

OPINION 6
BUDGET MUST BOOST
FARMERS' INCOME**WORLD 9**
CHINA TO START ISSUING NEW
PASSPORTS AS VIRUS CURBS EASE**MONEY 10**
MARKETS END FLAT
IN VOLATILE TRADE

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY DECEMBER 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
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India on 40-day watch

Assessment based on Covid-19 surge trend in previous waves

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the rise of Covid-19 in several Asian and European countries with the onset of winter, officials said the next 40 days will be crucial to see the extent of the breakout in India.

"Previously, it has been noticed that a new wave of Covid-19 hits India around 30-35 days after it hit East Asia ... This has been a trend," an official told the PTI.

While the Government is bracing up for a surge in Covid-19 cases and taking precautionary measures, the Health Ministry officials are counting on the fact that the majority of the Indians are fully vaccinated, which could reduce the severity of the infection. They feel that even if India is hit by a Covid-19 wave, deaths and hospitalisation will be very low.

Meanwhile, as many as 39



A worker checks oxygen cylinders at a plant as part of preparedness against Covid-19 in Gurugram on Wednesday PTI

international passengers tested positive for Covid-19 out of the 6,000 tested on arrival in the last two days. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is also expected to visit the Indira Gandhi Delhi international airport on Thursday to take stock of the testing and screening facilities.

On Wednesday, four passengers travelling from international locations to Tamil

Nadu tested positive for Covid-19 at the Chennai airport.

Twelve passengers arriving from high-risk countries tested positive for the virus at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Monday. Four foreign nationals who came to attend the religious preaching of Tibetan Spiritual Leader Dalai Lama in Gaya tested positive for Covid-19. While one of them was

from Myanmar, the other three are residents from Bangkok. They are currently in isolation.

Four international travellers from Myanmar tested positive for the Covid-19 virus at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport.

Two international travellers on Wednesday, one from Japan and another from America, who are residents of Ludhiana, have also tested positive for the virus.

At the Mumbai international airport, two UK returnees have tested positive for the virus, and their samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, for genome sequencing.

In another news, a 40-year-old man, who returned from China, had tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday, following which he has been isolated. The man returned to Agra from China via Delhi on December 23.

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Terror attack foiled, 4 ultras killed in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Security forces on Wednesday averted a possible terror attack when they gunned down four Kashmir-bound heavily armed terrorists, hiding inside a truck cavity, near Sidhra bridge in the close vicinity of White Knight Corps headquarters in Nagrota area.

The security forces suffered no collateral damage during the operation which lasted around two hours.

On December 6, 2022 a grenade blast was also reported at the same spot. Soon after the encounter started in the area around 7.30 am, traffic on the sensitive route was suspended. Large number of passengers were stranded on the highway at different locations during the encounter.



Security personnel at the spot of an encounter with terrorists at the Sidhra area in Jammu on Wednesday PTI

Additional DGP Mukesh Singh, who visited the encounter site, said, "Four terrorists were killed in an encounter in Sidhra in Jammu on Wednesday morning".

During the heavy exchange of fire, the truck also caught fire. The bodies of the terrorists were charred beyond recognition.

Continued on Page 2

Modi visits ailing mother in hospital

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Ahmedabad and met his 100-year-old mother Heeraba, who was admitted to UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Modi flew back to Delhi after staying with her mother in the hospital for 90 minutes.

Heeraba's condition is stable, the hospital said in a brief statement.

Heeraba turned 100 this year. Early this month, she also voted in the Gujarat Assembly election sitting on a wheelchair. She had difficulty in breathing and high blood pressure and a local doctor was consulted before she was rushed to hospital about 9 am.

Modi reached the hospital at 4 pm and left the hospital at 5.30 pm, spending around 90 minutes with her mother.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel accompanied Modi to the hospital and left while the Prime Minister stayed back with Heeraba.

Modi got a detailed briefing from a team of doctors on the line of treatment being



given to his mother.

Earlier, when the news of Heeraba being unwell broke out, the Chief Minister cut short the State cabinet meeting and rushed to the hospital.

Cutting across political lines, a number of top political leaders wished early recovery to the PM's mother.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Vadra and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge "prayed" for the speedy recovery of PM's mother.

"The love between a mother and a son is eternal and priceless. Modi ji, you have my love and support in this difficult time. I hope your mother gets well soon," Gandhi tweeted, in Hindi..

UNSC raps Taliban for anti-women policies

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

Alarmed over the situation in Afghanistan, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), under the current presidency of India, has voiced concern over the Taliban dispensation imposing restrictions on women and girls' education and work.

The UN urged a swift reversal of these policies which increasingly eroded respect for human rights. This appeal came days after the Taliban banned women from attending university and working for non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Since seizing back control of the war-torn country in August last year, the Taliban have steadily restricted women's rights despite promising their rule this time would be softer than the regime seen in the 1990s.

India's Ambassador to the UN and currently the UNSC president for the month of December, Ruchira Kamboj, issued a Press statement late Tuesday on behalf of the 15-nation Council. It said its members are "deeply alarmed" by

reports that the Taliban have suspended access to universities for women and girls.

The Council reiterated its "deep concern" over the suspension of schools beyond the 6th grade, as well as its call for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in Afghanistan. It called on the Taliban to reopen schools and swiftly reverse these policies and practices, which represents an increasing erosion for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The statement further said the members are profoundly concerned by reports that the Taliban have banned female employees of NGOs and international organisations from going to work, which would have a significant and immediate impact on humanitarian operations in the country, including those of the UN, and the delivery of aid and health work.

It said these restrictions contradict the commitments made by the Taliban to the Afghan people as well as the expectations of the international community.

Continued on Page 2

Security breaches in Bharat Yatra: Cong

Party seeks steps to ensure safety of Rahul, writes letter to Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah alleging security breaches in the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The party sought immediate steps to ensure the safety of party leader Rahul Gandhi and the participants of the yatra which will resume next week after a break in the national Capital.

In a letter to the Home Minister, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said security was compromised on multiple occasions as Rahul and his Bharat Jodo Yatra entourage entered Delhi on December 24.

Citing the assassination of two former Congress Prime Ministers — Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi —

Venugopal sought better security for the Bharat Jodo Yatra and Rahul once the march is on its final leg of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Congress alleged that the Delhi Police, which comes under the Union Home Ministry, "completely failed" to control the surging crowd and maintain a perimeter around Rahul.

"The situation was so bad that Congress workers and those walking along with Rahul had to form a security cordon. As this was happening, the Delhi Police remained mute spectators," Venugopal alleged.

Venugopal also alleged that the Intelligence Bureau has been interrogating those who took part in the march.

"Moreover, we filed an FIR on December 23, at Sohna city police station, Haryana, regarding unknown miscreants, belonging to Haryana State Intelligence, illegally entering Bharat Jodo Yatra's containers, the letter said.

Continued on Page 2

Will marry if I get a blend of mom & granny: Rahul



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with his mother Sonia Gandhi during the party's 138th Foundation Day function, at AICC HQ in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the news for his Bharat Jodo Yatra and for braving the biting cold in a half-sleeve T-shirt, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has for the first time disclosed his mind about settling down in life.

Seen as one of the most eligible bachelors among the politicians, Rahul said he would prefer to settle down in life with a partner who has a mix of qualities of both his mother Sonia Gandhi and grand-

mother Indira Gandhi.

In an interview to a YouTube channel, Rahul termed his grandmother and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as the love of his life and his second mother.

Asked whether he would marry a woman like her, Rahul said, "That is an interesting question... I would prefer a woman... She has got qualities. But, a mix between my mother's and grandmother's qualities is good."

Continued on Page 2

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Woman gangraped in moving vehicle on Yamuna Expressway

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a horrifying incident, a woman was gang-raped on the Yamuna Expressway while in a moving vehicle. According to the police sources, all the three accused including the driver of the vehicle, were arrested.

In her complaint, the woman claimed that as the taxi was traveling on the expressway from Noida to Firozabad, the three other male passengers, including the driver, raped her. The victim was dropped near Etmadpur in Agra. The woman approached the police at Etmadpur and lodged a complaint. Acting swiftly the police managed to track the vehicle



and the driver and later arrested all the three accused persons.

According to information provided to the police, the complainant took a taxi from Noida to Firozabad. She said that as the automobile was being driven on the Yamuna Expressway, the three accused—who were also in it—gang-raped her.

The woman had boarded the shared taxi from Sector 37

in Noida around 8.30 pm on Tuesday. The taxi was going to Firozabad from Noida. The woman claimed that three occupants of the taxi raped her on the Yamuna Expressway and dropped her at Etmadpur, from where she took an autorickshaw to Firozabad. Agra Police Commissioner Dr Preetinder Singh said.

“On Wednesday morning, the woman came to Etmadpur police station and filed a complaint after which an FIR was lodged before sending her for a medical examination,” Singh said.

The police commissioner said CCTV footage of toll plazas was analysed to track the taxi, a Maruti Eeco, which was

used as the cab and it has been impounded.

“The three men who were involved in the case have also been apprehended. They are being interrogated and further legal proceedings are being carried out,” Singh added.

Police said that the woman, who studied in Prayagraj, was in Noida in connection with some work and had boarded a car from Sector 37 Noida on Tuesday evening to return to her home district. At around midnight, the other passengers in the vehicle got down at Kuberpur near Agra. The woman was told by the driver that he would drop her at Firozabad, which was closer to Auraiya.

LG asks Services Dept, Chief Secy to take steps to provide more jobs in Delhi Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday directed the Services Department and Chief Secretary to take all steps to provide more jobs opportunities in various departments of Delhi Government to the officials of the Delhi Subordinate Services Cadre. The Lieutenant Governor also instructed Delhi Police to ensure that its personnel get promotions, pensions and other benefits in a time bound manner.

Saxena met R S Krishnia, the newly appointed Special CP (HRD) of the Delhi Police, and asked him to ensure that all matters pertaining to career progression and promotions, including requirements of revised recruitment rules with

regards to junior ranks, are addressed and solutions to issues like pensions and compassionate appointments are taken up in a time bound manner.

“Services Department has recently promoted 1057 junior assistants to the post of senior assistants and 359 senior assistants to the post of assistant section officer. In addition, 32 newly-recruited assistant section officer were allotted the department for their appointment,” the statement said. Besides, 134 officials, including principal private secretary, private secretary, personal assistant, stenographer and 87 Class-IV employees were promoted to the post of Grade-IV after June, 2022, it said.

The step comes after Saxena directed the Services



department and chief secretary to take steps to provide more jobs opportunities to officials of the Delhi Subordinate Services Cadre, and ensure promotions to improve their morale and mitigate the problems of retired government servants, it added.

Following this, updation of recruitment rules of various posts were initiated and steps were taken to resolve and clear

pension cases in a time-bound manner. Requisitions have been made with Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) and Union Public Service Commission for early filling-up of all vacant posts in various departments of the Delhi government, it said. Accordingly, a requisition was sent to DSSSB for recruitment of 1,400 Junior Assistants, the statement said.

Maha ex-HM Deshmukh walks out of prison after 14 months



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nearly 14 months after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged money laundering case, Maharashtra's former Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday walked out of the Arthur Road Prison here — to receive a warm welcome from senior party leaders Ajit Pawar, Chhagan Bhujbal, Supriya Sule and a host of party leaders and workers.

The development came fortnight after the Bombay

High Court granted him bail in an alleged corruption case registered against him by the CBI and the high court's refusal to extend the time beyond Tuesday to make the bail to Deshmukh.

The CBI failed to get any relief from the Supreme Court before the expiry of the deadline.

Talking to media persons after his release from the prison, 72-year-old Deshmukh said: “On the basis of these baseless allegations, I was behind the bars for nearly 14 months. However, I have full faith in the judiciary.... the High Court has

observed that I was implicated in a false case.”

“False allegations were made against me. (Mumbai's former Police Commissioner) Param Bir Singh had made an allegation of Rs. 100 crore corruption against me.

However, he only told the court through affidavit that his allegations were based on hearsay and that he did not have any evidence on the same.

Even the High Court in its order, has questioned the statement by Sachin Waze (dismissed police officer), who was close to Param Bir Singh,” Deshmukh said

Shah holds review meeting on security & development in J&K



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday held a review meeting on the security situation and development aspects of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah reviewed the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security and gave necessary directions to follow the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism. A terror eco-system comprising element that aid, abet and sustain the terrorist-separatist campaign to the detriment of the well-being of common man requires to be dismantled, said the Union Home Minister.

The Union Home Minister also reviewed the various developmental works being implemented in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized on timely completion of projects. He also directed the officials to strive their best to achieve 100 percent saturation of the beneficiaries under various schemes and ensure the benefits of development reaches every section of the society,” said Union Home Ministry in a statement.

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary AK Bhalla, Director (IB) Tapan Deka, RAW Chief Samant Goel and other senior officials of the Government of India, including the Officers from Jammu & Kashmir attended the meeting.

HC imposes ₹10K cost on MHA, Personnel Ministry on plea by CISF inspectors over promotion denial

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the Union Home and Personnel Ministries and others for their failure to file response to a petition filed by more than 500 CISF inspectors, who have not been promoted for 19 years as compared to the stipulated five.

A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna issued an order on December 21, giving a “last opportunity to the respondents to file the written submissions within four weeks subject to costs of Rs 10,000 to be deposited with the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee.”

The respondents in the case include the Union home ministry, under whose command the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) functions, the CISF director general, the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the personnel ministry.

More than 540 inspectors of the CISF filed a writ petition before the court early this year



alleging “deprivation” in their career progression as they got only one promotion (from sub-inspector to inspector) in more than 34 years of service and they have no “future prospects” to look forward to for their next promotion to the officer rank of Assistant Commandant (AC).

The petition of the inspectors, recruited in the central force between 1987 and 2005, has provided figures and data to apprise the court about their grievance.

“As on date, the senior-most inspectors (executive) who joined the CISF in 1987 as direct sub-inspector have earned only one promotion (from SI to inspector) in 28 years and the reduction in promotion quota (from 50 per cent to 33 per cent) has further brought down their chances of promotion,” the petition stated.

SP to launch stir for OBC reservation



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The controversy stirred by the Allahabad High Court judgement directing the Uttar Pradesh government to hold urban local bodies' election in a month without reservation of municipal wards for the Other Backward Classes has opened a window of opportunity for the Samajwadi Party to buttress its claim as the predominant political party representing the deprived sections of society.

SP state president Naresh Uttam said here on Wednesday that the party would organise “Aarakshan Bachao Yatra” across the state. He said the detailed plan of the yatra would be announced by party president Akhilesh Yadav.

Naresh Uttam said the party would take the issue of reservation for OBCs to every nook and corner of the state and expose the anti-OBCs face of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Welfare projects obstructed by Fin Dept: Delhi Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government's Petition Committee on Wednesday alleged that several people welfare projects and schemes such as pension, Yamuna cleaning etc were repeatedly obstructed by the Finance Department.

Talking about the matter, Committee Member Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the Petitions Committee has noted with strong displeasure that Finance Department obstructed two projects of Health Department, and one-one each of Delhi Jal Board and Social Welfare Dept in the recent past.

“Data Entry Operators engaged in hospitals for years were fired in the last six months due to the objections of the Finance Dept due to which there are no data entry operators making OPD cards in the hospitals at present,” he said.

India on 40-day...

From Page 1

Earlier, on December 2, nine international travellers, including one from South Africa, tested positive for the virus.

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in some countries, including China, the central government has ramped up its anti-coronavirus measures. It is now mandatory that passengers from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand undergo RT-PCR test,

and States also conducted a mock drill on Tuesday to ensure the readiness of health facilities, including medical oxygen generation plants.

Sources said that passengers arriving from China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore- the countries that have reported massive surge in Covid cases might require mandatory negative RT-PCR tests from next week.

Will marry if I get a blend of mom & granny...

From Page 1

The former Congress chief, who is on a padyatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, also talked about his love for driving motorcycles and cycles, and referred to a Chinese electric company which manufactures bicycles and mountain bikes with electric motors.

“I have driven an electric scooter, but never an electric bike. Have you seen this Chinese company...? There are cycles and mountain bikes with electric motors. Very interesting concept. But, they

are good,” he said.

Rahul, who shared the interview on his Twitter handle, said he does not own a car and has a CR-V, which is his mother's.

“I have really not been interested in cars. I am not interested in motorbikes, but I am interested in driving motorbikes. I can fix a car. But, I am not obsessed with cars. I like the idea of moving fast, the idea of moving in the air, the idea of moving in water and of moving in the land,” he said.

He also noted that he

found more beauty in an old Lambretta rather than an R1, and claimed that he preferred cycling to motor-cycling as it has the concept of using one's own power.

On his detractors calling him names, the Gandhi scion said, “I don't care. Whatever you want to say, it does not matter. I do not hate anyone. You abuse me or even hit me, I would not hate you.”

On being called “Pappu”, he termed it a propaganda campaign and said those calling him so are doing it out of the fear inside them.

Security breaches in Bharat...

From Page 1

Through his letter Venugopal conveyed to the Home Minister that every citizen has a Constitutional right to move throughout Indian territory. “Bharat Jodo Yatra is a padyatra to bring peace and harmony to the country. The government should not indulge in vindictive politics and ensure the safety and security of the Congress leaders,” mentioned Venugopal.

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah will join Rahul in his march in the final leg in Jammu & Kashmir. Several politicians and Parliamentarians across the party lines have been taking part in the yatra which included actor turned politician Kamal Haasan last week.

Terror attack foiled, 4 ultras killed...

From Page 1

The security forces had to deploy a fire extinguisher to douse the flames before recovering the dead bodies of these terrorists.

The ADGP said the security forces have also recovered 07 AK-47 rifles, one M4 rifle, .03 Pistols along with other ammunition. “Truck owner is yet to be identified,” he added.

According to police, all four heavily armed terrorists were travelling in a Kashmir-bound truck when they were intercepted at Sidhra security checkpoint. It was not clear whether these terrorists were tasked to hit any vital installations along the route or were being escorted to their destination in the Kashmir valley.

ADGP Mukesh Singh said, “Today, at around 7:25 am, suspicious movement of a truck was observed on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the Sidhra area. This truck was intercepted by a joint team of Police and Army at Sidhra check point. During checking of the vehicle, the hiding terrorists fired upon the security

forces and an encounter started. Taking advantage, the driver of the truck fled away from the spot.”

Sharing more details, the ADGP said, “The number plate of the truck has been found to be fake. The engine and chassis number has also been tampered and help of forensic teams will be sought in this regard”. A manhunt has been launched to apprehend the driver. Search is being done at Bus stands, railway stations and market places. All security checkpoints have been alerted to trace the whereabouts of the truck driver.

Singh added the scrutiny of seized items is being done to obtain clues about the identity of the killed terrorists and the driver. Other scientific and electronic evidence is being collected to identify the terror group to which the terrorists belonged and to identify the OGW support structure of these terrorists.

A FIR has been registered in this regard and investigation started.

Preliminary information

gathered by the police said the terrorists may have possibly infiltrated from across the International border with Pakistan and were being escorted in a Kashmir bound truck to their destination.

CHRONOLOGY OF PREVIOUS ATTACKS ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY

★ Nagrota Army Camp attacked on 29 November 2016.-

★ Sunjuwan Army Camp attacked on 10 February 2018.-

★ Jhajjar Kotli on 12 September 2018, three terrorists killed.-

★ Ban Toll Plaza, Nagrota on 31 January 2020, three terrorists killed.-

★ Tunnel discovered by BSF at Samba, Near Basantar River on 28 August 2020.-

★ Ban Toll Plaza attack Four JeM terrorists eliminated on 19 November 2020.-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Neeraj Devi w/o Mr. Girish Kumar owner of Freshhold Residential House built on Plot no. 21 admeasuring area 60 Sq. Yd. or say 50.16 Sq. Mt. Pertaining to Kharsa no. 1200, situated in Salyam City Village Shahpur Barnheia Pragana Dasna, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. above Mentioned Property Documents Sale deed executed by Mr. Dinesh Yadav s/o late Mr. Brahampal in favour of Mrs. Neeraj Devi w/o Mr. Girish Kumar in respect of the said House built on Plot no. 21 admeasuring area 60 Sq. Yd. or say 50.16 Sq. Mt. Pertaining to Kharsa no. 1200, duly registered with the office of SR-V Ghaziabad, vide Doc. No. 8101 in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 9500 Pages No. 27/54, on dated 17.11.2022. Present owner of the above Property Mrs. Neeraj Devi w/o Mr. Girish Kumar and same Property to be Loan financed by M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or Claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client, e. M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. shall be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.



