

13 die after falling into well in Kushinagar

Kushinagar (UP): Loud cries echoed in non-descript Nebua Naurangia village of Kushinagar district on Thursday after 13 women and children, all girls, fell into a well during a marriage ritual and died.

The incident, in which at least 10 people were also injured, happened on Wednesday night when an iron grille they were sitting on broke, officials and family members said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have expressed grief over the incident.

Parmeshwar Kushwaha, father of the groom, said the pre-wedding ritual of "Matkorba" on the occasion of "Haldi" was in progress near an old and dilapidated well in the village, about 10 kilometres from the Kushinagar district headquarters, when tragedy struck.

Some women and children were sitting on the iron grille and it suddenly broke and they fell into the well, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam said.

Narrating the incident, Kushwaha said, "Actually the well is old and it was covered with a slab. During the ritual, girls were standing on the slab when it broke and they all fell inside the well."

"It is heartbreaking, and I have decided that no procession will go with my son Amit Kushwaha for the wedding. Only the groom will go and get married in a very simple manner as we are not in the state to celebrate," he added. The bodies were cremated in the village on Thursday. On getting information about the tragic incident, Inspector Girjesh Upadhaya reached the spot. Police personnel and villagers pulled out all 23 people who had fallen into the well and rushed them to a hospital. Thirteen of them were declared dead by doctors, the officials said.

Senior administrative and police officials also reached the spot. No one from Parmeshwar Kushwaha's family died in the incident. His granddaughter Payal fell into the well but was rescued.

"We were singing and dancing and suddenly the slab broke and within seconds we

all fell in the well. I was drowning in the well but somehow I was rescued," a woman of the village said.

Ramesh Chaurasia lost his wife Mamta Devi. His brother's wife Shakuntala Devi and two-year-old daughter Pari Chaurasia are among the dead. "I don't know what to do and say as I lost three family members. My wife died and I don't know how I'm going to survive. I was not with them as the programme was meant for women. We all tried to save them and many of the women and girls were rescued by the villagers but the ambulance was very late," he said.

A posse of police personnel were seen guarding the well where the tragedy struck.

The old well is almost 100 metres away from Parmeshwar Kushwaha's home. According to the villagers, the well is more than 70 years old. Local people often perform rituals near the well, especially during weddings.

"Earlier the well was in use but for the last many years it is not. Ten years ago, the well was covered with a slab. The accident took many lives and we can never forget it," Gyan Chaurasia, a resident of the village, said.

"The village was adopted by the MP of the area, Vijay Dubey, but no one cared to provide safety measures for the well," he alleged. Villagers claimed that the ambulances reached the spot over an hour late even after several calls. Furious over the entire episode, many people blocked the 28 B National Highway. The roadblock was later lifted. "The ambulances came very late, and I think more people could have been saved had the ambulances arrived earlier. It was dark in the night but the police came in time and they helped in rescuing people," Pappu Kushwaha, a resident of the village, said.

On the delay by the ambulances, DM Rajalingam said, "The villagers claimed that ambulances were late. Call logs will be checked and whosever is found guilty will face strict action." An assistance of Rs 4 lakh will be given to the family of each of the deceased, he said.

Maha logs 2,797 new Covid cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The daily Covid-19 infections in Maharashtra rose marginally from 2,748 on Wednesday to 2,797, while the daily cases went up marginally in Mumbai from 255 to 259. With 2,797 fresh infections, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the state rose from 78,50,494 to 78,53,291.

With 40 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths registered in the state since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the state in March 2020 went up from 1,43,492 to 1,43,532.

With the fresh 259 cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,54,732 to 10,54,991. While the recovery rate stood static at 98 per cent, the overall growth rate of Copvid-19 cases in the metropolis for a period from February 9 and 16 dropped to 0.03 per cent. As 6,283 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 76,75,578 to 76,81,961. The recovery rate in the state rose from 97.77 per cent to 97.82 per cent.

The number of "active cases" in the state

dropped from 27,445 to 23,816. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 1.82 per cent. The active cases in Pune dropped to 6722. The active cases in Mumbai dropped to 2113 on Wednesday to 1945 on Thursday, while the number of active cases in the neighbouring Thane dropped from 1513 on Wednesday to 1423 on Thursday. Nagpur accounted for 2103 active cases, followed by Ahmednagar (2140), Nashik (1167) and Aurangabad (1126).

Of the 7,68,76,774 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 78,53,291 have tested positive (10.22 per cent) for COVID-19 until Thursday.

Currently, 2,51,023 people are in home quarantine while 1,146 people are in institutional quarantine. Meanwhile, no fresh Omicron case was recorded in Maharashtra on Thursday, resulting in the total number of the new Covid-19 variant cases remaining static at 4,456. Of these cases, 3,455 patients have been discharged after they tested negative in the RT-PCR tests. Till Thursday evening, 8904 samples had been sent for genome sequencing, out of which, results of 7,991 patients have been received, while the results of 913 samples are awaited.

Full court reference: SC pays homage to former Union Law Minister Hansraj Bhardwaj, 2 others

New Delhi: The Supreme Court

on Thursday held a full court reference to pay homage to former Union Law Minister Hansraj Bhardwaj, ex-Bar Council of India chairman Suraj Narain Prasad Sinha, and senior lawyer and former vice-chairman of the Law Commission N M Ghatate. Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana, other apex court judges, and Attorney General K K Venugopal were among those who paid tribute to the departed souls at the reference held in the auditorium of the new apex court premises. A full court reference is held for departed judges of the apex court and senior advocates as a mark of



respect and remembrance for their service to the court and the legal profession. "My Brother and Sister Judges join me in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of Dr Hansraj Bharadwaj, Shri Suraj Narayan Prasad Sinha, and Dr N M Ghatate. We pray to the Almighty to give them strength to bear this irreparable loss," CJI Ramana said in the full court reference. Attorney General K K Venugopal and Supreme Court

Bar Association president and senior advocate Vikas Singh also paid homage to the former judges. Dr Bhardwaj was born on May 17, 1937 and his journey in the legal profession began in the year 1960 when he completed his LL.B. And enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi as an advocate.

"With time, Dr Bhardwaj's inclination to politics led him to become a legal advisor to the late Smt. Indira Gandhi. By 1971, his steady success in the profession was noticed and he was appointed as Additional Public Prosecutor in Delhi. He was engaged to defend several high-profile figures, including prominent political leaders.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday inaugurates an Orientation Programme for Members of Bihar Legislative Assembly and Bihar Legislative Council and addressed the Members of both the Houses of Bihar legislature at Patna on the occasion of foundation day of Bihar Legislative Assembly. Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Speaker of Bihar Legislative Assembly, Vijay Kumar Sinha, Leader of Opposition, Bihar Legislative Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and several other dignitaries graced the occasion

Cong legislators to spend night in K'taka House demanding Min's dismissal

Bengaluru: Congress legislators will spend the night inside Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council on Thursday, demanding the sacking of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa and also that he be booked for sedition regarding his statement about the national flag.

This came even as protests by the party legislators rocked the proceedings in both houses for the second consecutive day. Congress members stayed back in the assembly, even after it was adjourned for the day. Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa later met Leader of Opposition and Congress Legislature Party leader

Siddaramaiah in the assembly premises and held talks.

Earlier, addressing reporters outside the assembly, Siddaramaiah, accusing BJP and Sangh Parivar of disrespecting the national flag, said the Congress has decided to stage 'day-and-night' protests, to take the issue to a "logical end".

Noting that the Governor, who is the constitutional head, should have intervened and given instructions for Eshwarappa's dismissal, as his comments amount to treason, he said: "The Chief Minister is also not taking action against Eshwarappa, the RSS is implementing its hidden agenda through Eshwarappa."

IED found in N-E Delhi

From Page 1

The bag containing IED was picked up by the NSG bomb disposal squad from the second floor of the building. It will be defused at a safe location, official sources said.

The area has been cordoned off and senior police officials have reached the spot.

A local said, "Those living in the area where the explosive has been found have been vacated. Police told us that they have come to know about tenants living in that house who are now absconding." In January, an IED stuffed with RDX and ammonium nitrate was found inside an unattended bag at the Ghazipur flower market here but it was later defused. The incident had happened ahead of Republic Day celebrations on January 26 for which the security apparatus in the National Capital was already on high alert. A fire tender, NSG officials and the Forensic Science Laboratory team also reached the spot.

Ex-NSE MD-CEO house raided for tax evasion

From Page 1

Official sources said the searches are aimed to check and gather evidence on the charges of alleged financial irregularities and tax evasion against the duo.

The Mumbai investigation wing of the Income Tax Department searched the premises of Ramkrishna and Subramanian.

Earlier, Ramkrishna hit the headlines after a recent Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI order said she was steered by a yogi, dwelling in the Himalayan ranges, in the appointment of Anand Subramanian as the exchange's group operating officer and adviser to the managing director (MD).

The SEBI charged Ramkrishna and others for alleged lapses in the appointment of Subramanian as the chief strategic adviser and his subsequent re-designation as group operating officer and adviser to the MD.

The SEBI slapped a fine of Rs 3 crore on Ramkrishna, Rs 2 crore each on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Subramanian, former NSE MD and CEO Ravi Narain, and Rs 6 lakh on V R Narasimhan, who was the chief regulatory officer and compliance officer.

Ramkrishna shared certain internal confidential information, including financial and business plans of NSE, dividend scenario, and financial results, with the "yogi" and even consulted him over the performance appraisals of the exchange's employees, according to the SEBI order.

Ramkrishna was the MD and CEO of NSE from April 2013 to December 2016.

She refused to reveal the identity of the unknown person and sought to claim that the unknown person is a spiritual force, the SEBI noted.

PNS

Manmohan...

From Page 1

"I hope that by now the ruling dispensation would have realised that relations between the countries do not improve by forcefully embracing leaders, playing on a swing with them or going uninvited to have biryani," Singh stated in an obvious reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharing a traditional swing with Chinese president Xi Jinping during the latter's 2014 India visit and his sudden Lahore visit to meet then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2015.

In his scathing attack against the Modi-led Government, Singh said the BJP had been in power for more than seven years and was still blaming first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the problems of the people.

Targeting the Central Government on a host of issues, including the farmers' agitation, foreign policy, price rise and unemployment, Singh said the BJP's nationalism was "fake" and was based on the British policy of "divide and rule".

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "From my perspective, this is purely or clearly a political message, not a policy one. So I think from my

position here I would not like to get into that. As regards China, the facts of the matter are clear, I don't need to reiterate them. We have been discussing the processes of the conversation with China and how the situation has arisen...I think repeatedly we have said that. On the other issues, as I said, a political message clearly not a policy one, so I don't think I should dwell more into that."

With the Congress targeting the Centre saying its governance was visible only in advertisements, Singh said, "The truth somehow always comes to the fore. It is very easy to talk big things but it is very difficult to put those things into action." He said the Government does not have trust in the country's constitution and "institutions are continuously being weakened".

"Today the situation is very worrisome. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the short-sighted policies of the Central Government, on the one hand, have caused people to suffer from a falling economy, rising inflation, and unemployment," he said.

Singh, who is a noted economist, said they have no understanding of the economy, which was not in a healthy shape.

India lifts...

From Page 1

Indian airlines have been informed to mount the flights due to increase in demand," said the Ministry adding it is also coordinating with the MEA regarding the flight services.

The Indian embassy in Kyiv said more flights are being planned in the near future to meet the additional demand. Currently, India has air bubble arrangements with 35 countries.

"We've set up control rooms. We also have a 24/7 helpline. I don't think any decision on evacuation has been taken, our embassy continues to function normally and provide services to Indian nationals in Ukraine," Bagchi said. On the seriousness of the ongoing developments, the spokesperson said, "We take on board developments that are happening as well as our assessment of how we can assist our citizens there. Our focus is and remains on Indian citizens, Indian students, Indian nationals rather than anything larger than that."

"However, there were a limited number of flights under air bubble arrangements, restrictions on the number of flights

and passengers removed. Indian carriers being encouraged to operate Chartered flights between India-Ukraine," he said. "In a sense, we have been supportive of an immediate de-escalation of tensions and a resolution of issues through sustained diplomatic dialogue. Welcome efforts being undertaken under Normandy Format for implementation of Minsk agreements," he added.

Amid the prevailing situation in Ukraine due to the rising tensions with Russia and uncertainties of the current situation, India on Tuesday advised its citizens to temporarily leave Ukraine. Meanwhile, several students who are stranded in Ukraine, have complained that airlines between Ukraine and India have almost doubled and a ticket of Rs 30,000 is now being charged at Rs 60,000, which many students can't afford."The Embassy of India has been receiving several appeals about the non-availability of flights from Ukraine to India. In this regard, students are advised not to resort to panic, but book the earliest available and convenient flights to travel to India," the embassy in Kyiv had said in a statement.

debt on the people is constantly increasing, while the earnings are decreasing," he said. He said the rich are becoming richer while the poor are becoming poorer. "But this Government is portraying that everything is fine by manipulating figures," Singh said further.

"In every policy, there is selfishness, while in intent there is hatred and division. People are being divided in the name of caste and region for their selfish interests..." he said. The former Prime Minister also referred to the security lapse of Modi's convoy being stuck on a flyover in Ferozepur last month.

"A few days ago, in the name of the Prime Minister's security, an attempt was made to defame Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and the people of the State..." he said. "During the farmers' agitation too, an attempt was made to defame Punjab and Punjabiyat," he said. The Congress leader said he had worked as Prime Minister for 10 years and had always preferred that his work should speak for itself.

"We never divided the country for political gains. We never tried to put curtains on the truth. Never let the country's prestige or that of the post be lowered," he said.

M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SECTION-1

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :

S. No.	System Tender No.	Work	District	Probable Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Completion Period (months)	Date of Submission of Bid	Date of Opening of Tenders
1.	2022_MPHID_184921	Construction of 4G, 2H Type Qtr at Khanikhaas Ghasour, 2F Type at Dhanora and 2F, 4H Type at Chhapara NHM Staff Qtr Distt Seoni.	Seoni	PAC – 199.18 Cost of Form Rs. 0.177 EMD Fees 1.99	12 Months i/c Rainy Season	Up to 02.03.2022 17:30 P.M.	04.03.2022 12:30 P.M.

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <http://mptenders.gov.in> 2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 18.02.2022 at 10:30 A.M. to 02.03.2022 at 17:30 P.M. 3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD:

BULDING:ASSAM: CHANDMARI:GUWAHATI-3)

No.CH/TB III/23/2022/2

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer on behalf of P.W.D. (Health & Education). Assam. on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites online EPC Mode-1 e-tenders in two bid system (Eligibility and financial) on **Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode-1 basis** from eligible firms/contractors of repute for the following work:

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Sl. No	state/Package	Name of Work	**Approx Value of Work (Rs.In Crore)	Time of completion	E.M.D.	E.M.D. to be drawn favour of	tender Cost (Rs.)
1	NMC-DMC	Construction of proposed New Medical College at Dhemaji, Assam, under NIDA	Rs.349.12	36 months (3 Monthsfor Planning & Design and obtaining approvals + 33 months for execution and	(2% for General, and 1 % for Reserved category)	E.E.. PWD. Dhemaji Territorial Building Division. Dhemaji	12.500/-

Note :- 1. The Work will be allotted on receipt of A/A from the competent authority.
2. ** NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
3. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/-

Chief Engineer. P.W.D. (Building). Health & Education. Assam,Chandmari. Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog/C/12259/21

NOTICE

Shri Yatin Arora, holder of Indian Passport No. R4275834, and Ms. Ann Rammawii Haokip, holder of Indian Passport No. D1048873, presently residing in Bhutan, have given notice of intended marriage between them at the Embassy of India, Thimphu under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the Embassy of India, Thimphu (cons.thimphu@mea.gov.in) according to the procedure laid down under the Act within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

DU reopens, sees good student turnout

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After almost two years, the students of Delhi University (DU) came to college and attended classes on Thursday. The varsity was shut in March 2020 owing to the breakout of the Covid pandemic.

Since morning on Thursday, the Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station, the nearest such, swarmed with students as they headed to their colleges located in the North Campus, where they were greeted by guards bearing thermal scanners in their hands. The students were also seen showering flowers at the entrance gate.

While there was a good turnout of students from the national Capital, attendance from other States was low, with their numbers only expected to pick up from next week.

Principals, however, said the turnout was better than their expectations. According to teachers, attendance was higher among second year stu-



Students attend a lecture at the Miranda House College. Delhi University reopened for classes on Thursday
Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

dents than the first year students.

"I was excited to go back to the campus. The university was shut for around two years and the online mode of study was not efficient enough to substitute the offline mode of education. It is a time to reclaim our lost years," said Nirbhay (21), a law student.

The first year students were seen filled with joy and excitement as the campus opened. "The reopening of campus brought her life back on track. We are super excited to join offline classes as it provides a whole new bunch of opportunities and exposure to shape our future," said Monika Tiwari, a first year student.

Earlier this month, several student bodies had held protests demanding the reopening of the campus. The authorities decided to resume the classes after a decline in number of Coronavirus cases in the national Capital.

However, not everyone was happy with the resumption of offline classes as outstation

students complained of a spike in rent at paying guest accommodations.

"The PG owners in the area are now taking advantage of the situation and asking students triple the amount of actual rent. They are asking for Rs 16,000 for a triple-bed room. This is too much," said Amrita, a third year B.A student from Rajasthan. Another student, 18-years-old Mamatha Rose from Kerala, who looked visibly tired after standing in a long queue at the Vishwavidyalaya Metro station, too shared her grouse.

"They earlier informed us you have to come to Delhi. But two days back they told us you can take online classes. I mean, there is so much mismanagement. We had already booked the tickets and my friend and her father helped us book a PG.

"They did not give us enough time to shift. Today, I am unable to take online classes because I need to shift. They should have provided us with accommodation facilities," Rose said.

