataka Health officials said 12 passengers including a 37-year-old man, who arrived from China, had tested positive for Covid at the Bengaluru airport. The other eleven passengers came from high-risk countries. Four have been quarantined in a private hospital, and the rest have been put under home isolation. All the samples have been sent to genomic sequencing to the National Institute of Virology, and the results are expected by Tuesday morning.

Cold...

From Page 1

Northern railway spokesperson said more than 10 trains were reported running late by 1.45 to 3.30 hours.

The humidity in the weather was recorded at 100 per cent at 8:30 am and 84 per cent at 5:30 pm, at Delhi's base station, Safdarjung Observatory, stated the weather station data.

The city witnessed the lowest minimum temperature at Ayanagar observatory at 4 degrees Celsius, while the

Pitampura station witnessed the highest minimum temperature at 8.9 degrees Celsius. The weathermen said that a cold wave is considered when the minimum temperature in the city drops lower than 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

In the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature plunges to 2.5 degrees Celsius. Ambala recorded a low of 7.7 degrees Celsius, Karnal 6.8 degrees Celsius, Rohtak 6.6 degrees Celsius, Bhiwani 5.5 degrees Celsius and Sirsa 5.2 degrees Celsius.

A 'severe' cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from

normal is more than 6.4 degrees Celsius.

Biting cold conditions and dense fog were reported in several parts of Punjab and Haryana, with Narnaul being the coldest in the region at 2.4 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Hisar recorded a piercing cold as the minimum temperature plunged to 2.5 degrees Celsius. Ambala recorded a low of 7.7 degrees Celsius, Karnal 6.8 degrees Celsius, Rohtak 6.6 degrees Celsius, Bhiwani 5.5 degrees Celsius and Sirsa 5.2 degrees Celsius.

Chandigarh, the joint Capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded a mini-

mum temperature of 7.4 degrees Celsius. In Punjab, Amritsar recorded a low of 6.5 degrees Celsius, Ludhiana 6 degrees Celsius, Pathankot 8.8 degrees Celsius, Bathinda 3.6 degrees Celsius, Faridkot 6 degrees Celsius and Gurdaspur 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Intense cold conditions and fog affected normal life in parts of Rajasthan, with sub-zero temperatures being recorded in Sikar's Fatehpur. Bathinda in Punjab and Bikaner in Rajasthan reported zero visibility, while it dropped to 50 metres and below at Ambala, Hisar, Amritsar, Patiala, Ganganagar, Churu and Bareilly.

₹104 cr OK'd for Capital hospitals to deal with Covid surge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday approved a budget of ₹104 crore for hospitals to procure general medicines as part of preparations to deal with emergency situations amid a surge in Covid cases in some countries.

At a review meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia directed the heads of Government hospitals to share details of beds, ventilators, ICUs, human resources, oxygen plants, and medical logistics with the Health department by the evening. "The surge in Covid cases globally is a matter of concern for everyone. Delhi hospitals have been asked to prepare well in advance and stay vigilant.

"An amount of ₹104 crore has been approved to ensure that there is no shortage of any medicines at government hospitals and they are well prepared to deal with any situation," a statement quoted Sisodia as saying. A mock drill will be organised at all the hospitals on Tuesday to ensure the health facilities' readiness for the management of Covid following the Centre's directions, the deputy chief minister added.



He said any gaps would be addressed immediately by Health department officials. The mock drill will assess bed availability, manpower, referral resources, testing capacity, medical logistics, telemedicine services, and medical oxygen, among others.

Real-time data on the availability of beds, oxygen cylinders and ventilators will be available for the public on a Delhi government portal from Tuesday, officials said. An official said testing was also likely to be ramped up soon. At present, around 2,500 to 3,000 tests are being conducted daily in the city.

Meetings are being held with residents' welfare organisations and non-government organisations, which are being asked to create awareness about

the emerging situation. Last week, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the new Omicron sub-variant BE.7 of the coronavirus, which is causing a surge in cases in some countries, had not been detected in Delhi so far and that his government was fully geared to tackle any eventuality.

Instructions have been issued to send samples from all positive cases for genome sequencing, increase precaution dose coverage and manpower in hospitals.

Kejriwal had also directed officials to take prior approval for procurement of essential items needed and inspect the machines in all hospitals. The chief minister had asserted that they were self-sufficient in terms of oxygen availability and storage.

Visiting hospitals to check preparedness: Authorities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Authorities on Monday began physically visiting all Government hospitals here to ascertain their preparedness to deal with any eventuality in view of the surge in Covid cases in some countries.

"We have started physically visiting all Government hospitals. An inventory of beds, liquid medical oxygen, ventilators and other equipment is being prepared. It will be ready by Monday evening," East Delhi District Magistrate Anil Banka said.

A mock drill will also be conducted across all city government hospitals on Tuesday following the Centre's directions.

Delhi Health Secretary Amit Singla had on Sunday chaired a meeting with all district magistrates and directed them to visit all hospitals and prepare an inventory of beds and equipment available.

Real-time data related to the availability of beds, oxygen cylinders and ventilators will be available for the public on

a Delhi government portal from Tuesday.

Testing was also likely to be ramped up soon. At present, around 2,500 to 3,000 tests are being conducted daily in the city.

Amid the lurking threat of Covid-19, meetings are being held with residents' welfare organisations and non-government organisations, which are being asked to create awareness about the emerging situation.

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for procurement of essential items needed and inspect the machines in all hospitals.

Kejriwal had asserted that they were self-sufficient in terms of oxygen availability and storage.

During the second Covid wave last year, Delhi had grappled with oxygen shortage with hospitals sending out SOS messages over depleting supplies on social media.

However, experts say the BE.7 sub-strain should not worry India too much as a lot

of people have developed immunity against the virus -- either through vaccination or previous infection -- unlike China where people have low immunity due to tough restrictions.

"The government is proactive and its directions are scientific. One should be cautious considering the spurt in cases in several countries but any new variant of Omicron is unlikely to cause any big trouble in India," Dr Jugal Kishore, the head of Community

Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital, said.

India saw a massive third wave earlier this year and it, in a way, worked as a booster dose for a large number of people, the senior doctor said.

Delhi has recorded 20,07,143 Covid cases and 26,521 deaths since the pandemic started in early 2020.

The number of daily cases in the national capital has remained below 20 and the positivity rate below 1 per cent since mid-November.

Rahul pays tributes to Vajpayee, other ex-PMs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Videos and photos of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi donning white t-shirt and walking barefoot at various memorials in the chilly December morning in Delhi on Monday went viral on social media with his supporters going tizzy while critics making fun of his attire.

"Pant, T Shirt and now barefoot," said a Twitter user. Another Twitter user wrote, "It's 7 degrees cold in Delhi and Rahul Gandhi is in T-shirt". "Make Rahul PM because he can brave Delhi winters in a half sleeves T-shirt OR HA EK HI CAMERA USE KIA HAI RAHUL JI NE TO VO IGNORE KIJIYEGA," commented another twitter.

The national Capital recorded the minimum temperature of five degrees on Monday, which was coldest this season. The cold wave swept through parts of Delhi and dense fog lowered visibility to 50 metres in some areas of the city, affecting road and rail traffic.

However, there was a section of netizens which pooh poohed at his dress saying that "only because he can brave colds, he cannot claim to be the PM candidate." Some termed his action as "childish".

While his followers and security staff accompanying him were seen bundled up in

warm clothes such as jackets and mufflers and beanie caps on a chilling December morning, Gandhi was in his typical half-sleeved T-shirt and pants during his visit to memorials of the former Prime Ministers including those from the Opposition parties.

He visited Veer Bhumi, Shakti Sthal and Shanti Van, the memorials of former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru respectively. The Congress leader also visited Rajghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, and Vijay Ghat, the memorial of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. He paid tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his memorial, Sadaiv Atal.

Rahul also visited the memorials of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and former deputy Prime Minister Jagjivan Ram.

"The holy land of India has taught the whole world lessons of love and non-violence. Keeping these ideals in heart, looking at the footprints of the sons of Mother India, we are moving forward..." Rahul said in a tweet in Hindi while sharing pictures of him paying tributes at various memorials.

The Congress leader had initially planned to pay homage to the former prime ministers on Saturday after his "Bharat



Jodo Yatra" march but later, rescheduled it to Monday morning, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said Gandhi is on a "tapasya" and wants to take everyone along.

While Congress leaders did not say whether Rahul was giving any political message while paying tributes to the former prime ministers in a T-

shirt on a cold December morning, they charged Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders with spreading "lies" to defame him.

On Saturday, Rahul highlighting the plight of those who cannot afford warm clothes, last week responded to queries about him not feeling cold in chilly Delhi winter. He

said the media kept asking him if he felt cold but never asked the same question to a farmer or a labourer. "I have walked 2,800 km, but I believe that is not a big deal. Farmers walk so much every day; as do farm labourers, factory workers "all of India, in fact," he said last week while addressing the gathering near the Red Fort.

City's power demand clocks 4,803 MW, highest this season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the national Capital witnessed the coldest day of this year on Monday, Delhi's power demand clocked 4,803 MW at 10:22 am, the highest this season, even surpassing the record of both December 2021 and 2020. According to the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) data, the city's peak power demand this morning clocked 4803 MW at 10:22 am, the highest this season. "In the areas catered to by BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), the peak power demand clocked 2074 MW and 967 MW respectively," it stated.

The national capital is gripped in severe cold wave and witnessed the coldest day of the year on Monday as the minimum temperature in the city settled at 5 degrees celsius in the morning, three notches below the normal for this time of the year. However, the maximum temperature of the capital was also recorded as the lowest at 15.6 degrees Celsius, six notches colder than the average for this season, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"At 4803 MW, Delhi's peak power demand this year is more than the peak power demand clocked in December of both 2021 and 2020. In December of 2021, Delhi's peak power demand had clocked 4723 MW and in 2020, 4671 MW," sources said.

"Delhi's peak power demand this winter can go up to 5500 MW, surpassing the peak winter demand of the last couple of years. Last year, it had peaked at 5104 MW, and 5021 in 2020," they said.

"The peak winter power demand in BRPL and BYPL areas had reached 2140 MW and 1122



MW respectively during last winter. This year, it is expected to reach 2289 MW and 1159 MW for BRPL and BYPL respectively," they underlined.

The BSES officials said that the green power will play important in meeting the power demand in areas under its jurisdiction in winter months. On the other hand, with long-term agreements from power plants; including Hydro and Delhi-based gas-fuelled generating stations, BSES is also receiving 840 MW of solar power from SECI, 439 MW of wind power, ~25 MW from Waste-to Energy and. "It is also being helped by 127 MW + of roof-top solar power installed on roof-tops in South, West, East, and Central Delhi," he said.

"Apart from these, BSES discoms are using avenues like "Banking", "Power Exchange" and ensuring sufficient "Spinning Reserves" to dispose of surplus power as well as ensuring reliable power supply, as also making arrangements to get power during summer months," said a senior discoms official, while informing about the measure being taken by them to tackle the increasing power demand in the city.

AAP's candidates for posts of Mayor, Deputy Mayor file nominations



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Dr Shelly Oberoi and Aaley Mohammad Iqbal — the AAP's candidates for the posts of MCD mayor and deputy mayor — on Monday filed their nominations for the polls, party sources said. The duo was accompanied by party leaders Saurabh Bharadwaj, Durgesh Pathak and Adil Khan.

Four candidates — Aamil Malik of Karawal Nagar ward, Raminder Kaur from Harinagar ward, Mohini Jeenwal of Seemapuri ward and Sarika Chaudhary of Jangpura ward — filed nominations for the Standing Committee. AAP Chief Spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said all the nominations had been accepted.

The AAP had on Friday finalised six names as candidates for various Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) posts, including that of mayor and deputy mayor, with Oberoi emerging as the choice for the top post. The six names were

shortlisted at a meeting of its political affairs committee.

AAP's Rajendra Nagar MLA Durgesh Pathak said the party had chalked a blueprint on how to keep Delhi clean and beautiful. "Delhiites dream of making the city a clean and glorious one. It is the capital of the country, the city needs to be transformed in such a way that people from all over the world see it as a model capital.

"(Chief Minister) Arvind Kejriwal has made a complete blueprint of how this dream will be fulfilled," Pathak said.

Senior AAP leader Atishi, who also accompanied the mayor and deputy mayor candidates, said Delhiites had handed the responsibility of the city's cleanliness to the AAP and the party would tackle the garbage menace effectively.

"We just hope that the BJP does not train its guns on the shoulders of any Independent candidate. The people of Delhi have given the responsibility of cleanliness to the Aam Aadmi Party," she said.

BJP: AAP Govt running away from debate on vital issues

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused the Delhi Government of running away from a discussion on important issues and urged Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena to convene an Assembly session immediately.

The BJP also alleged that the AAP Government is flouting the rule of holding three major Assembly sessions in a calendar year. While the Winter Sessions of most of the State Assemblies as well as Parliament have been held this year, "nothing is known about the winter session of the Delhi Assembly".

A delegation of BJP MLAs



from Delhi, led by Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, met the LG on Monday and put forward its demand that the Assembly session should be called in accordance with rules so that "democratic and constitutional traditions could be followed".

The members of the delegation also told Saxena that people want solutions to several burning issues that the city is

facing. Apart from Bidhuri, MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, OP Sharma, Jitendra Mahajan, Anil Bajpai, Abhay Verma and Ajay Mahawar were part of the delegation.

"The danger of corona is once again rising. Pollution in Delhi is also poisoning the air and the government has no solution. Tests have stopped in mohalla clinics and medicines are missing. Doctors of mohalla clinics are not getting salaries for four months. Ration is not being distributed in Delhi for two months, whereas the central government has issued ration to more than 72 lakh people," the BJP said in a statement.

Man sets car on fire, 20 vehicles gutted

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 20 cars were gutted at a multi-level parking facility in west Delhi's Subhash Nagar on Monday following a blaze that started allegedly after a 23-year-old man set afire one of the vehicles as he harboured a grudge against its owner, police said.

Fire officials said a call was received about the fire in the basement of the four-level MCD parking facility around 4 am and seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The blaze was brought under control by 6:10 am, a senior fire official



said, adding that no casualties were reported.

With the help of CCTV footage, the culprit identified as Yash Arora, a resident of Subhash Nagar, was arrested.

Police said Arora decided to set afire the car as he was upset with its owner over his relationship with one of the family members of the accused.

Terai Gin, Globus brands go missing this festive season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a letter to the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), an apex body of Indian alcoholic beverage industry alleged the stopping of supply for many liquor brands in the Capital, demanding the orders should be placed on basis of demand and "not a pre-determined discriminatory list".

CIABC said only a select few brands have been categorised as "popular" and orders for supply are being given for



only these brands. The letter comes as the sales of alcohol will go up during the ongoing festive season.

Sources in the liquor industry said brands like Terai Gin from Globus are not available at liquor stores. Interestingly, Sula has 24 brands registered; only four are being ordered. ABD has five brands registers, only Officers Choice Blue is being ordered, brands like Sterling Reserve and even Officers Choice,

India's largest selling whisky is not.

"We have been informed that since early December, orders for supply of many brands of our member companies have been stopped," said the December 22 letter addressed to Niharika Rai, Managing Director and CEO of Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation. The Corporation has 145 shops. They account for 35 percent of Delhi sales.

The CIABC noted that the current excise policy commenced in September and it is "unfair" to stop orders without

any intimation or notice to supplier companies. "We have been informed that since early December, orders for supply for many brands of our member companies have been stopped. Only a few brands have been categorized as 'Popular' and orders for supply are being given for only these brands. It shall be pertinent to note that the current Excise Policy commenced on 01 September 2022 and it is unfair to categorize only a select few brands, within a very short period of time, as 'Popular' and then STOP orders without any intimation or notice to supplier companies.

Monday and dense fog lowered visibility to 50 metres in some areas of the city.

Amid the decreasing temperature in the national capital, around 150 tents have been set up at 33 locations so far by the DUSIB for the homeless.



less people can avail the benefits we are providing under our winter action plan," DUSIB member Bipin Rai told an agency.

The awareness drive will begin on Wednesday.