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Food fest to flower show in run up to G20

NDMC presents surplus budget of ₹225 crore in current fin year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council has neither increased nor introduced any new taxes in the annual budget for the next fiscal.

Presenting the annual Budget for the year 2023-24, the NDMC on Wednesday announced that the arrangements of food festival, flower show, fun runs and live music are going in full swing for the general public and foreign dignitaries ahead of the G20 Summit here next year.

NDMC chairman Amit Yadav presented a surplus budget of Rs 224.98 crore in current financial year 2022-23 and Rs 583.29 crores for financial year 2023-24 against Rs 178.95 crore surplus projected in its budget estimate 2022-23. The NDMC has allocated around Rs 60 to 100 crore for preparations in the city ahead of the G20 meetings that began in March.

The money will be used



Chairman New Delhi Municipal Council Amit Yadav with Satish Upadhyay vice-chairman NDMC and Vishakha Sailani NDMC address a press conference on NDMC Budget 2023-24 in New Delhi on Wednesday.

for the improvement of road infrastructure, electrical infrastructure, horticulture and to hold events.

"FY 2023-24 is going to be special with the presidency of G20 coming to India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The NDMC is quickly taking up a comprehensive beautification of flyovers, round-

abouts with sculptures by eminent artists, reflecting our art consciousness," Yadav said.

"We have assigned Rs 60 to 100 crore of the NDMC budget for G20. The city will also host a food festival with flavours from all G20 countries. A park dedicated as the G20 park will display national animals of the Group of 20 (G20) countries on a Waste-to-

Wonder theme," he added.

This budget, Yadav noted, will reflect the NDMC's resolve to ensure ease of living for citizens, adopt Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), ensure the cleanliness of the city and enhance citizens' participation. "The G20 Summit preparedness will reflect in most of our areas of action". "We will focus on improve-

ment of road infrastructure, electrical infrastructure, horticulture and events. We will organise a food festival, a flower show.

The roundabouts will be decked with flowers.

A 15-day tulip festival and programmes such as music in the park and run for fun will be organised," Yadav informed.

The Chairman also stated that there would be no hike in the property tax rates for the year 2023-2024 in the area under the civic body jurisdiction, while the Tax revenue is projected at an all-time high of Rs 1,150.00 crore.

Apart from this, several other projects were proposed by the council such as for achieving the target of Bin Free City by constructing 50 underground bins and installing seven Anti-Smog Guns at high rise buildings, to curb the air pollution.

"NDMC to bring its own Solar Policy and complete shift to e-vehicles to make the city green, tablets for the NDMC School Children scheme extended to all the students of 9th and 11th Class, Science Parks in NDMC and Navyug schools in collaboration with National Science centres," Yadav added.

₹19,546 cr infrastructure projects implemented in 5 yrs, says Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday said 77 major infrastructure development projects worth Rs 19,545.86 crores in the education, and health etc was implemented in the past five years in the national Capital.

This statement came during the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia reviews the major infrastructure development projects along with the senior officials of the Public Works Department and other concerned departments.

Sisodia said that after coming into power, it has been a priority of the Delhi Government to ensure the best infrastructure and facilities of education, health and city infrastructure for the people of Delhi.

"These projects include the construction of more than 20,000 classrooms, new sports complexes, hostels for students, various hospitals with state-of-the-art facilities, six new and two double-decker flyovers, two new university campuses, installation of more than two lakh CCTV cameras, road beautification projects, installation of



500 flags and the Signature Bridge in Wazirabad," said Sisodia. "In the education sector itself, the Delhi Government approved 26 major projects worth Rs 8683.81 crores, since 2017. The projects include the construction of various new school buildings, more than 20000 new classrooms, sports complexes and the installation of CCTV cameras in Delhi government schools," said Deputy CM.

Sisodia said that the Delhi Government is also constructing two new campuses of Ambedkar University in Rohini and Dheerpur.

For Training and Technical Education (TTÉ), while keeping the requirements of students in mind, the government has constructed many new academic blocks and hostels in

many technical universities. Most of these projects have either been completed or are currently ongoing.

"In the health sector, the Delhi Government approved 25 major projects at the cost of Rs 4,452.72 crores which includes the construction of various new hospitals and Intensive Care Units. These projects will increase the number of hospital beds up to 20,000 in the national capital. These hospitals and ICUs with state-of-the-art facilities will make quality healthcare services more accessible to the people of Delhi. Most of these projects have either been completed or are currently ongoing," he stated.

"In PWD, the Government approved 26 major projects at the cost of Rs 6,409.33 crore which include streetscaping projects in the pilot phase, construction of double-decker flyovers between Bhajanpura-Yamuna vihar and Azadpur-Rani Jhansi Road, flyovers at Shastri Park, Asharam to DND flyway, ANVT to Apsara Border, at Nagari and Gagan Cinema Junction and construction of flyover and elevated corridor at Loni Chowk."

City Govt's proposal to outsource pvt diagnostic, lab services approved

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing grave reservations on an obvious attempt at private outsourcing of Diagnostic Services in Delhi Government Hospitals, rather than strengthening them, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday gave his nod to a proposal of the Arvind Kejriwal Government to outsource private diagnostic and lab services to Mohalla Clinics to three private players as a fait accompli presented to him.

The LG in his noting on file has also brought to the fore that despite the number of Mohalla Clinics rising to 519 from 450 in 2022, the number of patients being treated at Mohalla Clinics had come down from 3416 patients per month per Mohalla Clinic in 2021 to 1824 patients in 2022. Even as the number of patients came down, the number of tests being prescribed rose from 6,30,978 per month in 2021 to 9,30,000 tests per month in 2022.

The Delhi Cabinet, on July 28, decided to outsource private diagnostic services to government-run health facilities, hospitals, dispensaries, polyclinics and health camps, including PUHCs, similar to the arrangement that has been in vogue at mohalla clinics since December 30, 2019.

The Cabinet also selected three private vendors for providing specialised diagnostic services government hospitals and mohalla clinics. On December 12, 2022, the Kejriwal government wrote to the L-G seeking his approval to outsourcing private diagnostic and laboratory services to government hospitals and mohalla clinics. After giving his nod to the proposal, the L-G slammed the AAP government for not sending the file to him earlier.

"Caught on a wrong footing, due to an obvious lapse of not having taken a decision on time, and even after deciding way back in August 2022, not sending the file to LG for concurrence, the AAP and its Ministers, specifically Manish Sisodia indulged in characteristic gimmickry.

Even while no decision had been taken, they kept announcing things in the media and to avoid embarrassment, after sending the file to LG on December 12, 2022, Sisodia wrote a letter to LG on December 24, 2022, in just 08 working days, requesting clearance of the file," Raj Niwas said in a statement.

The instant proposal to extend outsourced Diagnostic Services to a higher level to Government facilities through extension counters of private bidders, who have already won the contracts to do so, is prima facie admission that Government Hospitals/facilities run by the State Government have failed on



the parameters of something as basic as pathological and Diagnostic testing.

"While such a decision on the part of the Governments in remote places, that lack facilities in term of physical infrastructure and trained medical professionals in the sector, would have made sense, it obviously does not meet the requirements of a rational decision in the Capital of the country, owing to the fact that Government Hospitals/facilities in Delhi run by Delhi Government, as often claimed by the them itself, are replete with ample physical infrastructure in terms of building, space, machinery and equipment as indeed medical professionals of highest caliber," it stated.

Suggesting the alternate to method to strengthen the health facilities in the city, the L-G advised the Delhi Government that instead of outsourcing to the private players to strengthen and augment capacities of the Government Hospitals/facilities to the extent, that they became enabled to provide Labs/Diagnostic services to the Mohalla Clinics, instead of the other way around as is being proposed through the instant Cabinet Decision, it said.

Hitting out at the government, the L-G said the government has failed to provide pathological and diagnostic testing at government hospitals in the national capital.

"Doing so is prima facie admission that Government Hospitals/facilities run by the State Government have failed on the parameters of something as basic as pathological and Diagnostic testing.

While such a decision on the part of the Governments in remote places, that lack facilities in terms of physical infrastructure and trained medical professionals in the Government sector, would have made sense, it obviously does not meet the requirements of a rational decision in the Capital of the country, owing to the fact that Government Hospitals/facilities in Delhi run by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD), as often claimed by the Government itself, are replete with ample physical infrastructure in terms of building, space, machinery and equipment as indeed medical professionals of the highest calibre," the statement read further.

It's our resolution to raze landfill sites, make city clean, beautiful: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Shelly Oberoi and Aale Mohammad Iqbal, AAP candidates for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi mayor and deputy mayor posts, filed their nominations, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia took them to the Okhla landfill sites on Wednesday.

After visiting the site, the Sisodia said he would personally monitor the work to clear the landfill site and visit the garbage dumping sites every week to take stock of the situation. "Working towards removing the mountains of garbage from Delhi, I visited Okhla landfill sites today along with AAP's mayor and deputy mayor candidates. It is our resolution to raze down these landfill sites and make the city clean and beautiful. I will visit all three landfill sites every week and will personally monitor the work," he tweeted.

Sisodia, along with Oberoi



and Iqbal, conducted a detailed assessment of the works going on at the landfill site. He also made several suggestions upon noticing some gaps in the projects and directed the officials to get things back on track soon.

"AAP councillors have started working even before taking oath. We visited the Okhla landfill site and inspected the progress here so far.

"Work needs to speed up and I am hopeful that after January 6, AAP councillors will ensure the same. We need to visit the landfill sites every

week to ensure the height of the garbage mountains reduce," Sisodia added. During the visit to the site, the Deputy Chief Minister said that currently the work of clearing the landfill sites is going at a slow pace and we need double the speed to achieve our goals.

"From now onwards, I will inspect these landfill sites every week and monitor the work being done closely. As soon as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor take oath the speed of the clearing process will be doubled," he added. Sisodia further said that the number of waste

disposal machines will be increased at the landfill site to expedite the work. "Along with that, regular inspections at these sites will also give a boost to the work. So far, the previous government had only deceived the people of Delhi in the name of removing these sites." He said that the previous MCD government didn't prioritise clearing the landfill sites and that the AAP is ready with its "action plan" to flatten the garbage mountains.

Taking a dig at the BJP -- that was in power in the MCD for three consecutive terms -- Sisodia said it will not take 15 years for the AAP to clear the landfill sites. "It will not take us 15 years to clear the landfill sites. BJP was in power for 15 years in the MCD and yet it couldn't do anything about the garbage mountains. We will also install more machines at every landfill site to pace up the work. Our efforts will bring respite to the residents living nearby," he said.

Coal, unclean fuels banned in NCR cities to keep air healthy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a tough stand against pollution arising out of emissions from heavily polluting fuels like coal, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Wednesday reminded industries that the use of coal (except coal with low sulphur in thermal power plants) and other unapproved fuels is banned in the entire National Capital Region.

The ban on heavily polluting fuels like coal, Light Diesel Oil (LDO) and Naptha in NCR will come into effect on January 1, 2023. The agency said that it will impose a fine on industries found using unapproved fuels.

"Use of unapproved fuels w.e.f. 01st January, 2023 to straight away lead to closure along with imposition of heavy EC (Environmental Compensation) since adequate

time has been given to shift to cleaner fuels," CAQM said. The Flying Squad of the CAQM are under instructions to conduct incognito visits to ensure compliance of Directions regarding use of approved fuels in the entire NCR.

Firewood and biomass briquettes can be used for religious purposes and cremation, wood or bamboo charcoal can be used for tandoors and grills of hotels, restaurants, banquet halls (with emission control system) and open eateries or dhabas. The use of wood charcoal for cloth ironing is allowed, the CAQM said in a statement.

"Violations and non-compliance of the directions issued by the Commission including use of unapproved fuels will straight away lead to closure apart from imposing Environmental Compensation

(EC) and initiating prosecution action against the defaulters flouting the statutory directions," the Commission said. The commission had in June issued directions to ban the use of coal in industrial, domestic and other miscellaneous applications in the entire Delhi-NCR region from January 1, 2023.

Around 1.7 million tonnes of coal is used annually in industrial applications in NCR, with about 1.4 million tonnes being consumed in six major industrial districts alone. The panel had earlier invited suggestions from general public and experts in field to find a permanent solution to air pollution problem in Delhi-NCR.

A large number of suggestions were related to banning of coal. The CAQM then constituted an expert group to examine and deliberate upon all such suggestions and proposals.

'4L senior citizens' pension withheld due to Centre's non-payment of share'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Petitions Committee of the Delhi Legislative Assembly on Wednesday said pensions of 4,26,058 senior citizens have been withheld in the national Capital due to Centre's non-payment of its meagre share and the Finance Department's arbitrary road-blocks.

"Committee has learnt that out of the pension amount of Rs 2,000 given to the elderly, some 1,11,361 people get a share of Rs 200 from the central government and Rs 1,800 from Delhi Government," Chairman of the Petition Committee, Saurabh Bhardwaj said.

Bhardwaj further said, "For the last one and a half years, Centre has not been giving its share of Rs 200 for the pension of the elderly, there is a constant delay of 2-3 months in the pen-



sion of the elderly on part of the Finance Department because of the non payment of Central contribution of Rs 200."

The Petitions Committee of Delhi Legislative Assembly had summoned officials of the Finance Department and Social Welfare Department today; we have directed them to find a permanent solution to the problem immediately," MLA Shri Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Even before the festival of Diwali, the Petitions Committee had instructed the officials to immediately clear the pension of senior citizens that had been held up for 2-3 months."

"The file on pensions keeps going back and forth between the Social Welfare Department and the Finance Department and due to the non-payment of the due share by the Centre.

not been giving its share of Rs 200 for the pension of the elderly, there is a constant delay of 2-3 months in the pension of the elderly on part of the Finance Department because of the missing Rs 200. The Petitions Committee of Delhi Legislative Assembly had summoned officials of the Finance Department and Social Welfare Department today; we have directed them to find a permanent solution to the problem immediately," MLA Shri Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Even before the festival of Diwali, the Petitions Committee had instructed the officials to immediately clear the pension of senior citizens that had been held up for 2-3 months."

"The file on pensions keeps going back and forth between the Social Welfare Department and the Finance Department and due to the non-payment of the due share by the Centre.

Over 100 flights were delayed and two were diverted at Delhi's IGI Airport

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Severe cold conditions and dense fog continued across northern India on Wednesday, disrupting the schedules of flights and trains.

Over 100 flights were delayed and two were diverted at Delhi's India Gandhi International Airport due to dense fog early on Wednesday morning when the visibility



Labourers wrapped in woolens walk down the Kartavya Path during a cold and foggy morning, in New Delhi

dropped to less than 50 metres.

Flights and trains were cancelled, delayed, or rescheduled in several places including Delhi, Amritsar, Jammu, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Patna, Gwalior, and Kanpur. According to the IMD, cold conditions abated slightly in Delhi on Wednesday, though the relief is predicted to be short lived.

"All airports in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh only have shallow fog. Chandigarh also reported shallow fog.

"However, Pathankot, Jammu and Amritsar have dense fog today (Wednesday)," the IMD said.

According to Delhi air-

port, non-compliance with CAT-III standards was another reason for flight delays.

While landing and take-offs are continuing at Delhi airport, flights that are not CAT-III compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for the updated flight information," officials said.

According to northern railways, 14 trains to Delhi were reported running late due to dense to very dense fog in other areas.

Meteorologists attributed the spell of cold wave and below-normal day temperatures in northwest India to frigid north westerly winds.

Road accidents down by 8.1% in 2021: Report



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Road accidents decreased by 8.1 per cent and injuries by 14.8 per cent in the country in 2021, compared to 2019.

According to the annual report of road accidents released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Wednesday, a total of 4,12,432 road accidents occurred in 2021 calendar year which claimed 1,53,972 lives while 3,84,448 people injured.

Earlier this year the National Crime Records Bureau data under the 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India - 2021' had reported over 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes across India in 2021 which comes to an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour. Besides the deaths, NCRB reported 3.71 lakh people were injured in 4.03 lakh 'road accidents' across the country last year. According to the MoRTH report, in 2020, the country saw an unprecedented decrease in accidents, fatalities and injuries.

This was due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and resultant stringent nationwide lockdown particularly during March-April, 2020 followed by gradual unlocking and phasing out of the containment measures. As per the NCRB reports released in September this year, in 2020, the year of

COVID-19 lockdowns, there were 3.54 lakh road accidents in the country in which 1.33 lakh persons had died while another 3.35 lakh were injured, according to the data.

In 2019, there were 4.37 lakh road accidents in which 1.54 lakh people had died while another 4.39 lakh were injured, the data showed. The MoRTH report titled 'Road accidents in India -- 2021', said major indicators related with accidents have performed better in 2021 when compared to 2019. "Fatalities, however, on account of road accidents increased by 1.9 per cent in 2021 corresponding to the same period in 2019," it said.

The report is based on the data/information received from police departments of states/Union Territories collected on calendar year basis in standardized formats as provided by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) base project. "India is committed to bring down fatalities caused by road accidents.

As the road accidents are multi-causal which requires multi-pronged measures to mitigate problems through concerted efforts of all agencies of both Central Government and State Governments.

Authorisation certificates for car dealers introduced to check malpractices



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has introduced authorisation certificates for the dealers of registered vehicles to identify the authenticity of a dealer, a move that will promote ease of doing business and transparency. The new rules will come into force with effect from April 1, 2023.

MoRTH in a notification issued on Wednesday, has amended chapter III of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 to build a comprehensive regulatory ecosystem for the pre-owned car market aiming to ensure transparency in the sale and purchase of registered vehicles through dealers.

According to changes proposed by the MoRTH, an authorisation certificate for the dealers of registered vehicles has been introduced to identify the authenticity of a dealer. The changes have been

proposed keeping in mind the fact that in the current ecosystem, many issues are being faced during transfer of vehicle to subsequent transferee, disputes related to third party damage liabilities and difficulty in determination of defaulter. Dealers have been empowered to apply for renewal of registration certificate and renewal of certificate of fitness, duplicate registration certificate, NOC, transfer of ownership, of motor vehicles in their possession.

As a regulatory measure, maintenance of an electronic vehicle trip register has been mandated which would contain details of the trip undertaken related to trip purpose, driver, time, mileage etc. These rules will help in recognising and empowering intermediaries and dealers of registered vehicles as well as providing adequate safeguards against fraudulent activities to the selling or purchasing of such vehicles, official sources said.

Kharge says society being divided by hate, slams BJP

'India progressed due to Cong's approach of inclusion and taking everyone along'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Congress president M Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday attacked the Government, saying the fundamentals of India are being constantly attacked and the society is being "divided by hate".

Addressing party leaders and workers at the 138th foundation day of the Congress at the AICC headquarters, Kharge said the people of the country are being hit by price rise and unemployment but the government is not bothered. He also said India progressed due to Congress' approach of inclusion and taking everyone along.

Delivering his maiden speech as the grand old party's non-Gandhi party chief after decades, Kharge said India not only emerged as a successful and strong democracy but within a few decades it became a super power in economic, nuclear and strategic areas.

"It is among the top nations of the world in agriculture, education, medical, IT and services sector. This did not happen on its own. This happened



ters. "I am proud that I am a part of such an organisation which chose path of truth, non-violence and struggle in every situation and always took every step in public interest," Rahul Gandhi tweeted sharing a video of pictures of previous Congress foundation days during the freedom struggle.

Noting that other nations also got independence along with India, he said dictators wrested power in many of them. Kharge noted that India progressed as Congress displayed courage to free poor, oppressed and Dalits of their thousands of years of fetters and honestly worked towards taking freedom to everyone and taking them forward. The Congress president said it was during freedom struggle that party passed Karachi resolution in which planning committee for India's Constitution was set up to formulate blueprint of its basic structure.

due to Congress' faith in democracy and our inclusive ideology of taking everyone along and due to our full faith in the Constitution that gives equal rights and opportunities to all," he told the gathering which included former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi who is leading Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"The fundamentals of India are being constantly attacked. The society is being divided by hate, people are hit by price rise and unemployment but the government is not bothered," he charged after unfurling the party's flag at AICC headquar-

'Naxalite Op in Gadchiroli has suffered setback due to Surajgarh mines project'

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday said the Naxalite movement in Gadchiroli district has declined since the Surajgarh iron ore mines project became operational.