Two held for cheating people through fake customer care sites

New Delhi: Two men were arrested from Jharkhand for allegedly cheating several people on the pretext of giving them services through customer care support, police said on Thursday. Abhishek Kumar (22) and his accomplice Raju Ansari (22) were arrested from Dumka in Jharkhand, they said.

Kumar who is the mastermind behind the crime used to upload his contact number on internet in the name of various customer care sites. He has been running his gang from past six months and his accomplice Ansari arranged the bank accounts from his native village of Asansol, West Bengal, police said. Eight bank accounts having Rs 82 lakhs cheated from multiple victims has been identified by the police.

The matter came to light after one of the victim who was duped of Rs 4.78 lakhs by the accused approached the police. According to the police, the victim filed a complaint alleging that on January 7, he got the accused's number while searching for customer care number of makemytrip.Com for getting the refund amount from the

site.

He conveyed his grievances to the caller who impersonated himself as an employee of 'make my trip' department, police said. As directed by the fraudster, the victim filled up a form which was sent by him on his phone. Then he also installed the Anydesk App and SMS forwarded App in his phone on the accused's instructions. After that an amount Rs. 4,78,278 was deducted from his HDFC bank account, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R Sathiyasundram said the mobile phone of the accused was found switched off. After analysing the accused's bank details, it came to know that the accused withdrew cash from different vendors. Cyber Team analysed the transaction details of victim's account and found that cheated amount has been routed at different platform.

"On investigation, it revealed that shopping was done from Bigbazar, Bhagalpur, Bihar, make my trip travel vouchers and I-phone 12 and 3 gold bar was delivered at Dumka,

Jharkhand. After, conducting technical investigation, it was found that the cheater's network is based at Dumka, Jharkhand. Then raid was conducted at Dumka and the two accused were nabbed," he said.

During the course of interrogation, accused Abhishek disclosed that he uploads his mobile number on Google Ads for customer support care of flipkart, make my trip, airlines. On receiving call from victim, he directs the victim to fill the form and instruct him to install "Any Desk App". After installing the App, he can monitor and control the screen of victim through Any Desk App and upload SMS forwarder App in the complainant mobile to route the bank SMS, the officer said. "After collecting the victim's card details, he sends the money at different online platform i.e., Flipkart, Payu, Make my Trip and online bank accounts. I-phone 12 was recovered from him which was purchased by the cheated amount. The fake account were opened thoughonline on the basis of Aadhaar and Pan card details," the DCP said.

2 arrested for shooting at Tula Ram junior resident doctor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly shooting at a junior resident doctor of Delhi's Rao Tula Ram Memorial (RTRM) hospital recently.

The accused have been identified as Dinesh (21) and Nikhil (22), both residents of Jhajjar district in Haryana. Earlier, on February 7, unidentified assailants shot at 26-year-old Hemant near the hospital around 8 PM.

The assailants who had already gained entry into the victim's car, threatened the doctor with a pistol after he

entered the vehicle. Hemant was then pushed out of his car and the accused shot at him. One of the bullets hit Hemant on his face, the police said.

The police had earlier said while fleeing with the vehicle, the accused had rammed the car into the hospital gates that had punctured the tyres. The vehicle had then crashed outside the facility. The accused, however, had managed to flee.

According to Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, on Wednesday, after receiving specific inputs, a police team apprehended both the

accused.

"Dinesh told the police that that he was a 35 per cent shareholder of a wine shop back in his village along with a person named Lalit and had suffered losses. He then bought a car and started supplying illicit liquor in Delhi and NCR," said the DCP.

"In September, he was nabbed by the police here while supplying liquor in his car which was also seized. Dinesh along with Nikhil then hatched a plan to rob a car so that they can place a fake number plate and supply illicit liquor in it," said the DCP.

Delhi Police arrests two men for killing a fellow ragpicker

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly killing a fellow ragpicker after a quarrel broke out between them over a petty issue in in Karol Bagh area. Police said it took them nearly a month to establish the identity of deceased, as body was found in completely decomposed state and accused persons destroyed all the evidence and fled to Bihar.

The accused have been identified as Chhote Jamadar (32) and Kamlesh Ram (36) and the duo worked as rag pickers in Karol Bagh area. Police said that they knew the victim -- Bipin Bindh (32), who hailed from their native place in Bihar's Nalanda.

According to police, the victim was distantly related to one of the accused and he used to often address the accused as "Tu mera Sala hai", this often annoyed the accused and on

the day of incident as well, the victim under the influence of alcohol fought with the accused person and to take revenge, they killed him, police said.

According to Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district, the matter came to light on January 16 when an unidentified body in a decomposed state was found lying in the DSIDC, Lawrence Road in the area of Keshav Puram police station.

"The body was taken out from the drain and it was completely in decomposed state and no identity could be established except scar marks and a tattoo on hand. The identity of the man was established by his family through an 'om' tattoo mark on his hand," said the DCP.

"On preliminary inspection, the hands of the body were found tied with a scarf and the other part of the scarf was also found wrapped

around its neck. Prima facie, the age was presumed to be of 35 years and during medical examination, doctor opined time of death to be of three-four days ago," said the DCP.

"From the circumstances, it was observed that some unknown person(s) have killed him and to destroy evidences, they dumped his body in the drain. Police enquiry revealed that the deceased had a quarrel with two other rag pickers in Karol Bagh area and after killing him, they went to their native place in Bihar," said the DCP.

"A team was also sent to Nalanda, Bihar but after some days, based on the inputs and technical surveillance, it was found that two persons who had a quarrel with the deceased, have come to Jhuggis in Transport Nagar, Punjabi Bagh. Accordingly, raid was conducted and they were nabbed from their hideouts," said the DCP.

No changes made to insignia: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday said that there have been no changes made to its insignia and strict legal action would be taken against those spreading false narratives.

In a tweet in Hindi, the Delhi Police said that no changes have been made to its insignia. "Some social media users with ulterior motives are trying to discredit Delhi Police, incite people by spreading false narrative about the new Delhi Police 'colours.'" We condemn the false allegations and assure strict legal action against such social media accounts," Delhi Police tweeted.

However, a senior official said police personnel are wearing a commemorative badge on their uniform, atop their name

plates, to mark the prestigious award of colours to the force by the President in 1954.

They will wear this badge also to commemorate the platinum anniversary celebrations of the Delhi Police, the official said. According to an official order, in 1954, the President had honoured the Delhi Police by awarding it with 'colours'.

"It is essential that we remember this singular honour to our organisation, lest the 'Colours' remain confined to rooms and quarter guards," stated the order. "As such, to commemorate the platinum anniversary celebrations of the Delhi Police, it is desirable that all ranks of Delhi Police wear the 'Insignia' culled from the 'Colours', on their uniforms from February 16 as a mark of respect to the 'Colours'.

'Schools of Specialised Excellence' received more than 7,500 applications

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's run 'Schools of Specialised Excellence (SoSEs)' have received more than 7,500 applications within a few days of opening of the registration process. The SoSEs that started last year with an aim to provide world-class education to children from all sections of society, are equipped with world-class infrastructure and facilities suited to transact new-age curriculum and assessment in specialised domains, the students of these schools will have the opportunity for experiential learning through projects, field visits and internships in their areas of interest.

Following the successful first year, 11 new SoSEs have been added to the list and now their numbers have increased to 31. These schools provide specialized education in five areas which include Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Humanities, Performing and Visual Arts, High-end 21st century skills and Armed Forces Preparatory School.

"The process of admission for the new session has started in these schools now. Students can apply for admission in class 9th in their preferred domain till February 28. Along with this, admissions will also be taken in class 11th in STEM and Armed Forces Preparatory School this year. Students willing to take admissions can reach out to the admission help desk set up at their nearest SoSE," the office of the Deputy Chief Minister said in a statement.

NMC extends last date to avail rebate on property tax

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) has extended the last date for the first phase of the Amnesty Scheme from 15 February to 28 February 2022.

Standing Committee Chairman in NMC Jogi Ram Jain said that in the first phase of the amnesty scheme, 100 percent waiver of interest and penalty and 15 percent rebate on principal amount is being given to property tax payers on lump sum payment of outstanding property tax up to

March 31. The decision to extend the date is taken considering the Covid restrictions. "The citizens were not able to take advantage of the first phase of the amnesty scheme," he said.

Jain informed that the north Corporation had started a three-phase amnesty scheme for the citizens. He said that if a citizen is not able to deposit his outstanding property tax in the first phase due to any reason, then he / she will have a chance to deposit the outstanding property tax in the second and similarly in the third phase.

SDMC's SOPs to ensure disposal of sludge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has prepared a 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP) to ensure proper disposal of sludge generated from septic tanks from households of unauthorized colonies, a senior civic body official said. The move is taken to avoid dumping sludge into

drains. "We will transport it to the nearest 'Sewage Treatment Plant' of the Delhi Jal Board for proper disposal. Residents of such areas may contact 206 registered 'desludging' operators, the list of which is available on SDMC's website," he added.

As per the action plan, no septic tank cleaning should be carried out without informing SDMC.

Delhi Police plans initiatives to make DU campus safer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To make the Delhi University campus safer, especially for women, the police plans to undertake a host of initiatives that would include seeking ideas from students about better policing and creating awareness about cyber crimes, officials said on Thursday.

To build a better rapport, the Delhi Police also plans to hold discussions on student politics in the campus to help avoid untoward incidents, they said.

A senior officer said they want to give out a message that the police and students will work together for a safer and more promising university-campus.

As the DU reopened after a long Covid-induced hiatus, the north district of the force, under its University Intervention Programme "ADVIK", organised a pink cycle rally comprising 50 participants, including women

officers along with female students.

The Maurice Nagar police station under which the North Campus falls, will be better sensitised about women safety. Since the university has reopened after the third wave, the police will also be focusing on Covid-appropriate behaviour, besides prevention of crime, officials said.

In the coming days, the police along with university officials and student bodies, will be organizing rural sports games.

"We want to give them (students) a correct perspective, a good role model of what policing and citizens are all about..," officials said.

The games would include tug of war, arm wrestling and volleyball where the students will compete with Delhi Police teams and this will help build a better student-police relationship, officials said, adding they would also try to add other sports like weightlifting soon.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the aim is to connect with the students for better police-students camaraderie and also seeking ideas from them for better policing so as to have a more peaceful and friendly neighbourhood.

"This is part of the new community and preventive policing technique," he said.

As a step towards police-students camaraderie, the police will also organise career counselling sessions to help and guide students in making better choices along with other extra-curricular activities, the senior official said.

"As the Delhi University has reopened, the north district has started 'Advik', a university intervention programme where the police will proactively engage with the varsity at various levels by organising awareness programmes focusing on women safety, anti-ragging, street crimes, cyber crimes and general civil discipline," he said.

DTCP team visits Lumbini society; residents demand structural audit

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Days after the partial collapse of a building in Gurugram's Chintels Paradiso which left two persons dead, the District Town and Country Planning's (DTCP) team led by, RS Bhath visited Brisk Lumbini society in sector 109 and inspected the construction and structural safety on Thursday, after receiving several complaints. Residents have already been demanding a structural audit of the building. Residents had also filed a complaint against the developer.

An official said that a team

of DTCP led by Bhath visited the society's basement, flat and other areas on Thursday and saw issues raised by the residents.

"During the inspection, the team noticed that basement seepage, few cracks emerge in pillars and balconies plasters were also fallen. Around 30 residents were present at the site," said the official.

"The residents requested to get structural audit soon and also ask the builder to do repairs of short time. We will ask the developer to get a few things to repair immediately of urgent nature under the supervision of qualified engineers

and also assured residents that we will take up the matter on priority," Bhath said.

Recently, another housing society — NBCC Green View Society located in Sector 37-D — has been declared unsafe for the residents.

According to the administration officials, the IIT Delhi team had conducted a study and recommended testing of the Green View Society in which it was found that the society's buildings are unsafe, and they should be vacated within two months.

The builder was not available for comments despite repeated attempts.

BJP accuses AAP of creating religious rift in Punjab

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of creating a "rift" between the Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab to capture power in the State.

Addressing the media, BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta accused Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal and other AAP leaders of making false claims in their campaign for the Punjab Assembly polls and said the "Delhi model" highlighted by the regional party is a sham.

The Delhi BJP president said the Kejriwal government which completed two years of its third term could spend only 21 per cent of the state's complete budget. They also alleged that the AAPs agenda is to "loot" Punjab and likened it to the East India Company which wants to grab power in the state by making all sorts of promises.



Sirsa said that Kejriwal promised to make Punjab free from drugs on the other hand; he opened 850 liquor shops in Delhi to ensure everyone gets liquor.

The BJP leader also slammed the Congress over its Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's derogatory reference to people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as 'bhaiyya' who, he had said, should be kept out of the state. Channi was apparently refer-

ring to AAP leaders.

Sirsa wondered what will happen if other states start making similar remarks against Sikhs who, he noted, live across the country.

While Kejriwal claims that his government has given employment to over 10 lakh people, only 3246 persons have been given jobs, he said, claiming that he will leave politics if the Delhi CM can provide details of even 5,000 persons given jobs.

AAP will build schools, provide free electricity in Punjab: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI ■ PUNJAB

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will build schools, hospitals and provide free electricity in Punjab after forming the government in the state, party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal said while addressing Nukkad Sabhas throughout Punjab and appealed people to vote for the party candidates.

Amid the roaring chants 'Ek Mauka Kejriwal Nu' and 'Aam Aadmi Party Zindabad', AAP National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressed a series of enthusiastic Nukkad Sabhas in seven different areas of Punjab on Thursday.

Kejriwal asked people to come together and vote for the party candidates to form a stable government in Punjab. He also paid homage to Guru Nanak Dev at the roadshow in Dera Baba Nanak.

He appealed to the public to vote in large numbers and lead the AAP to victory.

While addressing the gathering, Kejriwal said "The elections begin on the 20th — everyone must be ready to cast their vote for the AAP. This time we have to come together and save Punjab from these corrupt governments. Everyone will together push the button with AAP's election symbol, and not even mistakenly vote for any other party. All these parties have collectively robbed Punjab — BJP, Congress, Akali Dal — they all got together in order to plunder the state.

"We will provide an allowance of Rs 1000 to every woman in Punjab. The AAP will work in the interests of each and every community — be it Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, or from any caste or creed."

"The AAP will build schools where children from all backgrounds will study together. We will also regularise contractual workers, and solve all grievances shared by the people of Punjab," he added.

23-year-old Indian Army personnel hangs himself to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old Indian Army personnel hanged himself to death inside a guesthouse in central Delhi's Paharganj area.

The deceased identified as Murari was in the Bihar Regiment and he had checked into a guesthouse in Paharganj on Tuesday.

The jawan, hailing from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan, was scheduled to check out of the guesthouse in the evening, but when he did not open the door, the manager informed the police, said the official.

According to Shweta Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, after receiving information, the police reached the guesthouse where the man was found hanging from the ceiling fan. "A suicide note was also recovered from the room which stated that he was feeling very guilty as he had hurt the feeling of a girl as well as his family members by not telling them the truth," said the DCP.

Biggest bank fraud: ABG Shipyard EX-CMD quizzed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has questioned the former Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ABG Shipyard Ltd. Rishi Agarwal in connection with its probe into the Rs 22,848 crore alleged banking fraud, the biggest scam ever.

Agarwal was examined recently but officials did not reveal the details of the exact date of his examination.

The CBI move comes after it registered the FIR on February 7 on a complaint filed by SBI on August 25, 2020.

The CBI has issued look out circulars against the accused persons in the case to prevent them from leaving the country.

The agency has also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia and another company ABG International Pvt Ltd for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust



and abuse of official position under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

After registering the FIR, the agency had conducted searches at 13 locations on February 12 in which several incriminating documents including books of accounts of the accused borrower company. The recovered documents are being scrutinized by the agency.

The SBI had first filed a complaint on November 8, 2019 on which the CBI had sought some clarifications on March 12, 2020.

The bank filed a fresh complaint

in August that year. After over one-and-a-half-years, the CBI acted on the complaint and filed the FIR on February 7.

The case entailed scrutiny of voluminous data and records as 28 banks were involved and needed verification as the company had allegedly diverted funds to a lot of companies which also required examination, officials claimed.

The company was sanctioned credit facilities from 28 banks and financial institutions led by ICICI Bank, with the SBI, having exposure of Rs 2,468.51 crore, they said.

Nehru continues to inspire world, while Modi denigrates him: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong invoked Jawaharlal Nehru during a speech on democracy, the Congress on Thursday said while the country's first premier continues to inspire world leaders even today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi denigrates him inside and outside of Parliament.

"Pandit Nehru's magnanimity continues to inspire world leaders even today. Pity the ones here at home who fail to have the vision to understand the exceptional leader he was," the Congress said on its Twitter handle.

Senior party leader and former Union minister Jairam Ramesh shared a video clip of Lee Hsien Loong's speech and said, "Singapore PM invokes Nehru to argue how democracy should work during a parliamentary debate whereas our PM denigrates Nehru all the time inside and outside Parliament."

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh said the BJP, despite being in power for more than seven years, continued to blame Nehru for the problems of the people.

The Indian Overseas Congress also said on Twitter, "Nehru stands tall as an epitome of democracy! Listen to PM of

Singapore who refers to Nehru when he speaks about building a democratic society. Hope our PM listens to it." The All India Mahila Congress also shared an identical tweet.

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "This is the difference between Lee Hsien Loong and Narendra Modi. Lee is leading Singapore to new heights of development and Modi is taking our country for a ride on false promises. No matter how hard Modi tries, Pt Nehru shall remain immortal, builder of Modern India."