Cold wave swept through parts of the national capital on

CDS for enhanced synergy among all three Services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the nature of warfare is changing rapidly calling for enhanced synergy between all the three Services, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Monday highlighted the pivotal role played by the Armed Forces as part of 'Whole of Government' approach towards national security.

He emphasised that all defence initiatives should be aligned to draw mutual benefits from Government schemes like Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Vibrant Border Villages, Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy to achieve higher defence preparedness.

The CDS made these observations here on the first day of the two-day seminar

organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), an independent New Delhi based think tank, on the theme of "Civil Military Integration: The Way Forward."

Delivering the key note address, Army Chief Manoj Pande spoke on the importance of synergy to correctly assess threats, articulate vital strategic guidelines and documents, identify the desired military capabilities, formulate enabling policies, achieve the required preparedness metric and effect appropriate responses, congruent to overall National Security objectives.

The event is being attended by distinguished participants from Armed Forces, Civil Services, as well as representatives from the defence industry and the academic community, including several think tanks



and educational institutions.

During the course of deliberations on Monday, many eminent speakers discussed nuances of Bureaucracy-Military integration, a subject of great relevance to India's comprehensive growth as a Nation.

Diverse and useful views were shared by former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Lt General Anil Puri, Additional

Secretary, Department of Military Affairs and others.

The second day of this seminar on Tuesday is dedicated to discussions pertaining to Military Industry integration, which requires synchronisation of the interests of the indigenous defence industry with the operational requirements of the Armed Forces, through collaborative engagement.

SC issues notice to ED on bail plea of suspended IAS officer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought the response of the Enforcement Directorate to a plea filed by suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal in a money laundering case seeking interim bail to look after her daughter who is ill.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and Abhay S Oka issued notice to the ED and others and sought their replies.

"Issue notice returnable in the re-opening miscellaneous week of January, 2023 both in the SLP as well as on the application for interim bail.

"In the meantime, the respondent is directed to verify the medical status of the daughter of the petitioner," the bench said.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing on behalf of Singhal submitted his client's daughter needs to be looked



after due to a medical condition and sought bail on that ground.

The top court asked the anti-money laundering probe agency to verify the condition of her daughter and inform the bench.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Singhal, a Jharkhand cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, against the Jharkhand high court order dismissing her bail plea.

Singhal has been in custody since May 11 after raids were conducted at properties linked to her.

The Enforcement

Directorate has accused Singhal, a former state mines department secretary, of money laundering.

The ED has said more than Rs 36 crore cash, linked to alleged illegal mining, was seized by its teams as part of two separate money laundering investigations.

Apart from the 2000-batch IAS officer, her businessman husband, a chartered accountant associated with the couple and others were also raided by the ED as part of a money laundering probe linked to a case of alleged corruption in the MGNREGA scheme.

Singhal was suspended by the state government following her arrest.

Suman Kumar, a chartered accountant linked to Singhal and her husband, was also arrested by the agency and cash totalling Rs 19.76 crore was seized from him.

Santosh Yadav named NHA chairperson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Santosh Kumar Yadav, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, was on Monday appointed as chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHA) while Subhashish Panda, a 1997-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice chairman.

Ganji Kamala V Rao has been named Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Rao, a 1990-batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre, is currently the managing director of the India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

'Rahul doing drama': BJP seeks apology over Vajpayee tweet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Samadhi on Monday, the BJP demanded an apology from his party over a controversial tweet by a leader attached to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's office.

The Congress, nevertheless, took a dig at the BJP, which had been claiming that Rahul was headed for New Year celebrations.

Gaurav Pandhi, who is a coordinator with Kharge's office and handles the social media for him, had put out a tweet alleging that Vajpayee had sided with the British. He later deleted it as the BJP accused Rahul of "doing a drama" of paying homage at Vajpayee's memorial while party leaders use "abusive words" against the former Prime Minister.

The Congress noted that Pandhi has since deleted the controversial tweet and asserted that the party's stand and that of Rahul are the same.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala demanded that the Congress should apologise for Pandhi's remarks, "else one will be forced to believe that the words of Congress leader Pandhi are Rahul's thoughts".

Another party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said



Vajpayee was an epitome of honesty and a messenger of peace, while Rahul was involved in "defaming" India and "spreading hatred".

"Pandhi has deleted his tweet but that is not enough. Congress must clarify its stand and apologise. Must sack serial offender Pandhi. Or else we will be forced to believe that 'Shabd Pandhi ke, soch Rahul Gandhi ki'...", Poonawala said on Twitter.

"Atal is an epitome of honesty, dedication to the nation & a messenger of peace. Rahul at 'Sadaiv Atal' is corruption kneeling before honesty.

"The question is whether he has walked the path taught by him. From defaming India, supporting 'tukde tukde' gang Rahul only spreads hatred," Bhatia tweeted.

He also alleged that Rahul

is "doing a drama". "On one hand Rahul goes to Atal Sadaiv to pay homage and on the other hand party leaders use abusive words," he said.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said a lot is being made out about somebody's tweet.

"I think when Rahul stands up for something then it is the party's stand. The person in question has also deleted it, to the best of my knowledge, but that is not the issue.

"The issue is that when Rahul goes and pays homage at the 'samadhi' of whether Rajiv or Indira or Shastri, Nehru, Mahatma, Chaudhary Charan Singh or even Vajpayee, he is actually paying homage to each and every individual who has built this country," she said.

She said Vajpayee had told the then Gujarat Chief Minister in 2002 and today's prime minister to follow "Raj Dharma", which was to follow the Constitution. "It is a pity, Mr Modi never learnt that lesson and he has kept the Constitution at bay," she said.

"BJP leaders were claiming Rahul will break his yatra to take a vacation abroad during Christmas but today amid chilling winter in Delhi when the BJP leaders covered in blankets are plotting to divide the nation, Rahul Gandhi visited the 'samadhis', she asserted.

Cong invites leaders of SP, BSP, RLD to UP leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

After ensuring participation from political leaders and Parliamentarians across party lines, the Congress on Monday invited several leaders of non-BJP parties, including Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, BSP supremo Mayawati and RLD's Jayant Chaudhary, to take part in the Uttar Pradesh leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra during the first week of January.

The Yatra, which is currently taking a 9-day break in the national Capital, will enter Uttar Pradesh on January 3 through Loni in Ghaziabad. It will then pass through Baghpat and Shamli to enter Haryana.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who had led the party's campaign in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections earlier this year, will join the Yatra in the State on all three days.

In addition to Yadav, Mayawati and Chaudhary, the Congress has invited SP MLA Shival Singh Yadav, BSP general secretary Satish Mishra,



Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party chief Omprakash Rajbhar and Communist Party of India secretary Atul Anjan.

Congress spokesperson Ashok Singh informed that the party has extended invitations to prominent opposition leaders in the state to attend the yatra.

An exception is former deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma who has been invited to the yatra in his capacity as a professor of Lucknow University. Another professor of the university, Ravikant, has also been invited.

"In the present times when

people are not allowed to raise their views, this yatra is the only option to know people's minds. The entire opposition has almost the same view about this government so they have been invited to participate in the yatra," the party spokesman said.

The Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir yatra, which has so far traversed more than 2,800 km through 10 states, is on a nine-day winter break and will resume on January 3. It started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7 and will conclude in Kashmir early next year.

States gearing up to hold mock drill to check Covid preparedness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In keeping with the Central Government's advisory, States are gearing up to hold mock drill on Tuesday at their health facilities to showcase their preparedness regarding infrastructure such as availability of beds and human resources like enough doctors and nurses to deal with any eventuality related to Covid-19. The Union Health Ministry's direction to hold mock drills comes amid surging cases of high transmissible BF.7 Covid variants in neighbouring China.

Though a section of experts have ruled out any China-like wave in India which they say has gained herd immunity against the virus, the authorities are leaving no stone unturned.

The mock exercise will focus on parameters such as availability of health facilities (covering all districts), capacity of isolation beds, oxygen-supported beds, ICU beds and ventilator-supported beds, and optimal availability of doctors, nurses, paramedics, AYUSH doctors, and other frontline workers, including ASHA and Anganwadi workers, an official from the Union Health Ministry said.

It will also focus on human resource capacity in terms of healthcare professionals trained on COVID-19 management, healthcare professionals trained in ventilatory management protocol for severe cases, healthcare workers trained in operation of PSA plants etc and availability of Advanced and Basic Life Support (ALS/BLS) ambulances, testing equipment



and reagents and that of essential drugs among others, said the official.

The State Governments are taking stock of the healthcare facilities to ensure that everything is in place to meet any eventuality. The Uttar Pradesh government has activated the administrative machinery to test Covid preparedness and management, including conduct of mock drills at medical colleges and hospitals across the state, after two fresh cases were reported from Unnao and Agra while Delhi government officials have started physically visiting all government hospitals in the city to review the health facilities.

Delhi Health Secretary Amit Singla had on Sunday chaired a meeting with all district magistrates and directed them to visit all hospitals and prepare an inventory of beds and equipment available. During the second Covid wave last year, Delhi had struggled with oxygen shortage and bed availability.

Referring to the surge in Covid-19 trajectory in many countries around the world, the Ministry on Saturday had underlined that it was neces-

sary that in all states and UTs, requisite public health measures are put in place to meet any exigencies.

"Preparedness of Covid-19 health facilities is crucial to ensure that states and districts are in a state of readiness to meet increase in clinical care needs due to any spurt in cases," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had said in a letter.

"The objective of this exercise is to ensure operational readiness of these health facilities for management of COVID-19," he said.

Bhushan further said follow-up on any gap assessment shall be required to be undertaken by the additional chief secretary, principal secretary, secretary (health) and or MD-NHM of states who will also be required to monitor the exercise personally under the overall guidance of the health minister of respective states.

India saw a single-day rise of 196 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have marginally increased to 3,428, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. The tally of Covid cases was recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,77,302).

ED attaches assets worth ₹205 cr of Chennai-based firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached assets worth more than Rs 205 crore of a Chennai-based chemicals manufacturing company and its promoters. The ED issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach the properties of MGM Maran, MGM Anand and their company Southern Agrifurane Industries Private Limited.

The total worth of the attached assets is Rs 205.36 crore. The ED action came days after the Madras High Court refused to entertain the firm's plea against the



action initiated by the federal probe agency.

The probe against Maran, a former chairman of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMBL) during 2007, was initially launched by the Chennai Police's central crime branch following which the ED registered a criminal case under sections of the PMLA. The police case was lodged on the basis of a complaint from a private bank.

Maran, along with other directors and officials of the TMBL, "facilitated a deal for the sale of 23.6 per cent shares of TMBL from Indian shareholders to unauthorised overseas persons," the ED alleged. "MGM Maran acquired undisclosed foreign investments of Rs 293.91 crore directly outside India during the same period. Such undisclosed investments were without the approval of RBI as well as from unexplained and highly dubious sources," it said.

The ED said "in order to escape the reach of Indian laws, MGM Maran surrendered his Indian citizenship and obtained Cyprus citizenship".

Govt task force suggests UG/PG courses for AVGC education

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Government-appointed task force has suggested starting globally-recognised under graduate and post-graduate courses for audio-visual, gaming and comic (AVGC) education and tapping talent at the school level leveraging the National Education Policy.

The AVGC Task Force, chaired by Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has also recommended to the Government to launch a National AVGC-XR Mission with a budget outlay for integrated promotion of the sector and a 'Create in India' campaign on the lines of 'Make in India' with an exclusive focus on content creation.

XR refers to Extended

Reality, an umbrella term used to describe immersive technologies that can merge the physical and virtual worlds. The AVGC Task Force was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech this year to promote the AVGC sector which has been growing at 16 per cent year-on-year to emerge as a USD three-billion market.

"The AVGC sector currently accounts for nearly one per cent of the global market. India's share can rise to six per cent and the sector has the potential to create 20 lakh jobs in the next 10 years," Chandra told reporters here. He said the AVGC sector was a sunrise sector after information technology. The task force submitted its report 'Realising AVGC-XR Sector Potential in

India' to Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur last week.

Ashish Kulkarni, founder of Punarnayug Artivision and a member of the task force, said the recommendations given by the task force could lead to the creation of a dedicated roadmap for careers in the AVGC sector on the lines of medical and engineering. Chandra said India was emerging as a primary destination for high-end, skill-based activities in the AVGC sector with a number of Hollywood studios doing post-production work in the country.

The task force also recommended establishing a National Centre of Excellence (COE) for the AVGC sector to become an international reference point across Skilling, Education, Industry Development and

IN-BRIEF

WALIA APPOINTED ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF OF ARMY



New Delhi: Lieutenant General Arvind Walia has been appointed as the next Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. He would be succeeding Lt Gen Harpal Singh who is superannuating on December 31.

CBI INVESTIGATES 73 FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

New Delhi: The CBI has started investigation against 14 state medical councils and 73 foreign medical graduates who were allowed to practise medicine in India without qualifying the mandatory Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), officials said Monday.



Research and Innovation for the sector. It also said that regional COEs will be instituted in collaboration with the state governments to provide access to local industries and to promote local talent and content.

The task force also suggested establishing AVGC Accelerators and Innovation hubs in academic institutions, on the lines of Atal Tinkering

Labs. It also suggested leveraging 'Startup India' to provide technical, financial and market access assistance to AVGC entrepreneurs to promote the culture of R&D and local IP creation. The task force also recommended establishing a dedicated production fund for domestic content creation from across the country to promote Indian culture and heritage globally.

Declare K'taka-held Maha as UT: Uddhav

Houses to bring resolution to condemn K'taka stand on border row, says Shinde

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A mid revived clamour by the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasabab Thackeray) for declaring the “Karnataka-occupied Maharashtra” areas as a Union Territory, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday announced that the State Government would table a resolution in both the Houses of the State Legislature on Tuesday, condemning the stand taken by the Karnataka Government on the vexed border dispute between both the States.

On a day when former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray of the Shiv Sena (UBT) demanded that the disputed border areas between the two States be declared as a Union Territory, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde indicated that his Government would move a resolution both the Houses of the Legislature condemning the stand taken by the Karnataka Government on the issue and asking the Basavaraj Bommai administration not to precipitate matters pending a ruling by the Supreme Court on the issue.

Talking to media persons on his return to Nagpur from New Delhi where he had gone to attend an official programme, Shinde said that the state government would move a resolution in both the



Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasabab Thackeray) chief Uddhav Thackeray with MP Sanjay Raut, Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly Ajit Pawar and party leader Aditya Thackeray interacts with the media during the Winter Session of Maharashtra Assembly in Nagpur on Monday

Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature.

“The Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute has been hanging fire for te last several years. For the first time, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has taken cognisance of the dispute. He has intervened in the matter so as to ensure that there is no law and order situation in the disputed border areas.

The Union Home had called a meeting of chief ministers of the two states on the issue. Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and I attended the meeting,” Shinde said.

When his attention was drawn to Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut’s statement that the Shinde-led Shiv Sena -BJP alliance government

would collapse in February, the Maharashtra chief minister said: “Many people are waiting with bated breath for the collapse of our government. Our government is transparent. But the people have trust in our government and they are supporting our government. Our opponents have predicted that the government would fall in February but have not stated the year. Ever since our government was formed in June, they are praying for the fall of our government”.

Earlier in the day, the former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) rooted for the declaration of “Karnataka-Occupied” areas as a Union Territory. He said that a resolution be passed in both the Houses of Maharashtra asking the Centre to declare the disputed areas as Centrally-administered territory. He said that the resolution passed by both the Houses to the Centre to declare the disputed border areas as a Union Territory (UT).

Speaking for the first time in the State Legislative Council after he resigned as the chief minister in June this year,

“We don’t want a single inch of Karnataka’s land but we want our land back... We should send a demand to the Centre to declare the Karnataka-occupied-Maharashtra a union territory. The resolution to that effect be passed in the State Legislature and it be sent across to the Centre today itself,” Uddhav said.

Uddhav said that it was not just a case of language and border, but of “humanity”

The Sena (UBT) president said that Marathi-speaking people have been residing in the border villages from generations. Their daily life, language and lifestyle is Marathi. “Till the border row litigation is pending before the Supreme Court, the ‘Karnataka-occupied Maharashtra’ be declared as a Union Territory by the central government,” he said.

BRS MLAs poaching bids: HC transfers case to CBI

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Monday transferred to CBI the investigation into the case of alleged attempt to poach BRS MLAs that is at present being probed by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the state police.