Speaking during Question Hour in the Legislative Council, the chief minister assured that local people would be given jobs in the project on a priority basis.

"Since the project was operationalized, the Naxalite movement in the district has slowed down," he said, replying to a question by Jayant Patil, Ramdas Ambatkar and Abhijeet Wanjari.

The project, started in 1993, was stalled due to Naxalite activities for some time, but when he became guardian minister of Gadchiroli he instructed the police to crack down on the Naxalites in the area, he said. The project has been now resumed and the



company management has been instructed to give preference to locals in jobs, the chief minister said.

"Now, more than five thousand locals have been given employment in this project. A training center will be set up to train them for skilled work....A security academy will also be started," Shinde said.

The government has received a revenue of Rs 342 crore from the project, he informed. Answering a related question, Minister for Mining Dadaji Bhuse said that 56 lakh tonnes of minerals have been extracted from the project.

Draft norms for ranking of cities on aesthetics, financial happiness out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Wednesday released the draft guidelines for a new ranking system of cities based on financial performance and beautification. The competition is aimed at identifying and promoting financially happy cities and improving municipal finances.

Through an all-India finance ranking, the ministry will track the financial performance and capacity of cities to encourage urban local bodies to improve performance. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri released the draft guidelines for a new ranking system of cities based on financial performance and beautification. The cities have until January 15 to submit their comments before the guidelines are finalised and issued by January 30.

"India has embarked on the most ambitious plan for urban rejuvenation undertaken anywhere in the world. A healthy sense of competition gives the best performing cities a sense of pride," he said at the launch event. According to Manoj Joshi, Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, it is also an effort to analyse and help the ULBs in identifying



areas in their financial performance where they can make further improvements, to be able to deliver quality infrastructure and services, and hence a good quality of life to its citizens.

"The city finance rankings will evaluate and assess each participating ULB on 15 indicators and metrics across three key municipal finance criteria which, put together, will help in identifying the most financially sustainable and accountable cities," he said.

"Robust finances of ULBs are crucial for realising the vision of ULBs as a viable third tier of government and capitalising on the potential that cities represent for growth and development. Currently, municipal revenues in India are less than one per cent of the GDP, with high dependence on inter-governmental transfers, and own revenues accounting for less than half the total revenue of ULBs.

IN SHORT

ED ATTACHES PROPERTIES OF SURANA GROUP

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached jewellery/valuables and cash worth Rs 11.62 crore belonging to various persons linked to Chennai based Surana Group of Companies on money laundering charges linked to three cases of bank fraud involving Rs 3,986 crore of principal outstanding amount to the public sector banks. Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) has also been filed against three Group Companies, Surana Industries Limited, Surana Corporation Limited and Surana Power Limited, two promoters of the companies and three other associated persons. The PMLA Special Court, Chennai has taken cognizance of the Prosecution Complaint.

ED EX-STAFFER'S ₹1.8 CR PROPERTY ATTACHED

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has attached assets worth Rs 1.88 crore of a former cleaning assistant working with the Odisha Government on money laundering charges. The properties belong to Lingaraj Jena, the former 'safai mohareer' (cleaning assistant), posted in the office of the additional sub-collector (settlement) in Puri district. Laundering Act (PMLA) found that Jena "acquired monetary proceeds through indulgence in criminal activities, concealed it and invested the same in the acquisition of various assets."

CPM DEMANDS 5 KG RATION UNDER PMGKAY

New Delhi: The CPI(M) poilt bureau on Wednesday demanded that both the free 5 kg ration under PMGKAY and 5 kg ration at subsidised rates under the FSA should continue. In a statement the party said that the 'free' ration under the 2013 Food Security Act for nearly 2/3rds of people for the year 2023 is an admission that the spectre of hunger stalking the country cannot be overcome otherwise. "This is the truth despite the vociferous denial by Modi Government of the Global Hunger Index describing hunger in India as very serious," said CPI(M).

EAM TO VISIT CYPRUS, AUSTRIA ON DEC 29

New Delhi: India will review the entire spectrum of its bilateral ties with Cyprus and Austria during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to these countries from December 29 to January three. It will be the first visit by an Indian external affairs minister to Austria in the last 27 years. Giving details of his schedule, the ministry of external affairs said here on Wednesday, Jaishankar will first visit Republic of Cyprus from Thursday till Saturday. This year marks 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Cyprus.

To,
1. MANOJ KUMAR
S/o. KARNAL SINGH
House No. 262 Ambekar
Colony, Vill Raipur Sec-
126,Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301

Also at :
Flat No- T-02 1108, Tower- 02,
11th Floor, Rps Auria, Rps City,
Sector-88, Faridabad- 121001.
2. RITU RANI
W/O. MANOJ KUMAR
House No. 262 Ambekar
Colony, Vill Raipur Sec.126,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201301.

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **28/03/2023 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

FROM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road,
Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY
& APPEARANCE BY
PUBLICATION
Dated:- 26.12.2022
Summons to defendants under
Section 19(3) of the Recovery
of Debts due to Banks and
Financial Institution Act, 1993
read with Rules 12 and 13 of
the Debts Recovery Tribunal
(Procedure) Rules, 1993.
Original Application No. 817
of 2022
ICICI Bank Ltd.
V/s.
Vinay Mishra & Others

To,
1. Vinay Mishra
S/o. Sri Parmatma Nand Mishra
COM R/o. P-111, Sector-11, Metro
Hospital, Noida (U.P.)- 201301
...Defendant No. 1.
2. Mishu Vinay Kumar Mishra
W/o. Shri. Vinay Mishra, R/o. P-
111, Sector-11, Metro Hospital,
Noida (U.P.)- 20130
...Defendant No. 2.
3. M/s. Soni Infratech Pvt. Ltd.
Having its registered office at-
517 A, 5th Floor, Narain Manzil,
23, Barakhamba Road,
Connaught Place, New Delhi-
110001 Through its Director
...Defendant No. 3.

In the above noted Original application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorised agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **18/05/2023 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal,
Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE					
		Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara 390007 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051			
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Block C-1, 19th Floor World Trade Tower, Sector-16, Noida -201301					
A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.					
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Out-standing as on Date of Notice	NPA Date	
1.	LADEL00036157620/ Punit Thakur/ B-27 Anand Vihar, Delhi-110092	BREZZA/ VDI O/ DL8CAR7526	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,48,288.7/-	18-08-2021	
2.	LAFDB00037206750/ Tulsi Ram Shukla/ H No B 323 Dabua Colony, Faridabad-121001	EECO/ 5 STR WITH AC PLUS HTR/ HR87A6700	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,69,627.6/-	11-06-2021	
3.	LUXBA00041968598/ Satbir Singh Rathee/ S/ O Amar Singh H No-155 Sarai/ Aurangabad 44/ Bahadurgarh Jhajjar Haryana, Bahadurgarh-124507	SWIFT/ LXII/ HR13Q7134	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,08,717/-	13-07-2021	
4.	LUDEL00041507915/ Gajendra Singh/ A2/ 538 Main Subhash Kansal Marg/ Harsh Vihar Mandoli North East/ Delhi, Delhi-110093	SWIFT/ VXI/ DL5CE8339	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.3,17,497/-	07-07-2021	
5.	LADEL00036500756/ Aman Kaushik/ Saroj Bala/ H No 1/ 6599/ Gali No 5 East Rohtas Nagar/ Shahdra, Delhi-110032	GRAND I10/ MAGNA 1.2/ DL7CM9524	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,72,075.3/-	31-01-2021	
6.	LAFDB00038888509/ Sanjeev Kumar/ H No 276 Village/ Ankhir Tanwar Mohalla/ Badi Chopal, Faridabad-121012	Swift/ VDI/ HR87C2611	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,85,625/-	14-10-2021	
7.	LUGHZ00042757895/ Shivani Kapoor/ Anju Kapoor/ Plot No-1c 258 Shalimar Garden Extn-2/ Sahibabad Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201005	CITY/ VX/ HR51E0068	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.5,61,433/-	07-03-2022	
8.	LADEL00039376616/ Rajeev Kumar Choudhary/ Flat, No-1194, 3rd Floor Flr, Pkt-gh1, Sector-28/ Rohini, Delhi-110042	XCENT/ VTVT S/ DL12C7104	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,97,778/-	28-08-2021	
9.	LADEL00037123350/ Avdhesh Kumar Saxena/ Qtr No-230/ 04 Me Line Cod Delhi Cant, Delhi-110010	Wagon R 1.0/ LXi CNG/ DL5CP6534	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,54,109/-	31-08-2020	
10.	LADEL00041174218/ Krishan Kumar/ Pandwal Khurd/ Najafgarh/ South West Delhi, Delhi-110043	Xcent/ VTVT SX/ HR55AH8170	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.4,09,678/-	09-10-2021	
11.	SPDEL00041546334/ Amit Kumar Dwivedi/ 1738 1st Floor Haweli Sher Singh Bazar/ Kotla Mubarakpur Lodhi Road/ Delhi, Delhi-110003	MARUTI SWIFT DZIRE VXI (O)/ THUNDER BIRD/ DL2CAW8298	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.4,32,433/-	06-12-2021	
12.	LANOD00041229708/ Rajpal Singh/ House No-0b-25 First Floor Gali No-2/ Hinden Vihar Sector-49, Noida-201301	ALTO/ LXII/ UP16CL4801	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,37,718.3/-	05-09-2021	
13.	LUDEL00036890060/ Preeti Agarwal/ House No-bh-615 C, East Shali Mar Bagh/ Delhi, Delhi-110088	SWIFT DZIRE/ ZDI/ DL6CM9214	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.3,37,639/-	31-01-2021	
14.	LADEL00037123779/ Kanti Kumar Jha/ A-1/ 229 Ff Block A Pkt -1 Sector -17/ Rohini Delhi, Delhi-110085	DATSUN/ REDI GO-T (O)/ DL8CAT6378	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,32,996/-	30-09-2019	
15.	LADEL00037303523/ Ravindra Pal/ 715 Rajapur/ Ghaziabad Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201001	WAGON R/ LXI CNG/ UP14DQ9902	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,66,316/-	31-07-2021	
16.	LADEL00037580247/ Yash Pal/ H No-158 Gali No-07/ Near Shiv Mandir/ Dheerpur Gaon, Delhi-110009	WAGON R/ LXI CNG/ DL8CAU7008	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,35,595/-	14-06-2021	
17.	LADEL00037591573/ Jagdish/ HNo-C 25 Satiyawati Colony Ashok Vihar/ Phase 3 North West Delhi/ Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052	EECO/ GREEN 5S -AC/ DL8CAU5325	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,54,397/-	31-01-2021	
18.	LAFDB00037653810/ Richa Garg/ H.no-651 Nangla Enclave/ Part-2 Nit Faridabad, Faridabad-121005	WAGON R/ LXI CNG/ HR51BT1932	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,95,896/-	02-12-2020	
19.	LAGHZ00037649106/ Jitener Arora/ Meenu Arora/ H No 101 / 01 Balaji Enclave/ Sangam Vihar Free Hold Gzb, Ghaziabad-201001	KUV 100/ K2 6STR PETROL/ UP14DS5491	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,85,172/-	31-01-2021	
20.	LADEL00037687533/ Raj Kumar/ 5/ 26 Gali No 5 Loni Road/ Shahdara Shahdara Jagjeevan/ Nagar Shahdara, Delhi-110093	I-10 GRAND/ SPORTZ DSL/ DL5CQ1041	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.3,07,476/-	14-06-2021	
21.	LADEL00041748673/ Sameed Khan/ Flat No-72 Plot No-111/ Cghs Azad/ Co Operative Ip Extension, Delhi-110092	Swift/ VXI AMT/ DL2CBB5414	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.4,95,039/-	24-01-2021	
22.	LADEL00038950405/ Ruby Naaz/ Arif Khan/ V-197/ 1 A Gali No.15 A/ Near Durga Medical/ Store Shiv Sadhna Mandir Vijay Park, Delhi-110053	CIAS/ DELTA/ DL2CBA0157	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.6,00,378/-	03-05-2021	
23.	LADEL00040954383/ Gunish Kumar/ Flat No-101 H No-a- 1/ 82 G/ Floor Gali 03/ Rajapur Near Sunil Dairy Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059	DASTUN GO PLUS/ REDI GO-T (O)/ DL9CAS4374	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.3,03,650/-	31-01-2021	
24.	LADEL00041449901/ Joginder Singh/ House No 1194 Khasra/ No 135/ 20 Gali No 33 B Block/ Sant Nagar Burari, Delhi-110084	SWIFT DZIRE/ TOUR/ HR55AH3823	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,86,615/-	11-05-2021	
25.	LUFDB00041795002/ Sahid Mohammad/ Shyam Colony Part 1 Sehatpur Faridabad, Faridabad-121003	SWIFT/ VDI/ DL3CBC9159	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.1,75,288/-	13-07-2021	
26.	LUGUR00041977176/ Sanjay Singh/ Gh-23 Flat No 104 Prash Scoeity Sector-1, Gurgaon-122051	POLO/ Highline1.5L (D)/ PB09V8815	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,56,188/-	06-09-2021	
27.	LUDEL00042142420/ Javed Akhlag/ 2724/ S/ F Pahari Bhojla Hinduwara/ Turkman Gate Delhi, Delhi-110006	EECO/ 7 STR/ DL6CR0403	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.2,04,122/-	11-03-2021	
28.	LAFDB00041752831/ Amit Kumar/ H No-33 Gali No-1/ Near Bohra Public School/ Bhagat Singh Colony, Faridabad-121004	Baleno/ Sigma 1.2/ HR29AV6286	25/ 06/ 2022 Rs.3,47,954/-	29-03-2021	
29.	LAGHZ00037526179/ Sunil Kumar/ Anil Kumar/ 387 Gali No-1 Kailash Nagar/ Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201001	WAGON R/ VXI AMT/ UP14DR3133	08/ 07/ 2022 Rs.3,11,614/-	28-02-2021	
30.	LADEL00037265962/ Imran/ H No-259-260 Village Nangloi Nangloi Jat/ Near Nangloi Railway Fatak Gali No-3/ Pnb Atm Wali Gali, Delhi-110041	VITARA BREZZA/ VDI/ DL4CAY0397	26/ 07/ 2022 Rs.3,34,950/-	31-08-2021	
31.	LUGHZ00035532028/ Rajesh Kumar Gupta/ G 799 Nayay Khand 3 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201010	SWIFT DZIRE/ VDI/ DL3CCF1245	26/ 07/ 2022 Rs.1,98,449.3/-	31-01-2021	
32.	LADEL00035847016/ Om Prakash Pandey/ 177 Ranholla Ext-1 Nangloi West Delhi/ Near Mother Dairy, Delhi-110041	ALTO 800/ LXII/ DL9CAN2491	26/ 07/ 2022 Rs.1,19,893.9/-	13-01-2022	
33.	LAGHZ00038614369/ Saima Malik/ Maharuddeen./ 140 Near Markaj Masjid Kaila Bhatta Gzb, Ghaziabad-201001	TIGOR/ 1.2 REVOTRON XE/ UP14DY7938	26/ 07/ 2022 Rs.2,90,852/-	04-11-2021	
34.	LAGHZ00039463233/ Mehboob./ 196, Kaila Bhatta Gzb, Ghaziabad-201001	Wagon R 1.0/ ZXI 1.2L/ UP14EB7636	26/ 07/ 2022 Rs.1,45,456/-	31-12-2020	
35.	LADEL00041004242/ Shuvender Lohia/ 6/ 121 Jharera Gaon Moradabad/ Pahari Delhi, Delhi-110010	Verna/ 1.6 CRDI SX (O) AT/ HR26EH8824	04/ 08/ 2022 Rs.7,54,043/-	30-06-2021	
36.	LAGUR00041257921/ Suman Lata/ 1113 1st Sector 10 A/ Gurgaon, Gurgaon-122001	VENUE/ 1.2 KAPPA/ HR26EF5309	04/ 08/ 2022 Rs.5,01,637/-	08-02-2022	
37.	LADEL00042304507/ Pradeep Kumar Kaushik/ House N0-2721/ 13, Gali 13, Ranjeet Nagar/ Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008	Fortuner/ 3.0 4x2 AT/ HP12N0027	05/ 08/ 2022 Rs.30,08,683/-	11-05-2022	
38.	LADEL00040503335/ Pradeep Kumar Kaushik/ House N0-2721/ 13, Gali 13, Ranjeet Nagar/ Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008	Erigar/ SMART HYBRID VXII/ DL9CAS2513	05/ 08/ 2022 Rs.8,67,853/-	11-05-2022	
39.	LADEL00040686854/ Pradeep Kumar Kaushik/ House N0-2721/ 13, Gali 13, Ranjeet Nagar/ Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008	Polio/ HIGHLINE/ DL8CAY6663	05/ 08/ 2022 Rs.8,46,563/-	11-05-2022	
40.	SPSNP00036988162/ Kanya Kumari Enterprises/ Kanya Kumari Enterprises/ D-1362 New Subzi Mandi Azadpur, Delhi-110033	I 20 ELITE/ MAGNA 1.2 / DL8CAL0959	04/ 11/ 2022 Rs.3,50,505/-	31-03-2020	
The above borrower/ s and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/ s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/ s. 13 (2) as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002					
Date : December 29, 2022				Sd/- Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited	
Place : Delhi NCR					

CPM-Cong friendship opportunistic: Manik

PTI ■ AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Wednesday asserted that people of the State do not like coming closer of the CPI(M) and the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections, and claimed that the BJP will have an edge over the two.

Saha's assertion came a day after six parties including the CPI(M) and the Congress issued a joint statement asking the "peace-loving" people of the northeastern state to raise their voice in favour of "restoration of democracy, re-establishment of the rule of law and conducting free and fair election".

The BJP-IPFT alliance had swept the 2018 Tripura



Assembly polls winning a two-third majority in the 60-member House, ending the 25-year-long Left rule in the state. "It is an opportunist understanding. Earlier, the love between the two parties (CPI(M) and Congress) was a secret affair and now it came to the fore. People are not taking it positively," Saha said.

The CPI(M) and the Congress have not learnt a lesson from West Bengal where they had contested polls jointly against the Trinamool

UP cities hosting G-20 to get facelift

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Using G-20 meetings as an opportunity to put Uttar Pradesh in the global map, the State Government has decided to give a facelift to the cities where the meetings would be held. Besides, G-20 Park would be set up in Lucknow.

Directives in this regard were issued by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a high-level meeting held here on Wednesday.

"India has been bestowed the honour of presiding over the G-20 group of leading nations of the world. This global event has brought immense possibilities for Uttar Pradesh. This event is a great platform to introduce 'Brand UP' to the world. We should make the most out of this global event," the chief minister said during the meeting.



Different events are proposed to be held in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, Lucknow, Agra and Greater Noida during the period of one year of G-20 chaired by India.

The chief minister said arrangements should be made according to the standard of security of foreign visitors. He said necessary arrangements should also be made regarding medical emergencies, traffic etc and the guests should be introduced to the diverse food cuisines available in Uttar Pradesh.

Mystery shrouds suicide by 3 girl students in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mystery shrouds suicide bid by four girl students of a college in Sitapur within a week in which three of the victims died while only one survived.

The local police claimed that all the victims ended their lives for personal reasons. Surprisingly, the families also did not lodge any report with the police in this regard and cremated the bodies without autopsy of the victims. They later sought action in the matter.

Reports said that all the girl students, including three who ended their lives, were from Kamlapur police station area of Sitapur. The first incident took place on December 10, when Pavani Yadav of Shivpuri village, a Class 12 student of Raja Bahadur Dr Surya Baksh Singh Inter College, Kamlapur, com-



mitted suicide by hanging herself.

The father of the deceased girl claimed that Rahul Yadav, who used to set up a grocery stall on the way to school, harassed his daughter and used to "torture" her for marriage, due to which she committed suicide. He cremated the body without informing the police but now he wants action in the matter. The police registered a case against Rahul Yadav, a resident of Kursinpuwa, under section 306/354, 7/8 POCSO Act and sent him to jail.

Five jail warders suspended for thrashing colleague



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five jail warders in the Rae Bareilly district jail have been suspended after a 42-second video clip showing them thrashing their colleague with sticks went viral on social media.

Director General (Prisons) Anand Kumar said that the five jail warders had been suspended for indiscipline and District Jail Superintendent Avinash Gautam had been asked to probe the incident.

Those suspended are Vijay Singh, Saurabh Verma, Parvesh Singh, Rajeev Shukla and Jaswant Tomar.