Lee invoked Nehru while arguing how democracy should work in the city-state during a passionate debate in Parliament. "Most countries are founded and start off on the basis of high ideals and noble values. But more often than not, beyond the founding leaders and the pioneer generation, over decades and generations, gradually things change," he said on Tuesday. "Things start off with passionate intensity. The leaders, who fought for and won independence, are often exceptional individuals of great courage, immense culture, and outstanding ability. They came through the crucible of fire and emerged as leaders of men and nations. They are the David Ben-Gurions, the Jawaharlal Nehrus, and we have our own too," he said.

Air quality panel lifts ban on use of diesel generators in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Almost four months after the ban on the use of diesel generator sets in the national Capital and surrounding areas, a sub-committee of the Centre's air quality panel on Thursday lifted the prohibition with immediate effect, observing that air quality has improved in the last few days and is expected to get better in the coming days.

The ban on the use of diesel generator sets was enforced in

October last year, along with other measures to curb air pollution.

According to an order issued, the sub-committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) met on Wednesday and reviewed the status of air quality, after which it was decided that the measures under 'very poor' category of GRAP, including the ban on use of diesel generator sets in Delhi-NCR, be lifted with



immediate effect.

"It was observed that the AQI in the last 4 to 5 days has been between moderate' and poor' category and a meeting was convened to review the status on February 16. As per the inputs received from the representative from IMD during the meeting, the air quality in Delhi is not likely to reach the very poor category and is expected to get better in the coming days due to improved meteorological conditions favouring dispersion of pollu-

nants.

Based on this forecast and prediction, the sub-committee on GRAP has decided that the measures under the 'Very Poor' category of GRAP including the ban on use of diesel generator sets in Delhi-NCR be lifted with immediate effect, the order said. The ban on the use of diesel generator sets was enforced in October 2021, along with other measures to check air pollution in the national capital and surrounding areas.

ED attaches ₹200 crore assets in coal bloc case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable and movable assets having book value of Rs 136.48 crore and present estimated market value Rs 200 crore of EMTA Coal Ltd, and its promoters Ujjal Kumar Upadhaya, Sangeeta Upadhaya, Sujit Kumar Upadhaya and their family members under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a coal block case.

The attached assets are in the form of bank account balances, fixed deposits (FDs), share and mutual fund holdings, office and residential properties belonging to the accused firm and its promoters, the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI, Economic Offences unit, Delhi against the company and other accused.

During investigation, it was revealed that the accused firms and others have conducted mining in six coal blocks allocated in West Bengal. The Supreme Court had on August 25, 2014 in response to a writ petition 120 of 2012 in connection with allotment of coal blocks passed an order and held allocation of certain coal blocks as illegal, which included the six coal blocks allocated to the West Bengal Government PSUs.

"There are allegations of illegal formation of Joint Venture companies, and making huge illegal profit by mining of coal in the six coal blocks by EMTA Coal Ltd, and others," it said.



Litigants seeking urgent listing must show patience, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday advised patience to litigants seeking urgent listing of pleas pertaining to filling up of vacancies in various tribunals across the country.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A

S Bopanna and Hima Kohli said that it would take up the pleas on the issue on February 23 and has already asked Attorney General K K Venugopal to be ready to assist it.

"In PIL matters also, you create a great fuss. Can we call the Government today and send him to jail. Please have some patience, we are taking up the matter," said the

Chief Justice of India (CJI) when a lawyer insisted for grant of early hearing of his plea.

"We are taking up the matter. Yesterday, we had called the attorney general and we would be taking it up on February 23," the bench said.Few pleas pertaining to the vacancies and members of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

(ITAT) were mentioned on Thursday for urgent hearing.

The top court, while hearing another case on Wednesday, rued the "knee jerk" actions in filling up vacant posts in tribunals, saying the bureaucracy has been taking up the issue "lightly".

The bench headed by the CJI, which has been proactively dealing

with the issue of huge vacancies in various tribunals across the country, had said that after a few appointments made initially, nothing substantial happened.

"We are getting (pleas for) extension of time for the members of the NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) ...Some knee-jerk appointments took place and nothing

happened after that. We do not know the fate of members and many are retiring. Bureaucracy is taking it (the issue) lightly," the CJI observed.

Venugopal, who has been assisting the bench in dealing with the vacancies related matters, attempted to show the list of vacancies and the steps taken to fill them up.

Mental health issues can persist months after Covid: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even in people not needing hospitalisation while infected with Covid-19, serious health issues related to mental health could persist, or pop up, in the weeks and months following the acute stage, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

The researchers said the reasons for the increased mental health risks after COVID are not completely clear. Biologic changes may occur in the body that affect the brain, and nonbiologic changes such as social isolation and trauma may also be at play.

Researchers with the VA St. Louis Health Care System found this as they focused on mental health disorders following COVID-19 infection. They said that the reasons for the increased mental health



risks after COVID are not completely clear. Biologic changes may occur in the body that affect the brain, and non-biologic changes such as social isolation and trauma may also be at play.

Led by principal investigator Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, who heads up both the Clinical Epidemiology Center and the Research and Development Service at the VA St. Louis Health Care System, the

researchers found increased risks of conditions such as depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, and substance use disorders.

For many people, Covid-19 infection comes with only mild or moderate symptoms, such as an irksome cough and shortness of breath that last for a few days. But this first phase can be the "tip of the iceberg," according to Al-Aly. "Those who go on to experience serious chronic consequences—effects that commonly last a lifetime—are the ones who will bear the scars of this pandemic," he said.

Studies by Al-Aly and others have shown that long Covid can affect nearly every organ system. "People return to their doctor with fatigue, brain fog, amnesia, strokes, new-onset diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, and more," the physi-

cian-researcher says.

"We've all suffered some sort of distress from this pandemic—maybe a measure of anxiety or difficulty sleeping," said lead investigator Al-Aly. "But these challenges are magnified, especially in those who were admitted to the hospital during the acute part of their Covid-19 battle but also in many who experienced only mild or moderate symptoms."

Compared to those who did not have Covid-19, those in the Covid-19 group had a 60 percent higher risk of having any mental health disorder or mental health-related prescriptions.

Given the large number of people with COVID-19, these findings could translate into a huge impact in the United States and around the world, the authors pointed out.

Korean Cultural Centre's week-long short animation festivals to begin today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There's good news for the animation film lovers. Korean Cultural Centre India is organising a week-long first season of Short Animation Festivals from Friday, offering seven internationally acclaimed animated shorts that one can enjoy from the comfort of their screen.

"Through this festival, we hope to attract the attention of the film buffs to the animation culture of Korea. For this purpose, we have curated a festival featuring works ranging from traditional drawings to 3D computer, with interesting storylines.

"The films will be screened from 18th February at 6 pm onwards, till 25th February, on our Film Screening Website (https://www.kccifilm.in/). It will feature seven of the latest works submitted in 2021 at the 'Indie-AniFest', hosted by Korea Independent Animation Association (KIAFA)," Hwang Il-



yong, the director of the Korean Cultural Centre, said in a statement here.

Writer Kim Kang-min's "Kkum" (Dream), "Who Brings Chocolate Jam?" by Jang Na-hee, "Incomplete Woman" by Heo Sooyoung, "Seoulson" (Sound of Seoul) by Kim Kyoungbae, "The Masterpiece" from Kim Si-on, Lee Eun-jin, and Lee Ji-young, "First Time" by Lee Gyu-ri," and "Together" are part of the line-up of animation short films to be screened at the festival.

Joint security exercise conducted at Port Blair

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted a joint security exercise at Port Blair airfield to test the preparedness of all security agencies during various contingencies like terrorist attack, hostage crisis and hijack situation at

the airfield or elsewhere.

Giving details of the drill conducted on Wednesday, officials said here on Thursday day and night drills were conducted at INS Utkrosh and Veer Savarkar International Airport.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) from the

Army, Navy and CISF were deployed to counter portrayed terrorist threats at various places inside the airfield.

Simultaneously, Special Forces elements from the National Security Guard (NSG), Ghatak platoons of the army and Marine Commandos (MARCOS)

were also mobilised for synchronised operation along with the Quick Reaction Teams.

The Andaman and Nicobar Command has recently promulgated a Joint Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for security at Port Blair Airfield.

These drills were

designed to test, validate and fine tune the SOPs as well as improve coordination between all military and security agencies at Port Blair.

The SOPs have been developed to effectively counter any threat on this critical airfield were also re-validated during the joint exercise.

Jaishankar to visit Germany, France on six-day foreign tour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar will pay a six-day visit to Germany and France, starting Friday.

Making an announcement on the two-nation visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that Jaishankar will participate in the Munich Security Conference in Germany besides other engagements.

From Germany, Jashankar will travel to France where he will hold bilateral talks with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

He will also attend an EU ministerial meeting on the Indo-Pacific.

Amritsar-bound Vistara flight makes emergency landing at IGI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An Amritsar-bound Vistara flight had to make a precautionary landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport on Thursday morning after it developed a technical snag. There were 146 passengers on the flight when it took off from the Indira Gandhi International Airport for Amritsar. Another aircraft was arranged to fly the passengers to Amritsar that took off at 1330 hours, post a technical inspection.

According to Delhi police, they received a call regarding the emergency landing at 10:15 am on Thursday. The emergency was sounded at runway number 28 of terminal number 2. Soon after it took off, the pilot detected the snag and contacted the Airport authorities. Teams of police and fire brigade officials were also pressed into service. Officials of the fire department said six fire engines were rushed to the IGI airport after receiving the information regarding the emergency landing.

SC advises HC not to make observations unrelated to cases



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday advised the High Courts not to make general observations that are not warranted in the case.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said the High Courts shall refrain from making sweeping observations that are beyond the contours of the controversy involved.

"We advise the High Courts not to make general observations which are not warranted in the case. The High Courts shall refrain from making sweeping observations which are beyond the contours of the controversy and/or issues before them," the bench said.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi high court order.

Bharat Fritz Werner Limited had assailed before the high court, the Letter of Acceptance issued by the Union of India in its favour in respect of the award of the tender.

The high court had declined to interfere in the proceedings and disposed of the writ petition reserving liberty in favour of the original writ petitioner to raise all its pleas and claim the relief-savailing to him at this stage in an appropriate civil proceeding. It, however, had made certain observations against which the Centre moved the top court for expunging those remarks.

The apex court said that the observations made by the High Court were absolutely unwarranted.

"The High Court was not deciding a Public Interest Litigation. The High Court did not even decide the writ petition on merits. On the contrary, in the earlier paragraph, it was observed that it had not gone into the merits of the writ petitioner's claim or the respondent's defence," the bench said.

India's daily Covid rise declines to 30,757 cases



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After registering an increase in Omicron-driven coronavirus cases in the last few weeks, India is now reporting a decline in daily infections with 30,757 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. However, five States Kerala (12,223), Maharashtra (2,748), Karnataka (1,894), Rajasthan (1,702) and Madhya Pradesh (1,388) are reporting daily spikes, highest in the last 24 hours.

In terms of seven-day average spike too, Kerala has seen the highest surge followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. India's Active Caseload is presently at 3,32,918. Active cases constitute 0.78% of the country's total Positive Cases while the weekly positive rate stands at 3.04 per cent.

Last month, several states had brought fresh curbs to check the spread of the highly infectious Omicron variant.

However, indicating that the situation is now much more relaxed in view of a decline in the cases, the central Government on Wednesday told the States to review the Covid-19 induced restrictions.

"Presently, as the case trajectory across the nation is showing a sustained downward trend, it will be useful if states/UTs review and amend/do away with the additional restrictions so imposed after considering the trend of new cases, active cases and positivity within the state and UT," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan told states and union territories in a letter.

With the administration of more than 34.75 lakh Doses (34,75,951) vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 174.24 Cr (1,74,24,36,288) as per provisional reports till 7 am on Thursday.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

Plea in apex court for cancellation of bail of Union Minister's son

New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking cancellation of bail of accused Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, who was arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that killed eight people including four farmers. An application has been filed by advocates Shiv Kumar Tripathi and CS Panda in the suo motu case registered on a letter petition sought setting aside of the order dated February 10 of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. They also sought direction to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Justice (retd) Rakesh Jain and the prosecution and Uttar Pradesh police as to why things are being delayed and to furnish a copy of the report comprising

the charge sheet. The plea said that bail order has "manifest error" as the High Court has rest its reasoning on "presumption and guess-work" using the word "might" to arrive at a conclusion that the said crime culminated in a possibility of the driver trying to speed up the vehicle to save himself. "The said conclusion by the High Court justice is unsustainable in law", it said, adding that the reasoning of the High Court judge suffers from the vices of non-application of judicial mind taking recourse to assumptions without the support of direct evidence. On February 10, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had granted bail to Ashish Mishra, who had been in custody for the past four months.

Kerala Guv OK's policy address after sitting on it for 4 hrs

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A five-hour long political crisis in Kerala, which literally held the CPI(M) on tenterhooks, following the refusal of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan to approve the policy statement of the Kerala Government for 2022-2023 subsidised by late evening on Thursday. The State saw a crisis brewing up by noon when Governor Khan refused to sign the policy declaration statement which he was expected to read out in the Legislative Assembly on Friday morning. Though Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rushed to the Raj Bhavan on Thursday afternoon to persuade the Governor to sign on the dotted line, the former's efforts did not bear fruit. A tense looking Vijayan returned to his office after an hour-long meeting with the Governor. This was followed by V P Joy, chief secretary, calling on the Governor and even this failed to convince the Governor. Sources in Raj Bhavan had confided to The Pioneer that chances of the Governor signing

the statement looked bleak. It is reliably learnt that the Governor has told the Chief Minister that the practice of providing pension and perks to the personal staff of Kerala ministers should be discontinued at the earliest. What upset the Governor was the announcement by the chief minister that the appointment of veteran scribe Hari Kartha as the former's additional private secretary was a political move. By 6.30 pm, the Kerala Government announced the transfer of Jyothilal, secretary to the general administration department and this was followed by the Governor signing on the policy statement. The news that the Governor refused to sign the policy statement was followed by the pro-Government media fielding a battery of lawyers who described the move by Khan as a threat to the Constitution. But Subramanian Swamy, Rajya Sabha member, told The Pioneer that the Governor's responsibility was towards the Constitution and not to the Government of Kerala. "This is a Constitutional crisis and the Union

Government has a right to declare President's Rule in the State at least temporarily," said Swamy. Dr Sonia K Das, constitutional expert and head of the department of Constitutional Studies, Government Law College, Thrissur, described the situation as rare and the first of its kind in the history of the State. The fourth session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly will commence on Friday with the customary address of the Governor. The main agenda of the session that concludes on March 23 would be the presentation of the 2022-23 Budget by finance minister K N Balagopalan. The 30-days long meeting is certain to generate fireworks and tense situations between the ruling LDF and the Opposition UDF as there are no dearth of controversies haunting the State Government. Even as this report is being filed a scam has broken out in Kerala State Electricity Board with B Ashok, the chairman of the board himself coming out in the open alleging irregularities worth crores of rupees. A five acre plot of prime property

owned by the Board has been handed over to a CPI(M) owned private bank on a platter following the intervention of trade union leaders owing allegiance to the ruling party, said a social media post by Ashok, an IAS officer, who is being kicked around like a football from one post to another at the instance of party bosses. The face off-between Governor and Chief Minister has reached alarming heights. "The Governor's reluctance to sign on the dotted line in the ordinance that literally crippled the powers of the Lok Ayukta and his charge that there has been an erosion in standard of the State's institutes of higher learning due to political intervention are issues which would rob most of the time in this session," a senior Congress leader told The Pioneer. He said the agitation against the Silver Line, the semi high speed rail track between Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram, is getting louder and louder as those who face displacement from their houses have joined hands with the environmentalists and ecologists in opposing the same.

Guv Dhankhar calls Didi to see him at Raj Bhavan

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid growing differences between Nabanna (State secretariat) and Raj Bhavan, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to meet him at the Governor's House and share information with him on a number of issues to avoid constitutional crisis. The Governor in his February 15 letter written to the Chief Minister referred to his earlier queries on a number of issues that had not been replied.



With Raj Bhavan and Nabanna at loggerheads ever since the Governor joined office in 2019 the two leaders have fought several letter wars and often attacked each other in public. So much so that the Chief Minister recently compared her to a horse and even blocked him on the Twitter. "Impressed upon Hon'ble CM Mamata Banerjee that 'Dialogue, discussion and deliberation, particularly amongst constitutional functionaries,

like the Chief Minister and the Governor, are quintessential to democracy and inseparable part of constitutional governance," he said in a series of tweets on Thursday even as he reminded him of his constitutional duties according to Article 167. Alleging that the Chief Minister had been ignoring his letters, the Governor wrote, "here has been no response, now for long, to issues legitimately flagged." The Trinamool Congress immediately responded wondering whether the Governor was a zamindar.

"Is he a zamindar that he will every now and then send sentries or messengers... And even if he writes letters now let the Chief Minister respond ... Why would he tweet official things," says Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh. The Governor had on several occasions summoned top bureaucrats but such to the anger of him the officers often refused to respond.

Kerala's Budget session to begin today

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The fourth session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly will commence on Friday with the customary address of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. The main agenda of the session that concludes on March 23 would be the presentation of the 2022-23 Budget by Finance Minister K N Balagopalan. The 30-days long meeting is certain to generate fireworks and tense situations between the ruling Left Democratic Front and the Opposition United Democratic Front as there are no dearth of controversies haunting the State Government. Even as this report is being filed a scam has broken out in Kerala State Electricity Board with B Ashok, the chairman of the board himself coming out in the open alleging irregularities worth crores of rupees. A five acre plot of prime property owned by the Board has been handed over to a CPI(M) owned private bank on a platter following the intervention of trade union leaders owing allegiance to the ruling party, said a social media post by Ashok, an IAS officer, who is being kicked around like a football from one post to another at the

instance of party bosses. The face off-between Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has reached alarming heights. "The Governor's reluctance to sign on the dotted line in the ordinance that literally crippled the powers of the Lok Ayukta and the degradation of the State's institutes of higher learning due to political intervention are issues which would rob most of the time in this session," a senior Congress leader told The Pioneer. He said the agitation against the Silver Line, the semi high speed rail track between Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram, is getting louder and louder as those who face displacement from their houses have joined hands with the environmentalists and ecologists in opposing the same. The scam over the appointment of wives, sisters and in-laws of MLAs, MPs and party's top leaders is another issue which is likely to put the administration in dilemma. "These are just tips of the ice bergs. We will come to the House with more startling disclosures once the session commences," V D Satheeshan, leader of the opposition told the media on Thursday.