The High Court also quashed the SIT and the investigation carried out so far by the police.

After hearing writ petitions filed by the three accused in the case and the BJP seeking transfer of the case from SIT to any independent agency or the CBI, the High Court dismissed the BJP’s plea on technical grounds.

However, the HC allowed the petitions of the accused and entrusted the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The petitioners sought investigation into the case by an independent agency citing that a fair probe was part of fundamental rights conferred under Article 21 of the Constitution.



Three people — Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nandu Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy — were already named as accused (A1 to A3) in the case after a complaint was lodged by BRS MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy, among four legislators, against them on October 26.

The trio was arrested while they were allegedly trying to lure four MLAs of the ruling BRS to join the BJP. Recently, they were granted bail by the High Court.

As per the FIR copy,

Rohith Reddy alleged that the accused offered him Rs 100 crore and in return the legislator had to leave the TRS, now BRS, and contest as a BJP candidate in the next Assembly election.

They had allegedly asked Reddy to bring more BRS MLAs by offering Rs 50 crore each to join the BJP.

The Telangana government on November 9 ordered the setting up of a seven-member SIT to probe into the alleged attempt to poach the MLAs.

List names of illegally recruited staff, dismiss them all: Calcutta HC to SSC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The ongoing investigation into the multi-crore school level recruitment examinations may see about 1,700 “unethically” recruited staff losing their jobs sooner than later.

The Calcutta High Court has directed the School Services Commission to find out the names of the illegally recruited staff and dismiss them. The District Inspectors of Schools would be liable to find out the staff who purchased their jobs allegedly in lieu of cash.

The next date of hearing in the case is January 24. Those in the firing line may however take recourse to available legal remedies, lawyers said.

While the Central Bureau of Investigation has told the court that it suspected about 22,000 jobs may have been unethically grabbed according to reports made available by the SSC 1,694 have been primarily found to have made the grades without obtaining the requisite marks.

The OMR sheets recovered by the investigating agencies from outside the State and made public subsequently by the SSC show that 94 candidates who were given recruitment actually scored “zero” mark. Some others scored in single digits whereas their respective marks were changed in the SSC’s website.

The recruitment took place in April 2018.

Incidentally thousands of OMR sheets of both successful and unsuccessful candidates have been destroyed in utter



violation of norms.

Passing a remark on the magnitude of corruption Justice Joyimalya Bagchi earlier said: “This is not the job of a postmaster. Corruption in recruitment of teachers is nothing but betrayal of society. Can’t society expect that the recruitment of a teacher will be done through fair and transparent means?”

School level recruitment scams — in the primary, upper primary, higher secondary, Group C and Group D levels — has affected different layers of the society.

It has seen a number of senior politicians including Partha Chatterjee the former Education Minister and number two in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet, Trinamool Congress MLA and former TET chairman Manik Bhattacharya, former SSC chairman and even a serving vice chancellor going to jail.

Meanwhile, political slugfest ensued with latest revelations — from the published OMR sheets — that the daughter of another TMC MLA, the son of a district TMC leader

and kin of similar other persons had obtained school jobs in various schools.

While the MLA said that there was no foul play in his daughter getting a job adding, he would prove his point in the court, other leaders refused to speak to your reporter.

Even as the BJP hit out at the TMC for manipulating the recruitment process the ruling outfit hit back alleging the State Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari during his tenure as a senior minister in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet had perpetrated maximum irregularities in school recruitment.

CPI(M)’s Kaustav Chattopadhyay said “if the investigation is done properly and if the residents of Kalighat (topmost TMC leadership) do not make a deal with BJP’s Centre like they did in the Sharada chitfund and Narada cases then the entire TMC will tomorrow land in jail”

According to a rough estimate jobs were sold for anywhere between ₹5lakh and ₹25 lakh depending upon the pay-scale.

Rift between Kerala CPM factions widens

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The tussle between two factions in the CPI(M) has come out in open as P Jayarajan, the Kannoor strongman of the party accused EP Jayarajan, the Left Democratic Front convener and former Industries Minister of amassing wealth through improper means.

The allegation was made by P Jayarajan during the State Committee meeting of the party held on last Friday at Thiruvananthapuram. P Jayarajan charged that E P Jayarajan with his son had made crores of rupees by investing their ill-gotten wealth in resorts and hotels in the State.

The local media had many times in the past reported about E P Jayarajan’s business dealings in resorts which were not in synch with party line.

Party’s State Secretary M V Govindan asked P Jayarajan to give the complaint in writing with facts and figures. E P Jayarajan was conspicuous by his absence in the meeting. Interestingly, the allegation against E P Jayarajan has been made by P Jayarajan, who himself was an eyesore for the party leadership due to the larger-than-life size popularity commanded by the latter in Kannur district.

P J, as he is addressed by

party seniors, lost his position as Kannur district secretary when he was fielded as the CPI(M) candidate from the Vadakara Lok Sabha constituency in the 2019 election. Though he was defeated by the Congress candidate K Muralaetharan, he was not rehabilitated in the party as the trio of chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the then State chief Kodiyeri Balakrishnan and another leader by name M V Jayarajan had wanted to cut PJ to size.

With the death of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, it was widely believed that E P Jayarajan would be made the party secretary considering his experience and organizational skills. But Pinarayi Vijayan cast his lot with M V Govindan, described as the chief minister’s second best sidekick in the party.

E P Jayarajan was sidelined during the 2021 assembly election and this had caused heart burning in him. With the party leadership overlooking him for the post of the State secretary, E P Jayarajan became frustrated and kept of the meetings convened by M V Govindan, the new secretary.

There was no love lost between the two and this came out in the open during the prestigious all India convention of the Kisan Sabha held at Thrissur earlier this month.

‘Guru Gobind Singh sacrificed 4 sons to protect Indian culture’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Recalling the courage of Sikh Gurus on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas (Sahibzada Diwas), Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the sacrifice of Sikh Gurus inspires us.

“Guru Gobind Singh sacrificed his four Sahibzadas to protect the culture and religion of India. This day is an occasion to express gratitude to the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, namely Ajit Singh, Fateh Singh, Zorawar Singh and Jujhar Singh.”

At an event organised at his official residence, the chief minister provided clothes to the ‘sangat’ and visitors and also released a book. The chief minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas (Sahibzada Day).

He said: “Mata Gujri dedicated her life to upholding the duty of safeguarding culture and religion till the very end. When Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj was asked that his four sons were martyred for India while protecting religion, he said ‘chaar mae to kya bhaya, jeevit kae hajar.’”



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a programme commemorating 'Veer Bal Diwas', in Lucknow on Monday

with the history and provides an opportunity to bow down to the Sikh Gurus who are giving strength from devotion, he added.

The chief minister continued by stating that he also saluted the fine tradition of making sacrifices for religion. “I am happy to see that work has begun to make India’s history available as illustrations in books. I had requested this earlier because if we don’t, people will lose track of these Sahibzade,” he said.

Two sons were martyred on the battlefield, while Baba Zorawar and Fateh Singh died after suffocating inside a brick enclosure.

UP CM pays tribute to Vajpayee on his birth anniv

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Paying rich tributes to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Atalji rose above party lines and was respected by all.

“His journey of six decades in public life has been without any stain. Politics without principles can have no place in social life. He never compromised with the values and ideals,” he added.

He went on to say that as a leader, Atalji was a symbol of how India’s politics became stable, accountable and transparent by recovering from the era of instability.

“Be it standards or an action plan to develop India’s infrastructure, he brought a massive change in the lives of crores of people during his tenure,” he added.

The event was also marked by the recitation of Atal’s poems and screening of a short film based on his life and philosophy at Lok Bhavan. A short film was also shown on the Yogi government’s ambitious Atal Residential School Scheme.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स छत्तीसगढ़ मिनरल डेक्कलपमेंट कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (मुकाम बाक्सवर्ड मॉडर्न), ग्राम-मुकाम, तहसील - बोडला, जिला - कबीरधाम स्थित बाक्सवर्ड (मुख्य खनिज) खदान उत्खनन क्षमता - 8,02,977.5 टन प्रतिवर्ष (3,84,615.4 टन प्रतिवर्ष (ROM) एंड OB 4,18,362.1 टन प्रतिवर्ष), कुल क्षेत्रफल - 110.563 हेक्टेयर (निजी भूमि - 67.401 हेक्टेयर एवं शासकीय भूमि 43.162 हेक्टेयर) के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / विचार / टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 30/01/2023 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे, स्थान - शासकीय प्राथमिक शाला मुकाम के पीछे मैदान में, ग्राम - मुकाम, तहसील - बोडला, जिला - कबीरधाम (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय - समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी सम्पन्न दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा- संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एक्सीक्यूटिव कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला-कबीरधाम, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला - कबीरधाम, महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला - कबीरधाम, सरपंच / सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत चेन्द्रादर, जिला- कबीरधाम, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5 / 32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर - 19 नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर में रखी गई है।

हस्ता/ सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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.	Richa Bahety/ Ajit Singh Pahuja/ LBGUR00002187407	Flat No. 6251, 25th Floor, Tower 6, Atrium, Sector 104, Haryana Gurgaon/ December 20, 2022	August 29, 2022 Rs. 2,29,29,504/-	Delhi

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

Date : December 27, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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.

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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.	Bishnupriya Roy Choudhary/ Deepankar Roy Choudhary/ LBDEL00001974839	Flat No- Sat 7- 918, 9th Floor, Block- Sat 7, Blossom Zest, Plot No- Gh 02, Type C, Sec- 143 Noida 201301/ December 21, 2022	July 29, 2022 Rs. 5,97,661/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Shalini Chaudhary/ Rahul Chaudhary/ LBGUR00002129173	Flat No- 6122, 12th Floor, Type- A, Tower- 6, Atrium, Sector- 104 Gurgaon, Haryana/ December 21, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 2,20,56,150/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Lalit Kumar Agarwal/ Anita Agarwal/ LBDEL00002146529	Apartment No- 4202, 20th Floor, Type B, Tower- 4, Atrium, Sector- 104, Gurgaon/ December 21, 2022	July 29, 2022 Rs. 1,50,93,393/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Devesh Kumar Singh/ Kanchan Singh/ LBGHZ00002958630	Flat No- 313, 3rd Floor, Tower- 4 Assotel Business Cresterra, Plot No- 22 Sec- 135, Express Way Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar/ December 22, 2022	July 29, 2022 Rs. 14,18,533/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Ritesh Bhatia/ Riju Bhatia/ LBDEL00002105477	Flat No- 7071, 7th Floor, Tower 7th, Atrium, Sector 104, Haryana, Gurgaon/ December 21, 2022	October 14, 2022 Rs. 2,30,29,254/-	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 27, 2022
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

What purpose?

The CBI has arrested Videocon Chairman Venugopal Dhoot and former ICICI CEO Chanda Kochhar

The arrest of Videocon Group Chairman Venugopal Dhoot by the Central Bureau of Investigation will send shock waves across the corporate and banking sectors. On Friday, the CBI had arrested former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar in the same case which involved alleged irregularities in an over Rs 3,000-crore loan provided to the Videocon Group, a consumer electronics and oil and gas exploration company. At that time, she ran the private sector bank and was a member of the committee which cleared the loan, according to the CBI. The Central agency's charge against her is that she abused her official position and "got illegal gratification/undue benefit through her husband from Dhoot for sanctioning Rs 300 crore to Videocon." In October 2018, Chanda Kochhar quit as CEO and managing director of ICICI Bank over the allegations. While action against financial irregularities of such magnitude is welcome, one wonders what purpose the arrest serves. In a July 20 judgment this year, the Supreme Court said, "Police officers are vested with the power to arrest individuals at various stages of the criminal justice process, including during the course of investigation. However, this power is not unbridled. In terms of Section 41(1)(b)(ii) of the CrPC, the police officer in question must be satisfied that such arrest is necessary to prevent the person sought to be arrested from committing any further offence, for proper investigation of the offence, to prevent the arrestee from tampering with or destroying evidence, to prevent them from influencing or intimidating potential witnesses, or when it is not possible to ensure their presence in court without arresting them."



Quite evidently, the arrests of the Kochhars and Dhoot do not satisfy the conditions laid down by the apex court. In the four years since when they were accused of the irregularities they would, if at all, have tampered with evidence and influenced or intimidated witnesses. Arrests of high-profile individuals—Chanda Kochhar was an iconic figure when heading ICICI and Dhoot a business tycoon—make good optics. They tend to show that the CBI is not afraid of or influenced by the high and mighty, but it still begs the question: what's the purpose of arrests other than good optics? If someone commits a crime, they should be punished, but should they be humiliated before their crime has been proved in a court of law? After all, arrest does bring ignominy and attracts opprobrium? This is not to say that the big boys and girls of India Inc and banking are angels; those who indulge in wrongdoing should be penalised; but the process should not become the punishment. More than the corporate executives, it is senior bank executives who are fearful, leading to reluctance on their part to lend, thus affecting liquidity of businesses. It is time Central agencies used their power to arrest judiciously.



A rainbow appears in the sky, in Madurai, PTI

Bollywood reacts

Amitabh Bachchan airs Bollywood's pain as he talks about censorship and moral policing

The anguish of Bollywood came to the fore in the inaugural address of Kolkata film festival when the veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan chose to speak about the censorship that is taking away creative freedom and jeopardizing freedom of speech. Though it was a veiled attack, he did not mince words in saying that jingoism was ruling the cinema world today which is detrimental to the film industry. He also talked about the need to have an inclusive environment in which all shades of opinion could grow and find a voice. He implored his fraternity to fall back upon the three stalwarts of the cinema, Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, and Ritwik Ghatak whose films he said showed society as it was and did not bother about the consequences. Shahrukh Khan whose film 'Pathan' is in the eye of a storm also talked about the need to have a robust system where a multitude of voices and ideologies thrived. While Amitabh Bachchan emphasized free speech, and censorship in the film industry, superstar Shah Rukh Khan spoke about the "narrowness" driving social media.



Bollywood is going through a tough time. Most films it produces are tanking at the box office. Not because the film standards are down or people's tastes have changed but because a large section, politically motivated, is trying to choke it to death. While some films which are pro-Hindutva and harp upon the Hindu-Muslim division, historical or contemporary, are allowed and even promoted the other films which go against it are subjected to boycott campaigns. Shahrukh Khan Starrer "Pathan" is being targeted because it has Shahrukh Khan in it and allegedly Deepika Padukone is part of 'tukde tukde gang'. The rightwing would like to dethrone the Khans from the industry. But that doesn't seem to be working as the popularity of Khans remains intact despite the propaganda against them. The fact remains that when you ban or boycott a film you don't work only against the filmmaker or the actors but also hundreds of people whose effort goes into the making of the film. When films don't earn money, it is they who are out of the job and suffer. This is truer when unemployment is at an all-time high and economic growth is slowing down. It is about time we think about the direction we are going in. Do we want to live in a country where only one philosophy, one ideology flourishes and others are censored, or gagged to death?

INTERPOL is the key to better policing

INTERPOL is vital for cooperation in sharing and gathering information on international criminals and upgrading policing worldwide

India is moving ahead both in terms of being the most tolerant and democratic country as well as one of the leading economies across the globe. On the other hand, there has been a theatrical growth of terrorism which remained unabated. The number of recent events of sporadic terrorist violence suggests the urgency of catalysts for a new shift, most importantly towards creating a long route of a combined international mechanism to deal with the monster head-on. Recently the Prime Minister's addressed the 90th Interpol General Assembly speaks volumes about India's leading in the strategic areas. INTERPOL can help India on the path of high-powered police technology to equip our Police with the most efficient and latest technologies.

The popularity and importance of the INTERPOL are very high as there are 195 member countries, making it a huge Police body to cooperate in handling international crimes and sharing vital information. Prime Minister's call for coming together and close cooperation in fighting international threats including cybercrimes, poaching, corruption, and international terrorism exhibits the need to develop international strategies for the establishment of an extremely capable international intelligence system in close cooperation to ensure such threats can be encountered at early stages.