Adhir begins Bengal version of Bharat Jodo Yatra



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Pradesh Congress President Adhir Chowdhury on Wednesday commenced the State's own version of Bharat Jodo Yatra which started from the Ganga Sagar Islands and will end at Kurseong in Darjeeling district on January 23, the 105th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Alleging that the

Trinamool Congress leaders too had been invited to join the Yatra which was a mark of nationalism but they kept out of it Chowdhury said Congress was doing its own job others were doing their own.

"Our national leader Rahul Gandhi ji had invited the TMC MPs to join the Yatra which is a mark of nationalism ... but they preferred to ignore the call to unite the nation," Chowdhury said.

Darjeeling TMC leader Tamang quits party

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA



In a big blow to the ruling Trinamool Congress in Darjeeling and the adjoining Doars region influential leader and former Gorkhaland Territorial Administration chairman Benoy Tamang on Wednesday quit the Bengal ruling party accusing it of promoting corruption and failing to address the main Gorkhaland issue.

"I am quitting the TMC with immediate effect for a number of reasons ... the main reason is that despite so many years the main issue of Gorkhaland has not been addressed ... besides entire Bengal and particularly Darjeeling and the adjoining Dooars-Terrain region have been plagued by corruption

... the common people are the main victims of this raging corruption where jobs are being sold and poor men's houses are being grabbed by those in power, Tamang said.

"Appealing to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee," Tamang said "I would like the Chief Minister to take note of the situation and act now before it is too late."

Tamang was a senior leader of Gurkha Janmukti Morcha before falling out of its chief Bimal Gurung. He then joined TMC and was made the chairman (administrator) of the GTA.

Five members of family burnt alive in Mau blaze



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, five members of a family, including a woman and four minors, were charred alive after fire broke out in their house in Mau late on Tuesday night.

Initial reports suggested that the fire was sparked by a bonfire which the family kept burning to fight the cold.

The incident took place in Shahpur village of Mau.

J&K peaceful; does Rahul want to create disturbance: Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Does Rahul Gandhi want to vitiate the atmosphere in Kashmir, Union minister Anurag Thakur asked on Wednesday about the Congress' plans to unfurl the tricolour in the Valley and stressed that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly under the Modi government.

An estimated 1.6 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir in one year, which is a record in itself, the minister told reporters.

"Now tourists can visit every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. This shows that the situation has improved in Jammu and Kashmir. There are no stone pelting incidents. Does Rahul Gandhi want to go there to spoil the atmosphere?"

"Today, anyone can unfurl the tricolour in any part of Jammu and Kashmir because the Narendra Modi government has ended Article 370 and Article 35A in J&K," he added.

Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started in Kanyakumari in September, is

scheduled to end in Kashmir next month.

Thakur reminded him of the Ekta Yatra undertaken in 1992 by then BJP president Murli Manohar Joshi and Narendra Modi, who had unfurled the national tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar.



Union Minister Anurag Thakur unveils official Government of India calendar for 2023

सूरा सो पहिचानीऐ जु लरै दीन के हेत ॥
पुरजा पुरजा कटि मरै कबहू न छाडै खेतु ॥

Greetings on the Parkash Utsav of SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI

December 29, 2022

"I bow to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji on the pious occasion of his Parkash Purab. His was a life devoted to creating a just and inclusive society. He was unwavering when it came to upholding his principles. We also recall his courage and sacrifices."

- Narendra Modi

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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Zero responsibility

Punjab under AAP has transitioned from a ‘debt-stressed’ to ‘debt-trapped’ state

Thanks to the Aam Aadmi Party’s political recklessness, nine out of ten electricity consumers are not paying their bills. According to a news report, while 90.07 per cent domestic consumers get a ‘zero bill,’ 97.9 per cent people in the state will avail of some kind of subsidy on power in December. At any time, fiscal profligacy is undesirable; but when fiscal and revenue deficits are soaring, pleasing people with such decisions is downright egregious. A group of prominent economists from Punjab have informed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that the state has transitioned over the years from being “debt-stressed” to “debt-trapped.” The deficits, they pointed out, have destroyed developmental institutions and derailed the process of development despite three decades of peaceful governance by the elected governments. Fiscal policy has turned dysfunctional, read the letter. This has generated a typical crowding out effect on private investment in Punjab, resulting in a slow growth and distorted structure of the economy. The Bhagwant Mann Government was finding it difficult to pay salaries to state employees in September. And yet, the number of zero-bill consumers has been going up! It looks like the AAP regime has exiled commonsense and reason. It would, however, be wrong to single out AAP for criticism for its rash populism; other parties are also guilty of the same. The earlier Congress government in the state, for instance, had made travel free for women in the state-run Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) buses. As a consequence, PRTC is incurring a daily loss of Rs 1 crore.



It is looking at the state Governmen — which is hurtling towards bankruptcy — for succour so that it would release salaries and pensions on time.

As for the Bharatiya Janata Party, it has taken a tough stand against the freebie culture — in principle. In practice, however, it is not far behind its rivals when it comes to distributing freebies. Last week, the Central Government decided to provide free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year, beginning on January 1, 2023. Announcing the decision, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal said that this was a historic decision that reflected the sensitivity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the beneficiaries of welfare schemes. This is likely to cost the public exchequer around Rs 14,000 crore. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander — so goes the saying. In the BJP’s scheme of things, however, when a rival party or leader indulges in mindless populism, it is profligacy, but when BJP leaders do the same thing, it is the consequence of their concern for the poor. Politicians being what they are, not much can be expected from them, but as people of India we should at least stop rewarding those who entice us with freebies.



INS Sharda participates in the Bepore International Water Fest 2022

Financial Emergency

Pakistan’s economy is in shambles. It is facing crisis of debt obligations, falling rupee, and fiscal deficit

Pakistan's economy has hit a rock bottom, its currency is depreciating and foreign debt is mounting putting it in a Sri Lanka-like situation. To deal with this financial emergency Shehbaz Sharif government has resorted to cut government costs to meet ever-rising debt obligations and curb inflation. In a notification issued on December 20, the Cabinet Secretariat called for drastic measures to deal with the “financial calamity of the state” and shortage of funds. In its desperate bid to cut costs it is rationing the fuel for the vehicles used by government officials, restricting their air travel, scrapping leave encashment, and other benefits such as medical bill payments and allowances. These are, however, token steps that might not have a desired effect on the economy as the seriousness of the situation demands some drastic measures. The Pakistani government has failed to pull back the rupee slide against the dollar which has seriously impacted the exporters and put extra pressure on foreign exchange reserves. The slashing of perks and remuneration of government employees would not be sufficient to bail it out from the difficult situation Pakistan is in. It will have to take some tough decisions to bring the economy back on rails like curbing pilferage and leakages, slashing military budget, giving incentives to exporters and facilitating their businesses.



The cash-starved Pakistan received bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in August and has been on the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The IMF approved the disbursement of SDR 894 million (about \$1.1 billion), bringing total purchases for budget support under the arrangement to about \$3.9 billion. Despite that, almost all its economic indicators are showing a negative trend. The devaluation of the rupee has also played a key part in the increase of prices in Pakistan but hasn’t helped much in offsetting its adverse balance of trade. Pakistan's economy has been facing structural inflation. Pakistan is experiencing spiralling high inflation, unemployment, and low profitability. Fiscal mismanagement is hurting the common man the most. The economic meltdown is eroding the Shehbaz Sharif government’s political credibility as well. If Shehbaz Sharif is unable to come up with a viable plan to manage the economy he would be in deep trouble as it may be a great opportunity for Imran Khan to make a comeback by mobilising the popular sentiment.

Budget must boost Farmers’ income

The Government must give priority to the farmers’ in its budgetary allocation as their distress is increasing that cannot be mitigated by cash assistance.

Despite giving huge subsidies to farmers on Agro inputs such as, seeds, fertilizer, electricity and water, majority of farmers are under perennial distress causing suicides and agitations. For all practical purpose, the benefits of these subsidies are enjoyed by consumers and not the farmers. Key impediment is “low sale price of food grain” at farm gate which has adversely affected farmer's income. That can't be resolved by meagre cash assistance of Rs. 6000/- per year.

After independence, India was facing food shortage and hence, the farmers were getting remunerative prices in the open market. In 1950-51, the share of agriculture was 65% in GDP and 56% till 1965. Unlike the modern industrial economy, the majority of trade and services were also dependent upon Agriculture. Considering food shortage, in 1960, PDS was introduced for urban poor and in 1970 and 1980; it was extended to tribal blocks.

Considering population growth and consistent food shortage, the Government pursued farmers to boost production and built irrigation facilities and several fertilizer plants. The Indian Agriculture Research institute was also established. Farmers responded and the Green revolution started in 1965 and White revolution in 1970. Farmers could produce surplus food and save India from the food crisis but their reward is still overdue upon all Indians.

With surplus food production, the market price was gradually softening and the profitability was declining. Majority of private trade channels also diversified to other remunerative businesses. Hence, in 1964, FCI was incorporated and in 1966-67 MSP was introduced; that gave some relief to farmers. In 1992 and 1997, the PDS scheme was widened and thus, PDS procurement was increased.

In FY-2020, under MSP, the Government had procured 23 eligible crops barely 26% by value. This might be below 15% of all crops. Despite this, unsold stock with FCI is about 32.0 million



tons and 24.0 million tons with States. Debt of FCI has exceeded Rs. 4.0 lakh crores incurring huge interest.

Due to prolonged stress, poor farmers can't afford storing and waiting for the remunerative prices and hence; they sell to trade channels at prices much below MSP. In sequel, farmers are demanding a “guaranteed MSP” for the entire produce. Their demand is genuine. But it is not feasible for any Government or FCI to buy entire production.

Considering complexity, the budget should announce an “out of box” scheme“. By which, farmers will get MSP without major fiscal burden. However, the Government should build storage and logistics infrastructures for FCI from budgetary resources. More so, the Government should extend export incentives to FCI and private channels including processing industries. Fiscal burden due to export incentives shall be gradually compensated by cutting down farm input subsidies. FCI must assist farmers for selling to private channels through auction. Floor price must be kept about 93-95% of MSP. FCI should fix quality standards and provide testing facilities to resolve any dispute by purchaser. Unsold stocks

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must be essentially stored by FCI and the cheap loan may be extended to farmers up to 90% of stock value at MSP price. Same can be refinanced by Banks to FCI at SLR rate. Failing which, the farmers shall be compelled to sell at distress price to the trade channel.

“Goods receipt” (GR) may be issued to farmers against stocks with a six month's validity. GR must be tradable in the open market, e-NAM and Commodity exchange. FCI must assist and charge a nominal fee of 0.5% of sale value. Interest and storage charges may be levied @ 9.0% per annum on the stock value. That may be recovered from the ultimate buyer or farmer and balance be remitted to farmers. This will eliminate interest and storage cost of FCI.

Generally, the price of food grain increases till the next crop arrives. Thus, farmers shall get better prices after availing storage facilities. After expiry of GR validity, it shall be deemed for sale to FCI at MSP and FCI may use it for PDS, sell to private channel or export. By this, FCI need not keep separate buffer stock for PDS, as is being done now. Thus, debt burden on FCI shall reduce.



RP GUPTA

By such arrangements, farmers shall certainly get about 95% of MSP on the entire produce. In due course, there are fair chances for farmers getting higher prices. FCI shall also be benefited since; its debt burden and storage cost shall reduce.

At times, due to poor market demand, the stock with FCI might increase. Therefore, FCI must quickly export directly. Government must be liberal in giving export incentives to FCI.

Simultaneously, India must promote food grain processing industries and trade channels near to FCI godown and share logistic infrastructure for exports and onward marketing. Farmers may also pursue crop diversion and adoption of new technologies; that will boost productivity, reduce Agro-imports and enhance farmer's income.

A composite plan will certainly increase farmer's income and fetch rural prosperity. With healthy growth of agriculture, India could be a large exporter also. And Agro GDP in combination with food processing shall surge generating additional GDP, consequential revenue and employment.

(The writer is the author of Turn Around India. Views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SETBACK FOR YOGI ADITYNATH

Sir — It is a setback for chief Minister Yogi Aditynath as the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Tuesday, December 27 quashed the state government's draft notification on urban local body elections and ordered holding the polls without reservation for the OBCs.

The verdict was passed by a division bench of Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Saurav Lavania. The bench quashed the draft notification issued by the Uttar Pradesh government on December 5 for the reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the urban local body elections. The verdict comes on the back of PILs challenging the preparation of the OBC reservation draft without following the triple test formula prescribed by the Supreme Court.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

CALL FOR COVID PREPAREDNESS

Sir — Mock drills are being held in health facilities across several states and union territories in India to ensure readiness to deal with any eventuality related to Covid-19 following an advisory by the central government. The Union Health Minister visited the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi to review the Covid mock drill. While medical experts pointed out that almost all the sub-variants of Omicron found across the world were already circulating in India as well and no alarming situation had emerged, the need for alertness sequencing of existing variants, and surveillance was advised. Additionally, the BE7 variant of COVID-19, is believed to be driving the recent surge in China that was first identified in India as far back as July 2022.

However, given that much of the world has moved to normalcy in terms of travel, the prevailing concern is that this surge in some countries is likely to reverberate globally with many more infections, even in India. While India's vaccine coverage has exceeded 219.33 crores, it needs to keep a check on whether the administered vaccines continue to be efficacious. The government

Walk the talk - eliminate hatred



We should not restrict the scope of word hatred to communal problems alone. We must eliminate it altogether from our lives and our political system. There would not be the need to use this word if we follow harmony and love in letter and spirit. The message

is doing its best to protect the health status of the people. Mock drills are the right step in the right direction.

CK Subramanian | Mumbai

INDO-NEPAL RELATIONS

Sir — The elevation of Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda as the Prime Minister of Nepal after the fractured mandate of the November election is not entirely a surprise, even though the Nepali Congress emerged as the single largest party with 89 seats in the 275-member Parliament. This is the country's second election since becoming a republic. With this Prachanda becomes the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time. Prachanda's party CPN (MC) contested the election in alliance with the Nepali Congress, but the two parties were at loggerheads over who would lead the coalition government first. It has been agreed that Prachanda will be the PM for the first two and a half years of the five-year term and KP Sharma Oli for the subsequent two and a half years. Nepal is no stranger to the power struggle and political instability. It remains to be seen if the Prachanda-Oli duo can provide a stable government.

The developments have major implications for India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi while congratulating Prachanda has

said that the unique relationship between India and Nepal rests on the deep cultural connection between the two countries and the emotional attachment of the people on both sides. He also expressed the hope of further strengthening the friendship between the two countries. But beyond these formal statements, the truth is that both Oli and Prachanda are considered close to China. Oli's previous tenure as Prime Minister was famous for his Chinese favoritism, decisions, and statements inciting anti-India sentiments. However, even during that time, leaders like Prachanda were insisting on balancing the policies to a great extent. Then there is also the fact that this time there is no single-party government. If the message of the election results is seen, then it is also clear that the anti-India sentiments could not get the majority, let alone the status of the largest party. There is no need to assume that the new government will follow the old customs and policies. But looking at the current equations between India and China, no negligence can be done on this front. In such a situation, India has to be careful while continuing its role of a liberal, good neighbour and close friend.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

SOUND BITE

Rahul Gandhi is superhuman. While we are freezing in the cold and wearing jackets, he is going out in t-shirts. He is like a yogi doing his 'tapasya'.

Congress leader — Salman Khurshid

In case you were wondering, for Santa, in a single 24-hr Earth night, to deliver presents to all those who celebrate Christmas, he must visit 25,000 homes per second.

Astrophysicist — Neil deGrasse Tyson

When I heard the news (of mother's death), I felt a part of me died that very instant. I was numbed with grief. It was Salman Khan who gave me the strength to go through the day.

Actor — Paresh Rawal

The tension must have been unbelievable out there. But somebody like Ashwin; has been a fantastic cricketer.

Terrific innings from him.

Former cricketer — Sunil Gavaskar

Government hospitals in the Capital are prepared to ramp up infrastructure to treat an increased number of Covid-19 patients should the need arise.

Delhi deputy chief minister — Manish Sisodia

FIRST COLUMN

HUMANITY OUGHT TO REDISCOVER UNITY

Most people believe that God is One, Truth is One

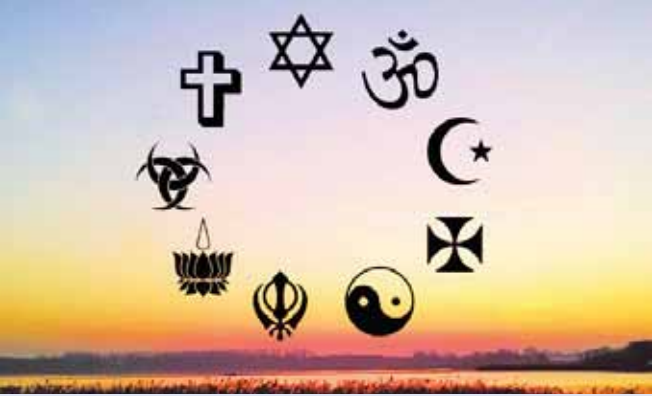


RAJYOGI **BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ**

In many religious scriptures, it has been said that a long time ago, the earth was a kingdom of heaven where humans with divine qualities lived in perfect harmony and oneness. They were bonded by unconditional love and unlimited trust, transparency and goodwill for each other, and spoke one language and were embodiments of purity and non-violence. In-short, it was a world free of boundaries within and outside.

However, with passage of time, this compact, loving divine family multiplied and slowly but steadily lost its divine qualities. Passage of more time saw diversification in the form of multiple religions and faith traditions. Finally, in the end, after nearly 5000 years, we see the world of today (where we all live) messed up with differences, unresolved issues and countless divisions of all kinds. It has fragmented so much that it no longer appears to have emerged from a single unit.

However, most of us still long for it to be one again. So, the question that many people ask is, can this world of pieces reunite if all of us earnestly try hard enough? Is it possible that the world reeling under problems like population explosion, scarcity of resources, terrorism, exploitation and discrimination will recuperate and resurge?



Majority of people across the world believe that God is One and Truth is One. When the astronauts fly in their spaceships and see the same fragmented earth from above, they see it as one planet. In the same way, spirituality takes us beyond all divisions to a stage from where oneness becomes not just possible but obvious and a beautiful family emerges. A family is born out of common parents and so for the world to be united, everyone must belong to the same father. It is in this realization that we descend from the same home and the same parent that we are bonded with everyone as brothers.

When we strip ourselves of all differences and labels that we inherit from the costume of the body, we arrive at who we originally are - souls sparkling with energies of knowledge, purity, peace, love, happiness, bliss and power. From the interplay of these energies are born virtues like humility, forgiveness, tolerance, acceptance and cooperation that help us coexist in a world of variety.

Unity at heart is possible in the consciousness that we are all souls who are innately virtuous and belong to the same Father. This wisdom is loaded with the power to transcend all tangible and intangible barriers that disconnect any two persons, families, communities or nations. Our strong and deep-rooted desire for togetherness despite the present scenario brings us to the understanding that things must have been in complete harmony once upon a time.

When the Creator created the universe afresh and the world was called the paradise, as many scriptures say, the world functioned like one family and there was one kingdom, one language and one religion. Over the passage of time, this unit began to branch out and divisions emerged. And today, with so many mounting differences and global problems reaching a dead end, it is time for world renewal on all counts. It is time to begin afresh and re-install in ourselves the culture of connecting with each other through purity and love, respect the laws of nature and be honest to our original values that bring us together. So, let's plant a sapling of self-change so that we can achieve a world of united natures. The day is not far when we shall walk hand in hand as one family, the one that Almighty Supreme Himself is now creating.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Regulatory assets are elephant in the room



UTTAM GUPTA

Regulatory assets are created when state electricity regulatory commissions accept that the tariffs don't cover discoms' purchase cost but don't raise rates

The Power Ministry has taken two decisions which have a bearing on viability of the beleaguered power distribution companies (discoms). It has (i) warned state electricity regulatory commissions (SERCs) against creating a pile of 'regulatory assets'; and (ii) proposed a pool of efficient thermal power units more than 25 years old to act as a balancing source for the increasing share of renewable energy in the electricity grid.

Mostly owned and controlled by state governments, discoms purchase power from public sector undertakings (PSUs) such as the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and independent power producers (IPPs) under long-term contracts or power purchase agreements (PPAs) up to 25 years—covering nearly 95 per cent of power generated in the country.