The Governor's speech, which is prepared by the Chief Minister's Office would be full of anti-Centre rhetoric, said a CPI(M) leaders. "Communalism practiced by the BJP and Narendra Modi are dangerous to the country and we will play a major role in getting rid of the BJP Government in the 2024 Lok Sabha election," party's senior leader S R Pillai said while addressing a public meeting at Alappuzha. The law and order situation in the State has jolted the population. On Sunday, the house of a bridegroom in Kannur district saw one of the guests meeting with gruesome death in a bomb blast. Though three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident, people are yet to get over the shock. The death of two young models in Kochi and the arrest of drug traffickers on a daily basis indicate the failure of the policing system in Kerala. "I know that many undesirable elements have infiltrated into the police force. We will get them weeded out at the earliest," said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan while addressing the CPI(M) meeting at Alappuzha on Wednesday.

Assam BJP MLAs file police complaints against Telangana CM for remarks on surgical strike

Nagaon/Rangia (Assam): Two Assam BJP MLAs have filed police complaints against Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao for his alleged "anti-national" remarks seeking proof of India's surgical strike against militants in Pakistan, police officials said on Thursday. BJP's Kamalpur MLA Diganta Kalita and Barhampur MLA Jitu Goswami lodged two identical complaints at Kamalpur and Nagaon police stations on Wednesday, but no case has been registered as of now. "We have received the complaint. No FIR has been registered as of now," Nagaon additional superintendent of police Dhruva Bora told PTI. A senior officer at Kamalpur police station said the police is probing the matter and no FIR has been registered yet. The two identical complaints by the ruling party legislators in Assam said that the Army is a national entity without any political colour or allegiance to any political party. "... But the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri Rao had attacked the sanctity of the Indian Army by adding political colour to it for the purpose of his political rivalry and campaign against the party in power at Centre. "This act is purely offensive, anti-national and against the interest of the Nation and certainly not expected from a person holding a very high Constitutional post," they said. The complaints were referring to Rao making a statement on January 12 at Raigiri in Telangana and at a press meet on January 13 questioning the surgical strike by Indian Air Force. Lending support to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who had demanded proof of the surgical strike, Rao said half of the country, including himself want to know the "truth behind the targeted strike".

COVID-19 SPREAD ACCUSATION ROW Maha Cong workers to write to PM demanding apology for insulting State

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within days after its workers took out a morchha to the official residence of the house of leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP at Malabar Hill in south Mumbai, the Maharashtra Congress said on Thursday that its workers would write thousands of letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to demand the latter's apology for accusing the people of Covid-19 in northern parts of the country. The State Congress, which has been protesting ever since Modi had-- in his speech made in Lok Sabha on February 7 -- charged that the Maharashtra government had contributed to the spread of Covid-19 infection during wave period -- reiterated that the Prime minister had "insulted" the people of Maharashtra by calling them the "spreaders" of the Covid-19 in northern states of the country.

Talking to media persons at the Gandhi Bhavan, Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole said that his party would launch the next phase of its agitation to demand the Prime Minister for "insulting" people of the state through "false" accusations made in Lok Sabha. "As part of that agitation, our party workers will send thousands of letters to Modi through Leader of the Opposition in the state Devendra Fadnavis, asking him to apologise to Maharashtra on Shiv Jayanti Day," Patole said. Patole said that the BJP government at the Centre had imposed a sudden lockdown during the Covid pandemic. "The central government did not help the people in this difficult time but the Congress party and the Maharashtra government helped millions of people who were stranded due to the sudden shutdown in the country. The Congress has always been at the forefront to help people in distress. The

Prime Minister has insulted Maharashtra by accusing the state of spreading Covid19 while we were helping lakhs of people as part of our social commitment," he said. Patole said that the Maharashtra Congress has been holding agitations in front of the houses of BJP Union Ministers and MPs in the state, to demand the Prime Minister's apology for "insulting" the people of Maharashtra. "In the second phase of this agitation, letters will be sent asking the Prime Minister to apologize to the people of this state on the auspicious occasion of Shiv Jayanti," he said. It may be recalled that heavy traffic congestion was witnessed in south Mumbai on February 14, as the Congress took out a morchha to the official residence of the house of leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP at Malabar Hill. Thousands of Congress workers had turned out for the morchha from different parts of

Russia-Ukraine tension: 45 MBBS students from Aligarh, UP stuck in Ukraine

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

45 MBBS students of the district are stuck in Ukraine. The families of the students met the DM and the commissioner and demanded to bring back the children trapped in Ukraine. These students are studying MBBS in Ukraine. The relatives have demanded the government to airlift the trapped students. Kajal Dheeraj, mother of Falguni Dheeraj (who is trapped in Ukraine), said that three days ago, the order to leave Ukraine was given, but the Indian Embassy did not take the situation seriously. The Indian Embassy in Ukraine did not inform the Government of India about this appalling situation at the right time. Due to the students being trapped in Ukraine, their families in Aligarh are very worried. Falguni dheeraj told her father that we are all fine here, dont worry and just keep praying, these days shall pass soon. She further told that seeing the situation the college administration has started online classes instead of offline. Shaikh Rashid, father of the student Niyam Rashid, told that the air service coming from Ukraine to India is cancelled. Where it used to

cost 22 thousand rupees for air travel, now 1.5 lakh to two lakh rupees are being taken. Indian students are upset and are tweeting and sending mails to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister as well as the embassy. He told that he has given a report addressed to the Prime Minister of the country to Aligarh District Magistrate Selva Kumari regarding the education of the students studying and especially their safety. The PM has been mailed for a safe exit from Ukraine. Families living in Aligarh are in touch with their children pursuing medical education in Ukraine, but may break up in the event of a war. Due to covid 19, there has been a great impact on the education of the students. At the same time, the family is deeply pained by the Indian Embassy suddenly issuing an advisory to Indian students to leave Ukraine on 15 February on the situation of war in Ukraine. Due to the war crisis in Ukraine, the fare for the return flight to Delhi/India from there is also being charged from 1.5 lakh to two lakh rupees per passenger, whereas in normal times this fare is 22-23 thousand rupees only.

Water-taxi connecting Mumbai, Navi Mumbai flagged off

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The country's first of its kind full-fledged water transportation system became a reality on Thursday, as Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray jointly inaugurated the much-awaited "water taxi" service linking Mumbai coast with mainland at Navi Mumbai and other locations. For the first time, the water taxi connects the twin cities of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai by way of fast and reliable commuting service. It connects south Mumbai with the nearby locations like Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta Island and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. Apart from providing an alternative mode of transportation for Mumbaikars and those living in the satellite towns of the metropolis, the water taxi service gives the comfort and pleasure of water journey for the users. The commuters will save on time and stress caused by road congestion. The water-taxi also promotes eco-friendly transport. While Sonowal participated in the water-taxi inaugural function through video-conferencing, the chief minister inaugurated the Belapur Jetty at the same function. The Belapur Jetty has been developed under the Sagarmala Programme at a project cost of Rs 8.37 crore with equal funding by the Government of India and the Maharashtra state government. Expressing gratitude to the Centre for prioritising the country's first Water Taxi here, Uddhav said that the new service would will go a long way in improving con-

nectivity with Mumbai along with the network of roads, flyovers, subways, the upcoming Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and other mega-infrastructure projects. "The country's first railway was started by the British between Mumbai-Thane and quickly spread all over India... The city always sets a trend that is emulated by the rest of the country, after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ruled over the seas," said Thackeray. The new Water Taxi will not only benefit the people travel quickly -- from the present 90-100 minutes by road to barely 40-45 minutes by the sea -- but also give a fillip to tourist places like Elephanta Island, Kanhoji Angre Isle and other places on the mainland in the Konkan besides spurring the local economy as more routes will be added in the near future. Speaking on the occasion, Sonowal said: "Today is an important day for all of us, particularly for the state of Maharashtra. With the support of the people of Maharashtra, we could complete the construction of Belapur Jetty. For this, I express my deep regards to the people and Government of Maharashtra". "Through Sagarmala, Navi Mumbai is getting a state-of-the-art jetty at Belapur," the minister said. This project implemented by the Maharashtra Maritime Board has been completed timely despite constraints of COVID-19. Sonowal said that the water taxi services between Belapur Jetty and domestic Cruise Terminal at Mumbai Port would reduce travel time between Navi Mumbai and South Mumbai from around 1.5 hours to less than 30 minutes.

"This service will ease road traffic congestion and also encourage use of Mumbai Harbour for transportation. Additional jetties for water taxi and Ro-Pax ferries will be started depending on response to water taxi service," the minister said. The minister said that many more jetties are being planned along Mumbai Harbour for both catamaran and Ro-Pax services. "The existing Ro-Pax service from Mumbai to Alibag is already providing a huge respite for travellers". ROPAX movement between Mumbai Ferry Wharf and Mandwa has resulted in a positive impact with a reduction in travel time for passengers, quick and agile loading and unloading process of vehicles," he said. Sonowal said that many projects under the Sagarmala Project, including passenger jetties, coastal infrastructure development, skill development, Ro-Ro service etc. were being implemented in Maharashtra. "As many as 131 projects worth Rs 1.05 lakh crores have been identified for implementation in Maharashtra, by central & state agencies," he stated. Out of these 131 projects, 46 projects worth Rs. 2,078 crores are financially supported under the Sagarmala programme of the Government of India, the minister added. Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde, Ports Minister Aslam Shaikh, MoS Ports Abdul Sattar, Mumbai Port Trust Chairman Rajiv Jalota, Maharashtra Maritime Board CEO Amit Saini and Thane Collector Rajesh Narvekar were among those present at the water Taxi-Belapiur Jetty inaugural function.

Bollywood, family, fans pay emotional adieu to Bappi Lahiri

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood personalities, his fans and well-wishers turned out in large numbers to bid an emotional adieu to 'Disco King' and "Chalte Chalte, Mere Ye Geet Yaad Rakhta Kabhi Alvida Na Kahna" fame Bappi Lahiri on Thursday, as his musician-son Bappa performed his last rites at the Pawan Hans crematorium at Vile Parle in north-west Mumbai. Bappa, who returned to Mumbai along with his wife from Los Angeles in the early hours of Thursday to be with his family in their hour of grief, lit the funeral pyre. Bappa broke down as he performed the last rites of his father in the presence of his other family members. The priests consoled the weeping Bappa. Earlier, the mortal remains of Bappi were taken in a procession from his Juhu bungalow in a flower-bedecked open truck with a huge hoarding of his photograph showing him sporting the trademark gold chains and jewellery, to the nearby Pawan Hans crematorium. Bappi's son Bappa and daughter Rema and other family members were seen weeping inconsolably as the body of the iconic music composer and singer was placed on the open truck, which made its way slowly from Juhu to the crematorium at Vile Parle. Several Bollywood personalities, including Alka Yagnik, Shaan, Vidya Balan, Ila Arun, Bhushan Kumar, Mika Singh, Shaan, Kumar Sanu, Shakti

Kapoor and Rupa Ganguly attended the funeral. Many other Bollywood personalities, Amitabh Bachchan, Asha Bhosale, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Kajol, Rani Mukherjee, Shabana Azmi, Rakesh Roshan, Boney Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Nussratt Bharucha, Anupam Kher, Riteish Deshmukh, Dharmendra, Sunny Deol, Ashoke Pandit, Hansal Mehta, Poonam Dhillon and Jacqueline Fernandez either visited Bappi's bungalow or attended the funeral to pay their respects to renowned music composer and singer. A maternal uncle of late legendary singer Kishore Kumar, Bappi Lahiri ruled the hearts of filmgoers in the seventies, eighties and early nineties through his compositions from films like Disco Dancer, Naya Kadam, Aangan Ki Kali Hathkadi, Namak Halaal, Masterji, Dance Dance, Himmatwala, Justice Chaudhury, Tohfa, Maqсад, Commando, Naukar Biwi Ka, Adhikar and Sharaabi, "I Am A Disco Dancer", "Jimmy Jimmy Jimmy Aaja", "Auva Auva Koi Yahan Nache", "Ramba Ho" "Yaar Bina Chain Kahaan Re", "Raati Baki", Bambai Se Aaya Mera Dost, Naino Main Sapna, TaakiTaaki, "Chalte Chalte, Mere Ye Geet Yaad Rakhta Kabhi Alvida Na Kahna Kabhi Alvida Na Kahna", "Inteha Ho Gaye", "Pag Ghungroo Bandhi" and "Thodi Si Jo Pee Li" are still fondly remembered by the film buffs across the country.

FIRST COLUMN

RECALIBRATING INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

Time for India to reshape its narrative for the globe and newer avenues of growth



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India has finalized a trade engagement with UAE with the formal agreement likely by this month-end. This will give India better access for its food and dairy products to the Middle East while easing several constraints of movement of Indian professionals and students with eased visa norms. It would also allow India crucial access to the Gulf's rich petroleum resources thereby adding to employment opportunities.

This comes close on the heels of India finalizing a similar trade agreement with Australia, with an interim agreement being prepared for March 2022. Announced by commerce minister Piyush Goyal and Australian trade minister Dan Tehan, it is likely to cover certain categories of mutually agreed upon goods, services, customs clearances, market access barriers, etc. This is a preview to the final stated target of both countries to sign a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement in about two years. The sectors which can harvest benefits include pharmaceuticals,



healthcare, mining, education, renewables, gems and jewelry, defence and textiles. It also has the potential of increasing access for Indian students to Australian universities and vice versa, thereby also opening up huge avenues of growth down south.

Add to this is the three-day short visit of external affairs minister Jaishankar to South-East Asia on his return trip from Australia to meet with the top leadership in The Philippines. The echoes of cooperation in bilateral interest areas such as security, coordination in the Indo Pacific belt, cooperation in healthcare, vaccine research, defence and maritime rights found resonance in India's engagements with The Philippines too.

The pivot for all these activities lies in finding and strengthening alliance partners for force, secure, transparent, rules-based Indo Pacific region. Global forces such as US and Europe are also recalibrating their diplomatic, defence and military strengths to find a right balance in the region, threatened by an overtly aggressive China. It may not be missed that in the examples of external bilateral and plurilateral engagements, India is trying to aggressively make deeper inroads into emerging dominant groupings.

After shying away from engaging with QUAD, India has thrown itself into the game deeply with the group on several areas of mutual interest while carefully staying away from being pulled into defence arrangements (such as AUKUS). Similarly, India has made an early headway into what many have called the western QUAD consisting of a significant bunch of interested parties such as UAE, US and Israel.

This marks a shift in India's foreign, trade and economic policy which is rapidly changing to adjust to the new global order emerging post-Covid. The world has realized that an over dependence on China for most of the manufacturing needs including in critical sectors such as information communication technology, and pharmaceutical can be disastrous. Secondly, a world economy hammered by the pandemic and waiting to open up to tourism and new opportunities realizes that a diversified bunch of partners dotted across the globe is a better hedge. Third, the winds of change ushered by US pull out from Afghanistan and Russia's show of military strength on Ukraine borders, with a view of redrawing European power structures have left all to look for resilient allies, instead of sticking to old ideological intimate friendships. This is also a time for India to reshape its narrative for the globe and re-engage with the citizens on the newer avenues of growth. It may be difficult to sell a nationalist foreign policy to an electorate, but, however, by showing some on-ground benefits such as increased wealth and job opportunities, with an added bonus of chances to work abroad, the domestic constituency can be managed.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Education heading towards a big change

The goals of going digital are novel but much will depend on the quality and speed of internet connectivity and the excellence of trainers



ANNPURNA NAUIYAL

The Union Budget 2022 has amply indicated that for converting India into a knowledge society some drastic changes and steps are required earnestly so that the mandate of National Education Policy - 2022 can be achieved in its word and spirit. Since the NEP which is a very ambitious policy is likely to be initiated from 2022-23 session therefore, all higher education institutions are gearing up for this through various steps. The initiatives highlighted in the union budget 2022 are aimed basically to bridge the existing gaps between the rural and urban sector's educational systems as well as to promote inclusive universalization of education across all segments of society so that the goal of access and equity of NEP could be accomplished.

It is well known that the education sector bore a very big and adverse burnt of Covid-19 pandemic from primary to higher educational levels due to the closure of schools and institutions of higher learning and teaching from March 2020 to till present depending on the ferocity of the waves of pandemic. However, despite the severity of the pandemic the children especially in the urban areas could make up for some of the educational loss through their access and relatively good connectivity to digital technology. But the children of rural areas principally, belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and other weaker sections of societies suffered most due to the loss of two precious years of their schooling and opportunities of socialization on account of their poor access to digital technology or smart phones and poor internet connectivity. Therefore, some steps have been announced in the union budget 2022 to bring such left out students into the mainstream of education. The proposed enhancement of educative TV channels from 12 to 200 covering all Indian languages through One Class One TV channel programme of PM E Vidya scheme in the union budget 2022 is aimed to fill up this gap between teaching and learning created by Covid-19 pandemic. This is also aimed to build up a resilient and easily approachable mechanism for imparting education to all from class 1 to 12 through their mother tongue or their own language and achieve the objective of belongingness through teaching and learning in mother tongue.