Right from the funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, and secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-gathering exercises. Cooperation and coordination in the aggrandizement of communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives of his call for moving towards a high-tech policing process. Besides, the modernization of the Police would generate prudence to anticipate a possible threat from religiously-motivated bands of distraught minds. Efforts are already on towards a SMART way



of policing and usage of inter-operable and transferable technologies such as Drones that would help institutionalize the learning process and create a new gateway for comprehending even very complex security challenges. The recent targeted killings in Kashmir Valley have been done to disturb the peaceful ambience and incredible gradual progress of the state. The killing of a fruit grower and the subsequent murders of two labourers in Shopian district of J&K is done by the enemies of the state who are jealous of India's prowess. There is a need for a truly effective preparedness program at the government level. First of all, we must know about the people involved in terrorist activities and their motivations. The relationship dealing with the terrorist incident and mitigating its consequences need to be carefully thought out.

Sufficient data about the area within which the event is unfolding could be of immense use. This is simple work of good intelligence and police. The intelligence should be able to provide information about terrorist targets, timings, and sites in advance.

On the other hand, there is a need for sophisticated security procedures which can

SINCE THE PRESENT DAY TERRORISTS ARE VERY WELL ORGANISED AND MORE PROFESSIONAL THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS A DECADE AGO, NEW CONCEPTIONS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY SHOULD ARISE

go all the way from airport screening to the border area.

Some kind of positive programs which can replace the frustration of terrorists can prove effective. There is also a need to promote open institutions, including political institutions to absorb the ethnic, religious, and political pressure and allow them (the terrorists) to vent their feelings adequately. This will change their mind and thus encourage them to settle their differences peacefully.

Since the present-day terrorists are very well organised and more professional than their counterparts a decade ago, new conceptions of safety and security should arise. A vigilant and assertive police and paramilitary network should replace the old one. There is an apprehension that with the availability of biological and chemical weapons the terrorists will start their campaign with renewed vigour and pursue their mission of destruction which will be virtually unstoppable.

Police officers from myriad countries can be trained to take the initiative in implementing development plans in consultation with experts from various branches across the globe. Developing the capability to anticipate security needs.



DR SUDHIR HINDWAN

The manner of recent criminal attacks with the help of improvised devices and modus operandi reveals the unprecedented ruthlessness among the new breed of terrorists and drug traffickers and smugglers. Whereas Police have been regarded important organ of the government to deal with varied problems throughout the world but mounting and varied threats started taking a heavy toll on policing.

Time is of the essence and it is high time we realized the need for international Security Cooperation Police of different countries alone cannot stop crime, the entire society should make substantial efforts towards ensuring the safety and security of fellow beings. On account of rapid globalization criminals and terrorists have also modified their ways of operation, hence, international Policing requires cooperation and coordination and ought to be motivated and appreciated to keep on relentlessly working diligently for any unforeseen and upcoming challenges.

(The author is a Recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award and is a Professor and an Expert in Strategic Affairs. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COURT IMPOSES PENALTY ON GOVT

Sir — The UP government has incurred the wrath of the Supreme Court for the delay in filing an appeal and submission of incorrect particulars. Delay in filing appeals may be due to many reasons like inadequate strength of staff, inefficient staff, lack of meritorious staff, laziness on the part of the staff, inability to understand the case matter at the quickest possible time, etc.

The UP government has imposed a hefty penalty of Rs. 1 lakh. Whenever a penalty has been imposed, the government, not the government staff is affected. It is not difficult for the government to recover the amount paid by way of the penalty imposed by the Supreme Court because we are people who meekly submit to the taxes imposed by the government. The amount paid as a penalty can be recouped. Therefore the penalty to the government is only a charge against taxpayers. Government has nothing to lose.

If personal responsibilities are fixed and when a hole is made in the pocket of the persons responsible for complacency in the discharge of legitimate duties, the staff would be alert in the rightful discharge of their duties in time. Judiciary has been rightly placed on a high pedestal by the Constitution of India. The sanctity of the judiciary must be protected at any cost. The SC has to take serious note of the delayed delivery of justice. The judiciary must not be kept out of the ambit of delayed delivery of justice. Timely delivery of justice is more important..

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

FREE FOOD GRAINS FOR THE POOR

Sir — In a pro-poor move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a historic decision of providing foodgrain to the poor free of cost. A total of 81.35 crore people (almost 2/3rd of its population) for one year under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at an estimated cost of Rs 2 lakh crore. Though India has enough food to provide for everyone, it lacks an effective distribution mechanism. To arrest this

Winning is a habit



Indian cricket needs to be complimented for the two outstanding performances with the bat forever fighting Ravichandran Ashwin and the energetic Shreyas Iyer. Cricket is a team game where performance is the name of the game. Both Ravi and Shreyas gave their heart out to carve out this significant win. The combination worked out on basics and made a match of it. It appeared to be a seasoned partnership fighting every inch when the ball was turning square and the odd-ball bounced and stood up for the pace bowlers. They kept their partnership going for a fruitful win. Two is a company and the two played with great

understanding on a turning track as the game progressed on a penultimate day as the odds were against a team batting fourth. Making use of the present form Shreyas Iyer pushed and plodded then switched gears to go for lofted shots to come out of pressure tactics applied by Bangladesh spinners. And Ashwin playing the second fiddle grew in confidence and made a match of it when the match reached the climax situation. Lunch was approaching and the pressure mounted.

The last few runs were crucial. Even a fall of a wicket will turn the proceedings. Ashwin had gone on his T-20 experience by going for a one-handed six and then matched that shot with consecutive shots to the boundary to hasten the end in style. For his class act, he was given the Man of the Match award. Ashwin in Sydney (20-21), Ashwin in Ind v Pak (2022) last ball, Ashwin in Bangladesh this match, he knows how to handle pressure. Kudos. Winning is a habit.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

trend, the Modi government has rolled out several initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), to accelerate the eradication of malnutrition and famine.

As a result, when the world is battling with the effects of Covid on its decline and insecurity for various reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for the common man. For this, the Centre will now spend around Rs 2 lakh crore per year on this scheme. Food minister Goyal described the Cabinet decision as a "new year gift for the country's poor."

Whether it's a gift or not for 81.35 crore people, aam aadmi will judge it. But in the eye of the commoner, this gift became a vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) instead of a ration. No doubt it's a good plan to win elections at the cost of the Development of the nation, but unable to understand as the world's top

fifth economic nation why the Modi government has not provided jobs for as many people to stand their feet with dignity? It's not a good sign for the 66% people of the world's second-largest country, which still depends upon free ration.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

AI WARS AND CRIMES

Sir — It is said Artificial intelligence is going to replace human jobs and is the future of the world. Technology is a double-edged sword. New technology also brings with it unimaginable dangers. The mistake is we believe we have understood it completely. Atom bombs, Dynamites, and Drones have been used to win battles and wage wars. So can AI create improved weapons leading to more war and crimes?

TS Karthik | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

In the period when the word Gender Equality had not even originated in the world, scholars like Gargi-Maitreyi were participating in debates in our country.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

Russia is ready to negotiate with all parties involved in the war in Ukraine but Kyiv and its Western backers have refused to engage in talks.

Russian President — Vladimir Putin

Questions are being raised on civil liberties and freedom of expression.



Actor — Amitabh Bachchan

The French didn't mention this photo, where you can see how there are seven

Frenchmen on the pitch when Mbappe scores a goal.

Referee, World Cup — Szymon Marciniak

What is the variant now raging in China? Omicron can't be so lethal as to cause 5000 deaths. Is China hiding its real problem and trying to pass it on to the rest of the world? Now it seeks peace with India. can we trust them?



Maj Gen (Retd) — GD Bakshi

FIRST COLUMN

ECONOMY FACES AN UPHILL TASK IN 2023

IT will need to find growth momentum amid global stress



SHIVAJI SARKAR

India is striving to be a fifth, third or one of the largest economies as 2022 comes to a close amid not an easy global or local economic situation and politically warming up to a swashbuckling preparation to a year beyond to 2024 general elections.

At least that is what the Opposition wants though it does not even appear to be prepared for the nine scheduled state elections in 2023 and a possible 10th in Jammu and Kashmir. The Opposition is in disarray against the ruling BJP. Will the Opposition further crumble as its strongholds in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh seemingly severely challenged?

There was apprehension among Indian companies as droves of multinational corporations (MNCs) acquired significant businesses. Several MNCs like Ford, Holcim, Cairn, Daiichi, Sankyo, Carrefour, Metro AG and others aggressively entered the Indian market, even the commodities market. They had hopes of dynamically changing Indian business and economic patterns.

India too has giants now, some are aggressive players and others quiet functionaries. The economy is now moving out from the government. It may be good or not, India shies away discussing the major shift. The government is being squeezed by trade bodies to dole out more, not subsidies, as they call it PLI – productivity-linked incentives. In the last week of December itself, over Rs 4,000 crore is decided to be released to cash rich pharma, telecom and food companies



as year-end gifts. The new FICCI president Shubhrakant Panda wants PLI to be extended to 14 sectors already listed. The ploy is that a host of companies are moving out of China and with tax concessions they can come to India.

The Indian tax system needs streamlining and not selective treatment. India has not yet looked at giving up personal income-tax at 42 plus per cent or irrational GST provisions that strain the purchasing capacity.

The government's role in deciding economic parameters is shrinking. Prices are at a high despite the fall in inflation stats. The RBI monetary policy committee is divided on the necessary steps of 35 basis points, 0.35 per cent, repo (interest) rate hike.

Growth figures of UNCTAD at 5.7 per cent, RBI 6.3 per cent or now S&P cutting it to 7 per cent or less, 6 per cent in 2023 and 6.9 per cent in 2024 are concerns. Despite that the world is gaga about Narendra Modi's India growth rate of an average 6.6 per cent. The World Bank, now a lobby of builders, says \$840 billion over next 15 years, or \$55 billion a year, spending in urban infra needed for India to grow. All know that infra is needed but also remember that expensive infra led Southeast Asian tigers to a collapse. The banks crashed.

The saga of unending global economic uncertainties – US Fed's steep hike in interest rates; UK's (reversed) tax cut crisis; China's growth below the rest of Asia since 1990; NATO-EU in Russia-Ukraine war mesh have implications on rupee, foreign trade and diplomacy despite a cheaper Russian oil the current account deficit gets graver. World demand-plunge is affecting Indian manufacturing.

The New Year would sharpen domestic competitive politics. India does not yet know whether demolition of the PSUs is good even for profits and sustainability of the private sector. An all-encompassing parley may unfold the path to come out of the political morass to turn the Indian economy. Would 2023 show the way?

(The author is a senior journalist)

Vajpayee led India's revival on global stage

With his balanced politics, Atalji will always be remembered for both domestic and foreign policy initiatives



RAJENDRA PRASAD GUPTA

In politics, there are only a few individuals who make a lasting impression and whose thoughts endure forever. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former prime minister honored with the Bharat Ratna, was one of such rare personalities. Atalji will continue to serve as an inspiration to people in all eras, as a leader who made an enduring impact on Indian politics with his diverse personality and vision. The message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam that he conveyed is embedded in the culture of India, from the Parliament to the United Nations, and increased India's stature on the world stage. Just as Metternich and Castlereagh are discussed as effective strategists for home policy and foreign policy in Europe during the 19th century, similarly Atalji is also India's destiny maker, for the balanced inclusion of his national and foreign policy which will continue to be remembered.

On October 4, 1977, when the then foreign minister Vajpayee, representing India at the 32nd General Meeting of the United Nations, the world's largest democratic forum, started speaking, the representatives of other countries were stunned. During that period, the Cold War dominated the world forum. All the countries seemed to be divided in one direction or the other. Meanwhile, Atalji was giving the message of non-alignment. He strongly emphasized in this historic 40-minute speech that India wants amicable relations with all nations and does not seek to rule anyone. This was the first time that Atalji made Indians proud of their language by addressing in Hindi from the platform of the United Nations.

Earlier India lacked an effective foreign policy, but after Atalji became the foreign minister in 1977, a ray of hope arose. The foreign policy blueprint was prepared by Atalji during his short tenure of 2 years, but instead of taking it forward, the Congress government kept it sidelined for years. But when he became the Prime Minister in 1998, Atalji again succeeded in establishing India on the world stage with self-respect on the basis of his foreign policy. Atalji has had a huge impact on everything, from establishing better relationships with China to holding Pakistan accountable for terrorism. On the strength of his foresight and diplomacy, he made the countries of East Asia and Israel along with America new allies of India, and strengthened the ties with an old friend like Russia.

When Pakistan was using "Gauri Missile" and "Ghaznavi Missile" in collaboration with China, Japan and America were pressurising India to sign CTBT i.e., Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Meanwhile, Vajpayeeji was successful in getting India to conduct five nuclear tests in May 1998 due to his leadership ability. Shocked by this test, many countries

IN 1979, WHEN ATALJI WAS IN CHINA, CHINA ATTACKED VIETNAM, WHICH WAS OPPOSED BY INDIA AND ATALJI LEFT THE JOURNEY IN THE MIDDLE AND RETURNED HOME. ATALJI'S VISIT TO CHINA IN 2003 WAS SIGNIFICANT



showed their displeasure towards India and also imposed sanctions. But Atalji, without getting distracted by international pressure, got India recognized as a nuclear power nation. However, it was unfortunate that this nuclear test was opposed by political parties like the Indian Congress and the Left too. Along with this, the question was also asked with regards to the dangers before India. Whereas in 1974, Atalji had supported the decision related to nuclear tests while being in the opposition.

Several successful experiments were also carried out by Atalji to strengthen relations between India and its neighboring countries. He asserted that although you may "change your friends, you cannot change your neighbors". This policy of his developed a deep and positive initiative. Under his leadership, the first bilateral trade agreement in the form of a Free Trade Agreement was signed between India and Sri Lanka in 1998. Along with this, Atalji also helped Sri Lanka in the civil war against LTTE. On this, the then Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe had said that "Our economy was very weak due to LTTE. Vajpayee helped us by giving economic support and military training. He is a great prime minister."

It was always the intention of Atalji to strengthen ties between India and Pakistan. In order to do this, he started the Delhi-Lahore

bus service in 1999, in which he himself went on a two-day trip to Pakistan. During this, there was also a bilateral agreement with India and Pakistan, but a few months later, the Pakistani army cowardly intruded into the Indian territory and captured Kargil, to which India gave a befitting reply and Pakistan's nefarious plans could not be fulfilled. Again in 2001, Atalji also held the Agra summit with the then President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, which failed due to Pakistan's obstinate attitude. That's why it will not be superfluous to say that Vajpayee ji had made both the efforts of friendship and the sense of duty.

Atalji has also tried to cultivate a friendship with China. Atalji was the first Indian to visit China as the Foreign Minister. In 1979, when Atalji was in China, China attacked Vietnam, which was opposed by India and Atalji left the journey in the middle and returned home. Atalji's visit to China in 2003 was significant. He brought stability in the economic, political and cultural spheres of both the countries. Meanwhile, a special representative system was also formed for the settlement of border disputes between the two countries. As a result, China recognized Sikkim as a part of India. Through the Look-East policy, Atalji also started mutual cooperation with ASEAN countries. During his reign, the "Concept of the 21st Century" was signed with America, which was the outline of

a new useful direction. It was the result of Atalji's own diplomatic maturity and political understanding that all the Indians trapped in the Kandahar plane hijacking incident were brought back safely.

Vajpayee ji had an inclusive personality and governed Indian policy with ethics, prudence, and determination. The foundation of strategic partnership with all the countries at the international level was the firm thinking of the Vajpayee government. His endeavor towards taking forward India's relations with all the countries was a recognition of the nature of natural alliances. He was popular in all the countries, castes, religions, sects and ideologies. For this reason, he is also called Ajatashatru. Atalji established himself as a 'Rashtranayak' for more than 50 years by maintaining discipline and decorum in parliamentary politics. Awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1992, Best Parliamentarian in 1994 and Bharat Ratna in 2014, Atalji lived his life as a Karmayogi and a seeker. As a journalist, poet, and skilled politician, Atalji continued to lead India's culture and civilization. Because of this, his birthday is commemorated as "Good Governance Day." With his command over language and balanced politics, Atalji will always be remembered for both domestic and foreign policy initiatives, while being in power and opposition.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AMITABH BACHCHAN JI LOVES HIS SON ABHISHEK BACHCHAN SO MUCH THAT HE THINKS HIS SON IS THE BEST. ABHISHEK IS GOOD, BUT I DO NOT THINK ABHISHEK IS AS TALENTED AS AMITJI. — AUTHOR TASLIMA NASREEN



ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, MA'AM. NOBODY COMES CLOSE TO HIM IN TALENT OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER. HE WILL ALWAYS REMAIN 'THE BEST'! I AM AN EXTREMELY PROUD SON. — ACTOR ABHISHEK BACHCHAN

Overstuffed couch tells the story of South Africa

The ANC, once revered as the ideal model of an African liberation movement, is now a cesspool

“Don't have a couch stuffed with cash? Don't worry, you can keep reading for free,” read the ad on the website of the 'Daily Maverick', a tough and sometimes very funny South African news site. President Cyril Ramaphosa's cash-stuffed sofa has become a powerful, universally recognised meme, but it still hasn't brought him down.