Under instruction from the top political brass in the state, discoms sell a major slice of electricity to some preferred consumers, viz., poor households (PHHs) and farmers, either at a fraction of the cost of purchase, wheeling, and distribution, or even free. On the units sold to these target groups, they incur colossal under-recovery. This is aggravated by aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses – most of it is plain theft.

To offset the losses, discoms charge high tariffs on supplies to industries besides non-poor HHs (NPHHs). The irony is despite this cross-subsidization, a big slice of the losses remains uncovered. As a result, discoms are in the red. This is despite the Centre implementing four financial restructuring packages (FRPs) in 2002, 2012, 2015 and 2021 – a sophisticated nomenclature for condoning the loans discoms took to fund their accumulated losses.

Regulatory assets are created when SERCs accept that the tariffs don't cover discoms' power purchase cost, but don't raise rates to the desired level or defers the hike, mostly under pressure from state governments. The gap between the cost of purchase and the revenue generated from sale at tariffs (albeit unrevised) for supplied power, is then booked by discom as receivable and classified as RA.

Over the years, the RAs have proliferated. According to government statistics, these were Rs 88,720 crore as on June 30, 2022. The very idea of creating RA is flawed. Once the SERC has accepted that in view of increase in the cost of electricity purchase, transmission and distribution, the tariff has to be raised then it should be done. But the commission doesn't; it doesn't even specify as to when this would be done. Yet, it allows the discom to book it as a receivable. This is anomalous as until such time the increase in tariff is approved and notified, the resultant extra revenue can't be treated as an asset (read: receivable).



DISCOMS ARE IN DIRE STRAITS. AS OF MARCH 31, 2022, THEY HAD PILED UP A MAMMOTH DEBT OF OVER RS 600,000 CRORE. THEY ALSO OWE ABOUT RS 130,000 CRORE TO IPPS AND OTHER GENERATORS

(The author is a policy analyst)



The anomaly gives rise to a multitude of problems. First, faced with shortfall in revenue vis-à-vis the cost and resultant cash flow problem, discoms are forced to borrow funds from banks and other lenders which leads to additional interest burden thereby aggravating their losses. This also makes bank loans susceptible to becoming non-performing assets (NPAs) as the extra revenue against which these loans are taken is not certain as the underlying tariff hike isn't approved.

Second, the discoms leverage the ambiguous classification (neither outright rejection of a claim for tariff hike nor approval) to present claims to the SERC which the latter is unwilling to accept. This has led to a scenario whereby substantial claims are bogged down in legal disputes at the appeal level or in higher courts. As a result, the actual RAs could be much higher even exceeding the Rs 100,000 crore mark—against Rs 88,720 crore as per government data.

Third, having failed in their endeavour to allow tariff to reflect costs and leaving things on an uncertain trajectory (albeit by creating RAs), the regulatory commissions often allow a surcharge to be levied (for instance, in Delhi, there is eight per cent surcharge) which results in arbitrary increase in cost to the consumers.

The Electricity Act and the revised tariff policy clearly say that "tariffs must reflect costs and regulatory assets should not be created". Yet, RAs continue to proliferate.

In this backdrop, one wonders whether the missive sent by the Power Ministry to the SERCs (November 11, 2022) will prompt them to go for course correction.

As for the second move of the Union, states have been petitioning the power ministry to exit costlier PPAs with central generating units after a period of 25 years as they have access to plentiful renewable power at cheaper rate and even spot market offering low tariffs. Early this year, the ministry agreed to this demand but now intends to hook discoms to those very plants under a different garb.

It proposes to create a pool of such plants (albeit efficient thermal). If a discom needs to relinquish a PPA with a 25-year-old power unit, it will be allowed to do so, but will be allotted a comparative quantity at an average cost from the pool. The allocation will be in line with the cumulative generation capacity of the pool.

In April/May 2022, the ministry had directed all IPPs based on domestic coal to import at least 10 per cent of their requirement, besides asking all imported coal-based plants to operate and generate power at their full capacity. Concurrently, it allowed 'pass-through' of the higher cost due to use of expensive imported coal under the PPAs.

We have a peculiar regime. While, on one hand, powers that be let everything happen (pass through of fuel cost, guaranteed return to generators, inefficiencies in wheeling and distribution, etc.) that results in increasing cost of power purchase by discoms, on the other, they don't let the latter charge even bare minimum tariff from a big chunk of consumers viz. farmers and PHHs. This is the root cause behind the yawning gap between the cost and revenue.

Under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) launched in November 2015, the Centre had promised that AT&C losses of discoms will reduce from 20.7 per cent during 2015-16 to 15 per cent by 2018-19 and the gap between revenue and cost to decline from 0.59 per unit during 2015-16 to 'zero' by 2018-19. Against these targets, during 2019-20, AT&C losses were 18.9 per cent, while the revenue gap was at a high of 0.42 per unit. But the current AT&C losses at 25 per cent are even higher than in 2015-16.

As a result, discoms are in dire straits. As of March 31, 2022, they had piled up a mammoth debt of over Rs 600,000 crore. They also owe about Rs 130,000 crore to IPPs and other generators. Even as the Center exhorts SERCs to increase tariff to bridge the gap between revenue and cost, industries/businesses are the only class from whom they could charge more as political brass in states won't let them touch farmers and households. But, tariffs on supplies to industries already being exorbitant (in Delhi, it is Rs 16 per unit), even this won't be possible. No wonder then, we have RAs – the elephant in the room.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I DID NOT WITNESS VIOLENCE OR HATRED ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY IN MY LONG WALK FROM KANYAKUMARI TO DELHI, BUT I SEE HATRED BEING SPEWED ON TELEVISION.

— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



AFTER WALKING 2800 KMS RAHUL BABA COULDN'T FIND NAFRAT AND HINSA IN INDIA! I WELCOME THIS BIG DISCLOSURE BY BABA! THANK YOU, CONGRESS.

— BJP LEADER SHEHZAD POONAWALLA



Military leadership not long cherished traditions

There has been no opposition by our military leadership against a completely ill-conceived initiative that is Agnipath Scheme



DEEPAK SINHA

(The author, a military veteran, is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)

ity hierarchy. Though many of the missteps may be attributable to faulty intelligence assessments, the responsibility for the military's non-performance rests squarely on the senior hierarchy of the Russian Armed Forces. Their obvious incompetence, lack of leadership skills and professional acumen, and the corruption that has been laid bare are without parallel. Yet, they are the lucky ones, given that Stalin executed Generals for much less.

It is standard practice in all countries that selection of the military's top leadership is overseen and approved at the highest political level, as it should be. Where autocracies and totalitarian regimes differ from democracies is in the necessity for them to

give primacy to ideology or loyalty to the Supreme Leader even at the cost of professionalism. This lack is bound to percolate to lower levels over time and while it ensures the leadership remains unchallenged in the normal course of events, its consequences in a conflict can be devastating as has been the case with the Russians.

This is why nations intent on maintaining professionally competent militaries ensure that politics and the military always remain at arm's length and follow selection criteria that are transparent and consistent. This used to be the case with us as well, but the process has unfortunately been eroded over the past few years. Best exemplified by the manner in which

a retired officer was promoted and appointed Chief of Defence Staff with minor tweaking of rules, contrary to longstanding regulations on the subject.

Its impact can be seen from the manner in which an Army Commander allegedly attempted to curry favour with the powers that be, by parroting the Raksha Mantri's call for the recapture of POK. A proposal that would not only put our troops in harm's way, with no certainty of success and with little to commend it. Of course, it is quite possible that the Army Commander's off-the-cuff remarks may have been misinterpreted or misconstrued, as some very knowledgeable commentators aver, and should not be

taken at face value.

Be that as it may, there is no denying the fact that our military leadership has shown little spine in standing up for long cherished traditions and customs that have served us well since Independence and even before. The fact is that there has been absolutely no opposition publicly by our military leadership against a completely ill-conceived initiative that is the Agnipath Scheme.

Clearly, any scheme tailored to make semi-trained "contract labour" the cutting edge of our forces will reduce it to an ill-trained discordant militia is not in doubt. They will, in the long run, dominate the ranks of the military and be no different from what passes for soldiers in the Russian Armed Forces! We cannot afford to be so obdurate as to not see what any comparison between the Russian and Ukrainian Armed Forces makes crystal clear, the immense value of high-quality manpower.

Similarly, in the altercation in Arunachal, where the Chinese attempted to use overwhelming force to occupy our Post on the Yangtse Plateau, using batons and riot gear suggests they were confident, and correctly so, that we would not open fire, whatever be the provocation, for fear of escalating matters. Interestingly, they had little hesitation in opening fire, albeit in the air, when under pressure. It suggests they have little respect for

joint agreements, signed to preserve peace and tranquility along the LAC, which in any case have lost credibility following their aggressive actions in Eastern Ladakh.

We were able to turn tables on the attacking Chinese, thanks to the alertness of our troops and the timely action taken to reinforce the post. All of this would have gone for naught if our troops had not been well-trained, disciplined, resolute, courageous and aggressive in their actions. To believe that at some future date Agniveers will act in a similar manner and win the day for us, appears to be foolish and farfetched, but then it seems there are those amongst us, who still believe in Santa Claus.

Min: Ukraine aims to develop air-to-air combat drones

AP ■ KIVY

Ukraine has bought some 1,400 drones, mostly for reconnaissance, and plans to develop combat models that can attack the exploding drones Russia has used during its invasion of the country, according to the Ukrainian government minister in charge of technology. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov described Russia's war in Ukraine as the first major war of the internet age.

He credited drones and satellite internet systems like Elon Musk's Starlink with having transformed the conflict.

Ukraine has purchased drones like the Fly Eye, a small unmanned aerial vehicle used for intelligence, battlefield surveillance and reconnaissance. "And the next stage, now that we are more or less equipped with reconnaissance drones, is strike drones," Fedorov said.

"These are both exploding drones and drones that fly up to three to 10 kilometers and hit targets," he said.

He predicted "more missions with strike drones" in the future, but would not elaborate.

"We are talking there about drones, UAVs, UAVs that we are developing in Ukraine. Well, anyway, it will be the next step in the development of technologies," he said.

Russian authorities have alleged several Ukrainian drone strikes on its military bases in recent weeks, including one on Monday in which they said Russian forces shot down a drone approaching the Engels airbase located more than 600 kilometers (over 370 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

Russia's military said debris killed three service members but no aircraft were damaged. The base houses Tu-95 and Tu-160 nuclear-capable strategic bombers that have been involved in launching strikes on Ukraine.

Ukrainian authorities have never formally acknowledged carrying out such drone strikes, but they have made cryptic allusions to how Russia might expect retaliation for its war in Ukraine, including within Russian territory.

Ukraine is carrying out research and development on drones that could fight and down other drones, Fedorov said.

Russia has used Iranian-made Shahed drones for its airstrikes in Ukrainian territory in recent weeks, in addition to rocket, cruise missile and artillery attacks.

"I can say already that the situation regarding drones will change drastically in February or March," he said.

Fedorov sat for an interview in his bright and modern office. Located inside a staid ministry



building, the room contained a vinyl record player, history books stacked on shelves and a treadmill. The minister highlighted the importance of mobile communications for both civilian and military purposes during the war and said the most challenging places to maintain service have been in the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa and Kyiv regions in the center and east of the country. He said there are times when fewer than half of mobile phone towers are functioning in the capital, Kyiv, because Russian airstrikes have destroyed or damaged the infrastructure that power them.

Ukraine has some 30,000 mobile-phone towers, and the government is now trying to link them to generators so they can keep working when airstrikes damage the power grid.

The only alternative, for now, is satellite systems like Starlink, which Ukrainians may rely on more if blackouts start lasting longer.

"We should understand that in this case, the Starlinks and the towers, connected to the generators, will be the basic internet infrastructure," Fedorov said. Many cities and towns are facing power cuts lasting up to 10 hours. Fedorov said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree that instructs mobile phone companies to ensure they can provide signals without electricity for at least three days.

Meanwhile, with support from its European Union partners, his ministry is working to bring 10,000 more Starlink stations to Ukraine, with internet service made available to the public through hundreds of "Points of Invincibility" that offer warm drinks, heated spaces, electricity and shelter for people displaced by fighting or power outages.

France's Min goes to Ukraine to boost support

AP ■ KIVY

France's defence minister arrived in Kyiv on Wednesday to discuss further military support for Ukraine, insisting the French government's backing is unflagging while efforts are made to reach an eventual negotiated end to Russia's invasion.

French Minister for the Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu traveled to Ukraine's capital after a trip to Poland, where he announced a deal on Tuesday to sell Poland two French-made military satellites.

In Kyiv, Lecornu laid a wreath at a heroes' monument to pay homage to Ukrainians who have died defending their country against Russia's invasion. He was scheduled to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov and army officials.

While France has been less vocal about its military support for Ukraine than the United States and Britain, the country has sent a steady supply of weapons to Ukraine since



Russia invaded on February 24.

France also hosted two aid conferences for Ukraine this month. But many in Ukraine remain critical of the French government's response to the war because of President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to maintain contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin and seek a negotiated solution.

"Our support for Ukraine has been constant," Lecornu tweeted ahead of his trip.

It was not immediately clear what concrete deals Lecornu's talks in Kyiv might produce. He came to Ukraine a week after Zelenskyy visited the US, Ukraine's chief ally, and with the fighting focused mostly in the country's east but neither Moscow nor Kyiv reporting major gains in recent weeks.

While both Russia and Ukraine have said they were willing to participate in peace

US marks anniv of Paul Whelan's detention in Russia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration is marking the four-year anniversary of the detention in Russia of American businessman Paul Whelan, whose continued imprisonment is one of several major irritants in tattered relations between Washington and Moscow.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement Wednesday that securing Whelan's release remains a top administration priority.

United States Officials had hoped to include Whelan in a prisoner swap earlier this month in which they traded detained WNBA star Brittney Griner for a convicted Russian arms dealer, Viktor Bout.



Ukrainian servicemen carry the coffin of their comrade during the funeral ceremony for Volodymyr Yezhov killed in a battlefield with Russian forces, at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday. Yezhov was a game designer in the development of the game Cossacks 2. He was also one of the authors of the game STALKER: Clear Sky. Yezhov was also one of the most famous Ukrainian e-sportsmen — played StarCraft under the nickname Fresh. Since the Russian invasion, Volodymyr Yezhov went to the frontline and fought as part of the volunteer squadron (AP Photo)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its Location:-	30-Elect-67-T-2022-23-E3 Illumination of office building with dynamic facade lighting at HN2M station, ANVT station, DRM office New Delhi and other important stations over Delhi Division on occasion of Republic day 2023 & Independence day 2023.
Approx Cost of the works in:-	Rs. 38.59 Lacs
Address of the Office:-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security:-	Rs. 77,200.00
Date & time of submission of tender :-	19.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:-	19.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & Notice Board:-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.




3469/22



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE


NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum
CANCELLATION OF NIT

Name of work with its location	Provision of Telecom Facility in c/w Replacement/ Augmentation of existing Centralized Air Conditioning Plant with other allied works at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 31,62,335.16/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 63,300/- only.
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110 055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 11.01.2023 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110 055.
Corrigendum	NIT cancelled due to technical reason.



Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-963
Dated : 28.12.2022

3464/2022




SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy.CSTE/PS/NDLS, Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender (Single Packet System) for the following work:-

1 Name of Work & Place	Additions and Alterations in existing Route Relay Interlocking (Siemens RRI) at Palwal Station & associated outdoor S&T work i.c.w. New Rail Line connectivity between Palwal (IR) and New Prithala DFC Yard of Delhi Division of Northern Railway.
2 Completion period	06 months from the date of issue of LOA
3 Approx. Cost	Rs. 2.57 Cr
4 Earnest money amount	Rs. 2,78,700/- (Rs. Two Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand and Seven Hundred Only)
5 Sale / availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 29.12.2022 to 19.01.2023 upto 11.30 hrs.
6 Last date / Time of upload of tenders	Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 05.01.2023 to 19.01.2023 upto 11.30 hours.
7 Date of Opening of Tender	Tender will be opened on 19.01.2023 at 11.30 hours



No: 570-Sig-PS-Tender-125
Dated: 28.12.2022

3461/22



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Ukrainian tycoon held in French ski resort in bank probe

AP ■ PARIS

A Ukrainian businessman and former lawmaker suspected of embezzling more than \$100 million has been arrested at a high-end ski resort in the French Alps, according to Ukrainian authorities.

French police arrested

Kostiantyn Zhevago in a hotel in Courchevel on Tuesday based on an international warrant, Ukraine's State Bureau of Investigations said in a statement. It said Zhevago had a court appearance in Chambers scheduled Wednesday as a first step toward eventual extradition.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum
CANCELLATION OF NIT

Name of work with its location	Provision of Coach Guidance System PWT, DSA, & MOZ Railway Station.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 1,39,22,374.64/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 2,19,600/- only.
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110 055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 04.01.2023 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110 055.
Corrigendum	NIT cancelled due to technical reason.



Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-961
Dated : 28.12.2022

3465/2022



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE


Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Nazarat/TOS/488/2022/2747 Date : 06.12.2022

Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites e-Tender from eligible bidders for supply of office stationery under Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) only for each tender as demand draft/ Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati- 19, Assam from any nationalized/ schedule Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.



Sd/-Mission Director,
SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/3641/22

Finland gets floating LNG terminal to replace Russian gas

AP ■ HELSINKI

Finland's first floating liquefied natural gas terminal was moored on Wednesday at the southern port of Inkoo where it will supply gas to the Nordic country that was cut off from Russian gas imports earlier this year amid the war in Ukraine.

The massive 291-metre-long and 43-metre-wide offshore support vessel Exemplar, which sailed to the Baltic Sea from Spain earlier in December, has a capacity of 68,000 tons of LNG and is scheduled to be operational from the beginning of 2023.

FSRU Exemplar, owned by the US company Excelerate Energy Inc., will ensure future availability of gas in Finland, replacing supplies earlier imported from Russia, Finland's state-owned Gasgrid Finland said.

The vessel will reconvert LNG to gas which will then be fed into the Finnish network for distribution. The arrival of the Exemplar will also enable gas deliveries to the Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania — and possibly also to Poland through the undersea Baltic-connector pipeline between Finland and Estonia that runs near Inkoo.

Russian energy giant Gazprom halted gas exports to neighbouring Finland in May, citing Helsinki's refusal to pay in rubles, as Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded European countries do since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24.

Gazprom's move marked a likely end to Finland's nearly 50 years of importing natural gas from Russia. The two parallel Russia-Finland natural gas pipelines were launched in 1974. Natural gas currently accounts for just some 5 per cent of total energy consumption in Finland, a country of 5.5 million.

Until May, nearly all of that gas came from Russia, and has been used mainly by Finnish industrial and other companies with only an esti-



Estimated 4,000 households relying on gas heating. As Moscow has cut off electricity exports to Finland — also in May — and the Finnish state-controlled oil company Neste has replaced imports of Russian crude oil with other sources, Finland's energy ties with Russia are now all but gone. Gasgrid Finland has leased the Exemplar for a period of ten years for an estimated total cost of 460 million euros (USD 490 million).

European Union member Finland, which shares a 1,340-kilometre (830-mile) long border with Russia, applied to join NATO in May and is currently waiting for the remaining two members — Hungary and Turkey — of the military alliance to ratify its membership.

talks, their stated conditions remain far apart. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reiterated on Wednesday that any peace plan must acknowledge four regions of Ukraine that Russia illegally annexed as Russian territory, a demand that Kyiv flatly rejects.

Russian forces have pressed their offensive to capture all of eastern Ukraine by concentrating in recent weeks on Bakhmut, a city in Donetsk province.

Ukrainian forces were pushing a counteroffensive toward Kremenna, a city in neighboring Luhansk province, in hopes of reclaiming the area and potentially dividing Russia's troops in the east.

France has supplied Ukraine with a substantial chunk of its arsenal of Caesar cannons, as well as anti-tank missiles, Crotale air defence missile batteries and rocket launchers. It is also training some 2,000 Ukrainian troops on French soil. Macron pledged last week to provide a new injection of weapons in early 2023.

Western military aid to Ukraine has angered Moscow.

On Tuesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused Washington and NATO of fuelling the war with the aim to weaken Russia and warned the conflict could spin out of control. Also on Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree banning oil exports to countries that support a \$60-per-barrel price cap that was declared by the European Union and Group of Seven countries in a bid to reduce Moscow's revenue during wartime. The ban takes effect in February and is slated to run through July.