To fulfil the goal of promoting critical thinking skills, productivity, creativity and digital footsteps in education, the provision of 750 virtual labs for science subjects and mathematics and 75 skill labs is also an appreciable step. This is quite important in an era of pandemic wherein we have many examples of such mathematical modelling which helped the administrators and policy makers or vaccinators to assess the onset, spread and peak of the variants of corona virus and get prepared for such eventuality. This can



IT ALSO INDICATES THAT TO MAKE A NEW INDIA EFFORT IN ALL DIRECTIONS PARTICULARLY EDUCATION IS REQUIRED TO GENERATE A POOL OF PEOPLE EQUIPPED WITH APPROPRIATE SKILLS TO TREAD IN A CHALLENGING WORLD, BUT THE SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS WILL DEPEND IN ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal, Uttarakhand. The views expressed are personal.)



be easily justified as a large number of vaccinated populations in India helped not only to limit the effect of the third wave of the pandemic by reducing the number of hospitalization or very serious ailments but also to enhance the vaccine coverage and preparedness in a fast speed as per the findings of the mathematical models. Although it is true that the virtual labs will not compensate the experience of working in actual or physical laboratories and experimenting with real laboratory equipment but at least it will provide a much-needed exposure to them towards the nature, space, equipment and their use in the laboratory through digital teachers and thus help the students to not to lose interest in the science subjects. The digital teacher's role is likely to become very important and will increase tremendously in this system as the e content which will be developed in all languages will be delivered through all digital modes and means by such teachers.

The initiation of digital university will further increase the reach and access of the students towards the world class e contents with a click of mouse. The heightened use of digital system and technology for skill enhancement as well as for livelihood generation is aimed for empowering the citizens by making them economically independent. These schemes also indicate ambitions of the government towards building empowered citizens

and students through imparting various skills, reskilling of their acquired skills or upskilling as per their orientation and aptitude through digital modes and methods. Since education is always considered an agent of transformation and emancipation of the societies and its inhabitants, therefore, such interventions are desirable in a knowledge society which is progressing to become highly global in a fast paced socio-political, cultural, educational and economic milieu.

The initiation of courses in certain science subjects and opening of their campuses by foreign universities is also targeted towards the goal of making global citizens in a competitive education system. Promotion of startups for developing Drone Shakti in select IITs is also very ambitious as drones are being seen as a best tool and technique to save money, improve safety, and enhance the efficiency of various operations. The use of Drones has now become very common in sectors like agriculture, farming, land scape planning, topography, photography, manufacturing, ariel surveillance, natural disasters, emergency response and rescue, shipping and delivery, weather forecast, wildlife monitoring, remote sensing, exploring sites or under water for energy possibilities, defence sector or border management etc. Such start-ups with so many possibilities for future with skilled human power

will bring changes in the working and mind set of all stakeholders and lead towards a new India armed with knowledge, required skills, technological know-how and forward-looking approach. The stress on opening more agriculture universities, upgrading the present universities and education according to the changing character of agriculture, promoting organic farming are also some of the initiatives indicated in the budget which are directly related to employment and livelihood generation for modern India through its own strengths.

It also indicates that to make a new India effort in all directions particularly education is required to generate a pool of people equipped with appropriate skills to tread in a challenging world, but the success of these efforts will depend in its effective implementation. The goals of going digital are novel but much will depend on the quality and speed of internet connectivity, excellence of trainers, their skills, mindset and will power to take the challenge of making a new India with grit and courage. The digital platform is ideal for a pandemic situation to make up for loss in education and therefore, it should be fully strengthened but kept in standby mode so that in any situation the education can be switched over from in-person to digital mode. This is important to retain the natural connect between the student and teacher.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

KCR JI, YOU MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF STATES AND INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY.
—MAHARASHTRA CM UDDHAV THACKERAY



WE BELIEVE IN UNITY IN DIVERSITY BUT SOME LEADERS FOLLOWED 'DIVIDE AND RULE' POLICY.
—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Israel's global Coronavirus diplomacy efforts

Israel's unique ability to deal with emergency situations, improvise and respond quickly have all factored into its success in coping with COVID

Two years into the pandemic, nations across the globe are still struggling to cope with the profound challenges that coronavirus poses. Israel is proud to be one of the countries on the front lines of responding to this unprecedented public health crisis.

Israel's unique ability to deal with emergency situations, improvise, and respond quickly and flexibly have all factored into its success in coping with the pandemic. With its rapid vaccine rollout last year - Israel was widely praised for delivering the world's fastest vaccination campaign in the first half of 2021 - and as the first country to give a booster shot to the general public, Israel has important lessons to share. It makes sense,



AMBASSADOR DANIEL MERON

(Ambassador Daniel Meron is Covid-19 Project Manager, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel. The views expressed are personal.)

therefore, that the world looks to Israel as a go-to expert on how to manage the pandemic. Moreover, there is a core Jewish value that teaches us that we must help the needy during difficult times, as well as those in need of medical care.

Israel has been heavily involved on the international coronavirus diplomacy scene, collaborating and exchanging information with countries around the world. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been at the forefront of this effort, leading the push to donate masks, respirators, and other essential medical equipment to countless countries. When India was being ravaged by a severe wave of coronavirus in April of last year, Israel sent plane loads of respirators and medical aid. To Romania we



sent a team of five of our top medical experts to share Israel's experience in coping with similar such crises it had experienced in its hospitals. In Ghana, the Israeli embassy mobilized to produce and distribute masks. At the initiative of Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, Israel has also committed to donate over a million vaccine doses to African nations.

Mashav - the Israeli Foreign Ministry's agency for international cooperation -

also has several aid and cooperation campaigns currently active around the world. It is currently in the midst of its "Better Together" initiative, which has seen assistance packages containing hundreds of kilos worth of PPE gear, syringes, medications, and more sent to medical staff in 52 countries across the globe. Mashav has also brought medical staff and administrators from Tanzania, Rwanda, Guatemala, and many others to Israel for world-class seminars and lectures. Israel's not-for-profit sector has similarly mobilized to assist the international community. IsraAID, one of Israel's leading NGOs, just finished a six-month project in Eswatini, where an Israeli team set up and managed an operations centre for

distributing vaccines, training medical staff, and more.

Exchanging information is also key to managing the pandemic, and the information that Israel has shared on its vaccine campaign and booster shots has undoubtedly saved lives. Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical adviser to the US government, praised Israel's vaccine rollout and named Israel as the leading example of "where you should want to be" on coronavirus vaccines, and often "refers people to how successful the Israelis have been in getting virtually every age group boosted". Senior Israeli Health Ministry officials have played a key role in the effort to exchange information, and to this end, the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs have held joint discussions

with Germany, South Korea, and the United on Israel's insights and best practices on the latest outbreak, including its experience with administering the vaccine boosters.

Israel's innovative digital healthcare and telehealth systems have also served as an example for others to look to. Israel has been widely credited with revolutionising the way the world thinks about health, and has positioned itself at the forefront of the effort to create a data-centric system of medicine. In fact, the Israeli national healthcare system's already-sophisticated level of digitization was one aspect that helped make the country's ambitious vaccination drive so successful. Moreover, the advent of Covid-19 brought the topic of telemedicine to the fore of

the global tech discourse, and Israel made it a priority to be a leader in this field. HealthIL - a joint venture of the Israeli Ministry of Economy, Digital Israel Bureau, and the Israel Innovation Institute - seeks to improve healthcare by supporting innovation in the field, bridging the gap between the tech community and the public health sector.

Israel is eager to join hands with the international community in order to effectively address this current global challenge, as well as the ones to come. It is Israel's hope that Omicron will be the last of the pandemic, and we are looking forward to continuing to share our insights and experiences with the world in all spheres of crisis management and public health.

Russian invasion of Ukraine can happen anytime now: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A Russian invasion of Ukraine can happen anytime now, the White House said Wednesday as President Joe Biden announced plans to dispatch Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Tony Blinken to attend the Munich conference to meet world leaders and unite them against Moscow.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki anticipated that an attack could take place at any time.

"We are in the window where we believe an attack could come at any time, and that would be preceded by a fabricated pretext that the Russians use as an excuse to launch an invasion," Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

"We have talked about this a bit here, we've seen these tactics used in the past. Those could include but not be limited to the report you just referenced, claims of provocation in Donbass, false state media reports, which I think you should all, everybody should keep their eyes open and be aware of potentially fake videos and accusations about chemical weapons or accounts of attacks on Russian soldiers that have not actually occurred," she said.

In response to a question, Psaki told the reporters that there could be a range of false flags and pretexts that would proceed to an invasion. "And again, we remain in that window."

Both Harris and Blinken are now flying to Germany to attend the Munich security conference from February 18 to 20.



"She will build on the President's and the national security team's intensive engagement with European allies and partners and continue to emphasize with our partners our ironclad commitment to our NATO allies, underscore our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reaffirm our shared interest in upholding the principles that have underpinned European peace and security," Psaki said.

"She'll be participating in the formal programme of the conference as well as engaging with allies and partners and meeting with leaders on the margins," the press secretary said.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied it has plans to attack Ukraine but demanded that NATO never admit Ukraine and

other ex-Soviet nations as members and the military alliance roll back troop deployments in former Soviet bloc nations.

"What the President expects, he expects and knows, given she is the first in the room and the last in the room, that she will continue to convey to the rest of the world, again, our ironclad commitment to our NATO allies, our commitment to defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and our commitment to putting in place severe economic consequences should Russia invade," she said.

Earlier in the day, Secretary of State Blinken said the Russian troops remain massed in a very threatening way at the border. Of course, the door continues to be open to diplomacy, Psaki said.

US official: Russia adds 7K more troops near Ukraine border

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainians defied pressure from Moscow with a national show of flag-waving unity Wednesday, while the US warned that Russia had added as many as 7,000 troops near Ukraine's borders despite Kremlin declarations that forces were being pulled back from the region.

While a feared Russian invasion of Ukraine did not materialize as feared, the United States and its allies maintained that the threat is still strong, with Europe's security and economic stability in the balance.

Russia has massed more than 150,000 troops east, north and south of Ukraine, according to Western estimates. Russian President Vladimir Putin has signaled that he wants a peaceful path out of the crisis, and US President Joe Biden promised that the US would continue to give diplomacy "every chance," but he struck a sceptical tone about Moscow's intentions.

Biden also insisted that Washington and its allies would not "sacrifice basic principles" respecting Ukraine sovereignty.

Russian Defence Ministry video showed a trainload of armoured vehicles moving across a bridge away from Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014. It also announced that more tank units were being loaded on trains to move back to their permanent bases after training exercises.

But at the same time, Russia continued war games near Ukraine's borders and across its vast territory.

A senior US administration official said the West detected that Russia had increased its force near Ukraine by 7,000 troops, with some arriving as recently as Wednesday, and that there had been a marked increase in false claims by Russians that the Kremlin might use as pretext for an invasion.

The official said those claims included reports of unmarked graves of civilians allegedly killed by Ukrainian forces, statements that the US and Ukraine are developing biological or chemical weapons, and claims that the West is funnelling in guerrillas to kill Ukrainians.

NATO: Russia misleads world on troop movements near Ukraine

Kyiv: NATO allies accused Russia of misleading the world by saying it was returning some troops to bases, reporting that Moscow has instead added as many as 7,000 more forces near its tense border with Ukraine.

The alliance warned Thursday that the buildup has only strengthened its resolve.

After a handful of positive signals from Russia that eased tensions earlier in the week, the pendulum appeared to be swinging in the opposite direction again.

The NATO chief welcomed Kremlin offers to keep pursuing diplomatic solutions, but he and others warned that the US-led alliance has still seen no sign of the military withdrawal that Moscow announced.

"We have seen the opposite of some of the statements. We have seen an increase of troops over the last 48 hours, up to 7,000," said British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace ahead of a meeting of the western alliance in Brussels.

"We are deadly serious," he added, "and we're going to face the threat that is currently being posed." That squared with what a US administration official said Wednesday.

Russia has massed an estimated 150,000-plus troops near its ex-Soviet neighbor, sparking concerns that an attack is imminent. None materialized Wednesday, as feared, and Ukrainians spent the day defiantly celebrating their unity and resolve to face down any Russian threat.

Moscow said several times this week that some forces are pulling back to their bases, but it gave virtually no details that would allow an independent assessment and Western leaders quickly cast doubt on those statements. On Thursday, NATO allies knocked down the Russian assertions again - and warned that they are ready to counter any aggression.

"The consequences of this mass buildup - nearly 60% of Russia's land combat forces on the border of a sovereign nation - will get you the opposite



effect," Wallace said.

Russia denies it is plotting an invasion but says it must be allowed to protect its security interests. It wants the West to keep Ukraine and other former Soviet nations out of NATO, halt weapons deployments near Russian borders and roll back forces from Eastern Europe. The U.S. And its allies have roundly rejected those demands, but they offered to engage in talks with Russia on ways to bolster security in Europe.

Even as Russia seemed to try to lower the temperature this week, the Western allies maintained that the threat of an attack remained high.

Maxar Technologies, a commercial satellite imagery company that has been monitoring the Russian buildup, reported continued heightened military activity near Ukraine, including a new pontoon bridge and a new field hospital in Belarus. It also said that some forces had left an airfield in country, a Russian ally, but it was unclear where they went.

A senior U.S. Administration official said some forces arrived only recently and that there had been a marked increase in false claims by Russians that the Kremlin might use as pretext for an invasion.

The official said those claims included reports of unmarked graves of civilians allegedly killed by Ukrainian forces, assertions that the U.S. And Ukraine are developing biological or chemical weapons, and claims that the West is funnelling in guerrillas to kill Ukrainians.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly about sensitive operations and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. AP

Venezuela's leader pledges military cooperation with Russia

AP ■ CARACAS

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro pledged a "powerful military cooperation" with Russia following high-level discussions between officials Wednesday, a day after diplomats from the US and several other nations gathered to discuss steps toward a negotiated solution to the South American country's protracted crisis.

"We have reviewed the powerful military cooperation, and we have ratified the path of a powerful military cooperation between Russia and



Venezuela for the defense of peace, of sovereignty, the defense of territorial integrity," Maduro said during a news conference.

"We are going to increase all the preparation, training and

cooperation plans with a military power in the world such as Russia."

The remarks came about a month after Maduro and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone about cooperation between their countries amid talk of possible Russian troop deployment to Venezuela.

Flanked by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov and Venezuelan Petroleum Minister Tareck El Aissami, Maduro said economic, commercial and tourism matters were also discussed Wednesday.

With fast-track passports, Russia extends clout in Ukraine

Moscow:Ivan Malyuta, a resident of Donetsk, a city in eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, applied for Russian citizenship this month and said he, his wife and three children will soon be getting Russian passports.

"I want to be a citizen of the Russian Federation. We are moving towards this, aren't we?" he said at a Donetsk migration service office.

Malyuta and his family will join more than 720,000 residents of rebel-held areas in eastern Ukraine who have received Russian citizenship

and passports in a fast-track procedure widely seen as an attempt to underscore Russia's influence in the region.

Russia threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine in 2014, shortly after annexing Crimea in response to a popular uprising in Kyiv ousting a Kremlin-friendly president.

Moscow has denied deploying troops or weapons to the rebel-held areas, with government officials repeatedly stressing that Russia is not a party to the conflict, which has killed over 14,000 people.

Besides the quick path to

citizenship, Russia has offered residents of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk republics membership in the Kremlin's ruling party and other perks, such as its COVID-19 vaccines or trade preferences for local manufacturers.

Ukraine has been appalled by the efforts amid rising tensions and fears of a new invasion. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba urged the European Union last week to impose sanctions on Russia for "its illegal mass issuing of Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens."