Ramaphosa was Mr Clean, thought to be so rich that he wouldn't need to steal. The job he sought and got in 2017 was to oust South Africa's previous president, Jacob Zuma, and clean up the corruption.

Zuma and his cronies were spectacularly corrupt, turning the machinery of government into a cash dis-



GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is The Shortest History of War)

penser for themselves in an operation known as 'state capture'. Even the ruling African National Congress (ANC), which led the liberation struggle and has been in power ever since, knew that he had gone too far. They voted Zuma out, and Ramaphosa in.

Nobody gets to be a billionaire (not even a rand billionaire) without cutting a few corners, but Ramaphosa had the support of South Africa's business community, which was being choked by corruption. He was also seen as the last, best hope by the remaining uncorrupted parts of the ANC, which has seen its vote fall steeply in recent elections.

Once in office, he did act against some corrupt individuals, but there was certainly not the kind of decisive cleansing of the party that his backers had hoped for. Zuma's faction, based mainly in the Zulu-majority province of KwaZulu Natal, continued to hold senior posts and influence policy, and five years later Ramaphosa is seen by many as a disappointment.

A disappointment, but at least not a crook, so for the want of a better candidate he was still seen as a shoo-in for reelection as president of the ANC at the end of this year—which would automatically make him the ANC's candidate for the presidency of the whole country again in the national elections in 2024.

But then came the Affair of the Overstuffed Couch. Last June, a crony of Zuma's reported a theft to the courts—a theft of somewhere between \$400,000 and \$4 million which had been stuffed down the back of a sofa on Ramaphosa's game farm in northern South Africa.

Ramaphosa did not report the theft, as he was legally obliged to. Instead, he sent the head of his bodyguard to Namibia to recover the stolen money, and said nothing about it. Maybe it wasn't the proceeds of corruption, but at the very least he was hiding money that he should have reported and paid tax on.

No longer Mr Clean, Ramaphosa was nevertheless chosen again as party leader and presidential candidate for 2024 at the ANC's national conference last weekend, mainly because they had no more plausible candidate. But it was close: Ramaphosa got 2,476 votes, and the pro-corruption, pro-Zuma candidate, Zweli Mkhize, got 1,897.

How has it come to this? The ANC was once revered as the ideal model of an African liberation movement; now it's a cesspool.

About seven years ago, when the rot was already far advanced, a friend of a friend gave me one kind of answer. He has worked for the ANC most of his adult life, and he told me that if he had known in 1984 what South Africa would be like today, he would have been ecstatic. Apartheid was entering its last and most violent phase, and hope was very scarce.

But if he had been told what South Africa would be like now ten years later, back when apartheid ended in 1994, South Africa had its first free election, and Nelson Mandela became president, he would have been in despair. How could all those high hopes and good intentions have ended up in the cesspool?

The point he was making was that the future South Africa that would have delighted him in 1984 but appalled him in 1994 was exactly the same country. What had changed was his expectations for the country.

Just as the evil of apartheid could not survive in an Africa that was leaving colonial values behind, the high-minded idealism of the philosopher kings, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, was bound to give way eventually to the grubby wheeling and dealing of lesser ANC members.

The current ANC membership is driven by a boundless sense of entitlement. They sacrificed for the country, they believe, so now it's the country's turn to reward them. It was almost bound to wind up here, but this isn't the end-point either.

The ANC will almost certainly lose its majority in parliament for the first time in 2024. It will probably survive a while longer by forming various coalitions with other parties, but the entitlement will have to go. And maybe—just maybe—South Africa will be able to move on to a more normal kind of politics.

Russia shoots down Ukrainian drone

Near its Engels airbase

AP ■ KYIV

The Russian military reported on Monday that it shot down a Ukrainian drone approaching an airbase deep inside Russia, the second time the airbase has been targeted this month, raising questions about the effectiveness of Russia's air defenses if drones can fly that far into the country.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the incident took place in the early hours of Monday, and three servicemen were killed by debris at the Engels airbase that houses the Tu-95 and Tu-160 nuclear-capable strategic bombers that have been involved in launching strikes on Ukraine.

Engels is located in Russia's Saratov region on the Volga river, more than 600 kilometers (more than 370 miles) east of the border with Ukraine.

No damage was inflicted on Russian aircraft, the ministry said. Ukrainian Air Force spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat, speaking to Ukrainian television on Monday, did not directly acknowledge his country's involvement in Monday's incident, but said: "These are the consequences of Russian aggression."

He added: "If the Russians thought that the war would not affect them in the deep rear, they were deeply mistaken"

Ukrainian officials have never confirmed sending drones into Russia. They have maintained ambiguity over previous high-profile attacks,



including drone strikes on Russian military bases earlier this month.

On Dec. 5, unprecedented drone strikes on Engels and the Dyagilevo base in the Ryazan region in western Russia killed a total of three servicemen and wounded four more. The strikes on the airbases were followed by a massive retaliatory missile barrage in Ukraine that struck homes and buildings and killed civilians.

In Ukraine, at least four civilians have been wounded in Russian shelling of five regions in the country's southeast over the past 24 hours, according to the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko. Overall the intensity of the shelling the night from Sunday into Monday has been significantly lower.

For the first time in weeks, Russian forces didn't shell the Dnipropetrovsk region, which borders the partially occupied southern regions of Kherson

and Zaporizhzhia, its governor, Valentyn Reznichenko, reported on Telegram.

"This is the third quiet night in 5.5 months since the Russians started shelling" the areas around the city of Nikopol, Reznichenko wrote. Nikopol is located across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is under control of the Russian forces.

Ukrainian-controlled areas of the neighboring Kherson region were shelled 33 times over the past 24 hours, according to Kherson's Ukrainian Gov. Yaroslav Yanushevich. There were no casualties.

On Sunday, Russian forces attacked the city of Kramatorsk, where Ukrainian forces are headquartered. Three missiles hit an industrial facility and damaged residential buildings, but no casualties were reported, according to the battlefield report from the Ukrainian presidency.

Moscow ready for Ukraine talks: Putin

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

President Vladimir Putin claimed that Russia is ready for talks to end the war in Ukraine even as the country faced more attacks from Moscow — a clear sign that peace wasn't imminent.

Putin said in a state television interview, excerpts of which were released on Sunday afternoon that Russia is "prepared to negotiate some acceptable outcomes with all the participants of this process."

He said that "it's not us who refuse talks, it's them" — something the Kremlin has repeatedly stated in recent months as its 10-month old invasion kept losing momentum.

Putin also repeated that Moscow has "no other choice" and said he believed the Kremlin was "acting in the right direction."

"We're defending our national interests, the interests of our citizens, our people," he said.

Putin's remarks come as attacks on Ukraine continue. A country-wide air raid alert



was announced twice on Sunday alone, and three missiles in the afternoon hit the city of Kramatorsk in the partially occupied Donetsk region, local officials reported.

The missiles hit an indus-

trial area of the city, and there weren't any casualties, according to the Ukrainian governor of Donetsk, Pavlo Kyrylenko. Kyrylenko said that the city of Avdiivka was also attacked on Sunday with six rounds of shelling, and a woman was

wounded there.

Elsewhere in the frontline region, around the city of Bakhmut, where fierce battles have been underway in recent weeks, the Russian forces were struggling to keep up the pace of their offensive, a U.S.-based think tank reported this week-end.

"Russian forces' rate of advance in the Bakhmut area has likely slowed in recent days, although it is too early to assess whether the Russian offensive to capture Bakhmut has culminated," the Institute for the Study of War wrote in its recent update.

The think tank cited Russian military bloggers, who it said have recently acknowledged "that Ukrainian forces in the Bakhmut area have managed to slightly slow down the pace of the Russian advance around Bakhmut and its surrounding settlements."

Sources on Ukrainian social media "previously claimed that Ukrainian forces completely pushed Russian forces out of the eastern outskirts of Bakhmut" around Dec. 21, the report added.

"Russian forces will like-

ly struggle to maintain the pace of their offensive operations in the Bakhmut area and may seek to initiate a tactical or operational pause," the institute concluded.

A day before, a deadly Russian attack on the southern city of Kherson, retaken by Ukrainian forces last month, killed and wounded scores of people.

The Russian forces shelled Ukrainian-held areas of the partially occupied Kherson region 71 times over the past 24 hours, including 41 attacks on the city of Kherson, the region's Ukrainian governor Yaroslav Yanushevich reported on Sunday.

A total of 16 people have been killed, according to the official, including three emergency workers killed in the process of demining the Berislav district of the region. Yanushevich said that 64 more have been wounded.

In the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region, the city of Nikopol was shelled overnight from heavy artillery, Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said. No casualties have been reported.

China stages big military incursion, says Taiwan

IAN ■ TAIPEI

China is staging one of its biggest incursions so far in the seas and skies around Taiwan, according to data from the island's Defence Ministry, media reports said. It said that 71 Chinese air force planes, including fighter jets and drones, had entered Taiwan's so-called air defence identification zone, the BBC said.

Taiwan is self-ruled - but China sees it as a breakaway province with which it will eventually reunite.

Tensions between the two sides have steadily increased in recent months, BBC reported.

In August, Beijing was enraged by a visit to the island by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the most senior US politician to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

NATO probing shooting in tense Kosovo north



AP ■ PRISTINA, KOSOVO

NATO-led peacekeepers in Kosovo said Monday they were investigating a shooting incident in a tense northern region, urging calm after Serbia sent its army chief to the border area in response.

The incident on Sunday evening took place in Zubin Potok, a town in northern Kosovo where local ethnic Serbs have been manning road barricades for the past two weeks and where tensions have been running high between the two former wartime foes.

The peacekeepers, known as KFOR, said the incident happened in close proximity of one of their patrols, involving unknown people.

A statement said no one was injured and "we are working to establish all the facts." Kosovo remains a potential flashpoint in the Balkans years after the 1998-99 war that ended with NATO intervention. Serbia doesn't recognize the 2008 declaration of independence of its former province, while Western efforts to mediate a solution so far have failed.

"It is important for all involved to avoid any rhetoric or actions that can cause tensions and escalate the situation," KFOR said in a statement. "We expect all actors to refrain from provocative shows

of force and to seek the best solution to ensure the safety and security of all communities."

Fears of violence have soared since the start of Russia's war in Ukraine. The United States and most European Union countries have recognized Kosovo's independence, while Serbia has relied on Russia and China in its bid to maintain claim on the province.

Tensions in Kosovo have risen further in recent weeks and months over several issues amid international efforts to step up mediation efforts. Most recently, ethnic Serbs in the north put up roadblocks in protest of an arrest of a former Serb police officer. Serbs in the north previously had walked out of Kosovo's institutions, claiming harassment by Kosovo authorities. Belgrade repeatedly has warned it would protect local Serbs "with all means" if they are attacked.

Kosovo's government has asked NATO troops — which deployed in 1999 after the trans-Atlantic alliance bombed Serbia into leaving Kosovo — to remove the Serb roadblocks. Prime Minister Albin Kurti, KFOR commander Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia and Lars-Gunnar Wigermark, who heads an EU law and order mission, met on Monday to discuss the situa-

tion, KFOR said on Twitter.

Kurti's office said that "the common conclusion from this meeting is that freedom of movement should be restored and that there should be no barricades on any road."

Serbia on Sunday held a top-level meeting after the shooting incident, with the army chief of staff later heading to the southern town of Raska, near Kosovo, where Serbian army troops are located. Local media carried a video with shots and shouts heard, but not showing clearly what happened at one of the barricades.

Gen. Milan Mojsilovic told local media that the army received "clear and precise" directions from Serbia's populist president, Aleksandar Vucic. Mojsilovic described the situation as "serious," adding that it requires the "presence of the Serbian army along the administrative line" with Kosovo, state RTS television reported.

Serbian army vehicles could be seen on the roads in the area on Monday, and the Balkan nation's defense minister also arrived. Serbian Defense Minister Milos Vucevic, Gen. Mojsilovic and other senior army officers discussed the security situation during a meeting in Raska, a defense ministry statement said.

Ex-Lanka Prez Gotabaya, family leaves for Dubai

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Former Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was ousted from power earlier this year over his government's mishandling of the country's economy, on Monday left for Dubai with his family, his first foreign trip since returning to the country more than three months ago.

Rajapaksa and his family members, including wife Ioma, daughter-in-law Sevvasi, son Manoj and grandchild left for Dubai from the Bandaranaike International Airport here on Monday morning, sources said. Rajapaksa, 73, fled Sri

Lanka to the Maldives on a Sri Lankan Airforce plane in July, as the country plunged into its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since its independence from Great Britain in 1948.

He then proceeded to Singapore, from where he submitted his resignation on July 14. Weeks later, he flew to Thailand, seeking temporary shelter.

Thailand had said that Rajapaksa can stay in the country for 90 days because he is still a diplomatic passport holder. However, Rajapaksa was not allowed to engage in political activities in Thailand. He was



confined to a hotel and surrounded by security personnel. In September, he was given special security and a state bungalow upon his return here from Thailand.

Rajapaksa, an ex-military officer, became president in November 2019. Rajapaksa, formerly a dual citizen of both Sri Lanka and the US, had to

give up his US citizenship ahead of the 2019 presidential elections. His wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandchild are, however, all US citizens.

A corruption case against him when he was a top defence official was withdrawn soon after he was elected in 2019.

The Rajapaksa family has dominated Sri Lankan politics for over two decades. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the 76-year-old patriarch of the Rajapaksa family has been the country's president and Prime Minister.


Basil Rajapaksa, 71, was earlier Finance Minister. Chamal Rajapaksa, 79, was Minister of Irrigation and

Speaker of the Parliament from 2010 to 2015. Namal Rajapaksa, the eldest son of Mahinda, was the Minister of Youth and Sports from 2020 to 2022.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is going through its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948 which was triggered by a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves.

In September, the IMF announced that it will provide Sri Lanka with a loan of about USD 2.9 billion over four years under a preliminary agreement to help the bankrupt island nation tide over its worst economic crisis and protect the livelihoods of the people.

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779
Regd. Office : The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237,
2nd Floor, Mayur Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn,
Delhi – 110091; Corporate Office: Block C, Sector 45, Gurgaon-122003
Tel. No: (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900
Email: info@kamaholdings.com website: www.kamaholdings.com

**KAMA Holding**

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company.


Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (From)	Dist-No. (To)	Lost Shares
1.	SPP0007880	SUDERSHAN MALIK	9308	572957	573016	60
2.	SPP0004719	PUJA SHARMA SANDEEP SHARMA (JOINT HOLDER 1)	5893	426000	426049	50
3.	SPP0000566	URMILA DEVI JAGDISH KUMAR (JOINT HOLDER 1)	608	25463	25507	45

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/ objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

For KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Sd/-
EKTA MAHESHWARI
WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR, CFO
& COMPANY SECRETARY

Place: Gurugram
Date : 26-12-2022

**कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक मेगा फूड पार्क, बहेड़ी**
उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण,
ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना
एवढ द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत अगुस्त्रण एवं ररर-ररराय कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत एवं अरं ए/श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईंसन्ती एवं अनुमती देकेदार/फर्मों से ई-निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जो दिनांक 29.12.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 16.01.2023 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन की जा सकती हैं। विरर दिनांक 20.01.2023 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा राबन्दी विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत ररर (लाख ररर)
1	Upgradation of Electrical System of Street Light under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA Firozabad.	51.88
2	Upgradation of Electrical System of Street Light under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA Kosi Kalan, Mathura.	37.51

नोट:-
1. निविदादाता अर्णी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएआरडीओ रररिहत ररर अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा।
2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अगुस्रोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ०प्र० शासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाईसेन्स अगुस्रोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अनर्या निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा।
निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की **website:www.upsidc.com** पर रिथत ई-लिक एवं यूपीएलसी की **website:http://etender.up.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती हैं।
वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक मेगा फूड पार्क, बहेड़ी
उ०प्र०रा०औद्योगि०, कानपुर

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**
चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)
Phone Fax : 05944.240921 E-mail - sepdwdsn@gmail.com

**उत्तराखण्ड राज्य**

पत्रांक-3686 / 23 एम-04 / 2022 दिनांक 24 / 12 / 2022

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)

महाहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लो०नि०वि० रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा दू-बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 09.01.2023 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	घरोर घनराशि (ररर लाख ररर)	निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह ररर)	टेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत जेतपुर घनौरी मार्ग के किमी० 7 से 9 में डी०बी०एम० एवं बी०सी० द्वारा सुधारकीरण एवं सुदुढीकरण का कार्य।	8.16	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 दिन	3 माह	केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभाग / उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी A/A+ पंजीकृत
2	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत बन्नाखेडा कोसीफार्म मार्ग के किमी० 1 से 9 में डी०बी०एम० एवं बी०सी० द्वारा सुधारकीरण एवं सुदुढीकरण का कार्य।	10.60	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 दिन	3 माह	—तदैव—

नोट:- उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदायें स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में आमन्त्रित की जा रही हैं।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

**कार्यालय अधीक्षाली अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड**
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
लेन नं.-1, तरुण विहार, मोधरोवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001
Phone/Fax No.: 0135-2671940, E-mail - eemdujs@rediffmail.com

**उत्तराखण्ड राज्य**

पत्रांक: 4281/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक: 26.12.2022

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, सिंगल बिड के आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

निविदा क्र.सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरोर घनराशि (ररर.ररर)	निविदा का मूल्य (ररर.ररर)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	ररररररर में जल गुणवत्ता परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला के लिए भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	840000.00	रर3000 +GST	06 माह
2	विकासनगर में जल गुणवत्ता परीक्षण प्रयोगशाला के लिए भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	834000.00	रर3000 +GST	06 माह

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं:

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाइन प्रकाशन की तिथि	30.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	30.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	07.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	12.01.2023 up to 17:00 Hrs
5	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निधिरित शुल्क, बिड सिक्कोरिटी, स्टॉप पेय ररर अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	12.01.2023 upto 17:00 Hrs
6	बिड खोलने की तिथि	13.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयां व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

“जल संरचय-जीवन संरचय”

राजेन्द्र पाल
अधीक्षाली अभियन्ता

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**उत्तराखण्ड राज्य**

Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Dayanand Bhardwaj intends to purchase & mortgage Plot No. 3, admeasuring 102 Sq. Yds., Khasra No. 1635 Min, situated at R. K. Puram, Village Sadarpur, Pargana Dasna, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.) with our client, against the financial assistance. Whereas, out of the entire chain link documents Original Sale Deed dated 18-10-1996 related to the Said Property duly registered as Document No. 2143 in favour of 1) Mrs. Harbiri Devi W/o Chetan Singh & 2) Mr. Om Parkash S/o Chetan Singh was already lost/misplaced and in this regard NCR/FIR No. 20220000724771 has been lodged with Uttar Police on 22-12-2022.

Public is hereby warned not to deal with the above-mentioned documents & the property. If anyone do the same, then he will be responsible for all consequences. If any person(s) having objection with regard to mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address.

DEEPLYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn.-II,
New Delhi-110049 ० 011-40587824.

China's Foreign Minister signals deeper ties with Russia

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi defended what he said was his country's position of impartiality on the war in Ukraine on Sunday and signalled that China would deepen ties with Russia in the coming year.

Wang, speaking by video to a conference in the Chinese capital, also blamed America for the deterioration in relations between the world's two largest economies, saying that China has "firmly rejected the United States' erroneous China policy".

China has pushed back against Western pressure on trade, technology, human rights and its claims to a broad swath of the western Pacific, accusing the U.S. Of

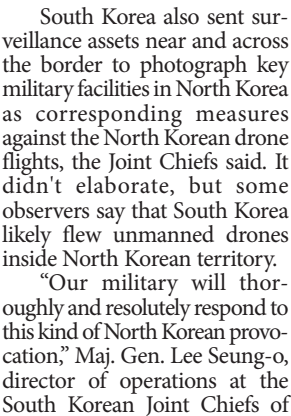
bullying. Its refusal to condemn the invasion of Ukraine and join others in imposing sanctions on Russia has further frayed ties and fuelled an emerging divide with much of Europe.

Wang said that China would "deepen strategic mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation" with Russia. Warships from the two countries held joint naval drills in the East China Sea last week.

"With regard to the Ukraine crisis, we have consistently upheld the fundamental principles of objectivity and impartiality, without favouring one side or the other, or adding fuel to the fire, still less seeking selfish gains from the situation," Wang said, according to an official text of his remarks.

AP ■ SEOUL

One of the aircraft, a KA-1 light attack plane, crashed during takeoff but its two pilots both ejected safely, defense officials said. They said they also requested civilian airports in and near Seoul to halt takeoffs temporarily.



South Korea's public confirmation of any reconnaissance activities inside North Korea is highly unusual and likely reflects a resolve by the conservative government led by President Yoon Suk Yeol to get tough on North Korean provocations. North Korea could respond with more fiery rhetoric or weapons tests or other provocation, some observers say.

On Friday, South Korea detected two short-range ballistic missile launches by North Korea, the latest in the country's

It's the first time for North Korean drones to enter South Korean airspace since 2017, when a suspected North Korean drone was found crashed in South Korea. South Korean military officials said at the time that the drone with a Sony-made camera photographed a U.S. Missile defense system in South Korea.

AP ■ BUFFALO, NY

That's especially unwelcome news for Buffalo, which saw hurricane-force winds and snow causing whiteout condi-

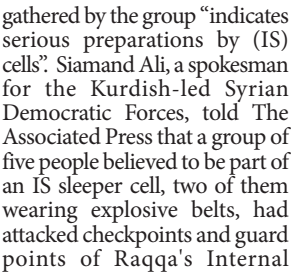
AP TOKYO

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said almost every fire truck in the city was stranded Saturday and implored people Sunday to respect an ongoing driving ban in the region. Officials said the airport would be shut through Tuesday morning. The National Weather Service said the snow total at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport stood at 43 inches (1.1 meters) at 7 a.m. Sunday.

With snow swirling down untouched and impassable streets, forecasters warned an additional 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimeters) of snow was possible in some areas through early Monday morning amid wind gusts of 40 mph (64 kph). Police said Sunday evening that there were two "isolated" instances of looting during the storm.

AP ■ QAMISHLI (SYRIA)

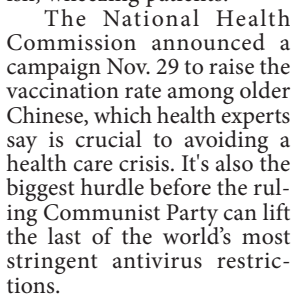
He added that intelligence



The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based opposition war monitor, reported that the attack targeted an area containing the headquarters of the SDF's Internal Security Forces, anti-terrorism units, and a military intelligence prison where about 200 IS prisoners are housed.

AP ■ BEIJING

“When people hear about such incidents, they may not be willing to take the vaccines,” said Li, who had been vaccinated before he caught COVID-19. A few days after his 10-day bout with the virus, Li is nursing a sore throat and



ow for two years with a “zero-COVID” strategy that isolated cities and confined millions of people to their homes. Now, as it backs off that approach, it is facing the widespread outbreaks that other countries have already gone through. The health commission has recorded only six COVID-19 fatalities this month, bringing the country’s official toll to 5,241. That is despite multiple

China only counts deaths from pneumonia or respiratory failure in its official COVID-19 toll, a health official said last week. That unusually narrow definition excludes many deaths other countries would attribute to COVID-19.

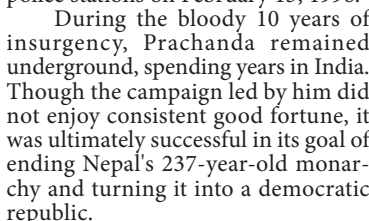
Experts have forecast 1 to 2 million deaths in China through the end of 2023.

AP ■ EAGAN (US)

"You're never telling me what you're going to do for the state or the country," Klang recalled. "That's a huge turnoff."

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

He saw severe poverty in his youth and was drawn to left-wing political parties. Prachanda joined the underground Communist Party of Nepal in 1981 and became general sec-



SRE LIMITED

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

For SRF LIMITED

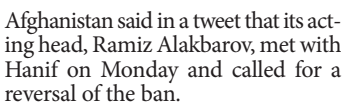
Sd/-

RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Co-VP / Corporate Compliance

Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary

AP ■ KABUL

Hanif at the time said that any organisation found not complying with the order will have its licence revoked. The UN mission in



"Millions of Afghans need humanitarian assistance and removing barriers is vital," the UN said, without providing more details about the meeting.

The agencies — Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE — have been providing healthcare, education, child protection and nutrition services and support amid plummeting humanitarian conditions.

The Taliban takeover in mid-August 2021 as US and NATO forces were in the final weeks of their pull-out after 20 years of war, sent Afghanistan's economy into a tailspin and transformed the country, driving millions into poverty and hunger. Foreign aid stopped almost overnight.

	OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
	Degree College Road, Lohaghat, Dist.- Champawat (PIN 262524)
	E-Tender Notice
Letter No.: 1430 /Nivda/56	Date : 23-12-2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL, GATE & STAIR FOR OFFICE BUILDING AT D.T.D.OFFICE, CHAMPAWAT, DISTRICT – CHAMPAWAT Estimated Cost :- Rs. 41.25 Lakh Period of Completion :- 6 Month Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 26-12-2022 (17.00 hrs) Online Bid submission: End date :- 09-01-2023 (17.00 hrs) Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 11-01-2023 (11.00 hrs) General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat). Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 29-12-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat). For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in 	
PROJECT MANAGER	

‘Agrochem revenue to grow 15-17% in FY23’

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Agrochemical players are likely to witness 15-17 per cent revenue growth this fiscal, mainly driven by strong global and domestic demand, according to a report.

Revenue is expected to grow by 10-12 per cent in the next 2023-24 financial year as India continues to benefit from the China+1 strategy of global players and key molecules going off patent, Crisil Ratings said in a report said on Monday. Higher operating leverage will help sustain operating margins at 15-16 per cent in the current fiscal and FY24, despite input prices remaining elevated, it added.

Capital spending will continue at similar levels as in the past, but elongation in the working capital cycle will result in higher borrowings, as per the report.

“Export revenue is seen rising 18-20 per cent this fiscal, with the US dollar appreciating 9 per cent so far and volume growing as global players continue to de-risk their China dependency.

“Next fiscal, exports will likely grow 12-14 per cent as players keep up capex with an eye on molecules worth USD 4 billion going off-patent over the next two years. As a result, exports will remain the major contributor to the agrochemi-



cal sector accounting for 53 per cent of the total revenue,” Crisil Ratings director Poonam Upadhyay said.

Meanwhile, the domestic segment is expected to grow 12-14 per cent this fiscal, driven by a near-normal monsoon, higher realisations and improving farm sentiment, the Crisil report said.

If a normal monsoon continues and the government focuses on improving farm incomes, the domestic segment will grow 10-12 per cent next fiscal, it added.

Prices of crude and yellow phosphorus, the key raw materials, shot up 40-45 per cent and 18-22 per cent, respectively, in the latter half of the

last fiscal.

Continued high prices, despite some moderation lately, will dent gross margins by 90-110 basis points.

However, higher operating leverage, derived from better cost absorption, will ensure the overall operating margin remains at 15-16 per cent this fiscal, only marginally lower compared with fiscal 2022.

Margins are expected to stabilise at similar levels next fiscal, the report said.

“Agrochemical players will remain largely ‘stable’. Healthy cash generation will limit reliance on external debt even as capex intensity remains high at ₹6,000-6,500 crore over each of the next 2 fiscals.

Sensex, Nifty rebound over 1% on gains in banking

IT shares, snap 4-day losing streak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty rallied more than 1 per cent on Monday on heavy buying in financials, IT and oil stocks after a four-day losing run.

The 30-share BSE index rallied 721.13 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 60,566.42 as 25 of its constituents ended in the green. During the day, it jumped 988.49 points or 1.65 per cent to 60,833.78.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 207.80 points or 1.17 per cent to settle above the 18,000 level at 18,014.60. As many as 40 of Nifty stocks advanced while 10 declined.

Sensex lost 1,960 points or 3.29 per cent while Nifty tanked 613 points or 3.99 per cent in the four-day sell off to Friday.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank spurred the most by 3.99 per cent, followed by State Bank of India (3.97 per cent), Tata Steel (2.74 per cent), Bajaj Finserv (2.53 per cent), ITC (2.51 per cent), Axis Bank (2.44 per cent), HDFC Bank



(1.91 per cent), UltraTech Cement (1.98 per cent), NTPC (1.87 per cent) and Tata Motors (1.73 per cent).

ICICI Bank rose by 1.5 per cent while Reliance Industries rose nearly 1 per cent, boosting the rally in the index.

On the other hand, Nestle fell the most by 1.24 per cent. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies and Hindustan Unilever also declined.

“Indian equities witnessed a strong recovery after the sharp sell-off last week. In the absence of any major global events due to year-end holidays, we expect the market to remain sideways to positive based on news flows,” said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

“After a four-day of selloff, the domestic market was refuelled by bottom fishing and optimistic sentiment from global counterparts.

Payment system operators to report fraud on RBI’s DAKSH from Jan 1

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In order to streamline reporting, enhance efficiency and automate the payments fraud management process, the RBI on Monday said the fraud reporting module will be migrated to DAKSH — the Reserve Bank’s advanced supervisory monitoring system — from January 1.

The RBI operationalised the Central Payments Fraud Information Registry (CPFIR) in March 2020 with reporting of payment frauds by scheduled commercial banks and non-bank Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers.

“...Entities shall commence reporting of payment frauds in DAKSH from this date (January 01, 2023),” the central bank said in a circular.

In addition to the existing bulk upload facility to report payment frauds, DAKSH provides additional functionalities, like a maker-checker facility, online screen-based reporting, an option for requesting additional information, the facility to issue alerts/ advisories, generation of dashboards and reports.



All RBI-authorized Payment System Operators (PSOs) / providers and payment system participants operating in India are required to report all payment frauds, including attempted incidents, irrespective of value, either reported by their customers or detected by the entities themselves, it added.

This reporting was earlier facilitated through Electronic Data Submission Portal (EDSP) and is being migrated to

DAKSH.

After going live, payment fraud reporting in DAKSH effective January 01, 2023, entities shall not be able to report any payment frauds in EDSP, the central bank said.

The responsibility to submit the reported payment fraud transactions shall be of the issuer bank/PPI issuer/credit card issuing NBFCs, whose issued payment instrument has been used in the fraud,” the RBI said.

Gold rises ₹121; silver advances ₹100

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose by ₹121 to ₹54,721 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at ₹54,600 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also rose by ₹100 to ₹69,050 per kg.

The Comex spot markets are closed on Monday due to the Christmas holiday.

“Gold price traded steady in the domestic market due to lack of cues from the global market due to holiday season,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

Gold prices are likely to trade sideways due to lack of market participants. However short-term trend is still bullish in gold, Parmar added.



Rupee gains 17 paise to close at 82.65 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 17 paise to close at 82.65 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking positive domestic equities and the weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.79 and touched an intra-day high of 82.63 and a low of 82.83 against the greenback.

It finally settled at 82.65, registering a rise of 17 paise over its previous close of 82.82.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the rupee appreciated on Monday on a surge in domestic equities and a soft US Dollar. Domestic indices gained by around 1.5 per cent. The US Dollar softened amid improved global risk sentiments and softer inflation in the US.

“We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on weakness in the Dollar and positive domestic markets. The decline in safe-haven appeal on the rise in risk appetite in global markets may also put pressure on the dollar.