The price cap is higher than what Russian oil has sold for in recent weeks, so the potential effects of Putin's ban are uncertain.

Russia invaded Ukraine 10 months ago, alleging a threat to its security orchestrated by NATO. The war has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions so far, with an end nowhere in sight.

Russian attacks on power stations and other infrastructure have left millions of Ukrainians without heating and electricity for hours or days at a time.

Southwest Airlines flight cancellations continue

AP ■ DALLAS (US)

Families hoping to catch a Southwest Airlines flight after days of cancellations, missing luggage and missed family connections suffered through another wave of scrubbed flights, with another 2,500 pulled from arrival and departure boards on Wednesday.

Exhausted travellers sought passage by other means using different airlines, rental cars, or trains — or they've simply given up.

According to the FlightAware tracking service, more than 91 per cent of all cancelled flights in the US early on Wednesday were from Southwest, which has been unable to recover from ferocious winter storms that raked large swaths of the country over the weekend.

The operational systems of Southwest have been uniquely effected, so much so that the federal government is now investigating what happened at the Dallas carrier, which has frustrated its own flight and ground crews as well.

THE PANIPAT CO-OP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., PANIPAT
Email ID: panipatsugarmills@gmail.com Contact No. : 0180-2651269, 2651184

"TENDER NOTICE"

Sr. No.	Name of the Department	Name of Work/ Notice/ Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount (Approx. in lac)	E.Money (in lac.)	Website of the department
	The Panipat Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd., Panipat, Dahar Village Site.		29.12.2022 at 10:00 A.M.	05.01.2023 at 09:00 A.M.			
	Sale item for Sugar Mill, Dahar, Panipat						https://etenders.hry.nic.in
1.	Sale of Export Quota Refined Sugar (Melt phospho-floatation process) S-31 Grade of Season 2022-23 for export. (export through Merchant Exporters). circular no. F.No. 1(1)/2022-Trade dated the 05th November, 2022. OR M-30 Grade season 2020-21- 16200 Qtl. (Slight Moist) b. M-30 Grade season 2021-22-72000 Qtl. (Slight Moist) c. S-30 Grade season 2021-22- 6200 Qtl. (Slight Moist) d. Raw Sugar mix grade (Melt phospho-floatation process) season 2021-22- 8000 Qtl. Refined Sugar (Melt phospho-floatation process) Mix Grade Season 2021-22-18980 Qtl. The Slight Moist Sugar is "as and where basis" (Export through Merchant Exporters).				22 Lac		

The detailed tender have already been uploaded on the website <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>. The tender should be filled on the above website on or before 05-01-2023 at 09:00 A.M. The "TECHNICAL BID" will be opened on 05-01-2023 at 10:00 A.M. If a tenderer qualifies in "TECHNICAL BID" then only "FINANCIAL BID" will be opened on 05-01-2023 at 11:00 A.M. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who may be present at that time on 05-01-2023 at 01:00 P.M. Chief Accounts Officer For Managing Director

Snowbound Buffalo braces to find more dead

AP ■ BUFFALO, NY

Buffalo was set to emerge from a deep freeze Wednesday, bringing some relief but also the tragic possibility of finding more victims amid melting snow from the area's deadliest storm in decades.

Officials said more than 30 people so far have been reported to have died because of the blizzard that raged Friday and Saturday in western New York, an area prone to powerful winter storms. The historic Blizzard of 1977 killed as many as 29. Antwaine Parker told The Buffalo News that his mother, Carolyn Eubanks, perished at the home of strangers who took her in after her family tried to get help for the ailing woman.

Eubanks, 63, relied on an oxygen machine. With the power out in her home and emergency responders unable to answer calls amid the blizzard, Parker said, he and his stepbrother drove through the snow Saturday to rescue her themselves. She collapsed as they led her to a car, he said. "She's like, 'I can't go no



further. I'm begging her, 'Mom, just stand up.' She fell in my arms and never spoke another word," Parker told the newspaper. The stepbrothers knocked on nearby doors, seeking someone who would help. They found David Purdy, who opened his door to two desperate strangers and helped them carry Eubanks inside and try in vain to revive her. After they realized she was gone, Purdy and his fiancée sheltered her body until first responders showed up with plows the next day. "I done it as respectful as I could," Purdy told The Buffalo

News. His own mother is roughly the same age as Eubanks was and also uses an oxygen machine, he said, and "if she needed help, I'd hope there would be people out there to help her, as well." Temperatures were expected to rise into the mid-40s (around 7 degrees Celsius) on Wednesday and the low 50s (around 10 Celsius) by Friday, the National Weather Service said. With enough snow still on the ground that driving was still banned in New York's second-most populous city, officials worked to clear storm drains

and watched a forecast that calls for some rain later in the week. Officials in Erie County, which encompasses Buffalo, said Tuesday they were concerned about the possibility of flooding.

The weather service said Wednesday that "any flooding is expected to be of the minor or nuisance variety."

While suburban roads and most major highways in the area reopened Tuesday, there was still a driving ban in Buffalo, and state and military police were assigned to enforce it. Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, a Democrat, said "too many people are ignoring the ban."

A Facebook group originally created in 2014, when Buffalo was buried under deep snow, has become a lifeline, seeking to help thousands seeking food, medicine, shelter and rescue in the latest storm. Currently managed by five women, the group swelled to at least 68,000 people as of Tuesday.

"We are seeing a lot of desperation," said Erin Aquilina, founder of the original group, in an online interview.

Philippine rain, flooding cause at least 25 deaths

AP ■ MANILA

The death toll from heavy rains and floods that devastated parts of the Philippines over the Christmas weekend has risen to 25, with 26 others still missing, the national disaster response agency said Wednesday.

Nearly 400,000 people were affected, with over 81,000 still in shelters and nine others injured, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

Sixteen of the 25 deaths were reported in Northern Mindanao region in the south, while 12 of the 26 missing are from the eastern Bicol region, the council added.

A shear line — the point where warm and cold air meet — triggered rains in parts of eastern, central and southern Philippines, the state weather bureau PAGASA said.

The weather disturbance disrupted Christmas celebration in affected provinces, with photos from the southern province of Misamis Occidental showing rescuers carrying an elderly woman on a plastic chair as they waded through a flooded street. Some residents in the province were seen hanging on to floaters as coast guard rescuers pulled them across chest-deep flood using a rope. The disaster management council said 1,196 houses were damaged by the floods, while sections of 123 roads and 12 bridges were affected. Some areas remain without power or water supply.

China to start issuing new passports as virus curbs ease

AP ■ BEIJING

The Chinese government says it will start issuing new passports as it dismantles anti-virus travel barriers, setting up a potential flood of millions of tourists out of China for next month's Lunar New Year holiday.

That raises the possibility of an influx of free-spending Chinese visitors to revenue-starved destinations in Asia and Europe in what usually is the country's busiest travel season. But it also presents a danger, as tourists might spread COVID-19 as infections surge in China.

China stopped issuing passports at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 as part of the world's strictest anti-virus controls and tried to block students, businesspeople and other travellers from going abroad. Tourist travel into China was shut down. Businesspeople and others who were allowed in were quarantined for up to one week.

Tuesday's announcement adds to abrupt changes that roll back a "zero-COVID" strategy that confined millions of families to their homes. It kept infection rates low but fueled



public frustration and crushed economic growth.

The National Immigration Administration of China said it will start taking applications January 8 for ordinary passports for tourism. It said it will resume issuing approval for Chinese travellers to visit Hong Kong for tourism and business.

The government also has

dropped or eased most quarantine, testing and other rules within China, joining the United States, Japan and other governments in trying to live with the virus instead of stamping out transmission.

Japan and India responded to China's surge in infections by requiring virus tests for travellers from the country.

Ex-Min's son sentenced to death in Pak

PTI ■ LAHORE

A Pakistani court has handed down a death sentence to a former minister's son for killing three transgender persons in Punjab province in 2008. A district and sessions court of the Sialkot district announced the verdict on Tuesday after the prosecution presented all witnesses and evidence.

Ahmed Bilal Cheema, son of former Punjab Minister Ajmal Cheema, had shot dead the transgenders — Mazhar Hussain, Aamir Shahzad, and Abdul Jabbar — at his outhouse in Sialkot in 2008. Judge Fazila Aslam sentenced the convict to death on three counts and ordered payment of PKR 500,000 to the relatives of each of the victims as compensation.

The convict would face imprisonment for another six months in case of nonpayment of the compensation amount. According to the police, Cheema had called the transgender persons at his outhouse for a dance party and opened fire at them when they refused some of his and his friends' demands.

North Korea's Kim lays out key goals to boost military power

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presented unspecified goals to further bolster his military power next year at a meeting of top political officials, state media reported on Wednesday, in an indication he'll continue his provocative run of weapons displays. Kim's statement came as animosities with rival South Korea rose sharply this week with the South accusing the North of flying drones across the border for the first time in five years.

This year, North Korea already performed a record number of missile tests in what experts call an attempt to modernise its arsenal and increase its leverage in future dealings with the United States.

During the Tuesday session at the ongoing plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party, Kim analysed new security challenges in international politics and on the Korean Peninsula and clarified principles and directions to take in external relations and fights against enemies to protect



national interests and sovereignty, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim "set forth new key goals for bolstering the self-reliant defense capability to be pushed ahead in 2023 under the multilateral changing situation," KCNA said, without elaborating.

Some observers say the new goals could be related to Kim's drive to expand his nuclear arsenal and acquire high-tech weapons systems such as multi-warhead missiles, a more agile long-range weapon, a spy satellite and advanced drones.

They say Kim would eventually aim to use his boosted nuclear power to force his rivals to accept the North

as a legitimate nuclear state, a status he thinks is essential in getting international sanctions lifted.

On Monday, South Korea's military fired warning shots and launched fighter jets and helicopters, after detecting what it called five North Korean drones that violated the South's airspace.

South Korea also flew three drones across the border in response, Defence Minister Lee Jong-Sup told lawmakers on Wednesday.

The military apologised for failing to shoot down the drones and President Yoon Suk Yeol called for stronger air defences and high-tech stealth drones to better monitor North Korea.

In a meeting with his advisers on Wednesday, Yoon said South Korea must resolutely retaliate against any provocation by North Korea, saying that will be the most powerful means to deter the North.

Yoon also said South Korea must not be intimidated by North Korea's nuclear weapons, according to his spokesperson, Kim Eun-hye.

Turkish, Syrian, Russian defence chiefs hold surprise talks

AP ■ ANKARA

The Turkish, Syrian and Russian defense ministers have held previously unannounced talks in Moscow, the Turkish and Russian defense ministries said on Wednesday.

It was the first ministerial level meeting between rivals Turkey and Syria since the start of the Syrian conflict 11 years ago. A Turkish defence ministry statement said the Turkish, Syrian and Russian intelligence chiefs also attended the talks in Moscow which, it said, took place in a "positive atmosphere."

The discussion focused on "the Syrian crisis, the refugee problem and efforts for a joint struggle against terror organisations present on Syrian territory," the ministry said.

It added that the sides would continue to hold trilateral meetings. Russia has long been pressing for a reconciliation between Turkey and the Syrian government — Moscow's close ally — which have been standing on opposite sides in Syria's civil war.

Turkey backed rebels trying to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Damascus for its part denounced Turkey's hold over stretches of territory in north-

ern Syria which were seized in Turkish military incursions launched since 2016 to drive Kurdish militant groups away from the frontier.

Russia's Defence Ministry confirmed that the three ministers discussed ways to resolve the Syrian crisis, the refugee issue and to combat extremist groups. The parties noted "the constructive nature of the dialogue ... And the need to continue it in the interests of further stabilising the situation" in Syria and the region as a whole, the short statement said. It didn't provide any other details.

The previously unannounced talks in Moscow follow

repeated warnings by Turkey of a new land incursion into Syria after a deadly bombing in Istanbul last month. Turkish authorities blamed the attack on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and on the Syria-based People's Protection Units, or YPG. Both groups denied involvement. Russia has opposed a new Turkish military offensive.

The efforts toward a Turkish-Syrian reconciliation also comes as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — who faces presidential and parliamentary elections in June — is under intense pressure at home to send Syrian refugees back.

Netanyahu Govt: West Bank settlements top priority

AP ■ JERUSALEM



Benjamin Netanyahu's incoming hard-line government put West Bank settlement expansion at the top of its list of priorities on Wednesday, vowing to legalize dozens of illegally built outposts and annex the occupied territory as part of its coalition deal with its ultra-nationalist allies.

The coalition agreements, released a day before the government is to be sworn into office, also included language endorsing discrimination against LGBTQ people on reli-

gious grounds, contentious judicial reforms, as well as generous stipends for ultra-Orthodox men who prefer to study instead of work. The package laid the groundwork for what is expected to be a stormy beginning for Netanyahu's government and could put it at odds with large parts of the Israeli public and Israel's closest allies abroad.

Key trade route between Nepal-China reopens after 3 years

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Two-way trade from one of the key border transit routes between Nepal and China resumed formally on Wednesday after being closed for almost three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said.

A ceremony marking the official resumption of the trade from the Kerung-Rasuwaagadhi border port was held on Wednesday, although the export of goods to China had resumed from Tuesday, The Kathmandu Post newspaper said, quoting Lhasa-based Consulate General Nawaraj Dhakal.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Sarjeet Singh S/o Late Mr. Tejpal Singh, is the owner of Built-up First Floor without roof rights a Part of Property Bearing No. 1200-B, Gali No. 10 out of Khassa No. 23, Situated at Govind Park Kalka ji New Delhi-110019, vide Relinquishment Deed dated 15.09.2022, to be financed & mortgaged by Hero Housing Finance Ltd. Further it is informed that there are no other legal heirs of Late Balbeer Kaur except for (1) Jagit Kaur, (2) Jitender Kaur (Kals), & (3) Sarjeet Singh.
(If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 10 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001, Mob.: +91-8076188328

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Sangeeta Sharma W/o Sh. Ashwani Sharma R/o DDA UG Flat No. 107, 4 Ground Floor Pocket F, Disha Garden, Delhi-110095 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents (i.e. Allotment cum-Demand letter of the above flat have been lost. An NCR to this effect has been produced in the above mentioned address. Further it is informed by (1) Sh. Adil Ansari S/o Sh. Ataur Rahman & (2) Sh. Vipin Tyagi S/o Sh. Ataur Rahman that there is no dispute or any third-party claim on the subject property.
(If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 15 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property. All claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property, fall on the person(s) who have written/contacted above named person at above address/phone No. 999944978 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to the undersigned.
Dy. Director, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd., 3rd Floor, Vilepar, Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110029, Mob.: +91-8076188328

Public Notice
SARV PRIYA MAHAJAN CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that following members of Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 1384) have resigned from the membership of the society i.e. 1) Smt. Meenu Kumar (M.No.548) 2) Sh. Vipin Tyagi (M.No. 605). Further they have been issued account payee cheque for their deposited amount. if anyone have any objections he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e. 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034 within 7 day from the date of publication of the public notice.
Secretary - Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that **Rajesh Kumar & Neelam** claims to be owner and in possession of Property No. C-51, Khassa No. 193 in Village Chandrawali Alias Shahdara, in Gali No. 5, Jagat Puri, Shahdara, Delhi-93. (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed Dated 22.06.2022 executed by Sondeep Singh bearing Doc. No. 4352, said Sarita Yadav Purchased the said property from Naazra Begum vide Sale Deed Dated 30.03.2015 bearing Doc. No. 1138 and said Naazra Begum had alienated the said property after the death of Akhtar Khan by virtue of Relinquishment Deed Dated 18.03.2015 Doc. No. 930 and said Rajesh Kumar & Neelam has agreed to sell the said Property to Ravi Sharma and said Ravi Sharma has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, IDFC FIRST BANK LTD, Rajendra Place Branch, New Delhi.
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim claims, if any, of such person(s) persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.
Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
Advocates and Solicitors
House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi - 19
Mobile No. 9816399999

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Gurmeet Singh have applied for ownership right of shop No. 13, MCD MARKET, Sector 5 RK Puram ND 110022. In case the original allottee Mr. Kishan Lal or Mr. Basant Kumar, or any of their legal heirs claiming interest in the above said property, may file their objections to the Dy. Commissioner, Land & Estate Department, Minto Road, Delhi-110002 within 21 days. Thereafter, any claim treat null and void.
Jaswant Rai Aggarwal (Advocate)
6 Prem Nagar Market opp Gate no.1 Tyagraj Stadium New Delhi-110003

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Santosh Kumar Arjun intends to purchase & mortgage the Plot No. 4-A/4-B, admeasuring 34 Sq. Yds., Khassa No. 375 Min, situated at Village Tila Shahbajpur, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.), with our client against the financial assistance. Whereas (1) Mr. Mohd. Ayyub & 2) Mr. Adil Ansari have acquired the Said Property by way of Sale Deed (2 Nos.) both dated Sale Deed dated 31-08-2005 and after her death of Mr. Ayyub, his legal heirs namely: 1) Mrs. Hajra Begum, 2) Mr. Mohd. Adil Ansari, 3) Mohd. Ajmal, 4) Mohd. Arif Ansari, 5) Mohd. Asif & 6) Mrs. Shaista (as per SMG) became the owners of Said Property. Now, 1) Mrs. Hajra Begum, 2) Mr. Mohd. Adil Ansari, 3) Mohd. Ajmal, 4) Mohd. Arif Ansari, 5) Mohd. Asif & 6) Mrs. Shaista intend to sell the same to Mr. Santosh Kumar Arjun.
(If any person(s) having objection with regard to ownership/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. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited will proceed with the mortgage process.
DEEPUYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn.-II,
New Delhi-110049 ph 011-40587824.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Santosh Kumar Arjun intends to purchase & mortgage the Plot No. 4-A/4-B, admeasuring 34 Sq. Yds., Khassa No. 375 Min, situated at Village Tila Shahbajpur, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.), with our client against the financial assistance. Whereas (1) Mr. Mohd. Ayyub & 2) Mr. Adil Ansari have acquired the Said Property by way of Sale Deed (2 Nos.) both dated Sale Deed dated 31-08-2005 and after her death of Mr. Ayyub, his legal heirs namely: 1) Mrs. Hajra Begum, 2) Mr. Mohd. Adil Ansari, 3) Mohd. Ajmal, 4) Mohd. Arif Ansari, 5) Mohd. Asif & 6) Mrs. Shaista (as per SMG) became the owners of Said Property. Now, 1) Mrs. Hajra Begum, 2) Mr. Mohd. Adil Ansari, 3) Mohd. Ajmal, 4) Mohd. Arif Ansari, 5) Mohd. Asif & 6) Mrs. Shaista intend to sell the same to Mr. Santosh Kumar Arjun.
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DEEPUYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn.-II,
New Delhi-110049 ph 011-40587824.