AP

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum/Addendum		
Due to change in Unit of Schedule Item No. 19 of Chapter-II of Tender Documents in respect of the NIT No. 558-Sig-16/M/Tender/1370 which is scheduled to be opened on 09.03.2022 for the work of "Provision of LED shunt signal in place of lamp in shunt signal for improving the visibility of NDLS, DLI & DBSI station of Delhi Division", following changes are made:		
S. No.	Description	As per NIT drawn

S. No.	Description	As per NIT drawn	To be read as
1.	Schedule Item	Item No. 12: Concrete unscheduled items in concrete of 1:3:6 rations in cement, coarse sand and aggregate 25 mm at different places in the yard and plastering top in fine plaster of 1:4 cement sand ratio. It also includes the excavation of earth as required at site and as instruction of site incharge, the volume in cubic meter shall include the volume occupied by any CT foundation, trestle, MS angle or flat or GI pipe required to be embedded in the casting. Cement coarse sand and aggregate 25 mm are to be supplied by the contractor. Inspection by Consignee. Unit: Cubic Centimeter	Item No. 19 instead of Item No. 12: Concrete unscheduled items in concrete of 1:3:6 rations in cement, coarse sand and aggregate 25 mm at different places in the yard and plastering top in fine plaster of 1:4 cement sand ratio. It also includes the excavation of earth as required at site and as instruction of site incharge, the volume in cubic meter shall include the volume occupied by any CT foundation, trestle, MS angle or flat or GI pipe required to be embedded in the casting. Cement coarse sand and aggregate 25 mm are to be supplied by the contractor. Inspection by Consignee. Unit: Cubic Meter (CUM)
All other terms and condition will remain unchanged.			
No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/1370 Date: 17.02.2022		354/2022	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
	Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation	
This is to bring to your notice that DHARMENDRA KUMAR./ SUMITA SINGH (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00002029333 located at FLAT NO. C4/ 121, 12TH FLOOR, TOWER C4, ARAVALI HEIGHTS, SECTOR 24, DHARUHERA, REWARI-123401.	
The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.	
The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated February 10, 2020 informing that Dwarakadhis Projects Pvt.Ltd. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.	
Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.	
Dated: February 18, 2022 For ICICI Bank Limited Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd-	

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation	
This is to bring to your notice that DHARMENDRA KUMAR./ SUMITA SINGH (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00002030018 located at FLAT NO. D-5/134, 13TH FLOOR, ARAVALI HEIGHTS, DHARUHERA , HARYANA, REWARI-123401.	
The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.	
The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated February 10, 2020 informing that Dwarakadhis Projects Pvt.Ltd. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.	
Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.	
Dated: February 18, 2022 For ICICI Bank Limited Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd-	

Format C-1 DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES				
(As per the judgement dated 25th. September 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)				
Name and address of Candidate : Daljit Singh, H.No.14195, Guru Gobind Singh Nagar, Tibba Road, Ludhiana				

Name of Political Party: Aam Admi Party Name of Election: Vidhan Sabha(2022)
*Name of Constituency: 060 Ludhiana East
I, Daljit Singh Grewal (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	A. Pending Criminal Cases			
No.	Name of Court	Case No. and Date	Status of Cases	Section(s) of Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)
1.	Presently not in court under Inquiry	FIR No.183/ 22.10.2019	Under Enquiry/ Challan Not Present	336/323/307/506/148/149/188 IPC (False Case Attempt to Murder with Weapon)
2.	Sh. Sumit Makkar CJM, LDH.	CHI/575/ 2017	Consideration	323/353/334/354/427/186/188/148/149 IPC (False Case of Physical Assault)
3.	Sh.Varundeep Chopra JMJC, LDH.	CHI/17215/ 2021	Notice	186/353 IPC (False Case of Violation of Govt. Norms)

(B) Detail about cases of conviction for criminal offences.				
Sl. No.	Pending Criminal Cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences
	Name of Court	Case No. and Date	Status of Cases	Description of offence (s) & Punishment imposed
1.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

FORMAT C-1 DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES				
Name and address of Candidate : S. Manpreet Singh Ayali R/O V.P.O Gorsian Kadar Baksh, Tehsil Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana-142033.				
Name of Political Party: SHIROMANI AKALI DAL				
Name of Election: General Legislative Assembly Election Punjab -2022				
*Name of Constituency: 068-DAKHA.				
I, Manpreet Singh Ayali, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal actecedents:				

Sl. No.	A. Pending Criminal Cases			
No.	Name of Court	Case No. and Date	Status of Cases	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1.	Sh. Sumit Makkar CJM, Ludhiana	CHI/40693/ 2021	Appearance	U/S 188/283/341/431 of IPC 1860 & 8B of National Highway Act. Fir was Registered when Highways was blocked during protest (Dharna)
2.	Fir No. 0026 PS North, Chandigarh (Matter under investigation)	Challan has not been presented before the court	Not Applicable	U/S 186, 323, 341, 511 IPC. Fir was registered for protesting against CM Haryana.
Sl. No.	(B) Detail about cases of conviction for criminal offences.			
No.	Name of Court & Date(s) of order(s)			Description of offence(s) & Punishment imposed
1.	Nil			Not Applicable
2.	Nil			Not Applicable

Iran supreme leader urges nuclear energy progress amid talks

AP ■ TEHRAN



Iran's supreme leader vowed Thursday that his country would ramp up development of its civilian nuclear program, as major world powers continued delicate talks in Vienna to revive Tehran's landmark nuclear deal.

In a televised speech, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged the European Union last week to impose sanctions on Russia for "its illegal mass issuing of Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens."

Khamenei's remarks seemed clearly aimed at the countries involved in the Vienna talks.

"Enemies are making cruel moves against our nuclear energy issue, (putting) sanctions on nuclear energy that they know is peaceful," he said. "They do not want Iran to

achieve this great and significant progress."

The accord, which former President Donald Trump abandoned nearly four years ago, granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its atomic program. Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, tweeted late Wednesday that the parties were "closer than ever" to an agreement.

But talks have repeatedly stalled in recent months as Iranian negotiators press hard-line demands, exasperating Western diplomats.

Khamenei, who so far has

largely stayed silent on the ongoing negotiations, called claims that Iran was pursuing a bomb "nonsense," saying they were meant to deprive Iran of its legitimate right to nuclear power.

"If we do not pursue (peaceful nuclear energy) today, tomorrow will be late," he said.

Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful. But the country's steps away from its obligations under the 2015 accord have alarmed its archenemy Israel and world powers.

Tehran has since started enriching uranium up to 60% purity - a short technical step from the 90% needed to make an atomic bomb, and spinning far more advanced centrifuges than those permitted under the deal.

Hong Kong hospitals hit 90% capacity as Covid cases surge

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's hospitals reached 90% capacity on Thursday and quarantine facilities were at their limit, authorities said, as the city struggles to snuff out a record number of new cases by adhering to China's "zero tolerance" strategy.

To ease the strain on the city's healthcare system, officials said they would take a different approach to hospitalization and isolation policies and allow some patients to be discharged sooner. The move comes amid reports of patients being treated on beds outside a hospital in the city's working-class neighbourhood of Sham Shui Po.

Hong Kong reported 6,116 new coronavirus infections on Thursday. Any person in the city who is infected with COVID-19 must be admitted to a hospital or community isolation facility.



Under the new approach, people who are infected with Covid-19 but present mild symptoms in hospitals and government-run isolation facilities will be allowed to leave after just seven days if they test negative on the seventh day and do not live with anyone in a high-risk group, such as senior citizens, pregnant women or immunosuppressed people.

Those who do not meet these criteria must complete the full 14-day isolation period or wait until they test negative, according to health officials. AP

Covid-19 surge among prisoners fuels Hong Kong's outbreak

Hong Kong: Facing an outbreak of Covid-19 among prisoners, Hong Kong is moving infected inmates to an isolation facility as the city struggles to snuff out a record number of cases by implementing China's "zero tolerance" strategy.

The Correctional Services Department said Thursday that the Sha Tsui facility on Lantau Island was designated for quarantining infected prisoners, whose numbers are expected to grow. Seven prisoners had tested positive for COVID-19, while the number of confirmed cases in the southern Chinese financial hub of about 7.5 million people hit 4,285, double the daily average reported earlier in the week.

Health care facilities in Hong Kong are beginning to overflow, and the city's Caritas Medical Center was forced to treat patients in beds outside the hospital.

AP

Rupee slips to 75.11 against US currency

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Thursday slipped to 75.11 against the US currency on Thursday due to forex outflows and lingering geopolitical tensions pushing investors towards safe-haven assets.

Forex traders said elevated crude oil prices and expectations of aggressive rate hikes by the US Fed weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.94 against the American dollar but later dropped to a low of 75.18 against the greenback. The local unit was quoted at 75.11 at close, down by 2 paise from the previous close of 75.09.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.15 per cent higher at 95.84. "The local unit is struggling near the psychological level of 75 as safe haven dollar remained in demand amid ongoing speculation of Fed tightening in March meetings along with geopolitical worries," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Spot USDINR expected to find support in the range of 74.90 to 75, while 75.70 remains the biggest hurdle, Parmar

Sensex, Nifty close lower on selloff in banking, IT stocks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Key benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for a second day on Thursday in a volatile session after a selloff in banking and IT stocks amid lingering geopolitical worries.

After oscillating over 700 points between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally ended 104.67 points or 0.18 per cent lower at 57,892 points. As many as 19 constituents declined while 11 advanced.

The broader NSE Nifty dropped 17.60 points or 0.10 per cent to settle the day at 17,304.60 - marking its second straight session of loss. Among Sensex stocks, ICICI Bank fell the most by 2 per cent, followed by UltratechCement (1.9 per cent) and Axis Bank (1.79 per cent). IndusInd Bank declined by 1.27 per cent, Nestle by 0.85 per cent and TCS by 0.76 per cent. Infosys, HDFC Bank, SBI, Kotak Bank, and Bharti Airtel also declined. However, gains in HDFC and Reliance Industries restricted the losses in the Sensex.HDFC rose the most by 1.71 per cent while Reliance Industries advanced by 1.35 per cent.

Employers' intent to hire freshers rises by 30% for Jan-Jun: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a 30 per cent spike in the intent to hire freshers in the January-June period of this year, as compared to the previous half year, indicating a significant recovery in economic activity, a report said on Thursday.

According to TeamLease EdTech's flagship 'Career Outlook Report', more than 47 per cent of companies have expressed their intent to hire freshers in the in the current half year (January-June 2022), while only 17 per cent companies were keen to increase their fresher pool in the corresponding period last year.

"It is heart-warming to see that despite the continued challenges of the pandemic, the inclination of companies to hire freshers continues to be on an upward trajectory.

India's mobile subscriber count down by 1.28 crore in Dec 2021: Trai data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The mobile user count in India fell by 1.28 crore in December 2021 compared to the previous month, with Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea suffering subscriber losses, even as Bharti Airtel added customers, Trai data showed on Thursday.

Reliance Jio lost about 1.29 crore wireless subscribers, and that pulled down

its mobile subscriber tally to 41.57 crore in December 2021.

Vodafone Idea lost 16.14 lakh mobile subscribers, and its base stood at 26.55 crore in December 2021.

In contrast, Airtel gained 4.75 lakh customers, ramping up its wireless user base to 35.57 crore, as per monthly subscriber data released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

IOC raises ₹1,500 cr via bonds at interest rate lower than sovereign

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, on Thursday raised Rs 1,500 crore debt through a bonds issue at a coupon rate lower than government bonds, a senior company official said.

IOC priced its five-year rupee bonds at a coupon rate of 6.14 per cent tighter than a similar maturing government bond that is trading at an annualised yield of 6.29 per

cent. "The issue saw strong demand from investors and we were able to get a very attractive deal," IOC Director (Finance) Sandeep Gupta said.

IOC got bid worth Rs 5,403 crore in the range of 5 per cent to 6.7 per cent for its issuance. Gupta said the money raised is for general corporate purposes.

The issue marks return of the company to the onshore bond market after a gap of more than a year.

Sugar output up 6 % till Feb 15 in 2021-22 marketing year: ISMA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's sugar production increased by 6 per cent between October 1 and February 15 period of the 2021-22 marketing year at 220.91 lakh tonnes on higher sugarcane production while exports jumped over three-fold till January at 31.5 lakh tonnes, according to industry body ISMA.

Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. The production stood at 209.11 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement on Thursday. In Maharashtra, sugar production rose to 86.15 lakh tonnes from 75.46 lakh tonnes. The output in Uttar Pradesh declined to 59.32 lakh tonnes from 65.13 lakh tonnes. In Karnataka, production increased to 44.85 lakh tonnes from 39.07 lakh tonnes.

"As per reports from the trade, around 50 lakh tonnes of sugar export have been contracted for so far. Out of which, about 31.50 lakh tonnes of sugar have been physically exported from India up to January 31, 2022 in the current sugar year."

PLI scheme to unlock India's manufacturing capacity: Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government's ambitious production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme will look to unlock manufacturing capacity as well as support in attracting about Rs 4 lakh crore of capital expenditure over the next five years, rating agency Icra said on Thursday.

With an aim to boost manufacturing, employment generation, import reduction and exports growth, the PLI scheme covers strategically significant sectors that have seen

surging demand (solar, semi-conductors/electronics, automobiles etc), and are critical to developing manufacturing capabilities (semiconductors, telecom gears, medical devices). Rohit Ahuja, Head of Research and Outreach, Icra, said, "Manufacturing forms around 20-25 per cent of the total capex in India currently.

The PLI scheme, launched with the aim of incentivising manufacturing, is estimated to attract a capex of approximately Rs 4 lakh crore over the next five years."

Byju's to invest ₹1,500 cr in tuition centre expansion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Edtech firm Byju's on Thursday said it will invest USD 200 million (about Rs 1,500 crore) to set up 500 tuition centres across 200 cities in the country. The company has launched 80 centres earlier under a pilot project where it offers both offline and online

classes to students of class 4 to class 10. "The launch of 'Byju's Tuition Centre' is a landmark moment for Byju's. Over the next 12-18 months, we will be investing USD 200 million to open these sites across India. We are also looking at strengthening our team," BYJU'S Chief Operating Officer Mrinal Mohit said in a statement.

ICICI Bank

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

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). A notice was 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, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.


Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Avinash Rawa, Swarn Kanta, UGF/1 C56 Shalimar, Garden Ext-2, Shahibabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. A/c No:- LBDEL00001312432	Flat No. UG-1, Gf (Front Side), Plot No. C-56, Shalimar Garden Extn-2, Ghaziabad	31-12-2021 Rs. 9,67,997.85/-	12/07/ 2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : February 18, 2022

Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

<div>  Origo Commodities India Pvt Ltd </div> <div>ANNEXURE I</div> <div>Format for publishing financial results in newspapers</div> <div>[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]</div>						
S. No	Particulars	For the quarter ended		For the half year ended		For the half year ended
		September 30, 2021	June 30, 2021	September 30, 2021	September 30, 2021	March 31, 2021
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	10,141.29	15,341.12	35,337.40	17,330.03	22,162.82
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	385.25	286.10	865.30	527.58	777.80
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	385.25	286.10	865.30	527.58	777.80
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	197.63	220.60	546.68	374.35	491.63
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	202.68	225.64	561.82	389.50	511.84
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90	5,448.90
7	Reserves(excluding Revaluation Reserve)	13,251.12	13,045.05	13,251.12	12,593.25	12,680.03
8	Net worth	18,700.02	18,493.95	18,700.02	18,042.15	18,128.93
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	12,052.26	16,747.62	12,052.26	12,867.06	17,496.85
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares*	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
11	Debt Equity Ratio *	0.64	0.91	0.64	0.71	0.97
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10 / - each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -	-	-	-	-	-
	1. Basic:	0.36	0.40	1.00	0.69	0.90
	2. Diluted:	0.33	0.37	0.92	0.63	0.83
13	Capital Redemption Reserve *	-	-	-	-	-
14	Debtenture Redemption Reserve *	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	0.36	0.32	0.74	0.80	0.97
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio *	2.15	1.78	1.82	1.99	1.89

Note: 1. The Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the half yearly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) i.e BSE Limited and the listed entity, www.investor@origoindia.com & <https://www.bseindia.com>.
2. For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s) (specify names of Stock Exchanges) and can be accessed on the URL www.investor@origoindia.com & <https://www.bseindia.com>
3. The impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s) due to change(s) in accounting policies shall be disclosed by means of a footnote.
4. # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.
5. The above standalone and consolidated results have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on February 8th 2022 and have been reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company in accordance with the requirement of regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations).
6. Segment Information as per Ind-AS 108, 'Operating Segments' is disclosed in Segment reporting.

For Origo Commodities India Pvt Ltd
Name: Mayank Dhankha (Whole Time Director)
DIN:02572510
Date: 08 Feb 2022 Place: Gurgaon
Corporate Office: Plot No 37, 1st Floor, Sec-18, Institutional Area, Gurgaon 122002, Haryana
Registered Office: FK-06, First Floor, Somdatt chamber-1, 5, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 110066
CIN: U51103DL2011PTC213352; Visit us at: www.origoindia.com; E-mail: info@origoindia.com

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Smt. Sudha Kinrohi has acquired the Plot bearing no. 16, land area measuring 205 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa no. 9/22, in Block C, Situated at Naya Bazar, Najafgarh, New Delhi- 43on POA basis vide notarized GPA and ATS dated 31. 12. 1986, executed by Mr. Jagdish Chander, and Now Smt. Sudha Kinrohi is intending to sell the above said property to Mr. Rajeev Kumar and Mr. Pradeep Bajaj vide Sale Deed. Further, Mr. Rajeev Kumar and Mr. Pradeep Bajaj are mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).



UJVN Limited
 (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
 H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephone-0135-2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO. No. 68 **Time Extension Notice – II** Date: 17.02.2022

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the invited "e-Tender Notice No: 25e/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22 for SITC of Mulsifier System with all accessories including dismantling at Chibro Power House by the office of Executive Engineer (G) Chibro Power House is hereby extended as follows.

Last date of submission of bid in the portal: 25.02.2022 up to 17:00
Last date of submission of hard copy: 26.02.2022 from 15:00 Hrs.
Date of opening of the bid Part-I on website: 28.02.2022 from 10:00
 All other condition shall be same as previous. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>".

Executive Engineer (G), Chibro

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE,
Ground Water Division, Sgr.
Gist of e-Tender.
e-NIT No -PHE/GWDS/ 76 of 02/2022
 For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in 02 Cover System for the below mentioned work from registered Electrical/ Mechanical Works contractors as per the details given in tender document.
S.No 1.Name of work :- Providing, Fitting of Submersible Pumping Unit and Other Allied Works to be Carried out at Jahar Mohalla Baddlaw Khrew, Pampore.
Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :-Rs. 1.50 Lacs
Earnest Money :- Rs. 3000/-
Cost of Tender Document :- Rs. 100/-
Time of completion :- 7 Days
Class of Contract :- Registered for Electrical/ Mechanical works
Technical Sanction:- PHE/GWD/125 of 02/2022
Programme :- DDC Grants
AAA Accorded Vide No. : 40-DDCP of 2022, Dated: 14-01-2022
Critical Dates / Information.
1. Publishing Date :- 15-02-2022 (02:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids :- 15-02-2022 (02:00 P.M) to 25-02-2022 (02.00 P.M)
3. Period of Submission of bids :- 15-02-2022 (02:00 P.M) to 25-02-2022 (02.00 P.M)
4. Date of opening of Tender :- 26-02-2022 at (2:00 P.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water SrinagarKashmir-190011
6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on [www. Jktenders.gov.in](http://www.Jktenders.gov.in)
9. The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who posses valid registration certificate of Registered for Automobile work shop holders.
10. The bidder shall uploaded Scan copy of CDR/ FDR and T.R.