“However, the surge in crude oil price caps the sharp upside in the rupee. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹82 to ₹83.30,” Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.11 per cent to 104.31.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 3.63 per cent to \$83.92 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 721.13 points or 1.20 per cent to end at 60,566.42, while the broader NSE Nifty rose 207.80 points or 1.17 per cent to 18,014.60.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Friday as they offloaded shares worth ₹706.84 crore, according to exchange data.

NDTV shares climb 5% in intra-day trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of NDTV climbed 5 per cent in intra-day trade on Monday after its founders Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy said they will sell all but 5 per cent of their remaining shareholding in the news broadcaster to Adani Group for up to ₹647.6 crore.

The stock jumped 4.99 per cent to ₹357.60 during the day on the BSE. It later ended at ₹343.40 apiece, up 0.82 per cent.

On the NSE, shares of the company gained 1.27 per cent to settle at ₹345 per piece. During the day, it rallied 4.50 per cent to ₹356.

Roy, who founded New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) as India’s first and largest private producer of news current affairs and entertainment television, lost their status of being



the company’s largest shareholder in recent weeks.

This follows Adani Group becoming the majority shareholding of NDTV after first buying out a company backed by the founders and then acquiring more shares from the open market.

Now, Roys are selling 27.26 per cent out of their remaining 32.26 per cent shareholding in NDTV, according to stock exchange filings by the company.

The sale will happen on or after December 30 in one or more tranches, it said without disclosing the price.

Sebi orders attachment of bank, demat accounts of Sahara group firm, Subrata Roy, others

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Monday ordered the attachment of bank and demat accounts of Sahara Group firm, its chief Subrata Roy and others to recover ₹6.42 crore for violating regulatory norms in the issuance of optionally fully convertible debentures (OFCDs).

The recovery proceedings against five entities — Sahara India Real Estate Corporation (now known as Sahara Commodity Services Corporation), Subrata Roy, Ashok Roy Choudhary, Ravi Shanker Dubey and Vandana Bhargava — for ₹6.42 crore, includes interest, all costs, charges and expenses, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in the attachment order.

In its notice, Sebi asked all banks, depositories and mutual funds not to allow any debit from accounts of Sahara India Real Estate Corp, Subrata Roy, Ashok Roy Choudhary, Dubey and Bhargava. However, cred-



its have been permitted.

Further, the market watchdog has directed all banks to attach all accounts, including lockers, of the defaulters.

The regulator, in its order in June, levied a fine totalling Rs 6 crore on Sahara India Real Estate Corp, Subrata Roy, Ashok Roy Choudhary, Dubey and Bhargava.

The case relates to the issuance of OFCDs by Sahara India Real Estate Corporation and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation during 2008-09.

They raised money through the public issue of securities by issuing OFCDs without following the various

procedures intended to protect the interest of the investors, in respect of public issues, prescribed under the norms, as per Sebi order.

According to Sebi, the subscription towards the OFCDs was solicited by the two companies from the general public throughout the country, without adequately informing them about the risks involved in the instruments.

The issuance was allegedly done in contravention of the provisions of the Sebi’s ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations and PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices).

Elista India expects ₹1,500 cr revenue by 2025, to invest up to ₹400 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Electronics manufacturing company Elista India expects a revenue of ₹1,500 crore by 2025 on the back of increased exports to the CIS countries, Middle East and Africa, a top official of the company said on Monday.

The company plans an investment of ₹350-400 crore in three years to meet its revenue guidance for 2025, the official said.

Revenues of the company have increased to ₹158 crore in just two years of operations of the company and it expects a business of ₹200 crore this fiscal.

“We expect Elista to have turnover of ₹1,500 crore by 2025 out of which ₹500 crore will come from the domestic



market and ₹1,000 crore from exports to CIS countries, Middle East and Africa,” Elista and TeknoDome, Chairman and Managing Director, Saket Gaurav told PTI.

He said that the company will initially focus on manufacturing televisions and later expand facilities for making

washing, IT peripherals etc.

Elista is also waiting for the allocation of land to start its manufacturing operation in the southern region of the country.

“India is being looked at as a major manufacturing destination. We are focussing on making our product in India.

Central Bank of India to raise up to ₹1,500 crore this fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Central Bank of India will raise up to ₹1,500 crore this fiscal by issuing Basel III compliant bonds.

The decision was taken at the bank’s board meeting held on Monday.

The board of directors considered and approved to raise capital through an issuance of non-convertible redeemable unsecured Basel III compliant tier II bonds for amount up to Rs 1,500 crore, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

The base issue size is of ₹500 crore with a green shoe

option up to ₹1,000 crore.

Under the Basel-III capital regulations, banks globally need to improve and strengthen their capital planning processes.

Shares of Central Bank of India settled 4.93 per cent up at ₹30.85 apiece on BSE.



Power Mech gets orders over ₹1,034 crore from Adani Group, others

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power Mech Projects (Power Mech) on Monday said it has bagged three projects, including one from the Adani Group, totalling ₹1,034.13 crore.

In a regulatory filing, the company said it has received service order/letters of award (LOA) worth ₹1,034.13 crore.

A service order for execution of retrofitting of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) system is from the Adani Group for its thermal power plants located at Mahan (Madhya Pradesh), Raigarh and Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Power Mech said.

The order from the Adani Group is of ₹608 crore, it said.

Another order of ₹306.60 crore is for setting up of a wagon repair workshop at Kazipet, Telangana.

This project has been awarded to Power Mech-Taikisha, its joint venture company with Taikisha Engineering India Private Limited.

The third project of ₹119.53 crore is for providing technical expert, rotary technicians operation and maintenance services at Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals Project, Lagos, Nigeria.

Conference on Smart Meter Cyber Security held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the Centre’s ambitious smart 250 million smart meters under the RDSS scheme gaining, an urgent need to secure the AMI system from vulnerabilities and threats of cyber-attacks were discussed at a conference in the national Capital on Monday.

The IntelliSmart Infrastructure Private Limited (IntelliSmart), a JV of the NIIF and EESL, and India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) jointly organized the Smart Meter Cyber Security conference where all the industry stakeholders concluded the conference with an agreement to have a clear-cut policy and a robust regulatory framework for cyber security.

On the occasion Reji Kumar Pillai, President, India Smart Grid Forum & Chairman, Global Smart Energy Federation, said, “Security of the power system is of paramount importance to the country and there should be appropriate framework and systems to protect the power grid from cyber-attacks. The 250 million smart meters and millions of electric vehicles could significantly increase the points of cyber intrusion and hence the vulnerability of the power system.”

Godrej Properties buys 62-acre land in Kurukshetra, eyes ₹550cr revenue from plotted development project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Godrej Properties has purchased about 62 acres of land in Kurukshetra, Haryana for over ₹100 crore to develop a plotted residential project and is targeting around ₹550 crore revenue from this property.

In a regulatory filing, the company informed that this project will offer about 1.4 million square feet of plotted residential development.



The company did not mention the total deal value of this land parcel. However, the property brokers said the deal could be around ₹100 crore.

Kurukshetra is a self-sufficient city with good infrastructure consisting of schools, colleges, hospitals and has significant historical and religious importance.

Gaurav Pandey, MD & CEO Designate, Godrej Properties, said, the company has entered into Kurukshetra.

“Haryana has been a key market for us and we look forward to further strengthen our presence in Haryana with this project,” he said.

Kane on target as PL returns

AP ■ LONDON

England captain Harry Kane inspired a thrilling fightback from Tottenham Hotspur as they came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Brentford as Premier League action resumed on Monday after the World Cup break.

In the first Premier League fixture since mid-November, Antonio Conte's side were in danger of a damaging defeat after Vitaly Janelt and Ivan Toney put Brentford in command at the Community Stadium.

But Kane netted to start the Tottenham recovery in his first game since missing a crucial penalty in England's World Cup quarter-final defeat against France.

Brentford have not beaten Tottenham since 1948 and their long wait for a victory over the north Londoners goes on after Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg equalised with 19 minutes left.

The gripping drama might not have had quite the high stakes of Argentina's incredible penalty shoot-out victory against France in the World Cup final but Tottenham's spirited escape act underlined why the English top-flight remains the world's preeminent domestic league.

Tottenham stay fourth in the table, four points ahead of fifth-placed Manchester United in the race to qualify for the Champions League.

Among the other matches later on Monday, leaders Arsenal host London rivals



West Ham, Liverpool travel to Aston Villa and third-placed Newcastle face Leicester.

Tottenham had conceded 11 goals in their previous five league games and they shipped another one after just 15 minutes in west London.

Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris was rested following France's World Cup final loss, so Fraser Forster started in

goal.

Forster's Tottenham league debut got off to a rocky start as he weakly pushed Mathias Jensen's volley straight to German midfielder Janelt, who bundled home from close-range.

For a ninth successive game in all competitions, Conte's men had conceded the opening goal.

Son Heung-min, who was still wearing the mask he used to protect a fractured eye socket while playing for South Korea at the World Cup, tried to spark Tottenham as he tested Brentford keeper David Raya with a long-range effort.

But the visitors remained vulnerable at the back and Forster had to save from Mathias Jorgensen.

SPIRITED SPURS

Kane appealed in vain for a penalty when he went down after a clear tug from Ben Mee early in the second half.

Tottenham's angst deepened when they were punished for more sloppy defending in the 54th minute.

Toney, who was over-looked as a possibly under-study for Kane in England's

World Cup squad, was starting for Brentford despite the Football Association gambling charges hanging over him.

The 26-year-old has been charged with 262 alleged breaches of betting rules but he appeared unfazed by the controversy.

Eric Dier's miskicked clearance conceded a corner and from the set-piece, the unmarked Toney poked home from inside the six yard box after Christian Norgaard nodded on.

With Tottenham in disarray, an immediate response was required and Kane delivered in the 65th minute.

Clement Lenglet's pinpoint cross picked out the England captain and he rose to power his header into the far corner.

It was Kane's 196th Premier League goal but his first against Brentford which means he has now scored against all 32 teams he has played against in the league.

Bryan Mbeumo should have restored Brentford's two-goal cushion moments later but he shot over from close-range.

It prove a crucial miss as Hojbjerg capped Tottenham's fightback with a fine, curling finish in the 71st minute.

In a frantic finale, Tottenham were incensed when their penalty appeals for a handball were rejected just before Kane shot wide. Kane was inches away from winning it in the final minutes but his header cannonned back off the crossbar.

Haaland can score 800 goals: De Bruyne



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Kevin De Bruyne believes Manchester City teammate Erling Haaland can go on and score 800 goals before his career ends.

Haaland, who will return to the city of his birth when the champions resume their Premier League title defence at Leeds on Wednesday, has scored 24 goals in just 19 appearances since his summer move from Borussia Dortmund.

"He already has about 200 goals, so he can probably go to 600, 700 or 800 if he stays fit and does the things that he does," said De Bruyne.

The Belgian international has played with a

Haaland, who will return to the city of his birth when the champions resume their Premier League title defence at Leeds on Wednesday

host of top strikers in his career and is well-placed when it comes to 22-year-old Haaland's place in the pecking order.

De Bruyne enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the club's record goalscorer Sergio Aguero before the Argentinian left the Etihad Stadium in 2021.

He has also combined with Romelu Lukaku on international duty, former City teammate Gabriel Jesus and new World Cup-winner Julian Alvarez, a current fellow City player.

"It is very hard to compare because they are all totally different," said De Bruyne.

"They have all scored 300 or 400 goals. Erling is so obsessed with goals he can maybe go beyond that."

He added: "He is still a young boy enjoying his life and he takes his football very seriously. He loves scoring goals, so I think that is the most unique thing he has."

Brazil pursuing Zidane for manager's job, claim reports

IANIS ■ RIO DE JANERIO

Zinedine Zidane has emerged as a frontrunner to assume Brazil's vacant head coaching job, according to media reports in the South American country.

Zidane has been linked with the France managerial role but could make Brazil a priority if Didier Deschamps remains in charge of the Les Bleus, the newspaper O Globo reported on Sunday.

Deschamps told reporters after France's defeat to Argentina in the World Cup final last Sunday (Dec 18) that he would discuss his future with French football federation chiefs in the coming days.

Zidane, 50, has been out of work since parting ways with Real Madrid, whom he led to three consecutive UEFA Champions League titles, in May last year, reports news agency Xinhua.

Brazil's head coaching position became vacant earlier this month when Tite stepped down following the team's World Cup quarterfinal defeat to Croatia.

Others to have been linked to the job include current Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti, Portuguese Jose Mourinho, Thomas Tuchel and Abel Ferreira.

Brazil has never had a foreigner as coach of its football team but after their failure in the fifth successive World Cup, many experts including the legendary Ronaldo have suggested they should look at a foreigner to revive the team.



Lovlina, Nikhat win national boxing gold

Bhopal: Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain and reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen registered contrasting wins to clinch Gold, while Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) lifted the team trophy with 10 medals at the Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Monday.

Assam's Lovlina beat Arundhati Choudhary of the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) 5-0 in the 75kg final, while Nikhat faced a stiff challenge from RSPB's Anamika in the 50kg clash before the 26-year-old Telangana pugilist tilted the match in her favour 4-1 to defend the title.

World Championships Silver medallist Manju Rani, who led RSPB's domination on the final day, outpunched Tamil Nadu's S Kalavani 5-0 in the 48kg final. Shiksha (54kg), Poonam (60kg), Shashi Chopra (63kg) and Nupur (+81kg) were the other Gold medallists for RSPB, who also bagged three Silver and two Bronze medals.

Madhya Pradesh, with one Gold, two silver and five bronze, and Haryana (two gold and two bronze) claimed the second and third position respectively.

Young Manipur boxer Sanamacha Thokchom Chanu, who won gold at the 2021 Youth World Championships, also put up an impressive show to secure the title in the 70kg category, beating MP's Shruti Yadav 3-2.

PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Plagued by injuries to its top five pacers and axing of the team's IPL star Nitish Rana, a shambolic Delhi will start as underdogs in their own den against a formidable Tamil Nadu in a Ranji Trophy Group B clash here on Tuesday.

The team whose dressing room resembles a medical facility will face a full-strength Tamil Nadu side with the in-form pair of N Jagadeesan and Sai Sudharshan facing a real test in cold conditions at the Kotla. They will, however, have solid support from the Baba brothers -- Aparajith and skipper Indrajith --, all-rounders Vijay Shankar and Washington Sundar along with seasoned pacer Sandeep Warrier.

Having lost to Maharashtra by nine wickets in the opening match and conceding a first-innings lead to Assam after scoring more than 400, Delhi are in dire straits having lost their entire pace-bowling attack to one injury or the other.

If Mayank Yadav tore his hamstring and veteran Ishant Sharma sustained a side strain, Navdeep Saini is in NCA with an abdominal muscle strain.

Worse, the team's most dependable pacer Simarjeet Singh has been ruled out in pacer-friendly conditions due to a heel injury.

Last season's captain



Pradeep Sangwan, who was initially dropped, is also out of the mix and coach Abhay Sharma is trying to put up a brave front.

The sixth one in the fray, Harshit Rana, is too raw and there is a possibility that Tuesday's attack will comprise of left-arm quick Kuldeep Yadav, rookie pacers Prince Yadav and medium fast Divij Mehra.

"We don't have our main

bowlers and that is definitely an issue but we would like to control the sessions. The youngsters who would get opportunities should make full use of it," Sharma, a veteran domestic coach, who has also worked as fielding coach with the Indian men's side, told reporters on the eve of the match.

One of the tough but prudent calls taken by the DDCA

and its selection committee is to drop Kolkata Knight Riders batting star Nitish Rana, who hasn't done anything in red-ball cricket in the past two seasons due to his questionable technique.

Besides, many in the corridors of the DDCA feel that his focus has solely been on playing the IPL because of his million-dollar contract and representing

Delhi had become secondary.

While dropping Rana has been termed a welcome move by many, a lot of the issues plaguing the Delhi Ranji team could be attributed to the lack of foresight on the part of Gagan Khoda's selection committee and not naming the team in advance.