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Refer to the advertisement of the Symbolic paper publication published in The Pioneer (Eng) & The Pioneer (Hin) NCR Edition on December 22, 2022, under the Borrower's name JAGDISH CHABA, LAN no. LBPNP00005237946/ LBPNP00005237953/ LBNOD00005333264. Due to an inadvertent mistake in the Loan No. was mentioned as LBPNP00005237964/ LBPNP00005237953/ LBNOD00005333264 instead of LBPNP00005237946/ LBPNP00005237953/ LBNOD00005333264. We therefore, request to read it as LBPNP00005237946/ LBPNP00005237953/ LBNOD00005333264, while the other contents in the above said notice remains unchanged.
Date: December 29, 2022
Place: Noida
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)
Phone Fax : 05944.240921 E-mail - sepwdusn@gmail.com
पत्रांक-3054 / 23 एम-04 / 2022 दिनांक 26 / 12 / 2022
निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 3686 / 23एम-04 / 2022 दिनांक 24.12.2022 द्वारा ई-निविदा सूचना (E-Tendering) के माध्यम से केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत निर्माण खण्ड, लॉन्गविड काशीपुर से सम्बन्धित दो कार्यों की आमंत्रित निविदायें अपरिहार्य कारणवश: निरस्त की जाती हैं।
(महिपाल सिंह रावत)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006
Telephone No.: 0135- 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886 Website: www.ujvn.com
Ro.No.- 966 Dated- 27.12.2022
CORRIGENDUM
In reference to e-NIT Nos. 09/EE/E&M/Asan Barrage /2022-23, Invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Asan Barrage, Jai Shakti Bhawan, Dhakrani, Dehradun, the word OEM shall be read as OEM/ Authorized dealer in Section-II (ITB), Clause-2 (Qualification of bidder), Sub Clause-2.1.5 & 2.1.6 .
The corrigendum has been Uploaded on the e-Procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in".
Other Terms & Condition will remain same. Information Regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.
Fuller & Further details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"
Executive Engineer (E&M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)
Phone Fax : 05944.240921 E-mail - sepwdusn@gmail.com
पत्रांक-3057 / 23 एम-04 / 2022 दिनांक 26 / 12 / 2022
राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक अत्युत्कालीन ई-निविदा (e-tendering)
महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लॉन्गविड रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा दू-बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाइट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 04.01.2023 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	घरोहर धनराशि (रु लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	टेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत जेतपुर घनौरी मार्ग के किमी0 7 से 9 में डी0बी0एम एवं बी0सी0 द्वारा सुधार/परिवर्तन एवं सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	8.40	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 दिन	2 माह	केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभाग / उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी A / A+ पंजीकृत
2.	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत 1-बाजपुर बंध से जगन्नाथपुर कोसी फार्म (हाथीकुण्डा) लिंक मार्ग किमी0 1 से 3 2-जसपुर धामपुर मार्ग के किमी0 3 से 6 में डी0बी0एम एवं बी0सी0 द्वारा सुधार/परिवर्तन एवं सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	10.82	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 दिन	2 माह	—तदैव—
3.	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत 1-सरदारनगर बाजपुर केशोवाला बन्नाखंडा बैलपडाव कोटाबाग कालादुंगी मार्ग किमी0 20 से 24 2-काशीपुर अलीगंज मार्ग के किमी0 5 से 8 में डी0बी0एम एवं बी0सी0 द्वारा सुधार/परिवर्तन एवं सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	11.04	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 दिन	2 माह	—तदैव—
4.	केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अंतर्गत बन्नाखंडा कोसीफार्म मार्ग के किमी0 1 से 9 में डी0बी0एम एवं बी0सी0 द्वारा सुधार/परिवर्तन एवं सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	10.60	5000.00 + 18% GST	60 दिन	2 माह	—तदैव—

नोट:- उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदायें स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

Markets end flat in volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty closed marginally down in a volatile trade on Wednesday due to profit taking by investors after two straight days of gains amid mixed global trends and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share Sensex dipped 17.15 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 60,910.28. During the day, it declined 213.66 points or 0.35 per cent to 60,713.77.

The broader NSE Nifty went lower by 9.80 points or 0.05 per cent to end at 18,122.50.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement and Tata Motors were the major laggards.

Titan, Mahindra &



Mahindra, Power Grid and Maruti were among the winners.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended lower, while Hong Kong settled in the greens.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals.

Markets in the US ended

mostly lower on Tuesday.

"Market wavered between gains and losses with investors taking their position around the flatline as mixed global cues troubled them to take a firm one-sided move," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

International oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.74 per cent to USD 83.71 per barrel.

‘Housing sales up 19% in Oct-Dec across 8 cities’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales increased 19 per cent year-on-year to 80,770 units during the October-December period across eight major cities on better demand, according to PropTiger.

Sales of residential properties stood at 67,890 units in the corresponding period of the last year.

According to housing brokerage firm PropTiger.Com's report Real Insight, the housing sales rose 50 per cent to 3,08,940 units during this year across eight major cities as compared to 2,05,940 units sold in 2021.

Vikas Wadhawan, Group CFO, Housing.Com, Makaan.Com & PropTiger.Com, said "Despite the steady climb in home loan interest rates, customers have been interested in locking in lower prices rather than fretting about mortgage interest rates."

As per the data, housing sales in Ahmedabad rose 23 per cent in October-December to 6,640 units from 5,420 units in the year-ago period. Sales were

up 62 per cent in 2022 to 27,310 units from 16,880 units last year.

Bengaluru witnessed a 30 per cent drop in housing sales to 6,560 units in October-December from 9,420 units in the year-ago period. However, the IT city saw a 22 per cent growth in sales to 30,470 units in 2022 from 24,980 units last year.

Housing sales in Chennai fell 2 per cent to 3,160 units in the fourth quarter of this calendar year from 3,210 units in the year-ago period. But, in the full year, the city clocked 8 per cent higher sales to 14,100 units from 13,050 units in 2021.

Delhi-NCR market saw a 3 per cent fall in sales to 4,280 units during October-December from 4,430 units in the corresponding quarter last year. However, sales grew 7 per cent in the NCR to 19,240 units in 2022, from 17,910 units in the last year.

The Delhi-NCR market data comprises Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad.

The sales of residential



properties in Hyderabad jumped over two fold to 10,330 units during October-December from 4,280 units in the same quarter last year. The sales rose 59 per cent in 2022 to 35,370 units from 22,240 units.

In Kolkata, the sales declined 18 per cent to 2,130 units during October-December from 2,610 units in the year-ago period. In contrast, the demand was up 8 per cent to 10,740 units this year from 9,900 units in 2021.

In Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) -- which

includes Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane, the housing sales rose 40 per cent to 31,370 Units in October-December from 22,440 units in the year-ago period. During the full year, the financial capital saw a 87 per cent growth in sales to 1,09,680 units from 58,560 units last year.

The sales of residential properties in Pune grew 1 per cent to 16,300 units in the fourth quarter of this year from 16,080 units in the year-ago period. Sales rose 46 per cent in Pune to 62,030 units during this year from 42,420

units in the previous year.

Ankita Sood, Head of Research, PropTiger.Com and Housing.Com, said, "2022 has ended with a thumping note for residential realty, and this is only the beginning of the much awaited up-cycle which is being witnessed after a decade. Demand is primarily driven by strong end-users' interest."

Residential realty outlook for 2023 remains cautiously positive, given the global macroeconomic environment and the uncertainty over spread of the new variant, Sood observed.

Small towns witness highest rise in room bookings in 2022: OYO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's small towns like Hathras, Sasaram, Karaikudi, and Tenali witnessed the highest increase in room bookings in 2022, according to hospitality and travel-tech firm OYO's annual data. With travel bouncing back strongly after the pandemic, OYO Travelopedia 2022 found that Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, and Chennai emerged as the most booked cities in India for business travel.

"Uttar Pradesh became the most visited state in 2022. Smaller towns and cities such as Hathras (Uttar Pradesh), Srinagar in Uttarakhand, Sasaram (Bihar), Karaikudi (Tamil Nadu) and Tenali (Andhra Pradesh) observed the highest increase in bookings in 2022 versus 2021. June 4, 2022, was the most booked day in 2022," OYO said in a



statement citing its data.

While Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, and Chennai are the most booked cities for business travel, OYO said Jaipur, Goa, Kochi, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam topped the charts as favourite leisure destinations in 2022.

"Varanasi became the most booked destination for pilgrimage followed by Tirupati, Puri, Amritsar and Haridwar. June 3-5, 2022 recorded the maximum bookings in comparison to any other long weekend this year," it added.

In terms of international trends, OYO said Belgium's Luxembourg province emerged as Europe's favourite travel destination, while most bookings made on the OYO Vacation Homes brand platform stemmed from Denmark.

In the US, Texas was the most visited state in 2022. As for the UK, London, Plymouth, Middlesbrough, Leicester and Brighton were the top favourite holiday destinations of 2022.

As per the OYO Travelopedia 2022, a traveller

from the US made a single booking for 339 days in 2022, while the longest stay in Europe was booked for about 105 days in Denmark by a customer. OYO Global Chief Service Officer Shreerang Godbole said 2022 has been a year full of fervour, and travel bounced back with a sharp recovery curve.

"This year, we observed that travellers wanted to make the most of their holidays, and extended long weekends. Remote working offered flexibility to consumers to use their time and explore domestic destinations to make up for their lost vacations," he said.

Godbole further said, "Globally, leisure destinations are leading the travel recovery curve, while in India, we're seeing business travel also significantly contribute to the sector".



Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri launches 'City Finance Rankings 2022', in New Delhi on Wednesday.

PTI

Telecom department discusses service quality issues with telcos

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom department on Wednesday met operators to discuss rising instances of call drops and service quality-related issues, as it deliberated on policy measures that can be considered for improving call quality.

The meeting, which comes amid the rollout of massive 5G networks in the country, was chaired by Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman and attended by telecom service providers, including Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea.

The discussion focused on identifying policy and operational measures that can help telcos to improve the quality of telecom services in the country, according to DoT sources.

Discussion ranged from the issue of interference caused by illegal boosters to ironing out some remaining Right of



Way issues.

The meeting, which lasted for almost two hours, also saw telcos making detailed presentations on the current level of service quality and benchmarks, the sources said.

While telecom regulator Trai looks at service quality norms, the DoT's parley with telecom operators was more about identifying problem areas and seeking inputs on policy measures and operational interventions that can facilitate better service quality

in the country.

In September this year, Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw indicated that telecom service quality parameters could be made more stringent and tighter, possibly to the extent of 3-4 times.

The minister had made it amply clear that the industry will have to improve telecom service quality significantly, as the government too has done its bit by ushering major reforms in the sector.

Rupee trades flat against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee opened on a flat note against the US dollar on Wednesday amid rising crude oil prices and persistent foreign capital outflows.

Forex traders said a strengthening American currency and muted domestic equities weighed on the local unit and restricted the appreciation bias.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.84 against the dollar, then fell to quote at 82.86, registering a rise of just 1 paisa over its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 82.87 against the dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.14 per cent to 104.32.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.11 per cent to USD 84.42 per barrel.



In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 77.87 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 60,849.56. The broader NSE Nifty rose 25.65 points or 0.14 per cent to 18,106.65.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 867.65 crore, according to exchange data.

"Month-end exporter selling could keep upside in USD/INR capped. Rupee is likely to trade in a 82.60-82.90

range with sideways price action," IFA Global Research Academy said in a research note.

Meanwhile, China's reopening is raising concerns that it would fuel global inflation further.

From January, China will practically abandon its three-year-old zero Covid policy and its international isolation, fully opening its airports and ports for travel and trade amid a massive coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Traders can import refined palm oil sans licence till further orders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday extended the facility of restriction free imports of refined palm oil beyond December 31, 2022 till further orders, a move aimed at increasing domestic supplies and bring down prices of cooking oils.

In June last year, the government removed import restrictions on refined palm oil till December 31, 2021 as prices of edible oils had risen sharply. Later, it was extend till December 31, 2022.

"The free import policy of items (refined bleached deodorised palm oil, refined bleached deodorised palmolein) is extended beyond December 31, 2022 until further orders," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. It, however, added that the import is not permitted through any port in Kerala.

Earlier, these imports were

under the restricted category wherein an importer needed a licence or permission from DGFT for inbound shipments.

According to the industry body Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA), India saw more than two-and-a-half times increase in import of refined palm oil at 17.12 lakh tonne in the last 11 months due to lower prices in Indonesia.

India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 130.1 lakh tonne of vegetable oils during the November-September period of the ongoing 2021-22 oil year, 4 per cent higher than the year-ago period. Palm oil shipments comprise 50 per cent of the total vegetable oil imports.

India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, and a small quantity of crude soft oil, including soybean oil from Argentina. Sunflower oil is imported from Ukraine and Russia.

Appliances, consumer electronics industry aim double-digit growth in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Boosted by premiumisation trends, pent-up demand and policy initiatives, the country's appliances and consumer electronics sector expects to continue on the double-digit growth trajectory in 2023, as companies seek to expand capacity and roll out new-age smart products.

Learning the hard way in the wake of the global supply chain disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic and prolonged lockdown in China, leading companies in the sector are focusing on enhancing production capacity as well as domestic supply chain to

reduce dependence on imported components.

All said, geopolitical developments and rupee depreciation could have an adverse impact on companies.

Appliances & Consumer Electronics (ACE) industry body CEAMA is "optimistic about good growth in 2023 as well" and expects to almost double the value of the industry in the next three years to Rs 1.48 lakh crore by 2025, as well as make the country an alternative hub for exports.

In 2022, ACE industry logged an overall value growth of around 35 per cent, led by an unprecedented rise in sales of cooling products such as resi-



dential air conditioners and higher festive sales in the second half of the year. Strong demand for mid and premium products also helped the sector, which was significantly hit by the pandemic.

Notwithstanding worries

about rise in raw material input costs amid inflationary challenges due to the current geopolitical situations, the industry anticipates increased business opportunities, especially since there is likely to be demand for several appliances.

India aims to double auto industry size to ₹15 lakh cr by 2024 end: Gadkari

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India is aiming to double the size of its automobile industry to Rs 15 lakh crore by the end of 2024, making it one of the world's top countries in this sector, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Gadkari also said that his ministry will carry out project works worth Rs 5 lakh crore next year, of which Rs 2 lakh crore will come from the government and the rest will be raised from the capital market.

"Currently our automobile industry is Rs 7.5 lakh crore and we want to take it to Rs 15 lakh crore by the end of 2024, mak-



ing it one of the largest automakers in the world, creating huge job opportunities," Gadkari said at a virtual session of Merchants' Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said the majority of automobiles in the country will run on alternative fuels by 2030.

"We are also working on

developing alternative, clean and green fuels like bio-ethanol, bio-CNG, bio-LNG and green hydrogen," he said, adding that green hydrogen is the fuel of the future.

Gadkari spoke about the success of the listing of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) which drew huge interest from investors.

InvIT is a collective investment scheme similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as a return.

"Small investors are getting 8 per cent return, better than

banks. We do not have a problem with funding. Next year we will work worth Rs 5 lakh crore," he said, responding to a question on investment by his ministry.

The minister also spoke about his focus on reducing the cost of construction with improved quality with greater use of recycled materials like plastics, rubber and others.

Gadkari said these products will offer a reduction in cost with less use of cement and steel.

With the philosophy of inclusive growth, India will play a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the minister said.

MAN UTD MAKE BRIGHT START TO LIFE WITHOUT RONALDO

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United made a positive start to life without Cristiano Ronaldo as Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial stepped out from the Portuguese's shadow to score in a 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest on Tuesday. Ronaldo's rollercoaster second spell at Old Trafford came to an end during the World Cup break after an explosive interview in which he took aim at manager Erik ten Hag and the club's owners.

On the field, his influence had already waned since Ten Hag took charge at the start of the season.

Rashford has been a player transformed under the Dutch coach and carried his fine form for England at the World Cup into the Premier League's return.

A brilliantly worked corner opened the floodgates for United as Christian Eriksen picked out an unmarked Rashford inside the area to sweep into the top corner.

Forest were without their first choice goalkeeper Dean Henderson as he is on loan from United and his understudy Wayne Hennessey was culpable when the home side doubled their lead just three minutes later.

Rashford's burst down the



left and teed up Martial at the edge of the box, but the Frenchman's strike should not have had enough power to beat the Welsh international goalkeeper.

United were also short

handed at the back with Lisandro Martinez absent following Argentina's World Cup celebrations, Diogo Dalot injured and Harry Maguire still feeling the aftereffects of an illness.

As a result Raphael Varane was forced into starting just nine days after playing 113 minutes for France in the World Cup final, while Luke Shaw lined up as a centre-back in a back four for the first time.

But Forest did little to test a makeshift backline as they remain with just one goal away from home in the league all season.

Steve Cooper's men did have the ball in the net shortly before half-time, but Willy Boly's effort was ruled out for offside after a lengthy VAR check.

Ten Hag has publicly stated his desire to add a striker in the January window given Ronaldo's departure and United should have added more than one goal in the second half.

Antony fired straight at Hennessey after fine play from Rashford and Bruno Fernandes gave the Brazilian a clear sight of goal.

Hennessey also stood firm to block from Martial and Rashford from close range, but the Red Devils finally got the third goal they deserved three minutes from time.

The imperious Casemiro strode forward to win possession and picked out his Brazilian compatriot Fred to slot into the far corner.

Victory takes United to within one point of the top four and with a game in hand to come on fourth-placed Tottenham.

Forest remain rooted in the relegation zone, but just one point adrift of safety.

Chelsea cruise back to winning ways

AP ■ LONDON

Kai Havertz and Mason Mount's early strikes helped Chelsea ease to a 2-0 win over Bournemouth on Tuesday to snap a dismal run of five Premier League games without a win.

Graham Potter's side endured a torrid spell before the World Cup but sparkled on their return to Stamford Bridge against the struggling Cherries to move eighth, six points shy of the top four with a game in hand to come.

However, victory came at a cost as defender Reece James limped off on his return from the knee injury which kept him out of England's World Cup campaign.

James cruised through the first half but called for a substitution early in the second, pointing to his knee before going to ground and being replaced by Cesar Azpilicueta.

Potter, aiming to avoid overseeing a fourth consecutive Chelsea league defeat for the first time since 1998, handed Denis Zakaria his Premier League debut.

The Swiss midfielder broke forward well to drive Chelsea up the pitch in the first half, while the effervescent duo of Raheem Sterling and Christian Pulisic led the Bournemouth defence on a merry dance.

Sterling provided the opener with an incisive low cross to the back spot where Havertz slid in to convert in the 16th minute.

Pulisic could easily have won a penalty when he was pulled back but referee Simon Hooper waved away his appeals.

Mount doubled the lead with a well-taken drive from the edge of the box in the 24th minute as Chelsea stepped up another gear before Pulisic had another goal isallowed for a foul by Havertz in the build-up.

After three games in all competitions without scoring a goal, the Blues were determined to end their disappointing streak and get their season back on track.

Bournemouth goalkeeper Mark Travers did well to deny James after a dynamic burst forward, then made an even better save to foil Sterling before the break to keep his team in the game.

Havertz fired wide and Mount forced Travers into a smart low stop as Chelsea tried to put the game out of sight. In the end they didn't need to as Bournemouth failed to threaten other than Jaidon Anthony's late free-kick that was beaten away by rrizabalaga.

Transition at Manchester United has lasted a lot longer than thought, says Wayne Rooney



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wayne Rooney, the all-time highest goal-scorer for Premier League club Manchester United, believes the club has been trying to find solutions to solving their transition period issue though he admitted that it is taking longer than expected.

Manchester United have a new manager in Erik Ten Hag, and while the club has been showing improvement in results, the Dutchman has a huge job in leading a seamless transition phase in the side, for which he had said would run into months, not weeks.

"I think they've gone through a transition and it maybe lasted a lot longer than what we all thought," said Rooney in an upcoming episode of Home of Heroes show on Sports18, set to be aired on December 29.

Rooney also believes that the club can go back to its old glory with Ten Hag at helm.

"I feel with Ten Hag that they are on a good step and they gradually can go back to what it was of the old and it would be difficult of course, you can't replace one of the, if not the greatest manager of all time (in Sir Alex Ferguson)," he said.

The former English player, who now is a manager in the U.S. rated England's national coach Gareth Southgate highly despite them not getting into the semi-finals of FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

"Gareth is doing a great job of being flexible with the players. He's promoting a lot of youth, a lot of players in those from youth ultimately are on the 21-member team as well," Rooney said.

Asked if he would like to coach if the England manager job comes to him, the 37-year old said, "You never know one day in the future if it's a possibility, but at this moment, my priority would be on being a club manager."

Rooney also emphasised that there is no one in the football circuit currently who can replace what Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have achieved in their careers.

"(Erling) Haaland and (Kylian) Mbappe, of course, the next two, at this moment of time, they're obviously better than Messi and Ronaldo. But for them to emulate the career that Messi and Ronaldo have had I can't see it like, I can't see.

What Messi and Ronaldo have done is very unique in the world of football. For Messi and Ronaldo to do it in the same time in the same league for a long time, I don't think we'll see that again," concluded Rooney.

HI announces cash prize to boost morale of Indian team ahead of WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Wednesday announced cash prizes for the Indian team and support staff ahead of next month's FIH men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela.

India will begin their campaign against Spain from January 13 and HI decided to reward the team members with Rs 25 lakh each and the support staff with Rs 5 lakh each for a gold medal-winning feat at the prestigious quadrennial event.

A silver medal would see the players walk away with Rs 15 lakh and the support staff would be awarded Rs 3 lakh, while a bronze medal will see them being awarded with Rs 10 lakh each, while the support staff would be entitled to a prize of Rs 2 lakh. The decision was made by Hockey India Executive Board in a virtual meeting on December 24.