No. DIPK-18148/21
 Dated: 15-02-2022
 Sd/- Executive Engineer

REGD. AD. DASTI AFFIXATION ON PROPERTY AS WELL AS NOTICE BOARD OF DRT BEAT OF DRUM, PUBLICATION IN NEWS PAPER

SALE PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI 4th Floor, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, PATEL CHOWK, NEW DELHI-110001

R.C. No. 1022/2018 DATED: 27.01.2022.

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 38, 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993

ICICI BANK LTD.

VS

LAXMAN KUMAR

CD No. 1. Sh. Laxman Kumar. S/o Puran Lal. R/o. 1A/7767, DDA, Flat QTR.-32, Arakasha Road, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110055.

CD No. 2. Ms. Gunjan Sharma. W/o. Sh. Puran Lal. R/o. 1A/7767, DDA, Flat QTR.-32, Arakasha Road, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110055.

Whereas you has/ have failed to pay the sum of **Rs.22,55,435.10 (Rupees Twenty Two Lacs Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Five and Paise Ten Only)** payable by you/ her in respect of recovery certificate in **OA No. 374 of 2017/DRT-III/Delhi** by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Delhi, and the interest payable @ **12% p.a.** simple w.e.f. **11.05.2017**, as per certificate.

And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said certificate.

Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold on 24.03.2022 between 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM (with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required) by **e-auction and bidding shall take place through "On line Electronic Bidding"** through website: <http://drt.auctiontiger.net> through service provider- auction and bidding shall take place through on line Electronic Bidding" through website: <http://dit.auctiontiger.net> through service provider **M/s. e Procurement Technologies Ltd.** (ABC Procure), A-201/208, Wall Street-II, Opp. Orient Club Near Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006 Gujarat (India) Tel: +91 079 61200594/598/568/587/538.

In case of any query, Contact Mr. Ram Sharma Mobile No. 8000023297 email: delhi@Auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net. For further details contact: Sh. Rajly Ranjan, officer of CH Bank, having Mobile No.8584874809.

The sale will be of the property of the defendant above named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions.

The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

1. The description of properties, Reserve Price and EMD are as under:

S.No	Property Particulars	Reserve Price/EMD
1.	MERCEDES BENZ/ E 350 CDI ELEGANCE. DIESEL/ AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION. CHASSIS No. WDD21202561.017168 Registration No. DL-3FS-0009;	Rs. 380,000/ EMD: Rs. 38,000/

The properties shall not be sold below the reserve price:

2. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be **Rs.15,000/ (Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only)**. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the property shall at once be again put up to auction.

3. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the successful highest bidder. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline/acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do So.

4. EMD shall be deposited by **22.03.2022** by way of DD/pay order in favour of **RECOVERY OFFICER-II**, Debt Recovery Tribunal-III, Delhi in the sealed cover. EMD deposited thereafter shall not be considered for participation in the e-auction.

5. The copy of PAN card, Address proof and Identity proof, E-mail ID, Mobile No. and Declaration if they are bidding on their own behalf or on behalf of their principals. In the latter case, they shall be required to deposit their authority, and in default their bids shall be rejected. In case of the company copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation /attorney of the company and the receipt/counter File of such deposit should reach to the said service provider or CH Bank by e-mail or otherwise by the said date and hard copy shall be submitted before the RECOVERY OFFICER-II, DRT-III, New Delhi.

6. The successful highest bidder shall have to deposit 25% of his final bid amount after adjustment of EMD by next bank working day i.e., by 3:00 P.M. in the said account as per detail mentioned in para above.

7. The successful highest bidder shall deposit the balance 75% of final bid amount on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property. If the 15th day is Sunday or other Holiday, then on the first bank working day after the 15th day by prescribed mode as stated in para 4. above. In addition to the above the successful highest bidder shall also deposit poundage fee with **RECOVERY OFFICER-II, DRT-III** @2% upto **Rs. 1,000/-** and @1% of the excess of said amount of Rs.1,000/-through DD in favour of The Registrar, DRT-III, Delhi.

8. Movable Property shall remain open for inspection by prospective bidders on **10.03.2022 from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

9. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh Proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting successful highest bidder shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

10. The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"**. The outstanding dues if any, of any authority on the movable property shall be borne by the auction purchaser/purchasers apart from bid amount.

11. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

12. There is no detail of revenue/encumbrance or calm against the properties in the knowledge of undersigned at this stage. However, prospective bidders are advised to make their own due diligence w.r.t. dues or any other encumbrance etc., in their own interest, before deposit of EMD.

13. There is no details of BSES/NDPL/BYPL outstanding dues against the properties in the knowledge of undersigned at this stage. However, prospective bidders are advised to make their own due diligence w.r.t dues of electricity/ water/ house tax bills or any other encumbrance etc., in their own interest, before deposit of EMD.

14. CH Bank is directed to authenticate and check the veracity of details given hereni.

Given under my hand and seal on this **27th day of January, 2022.**

(SHISHIR KR. TRIVEDI)
RECOVERY OFFICER-II, DRT-III, DELHI



SPICE IT UP

SHAMMI AGARWAL lists the essentials in every kitchen for a healthy lifestyle

India is rich in diversity of spices which are mentioned in the ancient books of Ayurveda because of their medicinal properties. Apart from enhancing the flavours, they also enhance the nutrient content. While spices are commonly used in our cuisine, we are unaware of their medicinal properties. Apart from enhancing the taste, spices can up our health as well.

TURMERIC
A very common spice used in every household in India, turmeric has curcumin which has anti-inflammatory properties and powerful antioxidants. Not just this, it also helps in improving brain functions. So next time, do not hesitate before putting some extra turmeric in your curries.

DHANIA OR CORIANDER
Coriander powder provides a smoky flavour and is added to many Indian dishes. According to Ayurveda, powdered coriander helps in digestion, diabetes, different skin and health problems.

KALI MIRCH OR BLACK PEPPER
This spice is found not just in India but all around the world. People usually refrain from using this



spice in food as it provides a sharp spicy flavour, which enhances the taste of many dishes. Ayurvedic science identifies this spice as an essential item as it has a high concentration of beneficial plant compounds.

The piperine present in black pepper has antioxidant properties, which are efficient in preventing and controlling the damages caused by free radicals. It also has anti-microbial potential and gastro-protective modules.

PEPPERMINT
Peppermint has a history of being used in aromatherapy and folk medicine. Peppermint oil helps in pain management and irritable bowel syndrome. It relaxes the smooth muscles in the colon and releases the pain experienced during bowel movements. It also helps in fighting nausea. However, people who have gastrointestinal problems should not consume it.

CINNAMON
Cinnamon significantly helps in lowering blood sugar levels and has anti-diabetic properties. It has a compound called cinnamaldehyde, which is responsible for its medicinal properties. Cinnamon also has an antioxidant property helping fight inflammation and lowers down cholesterol levels. The best part is that you can add this spice to almost everything — from savoury to sweet — without hesitation. Also, you can use it as a mouth freshener and chew it after you eat your food.

According to Ayurveda, every spice available in the kitchen has a role to play. Make sure you use these spices regularly to keep yourself and your family fit and healthy.
—(The author is the MD, Pansari Group)

What's in a name?

Are *dahi* and yoghurt the same? VIVEK MANI spells out the difference in consumption and constitution

There is a common misconception around *dahi* and yoghurt being the same, with the only difference being of an Indian and Western term. Not surprisingly, the lack of awareness around the difference between the two has left the consumers confused. *Dahi* and yogurt are two different types of dairy products.

Dahi is a dairy product obtained by curdling of milk and fermentation. Curdling of milk involves adding an acidic agent. For instance, an edible acidic substance can be lemon juice or vinegar. After draining off the liquid portion from the milk, you get the *dahi*. The other method of preparing *dahi* is by bacterial fermentation of milk. In this process, lactose in milk is converted into lactic acid by several microorganisms. *Dahi* fermentation takes place using a mixed set of bacterial cultures, which impacts the end texture and flavour, making it slightly acidic. In India, *dahi* is considered a healthy ingredient as it helps with digesting and provides relief from spicy foods.

On the other hand, yoghurt is a dairy product that is created by fermenting milk using a specific set of bacterial cultures. The bacteria used to ferment milk are known as yoghurt cultures. Yoghurt is prepared with a standardised set of cultures that ensure even texture and taste that is mild and pleasant. The fermentation of the milk happens by adding two specific strains of bacteria called *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* spp. *bulgaricus* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*. This ensures both quality and the correct quantity of bacteria in the yoghurt. Also, this ensures that more of the good bacteria reach the intestines and provide health benefits.

Probiotic yoghurt is also one of the most widely used probiotic food. As per Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), probiotics are defined as live microorganisms which, administered in an adequate amount, will ensure various health benefits like improving digestion, strengthening immunity and more. The addition of probiotics in yoghurt along with the nutrients already present provide a good balance of protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, fats and minerals which are very good for health. There are different types of yoghurt, like Greek yoghurt, low-fat yoghurt, drinking yoghurt, sheep milk yoghurt and more.



HEALTH BENEFITS
Yoghurt and *dahi* are both dairy products that help to stay full for longer and are suitable for lactose-intolerant people to digest. They are good sources of calcium, phosphorus, riboflavin-vitamin B2, iodine, vitamin B12, pantothenic acid-vitamin B5, zinc, and potassium. The bacteria present in yoghurt help boost the immune system.

Both are rich in vitamins and minerals that are vital for the body. These substances aid in the prevention of diseases like arthritis and osteoporosis in older people. Dairy products help tremendously in achieving our daily protein requirements. All dairy products are suitable for health, and both *dahi* and yoghurt are no exceptions on that list. However, understanding the difference between both will help create awareness and better choices by consumers.

WHAT TO CHOOSE WHEN:
Yoghurt couples as a breakfast or a snack option, but it is also a popular dessert. We can pair

yoghurt with various food items like oats, nuts, fruits, and cereals — just like *dahi*. In India, we also use *dahi* as a critical ingredient for dishes like *dahi* rice, *kadhi pakoda*, *dahi chaat* and a side dish like *raita* with spicy food items.

Over the past few years, people have started experimenting with foods and yoghurt usage has evolved. Most Indians perceive yoghurt as a sweet addition to fruits or as part of a cereal bowl. People generally prefer yoghurt as their first meal of the morning to keep it light yet healthy. But with the changing trends, it can be consumed as a snack option by adding fruit toppings or ingredients of your choice. With its slightly creamy texture, it is also a good option as a replacement for heavy cream in many recipes. Both *dahi* and yoghurt are excellent choices to make *lassi*, *chaas*, or to accompany biryani and other food items.

(The author is the CEO, Heritage Novandie Foods Pvt Ltd.)

R E C I P E S

POTATO CARROT KOFTAS STUFFED WITH COTTAGE CHEESE AND BELLPEPPER

WHAT YOU NEED

- Potato: 60 gm
- Carrot (grated): 30 gm
- Capsicum (chopped): 20 gm
- Corn: 10 gm
- Ginger: 5 gm
- Garlic: 5 gm
- Spinach puree: 10 gm
- Amul cheese : 25 gm
- Cottage cheese: 25 gm
- Chilli flakes: 5 gm
- Mix herbs: 5 gm
- Godrej sunflower oil: ½ litre
- Bread crumbs: 30 gm
- Salt : To taste
- Whole black pepper powder: 2 gm
- Corn flour: 5 gm



For batter

- Corn flour: 10 gm
- All-purpose flour: 20 gm
- Water: As required

METHOD

For stuffing:

- Boil the potatoes and corn. Keep aside.
- Grate all the carrots for stuffing.
- Mash the potatoes completely.
- Add carrot, cornflour and bread crumbs (for binding) to the mashed potatoes.
- Grate Amul cheese and cottage

cheese. Mix with chilli flakes and mix herbs.

- Sauté ginger, garlic, bell pepper, smashed corn and spinach puree.

Rolling the balls:

- Take potato carrot stuffing and make a flat patty.
- Take spinach stuffing and place it on the top of the potato carrot patty.
- Then place cottage cheese stuffing on the centre of bell pepper patties.
- Then make a ball by covering all layers together and giving it the desired round shape to it.

Prepare batter:

- In a small bowl add cornflour, all-purpose flour and salt then gradually add water.
- With the help of a whisk mix everything into a neither too thick nor

too thin batter.

- Then you strain the batter to make sure there are no lumps.

Assemble:

- Dip each ball first in the batter and then roll into the breadcrumbs making sure it's all covered.
- Before frying place the balls in the freezer for at least one hour, deep frying to prevent cheese from oozing out.
- Heat oil, once the oil is ready slide the balls gently into the hot oil and fry on medium heat.
- Once one side turns golden, turn the balls with a slotted spoon.
- Turn again a couple of times more to get an even golden colour.
- Once golden brown, remove from the oil and transfer onto a paper towel to remove the excess oil.
- Serve warm with sweet chilli sauce or ketchup.

Courtesy: Godrej Vikhorli Cucina

ABOUT TOWN



THE CLARIDGES

Chef Vivek Rana is serving an array of sea dishes including a range of crab dishes in different styles and flavours. This lavish menu has dishes like *Kanyakumari crab meat* and *Egg drop sweet corn*, *Thai style crab*, *Mud crab* and prawns too that will be served in open-air seating at The Claridges Garden.
When: February 21-25
Cost: ₹4,200+ taxes per person

CAFE TESU

Olive hues, vintage bohemian chandeliers, luxurious embellishments, and conversational interiors sum up Cafe Tesu's revamped 2022 vibes. On the occasion of its fifth birthday, the cafe metamorphosed into the hue of olive while keeping the ethos of the brand, 'Where art meets food'.
Where: Cafe Tesu, Essex Farms, 4 Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi



LITTLE HEARTS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Bourbon whisky: 60 ml
- In-house black tea and barley jaggery syrup: 60 ml
- Lemon juice: 10 ml
- Honey water: 10 ml
- Little Hearts biscuit : 2

METHOD

- Mix all the liquid ingredients together and shake well.
- Crush the biscuits and garnish.

Courtesy: SMAAASH

CORN POCKETS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Flour: 2 cups
- Butter at room temperature: 3/4 cup
- Roasted cumin: 1 tsp
- Ajwain: 1/4 tsp
- Ice cold water: 2-3 tbsp
- Salt and pepper: As per taste
- Del Monte sweet corn cream style: 1/2 can
- Del Monte corn kernels: 3 tbsp
- Garlic, finely chopped: 1/2 tbsp
- Green chilli, finely chopped: 1
- Ginger, grated: 1 tsp
- Small onion, finely chopped: 1
- Coriander leaves finely chopped: 2 tbsp
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Butter: 2 tsp
- Milk for brushing

METHOD

- In a pan, melt butter. Add ginger



and garlic, fry for two minutes. Add onions and saute until pink and soft. Add green chillies and fry. Add cream-style corn, corn kernels and season with salt and pepper. Cook until it reaches a thick consistency. Take it off the heat and cool completely. Add coriander

leaves and mix.

- Mix the butter, cumin, salt, pepper, *ajwain* and all-purpose flour with the fingers until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Some may be the size of a pea.

● Then transfer the mixture to the work surface, add ice cold water

and knead very gently to bring them together to form a ball(don't knead too much with your palm). Wrap the crust dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate it for an hour.

- Take the crust dough and roll it on parchment paper into a 14x14 inch square with a thickness of ¼ inch.

- Now cut the pastry of desired shapes around 2.5-3 inches each. Keep these pieces on a tray and refrigerate them for another hour.

- Preheat the oven to 180°C.

- Take out the pieces and put ¾-1 tsp of the filling in the centre of one piece. Cover it with another piece. Press the edges gently with a fork so the two pieces get sealed. Arrange each pie on the baking tray. Prick at the centre from the top using a fork. Brush with milk on the top and bake it for 12 to 15 minutes or till golden brown.

- Cool on wire rack. Serve.

Courtesy: Del Monte

LIVERPOOL PAST INTER TEST

AP ■ MILAN

Liverpool put one foot in the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday with a 2-0 win at Inter Milan which came after a hard-fought encounter at a bubbling San Siro.

Goals from Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah in the last quarter of an hour gave Liverpool a commanding lead ahead of the last-16 second leg at Anfield in three weeks' time.

The result was harsh on Italian champions Inter, who dominated the contest in front of a passionate home crowd for long periods after the break and struck the woodwork through Hakan Calhanoglu in the 16th minute.

However they could not find their way past a Liverpool backline impeccably marshalled by Virgil van Dijk and were punished late on by a Reds team who have now won their last seven matches in all competitions.

The last eight now looks a step too far for Inter after making the last 16 of the Champions League for the first time in a decade.

Simone Inzaghi's side started with all the enthusiasm expected of a team back in the knockouts after such a long time away and Lautaro Martinez got the crowd on their feet in the fifth minute with a long range effort which flew just wide.

Calhanoglu had the best chance of the half after being fed by the rampaging Ivan Perisic to let off a shot from a tight angle which beat Alison but smashed out off the crossbar.



They were unlucky again 10 minutes later when, after being sent charging down the right flank, Denzel Dumfries flashed over a low cross which was cut out just as it looked destined to find the feet of an unmarked Edin Dzeko.

SIMONE INZAGHI'S SIDE STARTED WITH ALL THE ENTHUSIASM EXPECTED OF A TEAM BACK IN THE KNOCKOUTS AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME AWAY

between their teeth after the interval and swarmed over a clearly flustered Liverpool but again could not get past Van Dijk and company, who kept getting a foot or head in just as danger seemed imminent.

The away side punished them with their first proper chance of the second half, Firmino beating Alessandro Bastoni to Andy Robertson's 75th-minute corner and guiding his header past Samir Handanovic.