"You had no pre-season camp, no proper training session and fast bowlers were highly under-cooked. There was no planning, no vision and what has now happened is exactly what was supposed to happen without systems in place. Some of the pacers were unfit before the season and (after) their return," a senior DDCA official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Tamil Nadu will hope to field first and use the overcast conditions to run through a Delhi batting line-up where only Dhruv Shorey (double century and hundred in the last game vs Assam) and Himmat Singh have shown some stomach for a fight.

Skipper Yash Dhull, batting at No. 3, hasn't been able to do much while Anuj Rawat's technique against the moving ball at the start is a bit dicey.

With dense fog and thick cloud cover during this time of the month, it can be said with some degree of certainty that 90 overs per day will be a distant possibility.

Stokes hits out at ICC for not paying enough attention to scheduling

PTI ■ LONDON

England Test captain Ben Stokes has hit out at the International Cricket Council (ICC) for not paying enough attention to scheduling, adding that the rising popularity of domestic T20 leagues across the world is threatening the existence of the longest format of the game.

Stokes, who led his side to a 3-0 Test whitewash of Pakistan recently, added that the way Test cricket was being handled and spoken about these days, especially in the backdrop of the growing popularity of league cricket, was hurting him.

"The scheduling doesn't get enough attention that it should. A great example is England's one-day series against Australia after the T20 World Cup. That was shoving three games in there. It made sense to someone to schedule a series which meant nothing," said Stokes in an interaction with the legendary Ian Botham on BBC on Monday.

"Test cricket has been spoken about in a way I don't like. It is losing the attention of the fans with all the new formats and franchise competitions. We understand there are so many opportunities for play-



ers away from Test cricket. But for me it is so important for the game," added Stokes.

Hinting that Test-playing nations should follow England's footsteps of playing ultra-attacking cricket, Stoke said "entertainment", more than "result", will go a long way in popularise the five-day format.

"Taking the result away from the mindset is a great starting point. Putting focus on making every day entertaining. Not allowing people to know what is going to happen. If people turn up excited about what they are going to watch you've already won before a ball has been bowled," said Stokes.

He urged the ICC to do "something different" to popularise Test cricket.

"I love playing Test cricket and felt we could do something different," added Stokes, who has guided England to nine Test wins in 10 games after taking over captaincy from Joe Root.

The 31-year-old all-rounder is also not happy with a lot of different squads being selected and players being rested because of the abundance of cricket being played and the commitment of cricketers to their franchises.

"Some people say 'you are playing for England, that should be enough'. But there is a lot more to factor in. You want international cricket to be the highest standard. But we have seen a lot of different squads being picked and players being rested, and that's not the way international cricket should go," opined Stokes.

Don't be disheartened if you concede, move to next level: Reid to players

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian men's hockey team coach Graham Reid has warned his players against getting caught up in the moment and advised them to raise their game to the next level if they concede a goal in next month's FIH World Cup.

Reid believes a positive mind-set is necessary while playing in a major tournament like the World Cup.

India will open their World Cup campaign against Spain in Rourkela on January 13, the first day of the tournament. "You (Indian players) sort of get caught up in the moment when you play an event of this magnitude (World Cup). Don't let yourself get caught up in the moment. It could get quite daunting when you lose the ball, or concede a goal," said Reid, who was part of the



Australian side during the 1990 World Cup in Lahore.

"It is important to develop the 'next thing' mentality. You can't change what happened so you just move on to the next task at hand, stay focused on what's to be done," he added.

Describing how the Australian team prepared for the World Cup in 1990, Reid said shutting the mind to the "raucous spectators" and "play-

ing silently" had done the Kookaburras a world of good during his playing days.

"In the lead up (to the 1990 World Cup), we played smaller games, and played silently -- we were not allowed to talk. A recording of the crowd on loudspeakers would play in the background and we learnt not to rely on calling out but had to get used to turning around and looking," he said in a release issued by

Hockey India.

"We had to learn to blanket out the sound. And this time in Odisha, it will be just as important for us to be prepared for the crowd."

Reid admitted that due to the highly-competitive nature of modern hockey, it was very difficult to pick the favourites for the mega-event, which will be staged jointly by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

"It is so difficult to pick a team. If I think about it today, I could pick Australia, Belgium and India; and tomorrow I could come back with Netherlands, Germany and India," he said.

"Of course, I would put India in the top three because if we play well, we have a good opportunity to get there. Any of these top eight can win this World Cup. It is both daunting and exciting at the same time."

WHENEVER I GO OUT TO BAT, I WANT TO PUT UP A SHOW: SURYAKUMAR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Suryakumar Yadav has been a trailblazer who has taken cricket's shortest format by storm.

Inarguably, India's first true-blue T20 superstar, Surya has now trained his eyes on being successful in longer formats but without changing the essence of his batsmanship.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, 'SKY' spoke about his journey to the top of T20 rankings, his focus on ODI World Cup this year, ambitions to wear the India whites and how wife Devisha became the force behind the cricketer and the person that he is today.

Excerpts from Interview:
Q: If you were told one year ago that you will be world No. 1 batter in the T20 format, would you have believed?
A: It still feels like a dream. To be seen and called as world's No. 1 T20 batter, if someone would have told me one year back, I don't know how I would have reacted. When I started playing this format, I wanted to be the best and I worked hard for it.

Q: The priority in 2023 will be ODI World Cup and does that mean you will change your game for the 50-over format?
A: I don't like to think too much when I am playing any format. Because I enjoy this game, whenever I go into bat, I put up a show. What I always dream and visualise is that whenever I go in, I want to be the game-changer. I have always loved batting whether it is T20Is, ODIs or Ranji Trophy. If I can do what my team wants me to do in 40-50 balls, why should I bat 100 balls?
Q: Do you fancy your chances of making the India squad for 4-Test

series against Australia?
A: I started playing age-group national level cricket in red ball, so the answer lies there itself. There are a lot of tricky yet fascinating situations that you encounter across five days and you want to embrace that challenge. Yes, I am ready if they (Indian team management) need me.

Q: Skills can be taught but how does one train one's mind to cope with pressures at the highest level?
A: I would say it was never impossible but certainly it was difficult. It needed a smart approach. Instead of doing a lot of quantity, I did a lot of quality practice. There were lot of sacrifices made by me and my family. Before making my India debut, I had played 10 years of first-class cricket.

Grinding it out at first-class level, you learn a lot of tricks of the trade. So when you graduate to international level and play different bowlers, all you need to do is express yourself.
But let me tell you this. If you have gone through domestic grind in India, you are ready for international cricket and when you start that level, you are not carrying any baggage. Just execute what you did at the domestic level.

Q: You were India Emerging (U-23) captain nearly a decade back. Over the years, while putting up performances at domestic and IPL level, did you get anxious or angry that national call-up wasn't coming?
A: I won't say I got irritated but I would always think how I could be different to move to the next level. So hard work continued and you need to enjoy the game also.
That's why you started playing cricket. Whether it's a simple training session or even the food that was healthy but I didn't enjoy earlier, I



started to savour it. I knew that if I stop thinking about outcomes and just focus on process, I would someday break the door.

Q: Your friend Sufiyan Sheikh said that at times you don't wear thigh pads even when you face the best of fast bowlers. Is it true and what's the reason for it?
A: In the World T20 in Australia, I was wearing thigh pads as it was the first time I was touring the country and it wasn't a great idea (not wearing them) on those tracks with pace and bounce. But yes, on Indian tracks with low bounce, if I get a feeling that wearing thigh pads would hinder me from playing the shots that I love, then I don't wear it.

Q: Can you explain us a bit about your 360-degree technique?
A: It is an interesting story. In my school and college days, I played a lot of rubber ball cricket. On hard cement tracks and on rainy days, those would bowl would come from 15 yards and most of them chucked (threw) really hard. Now rubber ball from 15 yards will come at 140 plus clicks and if the leg side the boundary would be 95 yards, the off-side would be only 25-30 yards.
So in order to prevent off-side boundaries, most of them would bowl into my body in order to prevent me from getting easy boundaries on off-side. So manoeuvring my wrists, playing those pick-up pulls and upper cuts have come from those matches.
I never try those in the nets. In the nets, I like practising normally and hearing the sound of the bat hitting the ball. If I feel good I come out.
Q: What kind of bond do you share with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma?
A: I am actually very lucky that I

share dressing room with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They are a different breed of international cricketers. Things they have achieved, I don't know I will be ever able to achieve that.

Recently, I have had some good partnerships with Virat bhai and I have enjoyed batting with him. Rohit is like an elder brother and my sounding board. When I am in doubt, I ask him direct questions about my game. He has been a good guiding force since I joined MI in 2018.

Q: If you can also talk about the contributions of Mumbai Indians and wife Devisha in your career?
A: In my life and in this cricketing journey, there are two pillars – Mumbai Indians and my wife Devisha.
Let me elaborate about MI's contribution first. When I came back here from KKR in 2018, I was looking for an opportunity to bat higher up the order and even without me asking, the management entrusted me with that responsibility.
I grabbed that opportunity, kept performing and never looked back. MI provided me with all the facilities I required to move up the ladder.
In 2016, I got married to Devisha and when I joined MI in 2018, we (me and Devisha) as a unit started thinking, what do we need to do to make the next grade. It was a dream we both nurtured together and she is always been around when I needed her. Even if she doesn't want to travel, I drag her around.
She brings in the balance that I need as a sportsman. She doesn't let me get complacent after a good day in office and at the same time, doesn't allow my shoulders to drop after a poor day.

Overthinking is a perception that has followed me since my debut: Ashwin



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ravichandran Ashwin has taken a slight dig at people who perceive him as an "overthinker" of the game following his match-winning performance against Bangladesh in the second Test in Mirpur.

Batting alongside Shreyas Iyer, Ashwin played one of the best Test innings of his career to steer India to a famous three-wicket win from an improbable situation.

His 42 not out came after a match haul of six wickets, making him the player of the match.

"Overthinking is a per-

ception that has followed me ever since I wore the Indian jersey with pride. I have pondered about it for a while now and believe I should have seriously considered a PR exercise to erase that word out of peoples minds," Ashwin tweeted.

Besides his exploits on the field, Ashwin is one of the best thinkers in the modern game and also has his youtube channel.

"Every person's journey is special and unique, while some journeys require them to overthink it others can afford to keep it simple. The moment someone says I am an over thinker from the inside walls, I have always thought to myself that's the way I play my cricket and not the way I recommend others to play.

"Finally, I think deeply about the game and share my views because I believe when ideas are shared they can multiply into miraculous achievements. The fact that it may not be popular won't deter me cos my goal is not to win the war of words, it is to learn at the end of it," he added.



Green takes five as Oz seize control of 2nd Proteas Test

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Cameron Green celebrated landing one of the richest contracts in Indian Premier League history by taking a career-best 5-27 as Australia ripped through South Africa's fragile batting in the second Test on Monday.

After the visitors were dismissed for 189, an aggressive David Warner, in his 100th Test, was unbeaten on 32 and Marnus Labuschagne was not out on five to steer the hosts to 45-1 at stumps on day one.

Usman Khawaja was out for one, caught behind by Kyle Verreynne off Kagiso Rabada.

"That's cricket summed up," Green told reporters. "You can have a really slow start to

the summer and think cricket's so tough and then you have a few days like this, and it brings you back.

"It's a very special feeling (getting five wickets)."

Australia won the first of three Tests by six wickets inside two days on a hostile and green Gabba pitch in Brisbane last week.

The deck at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was less bowler-friendly, but captain Pat Cummins surprisingly chose to field at a venue where toss-winning teams normally bat first.

It proved to be an inspired decision in front of 64,876 fans with the Proteas losing early wickets as they again struggled against the hosts'

bowling firepower.

After slumping to 67-5, Verreynne and Marco Jansen launched a stirring fightback in a gutsy 112-run stand.

But then Green -- the second-most expensive buy at the IPL auction last week behind England's Sam Curran -- went on a blitz, snapping the partnership when Verreynne got an outside edge on 52 that Steve Smith collected.

Two balls later, Jansen was gone, caught by wicketkeeper Alex Carey for 59 off Green before the giant Australian bowled Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi.

Green took 4-8 in the spell with the Proteas losing their last five wickets for 10 runs.

Top Australian Test award named after Shane Warne

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australia's men's Test Player of the Year award will be renamed in Shane Warne's honour, officials said Monday, as tributes were paid to the late spin-king at the Boxing Day Test against South Africa.

Warne, considered by many as second in stature only to Donald Bradman in sports-mad Australia, died unexpectedly aged just 52 in March.

The Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award will be presented annually, second only to the prestigious Allan Border Medal for the most outstanding player across all formats.

"As one of Australia's all-time greats, it is fitting we acknowledge Shane's extraordinary contribution to Test cricket by naming this award in his honour in perpetuity," said Cricket Australia chief Nick Hockley.

The announcement came on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Warne's home venue where he achieved many memorable feats, including an Ashes hat-trick and his 700th Test wicket. A stand at the venue has already been named in his honour.

Babar, Sarfaraz lift Pak to 317-5 against Kiwis



AP ■ KARACHI

Babar Azam hit his ninth hundred and Sarfaraz Ahmed returned to Test cricket after nearly four years with an impressive 86 as Pakistan overcame a top-order collapse to reach 317-5 against New Zealand on Monday in the first Test.

Babar was not out on 161 with 16 fours and a six and Sarfaraz -- playing his first Test since January 2019 -- grinded well in his long awaited 50th Test to give Pakistan an early advantage on a slow and dry wicket.

They shared a 196-run stand to lift Pakistan from 110-4 before Ajaz Patel (2-91) broke through late in the final session on Day 1 and had Sarfaraz caught in the slip with the second new ball.

Patel nearly ended Babar's six hours of batting in the last over, but the Pakistan captain successfully overturned an lbw ruling through TV referral.

Both Babar and Sarfaraz dominated the three spinners and were untroubled against the seam bowling of captain Tim Southee and Neil Wagner in nearly two sessions after New Zealand had made early inroads.

Sarfaraz came good against the spinners with his sweeps and Babar made New Zealand pay a heavy price for letting him off the hook early with his trademark cover drives and flicks on the on-side.

Daryl Mitchel dropped Sarfaraz had to wait for 26 Test matches before finally breaking into the test XI after Pakistan finally rested all-format regular wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan. He made full use of his hometown conditions and rebuilt the innings and even braved cramps after tea while going for a quick single and diving at the non-striker's end.

Pakistan also brought Mir Hamza into the playing XI after the left-arm fast bowler played his only Test against Australia in 2018 in Abu Dhabi, while Imam also returned after missing the last Test against England because of a hamstring injury.

Big pay cheque won't change me or my cricket: Green

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The second-most expensive buy in the history of the Indian Premier League, Australian all-rounder Cameron Green, has been unassuming about his Rs 17.5 crore earning, saying he "didn't do much" to deserve the kind of money he got during the player auction.

The 23-year-old had an amazing week after a winning bid from Mumbai Indians made him richer by Rs 17.5 crore.

On Monday, the tall pace bowler destroyed the South African batting line-up by claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in Tests and helped dis-

miss the visitors for 189 on day one of the Boxing Day Test.

Green said the big purse will not change him or the way he plays his cricket.

"To be fair, I think I didn't do much to kind of earn that," said Green.

"I just put my name into the auction, and it just happened. It doesn't change who I am or how I think and all the confidence I have in my cricket. Hopefully, I didn't change too much," he added.

Green emerged the second-most costly buy in the auction held in Kochi after a bidding war between Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians. England's Sam Curran



became the most expensive auction buy in IPL history, being sold to Punjab Kings for Rs 18.5 crore.

Green said that for an all-rounder like him, workload management was the key to longevity. The youngster, whose bowling load has had to be reduced due to lower-back complaints, added that if one is trying to excel both as a batter and as a bowler, the key is to prioritise things.

"I think your priorities change. You take a lot of your care in your bowling when you're just a bowler. You have that rhythm because you're bowling 20 overs an innings basically. That's probably the main difference (between being

a bowler and an all-rounder).

"It's tough if you're trying to do both equally. You have to try and prioritise one of them, because you're going to put too much pressure on yourself if you try too hard at both," said Green.

He added that in the lead-up to a match, he prioritises his batting, while on game days he pays more attention to his bowling.

"I try to prioritise my batting in the weeks leading up to the game. Then on game day, you've hit plenty of balls that week, so it's prioritising your bowling and getting your body right, backing all the training you've done prior," said Green.