"Finishing on the podium at a Senior Men's World Cup is not an easy task, and we hope this announcement will further increase the motivation levels of the already glory-hungry Indian Men's Hockey Team," said HI president Dilip Tirkey in a release.

India last stood on the World Cup podium in 1975 where they lifted the coveted title, beating Pakistan in the

final held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

India have previously won three medals at this prestigious event. The team registered a bronze medal at the first edition in 1971, followed by a silver medal in Amstelveen in 1973, apart from the title win in 1975.

The Indian team is in pool D with England, Spain, and Wales.




PUBLIC NOTICE
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Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Block C-1, 19th Floor World Trade Tower, Sector-16, Noida- 201301
A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	LADEL00037496374/ Sunita Sinha/P.No-E3A U/G/F B/S Nawada Housing/complex Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059	FREESTYLE/TITANIUM/DL4C AY1667	30/08/2022 Rs. 2,89,231.3/-	08-02-2022
2.	LUDEL00041765433/ Sunita Sinha/P.NO-E3A U/G/F B/S Nawada Housing/complex Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059	FORD/FREESTYLE 1.5 TITANIUM/DL4CAY1667	30/08/2022 Rs. 68,172/-	08-02-2022
3.	SPDEL00041381391/ Sunita Sinha/P.No- E3A U/G/F B/S Nawada Housing/ Complex Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059	FORD/FREESTYLE 1.5 TITANIUM/DL4CAY1667	30/08/2022 Rs. 2,85,064/-	08-02-2022
4.	LADEL00037924326/ Varun Kumar/surinder Kaur/ Plot No. 173 2nd Floor Pocket 14/ Sector 24 Rohini Sector 24 North West/ Delhi, Delhi- 110085	CRETA/TVT 1.6 SX PLUS AT/DL8CAV4197	03/09/2022 Rs. 3,29,129/-	11-03-2022
5.	LADEL00035840592/ Satish Kumar/e- 119 Dharamshala Krishan Vihar, Delhi-110086	KUV100/K8 5 STR/DL12CL8959	21/09/2022 Rs. 95,071.6/-	11-04-2022
6.	LADEL00037004386/ Manik Sisodia/ B-904/mayur Dhawaj Group Housing/ Society Geeta Colony, Delhi- 110031	I 20/SPORTZ/DL5CP5676	21/09/2022 Rs. 95,866/-	09-11-2021
7.	LAFDB00041746062/ Sonwati./ House No. 61/ Tulsi Colony/ Saroorpur, Faridabad- 121004	I-20/SPORTZ 1.2 PETROL/HR51CA6917	21/09/2022 Rs. 4,14,947/-	04-04-2022


The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : December 29, 2022
Place : Delhi/NCR

Sd/- Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



Office of Superintending Engineer
Civil Circle, P.W.D., Devpura Haridwar



website: <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> Fax/Phone No.: 01334-221407 E-mail: sepharpwduk@gmail.com

Letter No. 3438/06C-Civil Circle/22

Date : 28/12/2022

Very Short Term National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)
On the behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar invites item rate bid through E-tendering under Two Bid system in **anticipation of Sanction**. All information will be available from 02.01.2023 and onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion of work (Months)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Category of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Strengthening of Jwalapur-Sarai Ekkar-Bahadarpur Jat-Ambuwala-Dhanpura motor road (SH-88) by DBM and BC Length - 5.00 Km and Resurfacing of its link roads by BC as follows under Special Assistance Scheme (SAS) in District Haridwar:- (a) Bahadarpur Jat to Ekkar Kalan km 3 (0.5km) (b) Gadowali to Bahadarpur Jat km 1.2 (1.5 km) (c) Jwalapur Pathri road to Gadowali km 1,2,3(2.85 km) (d) Ferupur to Katarpur road km 1.2 (1.65 km) (e) Ekkar Kalan to Ambuwala road km 1,2,3 (2.68)	10.26	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	02 Months	60 Days	Registered in category "A" or above for Road work in any of the Govt. department /Govt. undertaking of Uttarakhand state or registered in category "A" or above for Road work in any other State Govt./ Central Govt. department/Govt. undertaking.
2	Improvement of Narsan-Harjoulai Jat-Mundlana-Landhaura- Jaurasi-Budhaheeri- Badheri Rajputana motor road from km 19 to 27 by DBM & BC in khandpur Constituency and Improvement of various damaged motor roads located in Bhagwanpur Constituency under Special Assistance Scheme (SAS) in District Haridwar. (i) Bhalswagaj-Chudiyala-Sikrodha road. (ii) Harchandpur Majara to Manakpur-Adamampur road	15.42	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	02 Months	60 Days	
3	Improvement of Narsan-Harjolijatt-Mundlana-Landhura-Badedi Rajputna Motor road by BC under Special Assistance Scheme (SAS) in District Haridwar	17.58	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	02 Months	60 Days	

Note:- Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned on/before the last date and time of uploading tender by the bidders.

1- Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+G.S.T. as applicable only in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Haridwar; Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, Roorkee; Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, Laksar for Serial number 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Bank Draft for Rs. 5000.00 & GST Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately.

2- Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender including certificate for validity for 60 days.

3- Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar.

4- Enclose Copy of Registration.

Superintending Engineer
Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road,
Near Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow-226007
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of
Uttar Pradesh)

Summons for Filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 976/2022
Date. 22/12/2022
[Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)]
Original Application No. 976/2022
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
TARANJEET SINGH & OTHERS ...Defendant

To,
TARANJEET SINGH
S/o. KARTAR SINGH
R/o. House No. 936/28
First Floor Street No.-10,
Near Sector-7 Extn, Jyoti Park
Gurgaon-122001.
Also at :
Plot No.704, 7th Floor, Tower-2,
Unibera Plot No. GH-16F, Sector-1,
Greater Noida, Noida-201307,
U.P. ...[(Borrower)]
2. IINDERJEET KAUR
W/o. TARANJEET SINGH
R/o. House No. 936/28 first floor
street No.-10, near sector-7 extn,
jyoti park gurgaon-122001.
...[(Co-Borrower)]
3. UNIBERA GROUP
Corporate Office : A-11A, Sector-58,
Noida, U.P.-201301
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 10/5/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

PUBLICATION
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of
Uttar Pradesh)
600/1, University Road,
Near Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow - 226007
DRC NO. 451/2019
NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBT DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993.
ICICI BANK LTD.
vs.
JOHN FRANCIS & OTHERS

To,
1. **JOHN FRANCIS**
B-46, Third Floor, MB Road,
Vishwakarma Colony,
Pulphelad, Delhi-110044
Also At :-
Flat No. 102, 1st Floor, Tower-A,
Alpine Heights, Main Delhi Road,
Opposite Rajwada Farm House,
Rithai, Meerut-250103
Uttar Pradesh
Also At :-
Building No. 10, Tower-C, 18th
Floor, DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon-
122002.
2. **NEERAJ MISHRA**
C3-C4, C-Block, Sainik Nagar,
Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110003.
...Defendants

This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 27,14,824.00/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lac Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four Only) together with pendente lite and future interest @12% per annum from the date of filing 22/07/2017, original application till full realization is made has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No. 451/2019 dated 27/11/2018 in Original Application No. 1056/2017 passed against you by the D.R.T. Lucknow.
2. You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or Before 16/02/2023.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 16/02/2023 At 10:30 A.M.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay the following Costs.
Details of costs :-
Application fee Rs. 30,000/-
Counsel fees & Clerkage Rs.
Publication charges Rs.
Miscellaneous Expenses Rs.
Clerical Charges Rs.
Date :-
Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 8th day of December, 2022
Recovery officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

AUSTRALIA EYE VICTORY AFTER CAREY CENTURY IN 2ND SOUTH AFRICA TEST

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australia closed in on winning the second Test and the series against South Africa on Wednesday after Alex Carey struck a maiden century to leave them in a commanding position.

The hosts declared at tea on 575-8 on day three with an ominous lead of 386 after South Africa were bowled out in their first innings for 189.

In reply, the Proteas were 15-1 when play was abandoned early at the Melbourne Cricket Ground due to persistent drizzle.

Their bid to save the Test, and the three-match series after losing the opener in Brisbane, got off to a horror start with under-pressure skipper Dean Elgar caught by Carey off Pat Cummins without scoring in the second over.

Theunis de Bruyn, who was dropped by David Warner on three, was not out six alongside Sarel Erwee on seven.

Wicketkeeper Carey, playing in his 14th Test, was superb in reaching three figures for the first time before he was caught and bowled by Marco Jansen for 111.

At the declaration, a battling Cameron Green was not out 51 despite a fractured finger, alongside Mitchell Starc on 10.

"It was nice to be able to consolidate from our start from yesterday," Carey, only the second wicketkeeper to make a Test century at the MCG after Rod Marsh, told reporters.

"This one's really special, obviously it's a big moment. But it's also great to help the Australian cricket team be in a strong position. That's what we play for, to win games."

Carey and Green piled on the misery in a 117-run part-



Fractured finger rules Australia's Green out of Sydney Test

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australian allrounder Cameron Green was ruled out of the third Sydney Test against South Africa with a fractured finger, and he will not bowl again in Melbourne.

The 23-year-old took a nasty rap on his finger from fast bowler Anrich Nortje while batting on day two of the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

He retired hurt and went for scans.



"Cameron Green has a small fracture on his right index finger," Cricket Australia said.

"He will bat again in this match but will not bowl, followed by a period of recovery leading into the tour of India (in February).

It means Green -- the second-most expensive buy at the recent Indian Premier League auction -- will miss the third and final Test against the Proteas next week.

His inability to bowl in South Africa's second innings in Melbourne is a big blow, having taken a career-best 5-27 in their first innings' 189.

Australia is also sweating on pace spearhead Mitchell Starc, who hurt a finger as well on Monday.

nership after South Africa gave themselves a glimmer of hope with early wickets, including Warner first ball after he resumed on 200.

Australia began on 386-3 with Travis Head on 48 and Carey on nine after a herculean unbeaten double century from Warner in his 100th Test in gruelling heat on day two.

The veteran opener retired exhausted with severe cramp after making his third Test double ton, but he returned to the crease when Head was out for 51.

He told host broadcaster Fox before play began that he had a "rough night's sleep".

"I probably woke up six or seven times," he added, and was bowled first ball by an Anrich Nortje yorker as Australia lost three wickets for five runs.

Arshdeep among nominees for ICC Emerging Cricketer of Year Award

PTI ■ DUBAI

India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh was on Wednesday nominated for the ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year honour alongside Marco Jansen, Finn Allen and Ibrahim Zadran.

Voting for the award will begin in January, said the ICC in a release.

In the women's category, pace bowler Renuka Singh and batter Yastika Bhatia were nominated for the award alongside Australia's Darcie Brown and England's Alice Capsey.

Arshdeep has made the short-list less than six months after making his international debut.

In 21 T20 Internationals, the lanky pacer took 33 wickets at an average of 18.12, providing breakthroughs both with the new and old ball.

Building on a strong IPL career, India's national setup included the left-arm quick,



and he made the most of the opportunity with the team bouncing back after a disappointing 2021 T20 World Cup. Arshdeep was also handed an ODI cap on India's recent tour of New Zealand, and the future is bright for the 23-year-old.

In a short span of time, Arshdeep came up with memorable performances, including in the high-pressure T20 World Cup game against Pakistan at

the MCG. With swing and pace at his disposal, Arshdeep removed both the Pakistani openers. He claimed Babar Azam with his first ball lbw, before taking the wicket of Mohammad Rizwan at the end of his next over. Arshdeep returned at the death to curtail Asif Ali's plans of a late onslaught, finishing with 3/32 from his four-over allotment.

Arshdeep is in contention

for the award alongside another left-arm quick, Jansen from South Africa, New Zealand opener Allen and Afghanistan batter Zadran.

Renuka Singh has been nominated for the prestigious award after the right-arm bowler claimed 40 wickets this year in just 29 matches across the two white-ball formats, thus emerging as a frontrunner to step into Jhulan Goswami's shoes.

The 26-year-old Renuka was especially potent in ODIs, claiming 18 wickets at an average of 14.88. She troubled the strong Australian line-up in the seven T20I meetings this year, taking eight wickets, while her showing in the Commonwealth Games and the Asia Cup in Dhaka -- 17 wickets in 11 games -- shows she has big-match temperament. Yastika Bhatia, with her composed demeanour, performed remarkably in India's middle order throughout the year.

AP ■ KARACHI

Kane Williamson's first international century for almost two years put New Zealand on top in the first cricket test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Williamson, who stepped down from the captaincy in his team's first test tour to Pakistan in 20 years, capitalized on two missed stumpings to hit an unbeaten 105 as the Black Caps reached 440-6 at stumps on the third day, a lead of two runs.

Tom Latham also made his 13th test century, becoming the first New Zealand opener to achieve the feat, and Devon Conway hit 92 as the visitors dominated the spinners on a slow turning wicket.

Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed picked up 3-143 and left-arm slow bowler Nauman Ali took 2-137 but neither could wrestle control away from the batters.

Wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed, making a test comeback after four years, fumbled stumping opportunities when Williamson was on 15 and 21, while the former skipper also overturned an lbw ruling against Abrar through a televi-



Shikha Pandey makes India comeback for T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran pacer Shikha Pandey on Wednesday made a surprise return to India's 15-member squad for the Women's 2023 T20 World Cup in South Africa.

The ICC event will be played from February 10 to 26.

Shikha last played for India in October 2021 before being controversially dropped from the team. Her inclusion also shows the lack of depth in the pace bowling department.

The 33-year-old, whose strength is to swing the ball, has featured in three Tests, 55 ODIs and 56 T20s.

Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the side with Smriti Mandhana being her deputy. Jemimah Rodrigues has managed to retain her place in the team despite low returns in India's 1-4 series loss to the mighty Australia.

Left-arm pacer Anjali Sarvani is also part of the team following her debut series against Australia. The other pace bowling options

include Renuka Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar, whose inclusion in the squad is subject to fitness.

The Australia series exposed India's frailties in the bowling department and team has a lot of work to do before the ICC event.

The spinners in the team include all-rounders Deepti Sharma and Devika Vaidya besides Radha Yadav and Rajeshwari Gayakwad.

Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh are already in South Africa with the U-19 team.

India had lost to Australia in the 2020 T20 World Cup final at the MCG.

The BCCI also announced the squad for the tri-series that will take place before the World Cup.

The World Cup reserves -- Sneha Rana, S Meghana and Meghna Singh -- are part of the tri-series squad. The tri-series involving India, South Africa and West Indies begins January 19.

Sushma Verma, who last played for India in March 2021, has made a comeback for the tri-series. Uncapped all-rounder Amanjot Kaur is

the lone fresh face in the squad.

India will open their tri-series campaign against hosts South Africa on January 19 before facing West Indies on January 23. All teams play each other twice before the final on February 2.

Squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk) Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Devika Vaidya, Radha Yadav, Renuka Thakur, Anjali Sarvani, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Shikha Pandey.

India's squad for Tri-series: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice Captain), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Devika Vaidya, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarvani, Shushma Verma (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Pooja Vastrakar, Sabbhineni Meghana, Sneha Rana, Shikha Pandey.

Williamson, Latham tons put Kiwis on top against Pakistan



sion referral.

It was Williamson's first international century since his 238 against Pakistan in Hamilton in January 2021.

Tom Blundell (47) and Daryl Mitchell (42) played useful knocks and shared half-century stands with Williamson

against some scrappy Pakistan fielding.

Blundell was dropped low down by Imam-ul-Haq at short mid-wicket before paceman Mohammad Wasim had him lbw late in the day.

Mitchell, who scored three centuries and two half-cen-

turies in the three-test series against England in June, smashed four successive boundaries off Wasim after Pakistan took the second new ball.

Abrar removed Mitchell and Latham to reverse sweeps as the ball ballooned to close-in fielders after hitting their gloves.

Captain Babar Azam was among at least three Pakistan players hit by a virus and didn't take the field at the start. He stayed off until half an hour after lunch.

Salman Agha, who made a maiden test hundred in Pakistan's first innings 438, is unwell and hasn't fielded.

There was confusion when substitute fielder Mohammad Rizwan led the team for a while. However, team management had named Sarfaraz as the designated stand-in skipper and he eventually took charge because substitute fielders can't captain a side.

Himachal bat with purpose after first-innings debacle

PTI ■ DEHRADUN

Himachal Pradesh's top and middle-order batted with purpose to bail them out from a hopeless situation as they were just 10 runs away from wiping out a massive deficit against Uttarakhand at stumps on day two of their Ranji Trophy Group A match here on Wednesday.

Uttarakhand seamer Deepak Dhapola, who was unplayable on Tuesday and returned with enviable figures of 8 for 35 to dismiss Himachal for just 49 runs in the first innings, could not recreate the same magic on Wednesday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

At stumps, Himachal were 277 for four, just 10 runs away from Uttarakhand's first innings lead of 287 runs.

With Akash Vasisht and Rishi Dhawan batting on 73 and 32 runs respectively, the duo have, for now, ensured Himachal will not suffer an innings defeat, though with two full days of play left, Uttarakhand are in pole position to win the contest and

earn full points -- and perhaps a bonus if they win by 10 wickets.

Earlier, Uttarakhand continued from where they had left off on Tuesday at 295 for six, with Aditya Tare adding just one run to his overnight score of 91 before being dismissed by Vaibhav Arora.

The other overnight batter Abhay Negi added 28 more runs and eventually the home team's first innings wound up at 336 off 75.4 overs.

With a massive lead of 287, and the fragility of the opponents laid bare by Dhapola in the first innings, Uttarakhand would have fancied their chances of finishing the game inside two days.

But the determination showed by openers Raghav Dhawan (32) and Prashant Chopra (43), rubbed off on later-order batters, especially Ankit Kalsi (44) and Akash Vasisht (73 not out), as they played sensibly to make amends for their first-innings recklessness.

Dhapola sent down 12 overs but only got the wicket of Ankit Kalsi, while left-arm spinner



Mayank Mishra was the most successful home team bowler, returning figures of 22-1-85-2.

PRANSHU, HARSHIT LEAD DELHI FIGHTBACK AGAINST TN

Young Delhi all-rounder

Pranshu Vijayaran put up a gutsy show before twins Aparajith and Indrajith were dismissed in identical fashion by speedster Harshit Rana as Tamil Nadu reached 214 for five at stumps on day two in a Ranji Trophy game here on

Wednesday.

Vijayaran, playing his second first-class game, smashed spinners Washington Sundar (0/36 in 11 overs) and R Sai Kishore (0/32 in 4 overs) to score 58 off 79 balls to take Delhi to a respectable first innings score

of 303.

He (1/14 in 8 overs) then bowled on a good channel and got the dangerous N Jagadeesan (34) caught behind but it was Harshit (3/73 in 16 overs), who tirelessly dug it in short and induced identical miscued pull

shots from Aparajith (57) and Indrajith (71), both caught at mid-wicket.

Tamil Nadu, however, batted with a lot of positive intent right from start as Sai Sudharshan (25) hit six fours in a jiffy during the pre lunch session before left arm seamer Kuldeep Yadav (1/50 in 10 overs) got one to move away, getting a nick.

Aparajith and Indrajith added 86 runs with consummate ease as they kept the run rate over 4 runs per over.

Left arm spinner Vikas Mishra (0/56 in 12 overs) was once again ineffective as he bowled to a defensive field which allowed Baba brothers to rotate strike with ease.

However, credit must be given to big bodied youngster Harshit, who learnt from his erratic first spell and started digging it in short, trying to take advantage of the two paced track.

"I was ready to concede a few boundaries but plan was to keep on bowling the short ball and allow the brothers to play their shots and wait for a mis-

take," Harshit, who has been coached by former India seamer Amit Bhandari, told reporters after the day's play.

Both Aparajith and Indrajith committed to the short ball early but it didn't come to them at a pace that they expected and hence there was no power in both strokes.

Another man who would be very disappointed is Washington Sundar, who was dismissed by an ordinary delivery drifting down leg side and his tickle ended in keeper Anuj Rawat's gloves.

While Tamil Nadu need 90 runs with seasoned Vijay Shankar (14 batting) at the crease alongside Pradosh Ranjan Paul (2 batting), skipper Indrajith conceded that the five fours and three sixes hit by Pranshu in the morning hurt them.

"Yes, we gave 40 runs too many. In the morning, I was forced to bowl with spinners as we were running short on over rate. At this point, I am not even thinking about outright win and want to ensure first innings lead first," Indrajith said.