Salah gave Liverpool a huge advantage eight minutes later with a fortunate strike which squirmed home and gave the Egyptian an incredible eighth goal in seven Champions League games this season.

With the San Siro atmosphere thoroughly deflated, Liverpool then calmly saw out the remainder of the match to almost guarantee themselves a place in next month's draw for the last eight.

2 - Mohamed Salah is only the second player to score against both AC Milan and Inter Milan in the same Champions League season, after Peter Crouch for Tottenham in 2010-11.

63% - Mohamed Salah (33), Sadio Mané (21) and Roberto Firmino (18) have scored 63% of Liverpool's 114 Champions League goals under Jürgen Klopp.

800 - James Milner on Wednesday made the 800th appearance of his senior club career (275 Liverpool, 203 Manchester City, 136 Newcastle United, 126 Aston Villa, 54 Leeds United, 6 Swindon Town). Milner has averaged 40 games per season across his 20-season professional career.

18 - Aged 18 years and 318 days, Harvey Elliott became the youngest player ever to start a European Cup/Champions League match for Liverpool (excl. qualifiers), overtaking teammate Trent Alexander-Arnold (18y 354d v Spartak Moscow in 2017)

Coman comes to Bayern rescue

AP ■ SALZBURG

Kingsley Coman scored late to salvage a 1-1 draw for Bayern Munich at Salzburg in the first leg of their Champions League round of 16 meeting.

Coman, who scored Bayern's winner in the 2020 final, equalized in the last minute to prevent the Bavarian powerhouse from slumping to its second consecutive defeat after its 4-2 loss to promoted Bochum in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Bayern, which had come from behind to win 6-2 on its previous trip to Salzburg in the group stage last season, was forced to do it again after Junior Chukwubuike Adamu's 21st-minute opener for the Austrian champions.

"It wasn't enough in the first half. Salzburg came up with dangerous counterattacks. We controlled it better in the second half," said Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich.

"The team realized we wanted to win the game. That we can is not in question. We have to bring that on the field in every game. We're not in a flow where everything just happens."

In the night's other game, Liverpool beat Inter Milan 2-0 in Italy to take a comfortable lead back to Anfield for the second leg.

Salzburg was playing in the Champions League knockout phase for the first time, and the home team showed no sign of fear against the six-time European champion.

Adamu was only playing due to an injury to Noah Okafor, who went off in the 12th. The 20-year-old Adamu eluded Niklas Süle and curled his shot inside the right post after a long ball from Mohamed Camara found Karim Adeyemi on the right wing.

Adeyemi, reportedly a transfer target for Bayern's Bundesliga rival Borussia Dortmund, surged past Lucas Hernández before American midfielder Brenden Aaronson helped the ball onto Adamu, who swept it in.

Sven Ulreich, in Bayern's goal for the injured Manuel Neuer, did well to save an effort from Brenden Aaronson minutes later.

The home side had a penalty appeal before the break, after Benjamin Pavard's attempted clearance caught Adeyemi, too. A VAR check decided in favor of the Bayern defender.

Bayern pushed hard after the interval, pegging the home players back and restricting their counterattacking opportunities.

Coman drew a good save from Philipp Köhn in the 73rd, and the Salzburg keeper did



even better to deny Leroy Sané and gather the rebound ahead of the Bayern forward minutes later.

Pavard produced a vital block to deny Adamu a second goal in the 81st, and the home fans were to rue the miss when Coman beat Köhn at the near post to fire in the equalizer from Pavard's hopeful cross after Thomas Müller helped it on.

"In the end it feels like a defeat. But 1-1 is something to be proud of," Adeyemi said. "We're ready for the next game."

Bayern hosts Salzburg for the second leg on March 8.

India gets AFC nod to host 2023 Asian Cup third round qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has accepted the Indian body's bid to host the third round of the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers, which are scheduled to be held from June 8 this year.

The third round qualifiers will be held at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata across three match days on June 8, 11 and 14 this year. China will host the main tournament in 2023.

"We had bid to host the third round qualifiers of the AFC Asian Cup, and are grateful to the Asian Football Confederation for accepting our bid," All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das said.

"We understand that playing at home, and that too in Kolkata will be an added advantage to the Blue Tigers in our quest to qualify for the Asian Cup."

India has qualified for the Asian Cup four times earlier -- 1964, 1984, 2011 and 2019. The team had finished runners-up in 1964 which has been the best performance so far. It had failed to get past the group stage in the other three editions it had taken part.



In the last edition, the Indian team secured a fine victory over Thailand but had failed to make it to the knock-outs narrowly.

"We had bid with Kolkata as the venue for the qualifiers. The infrastructure in Kolkata is exceptionally suited to host the qualifiers with the stadium, the practice venues and official accommodation all very closely located," Das said.

"The support from the host

association, and the state government has also always been exemplary. "We hope that the health parameters in June will allow fans to witness live action in the stadium." The group winners and the five best second-placed teams will earn tickets to the tournament proper, which is slated to kick off on June 16, 2023.

The draw for the final leg of the qualifiers is scheduled for February 24 in Kuala Lumpur.

"While 13 teams, including host China PR, have already qualified by virtue of their earlier performances in the second round of the AFC Asian Qualifiers, the final 11 places remain up for grabs for 24 teams in the decisive group stage to be held in June across all five AFC zones in six host nations -- India, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia and Uzbekistan," the AFC said in a statement.

India claim 3-2 win over Hong Kong

PTI ■ SHAH ALAM (MALAYSIA)

The Indian men's team, led by world championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, secured a 3-2 win over Hong Kong in group A to keep its slim hopes alive of making the knockout stage at the Badminton Asia Team Championships here on Thursday.

The crushing 0-5 defeat against Korea in their opening match has made life difficult for India as they are currently at the third spot in group A, just above Hong Kong, with one win and one loss.

Three-time defending champions Indonesia and Korea are currently ahead in the race to qualify from group A.

India Open winner Lakshya Sen, Mithun Manjunath and doubles pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Rethinasabapathi Kumar gave a good account of themselves during the five-match rubber.



World no 13 Lakshya started the proceedings, thrashing world no 17 Lee Cheuk Yiu, a silver medallist at 2013 Asian Youth Games, 21-19 21-10 in 35 minutes to give India a good start.

Hong Kong took control of the match with Law Cheuk Him and Lee Chun Hei Reginald notching up a thrilling 20-22 21-15 21-18 win over Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam.

Kiran George, who won his maiden Super 100 event at Odisha, put up a spirited show before losing 13-21 21-17 9-21 to Chan Yin Chak as Hong Kong led 2-0 after three matches.

India grouped with England, New Zealand and China

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian team has been grouped along with England, New Zealand and China in pool B in the upcoming FIH Women's Hockey World Cup, the country's governing body for the sport said on Thursday.

The tournament will be held in Spain and Netherlands from July 1.

The Indian team recently secured its qualification for the World Cup after finishing third in the Asia Cup in Muscat.

Speaking about competition in their pool, India goalkeeper Savita said, "It is a tough pool with England (world No.3) and New Zealand (world No.8) who are ranked above us and China can always spring a surprise."

"As a team, we have always believed we need to focus on ourselves and not what the opponent can do. But now that we know who we play in the pool stage, we can plan our preparations accordingly and we look forward to the challenge."

The Indian women's team achieved a best-ever fourth place finish at the Tokyo Olympics last year.

The team also made it to the top eight for the first time in the previous edition of the World Cup when they drew 1-1 with



England, lost 0-1 to Ireland, who went on to play the final against world champions Netherlands, and drew 1-1 against USA in the group stage.

"It was a very good tournament for us and it inculcated a great sense of self-belief. Draw against England in their home ground was quite significant for us in 2018 and we came very close to beating Ireland in the quarterfinal but ended up losing in the shootout after a 0-0 draw," Savita recalled.

The senior player said the team is better prepared this time.

"With the experience we have had over the past three-four years, particularly in big events like the Olympic Games in Tokyo, I feel we are better prepared mentally to do well this time at the World Cup,"

she added.

Savita further emphasised that the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League matches will help them prepare well in the lead-up to the prestigious quadrennial event.

"We will play England at home in the Pro League matches in April and we have already played China. I believe playing other top teams of the world like Belgium, Argentina etc will definitely benefit us in our preparations for the World Cup," she said.

Netherlands are grouped in pool A with Germany, Ireland and Chile.

In pool C, hosts Spain will face off against Argentina, Korea and Canada and in pool D, Australia, Belgium, Japan and South Africa will take on each other. PTI AH AH

Former India midfielder Surajit Sengupta dies

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former India midfielder and East Bengal legend Surajit Sengupta, who mesmerized Kolkata Maidan with his dribbling skills in the 1970s, died at a city hospital on Thursday following his prolonged battle with COVID-19.

He was 71. After being tested positive for COVID-19, Sengupta was admitted to the hospital on January 23 and was put on ventilator since Monday. He breathed his last in the afternoon.

"Lost veteran star footballer Surajit Sengupta today. Heart throb of football fans and an outstanding national sportsman as well as a perfect gentleman, he will ever be in our hearts. Deepest condolences," West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said in a tweet.

"His condition was stable but since Friday he started developing breathing complications and his oxygen level started dropping. He was put on life support since Monday," said hospital sources. The artistic right winger made his International debut on July 24, 1974 against Thailand in the Merdeka Cup in Kuala Lumpur and went on to represent India in 14 matches.

He represented India in the Asian Games in 1974 and 1978, the Merdeka Cup in 1974, the President's Cup in 1977 and in international friendlies against UAE and Bahrain (1979).

He scored his lone international goal against Kuwait in the 1978 Asian Games.

"It's sad to hear that Surajit-da, one of the most skilful wingers in the history of Indian football is no more. His invaluable contribution to Indian football will always remain with us, and never be forgotten."

Bengaluru FC take on NorthEast United

PTI ■ MARGAO

Bengaluru FC will be desperate to get back to winning ways and more importantly stay close to the top-four pack when they take on rock-bottom NorthEast United FC in the Indian Super League here on Friday.

The Blues saw their three-game winning run come to an end against league leaders Hyderabad FC the other night. But head coach Marco Pezzaioli would like to believe the result was just a bad day in the office for his charges who have been in good form otherwise.

Against a struggling NorthEast United, it will be a golden opportunity for Bengaluru to get back in the mix.

With four matches remaining, Bengaluru need to win all their remaining games if they are to have any chance of progressing to the semi-finals.

Bengaluru are in sixth spot with 23 points from 16 outings, six adrift of Hyderabad FC and second-placed ATK Mohun Bagan. The former champions have a few key players missing for the game on Friday.

"Ashique and Roshan are not available, Rohit and Jayesh as well who are injured. In terms of long-term injuries, King May, Harmanpreet are still missing. We have some players who are still suffering after the COVID



situation," said Pezzaioli ahead of the game.

The Blues added defender Yaya Banana to their squad in the January transfer window and Pezzaioli said they need to take a careful approach with the Cameroonian defender as he had an 11-day quarantine period. "Yaya has trained for a week with us, we have to be careful about him because he had an 11 day quarantine period. We need to prepare him for the next steps. He can create an overload in midfield and is very good defensively."

On NorthEast United, who have endured a 10-game winless run, the BFC coach said: "I think they are a good, offensive team with good players who are individually skilled. They have some new faces as well, and we've watched their most recent games."

"We know how we played in the first game against them,

obviously they are not the same team. They created chances in that game and that's something we want to avoid."

Bengaluru will miss Roshan Singh a lot as he has been a key player for them this season, having six assists to his name, the joint second highest after Ahmed Jahouh (7).

No Indian player has more assists this season than Roshan. Four of Roshan's assists have come from corner kicks. He is one of the main reasons why BFC (8) have scored more goals from corners than any other side.

On the other hand, NorthEast United's season is all but over and the Highlanders have only pride to play for. With just 10 points in their kitty from 17 matches, Khalid Jamil's side have managed just two wins so far having thrown away as many as 16 points from winning positions.

INDIA AIM TO SEAL SERIES AGAINST WEST INDIES

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Clinical in most aspects of the game so far, India will now hope that star batter Virat Kohli also regains his form when they take on a struggling West Indies in the potentially series-deciding second T20 International here on Friday.

The touring West Indies side has been far from being at its best and has failed to trouble the hosts in any of the matches so far.

After being outclassed 0-3 in the ODI leg in Ahmedabad, the Kieron Pollard-led team was expected to give India some challenge in its favourite T20 format, especially after a 3-2 win over England in its last series at home.

But they hardly managed to trouble the hosts in the first T20I here on Wednesday, going down by six wickets.

Another win and it will be a third successive series win for Rohit Sharma after being appointed the full time captain for Team India.

The only concern for India has been Kohli's form and he would definitely want a bigger knock than the scores of 8, 18, 0, and 17 so far in the assignment.

Rohit is confident that he would come good and has asked both critics and media to spare him the constant scrutiny.

On his part, Rohit knows the importance of going hard in the powerplay, something that was in full display in his 19-ball



"A LOT OF THINGS GO INTO DECIDING THE PLAYING XI, THE OPPOSITION, THE CONDITIONS, THE DIMENSIONS OF THE GROUND. YES, SOMETIMES IT CAN BE TOUGH FOR THE GUYS MISSING OUT

40 when he took Odean Smith to the cleaners in an over that conceded 22 runs.

With Ishan Kishan looking ordinary and struggling to get going at the other end, Rohit made the bulk of the 58 runs that India scored in the powerplay, something that meant they never fell behind the 158-run chase despite losing three quick wickets in the middle.

After Rohit got out in the eighth over, Kohli had the perfect opportunity to return among runs and seal the chase. But that was not the case even though Kohli looked fluent in his short stay of 13-ball 17.

On any other day his inside-out shot

would have been a clear boundary but this time he hit straight to the fielder.

As for Ishan, the most expensive (Rs 15.25 crore) buy in the IPL 2022 auction, he was not able to score freely and failed to rotate strike when Rohit looked in sublime touch.

But thanks to Rohit's innings at the top, things did not go much out of India's reach as Suryakumar Yadav and Venkatesh Iyer applied themselves beautifully to seal the chase.

With India opting for a six-bowler combination featuring pace bowling all-rounder Venkatesh, in-form batter Shreyas Iyer had to sit out of the opening game.

It remains to be seen what will be Rohit's ploy in the second T20I which can seal the fate of the series for India.

"We were very clear with Shreyas, we told him the team wants that option (of an all-rounder) going into the World Cup. We need that option in the middle, someone who can bowl," Rohit said after the match.

"A lot of things go into deciding the playing XI, the opposition, the conditions, the dimensions of the ground. Yes, sometimes it can be tough for the guys missing out but we are making sure we are giving out a very clear message. Unfortunately, we want to put the team first."

India will also be fretting over injury to pacer Deepak Chahar who sustained a blow to his right hand while fielding and

could not complete his quota.

Looking for their first win of the tour, it would be a make or break match for the Windies.

They would look forward to the return of their pace bowling all-rounder Jason Holder who had to sit out of the first T20I following a niggle.

"He was hit on his chest during training and was not ready for the first game and was out as a precautionary measure. We are hoping he will be back for the next game," said a team official.

For them, the lone bright spot on Wednesday was their vice captain Nicholas Pooran's return to form with the bat.

Fresh from his Rs 10.75 crore deal with Sunrisers Hyderabad, the left-handed wicketkeeper batter revived the Windies innings with a 38-ball fifty, that came after opener Kyle Mayers failed to convert his start.

Pooran and a fit-again skipper Kieron Pollard stepped up the accelerator in the last five overs scoring 61 runs to lift their total to 157/7.

But in the end it proved to be 15-20 runs less, bringing the focus back on their middle over struggles where debutant Indian leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi made it difficult for the visitors.

With Holder back in business and Pooran and Pollard beginning to look at their ominous best, the West Indies would fancy their chances to keep the series alive.

Team management clear with Shreyas: Rohit

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Shreyas Iyer might have been the third biggest buy at the IPL auction but to fit into India's T20 combination, he would need to showcase all-round skills as that's what the team is looking for in the middle-order slot, skipper Rohit Sharma has said.

Wednesday was a mixed bag for Shreyas.

Around evening, Kolkata Knight Riders unveiled the worst kept secret in the IPL universe by announcing their Rs 12.25 crore recruit as franchise captain for 2022.

By 6:30 pm, however, it was clear that the former Delhi Capitals and new KKR captain isn't fitting into the specialist batter category in Team India for the T20 game against West Indies. "Someone like Shreyas Iyer is sitting out, very hard on him to be out and not making it to the XI, but it's what the



team requires. We need that option in the middle, someone who can bowl," Rohit said, after India's easy six-wicket win in the first T20 International on Wednesday. "It's always nice when you have those kind of competitions going on," he added. Skipper Rohit gave a glimpse of what kind of team combination he is looking at in the shortest format and he made the hard but prudent call in picking a '360 degree' player like Suryakumar Yadav along with the less fancied Iyer --

Venkatesh, who brings in all-round skills to the table. "We were very clear with Shreyas, we told him the team wants that option (of an all-rounder) going into the World Cup. They are all smart guys, professionals and they understand the team comes first," the Indian captain said. "A lot of things go into deciding the playing XI, the opposition, the conditions, the dimensions of the ground. Yes, sometimes it can be tough for the guys missing out but we are mak-

ing sure we are giving out a very clear message. Unfortunate but we want to put the team first," the skipper displayed no ambiguity in his statements.

It is also understood that Shreyas' technique against the short ball has been a bit susceptible and a lot of work is going into making him correct his body position to deal with express quicks in future. All those who witnessed a couple of days' training at Eden Gardens saw how Rohit, himself a fine exponent of pull-shot, was seen explaining to Shreyas a thing or two about balance.

On the eve of the match after regular nets session, Shreyas wore the helmet and didn't have his pads on but team's throwdown specialist Raghavendra was seen standing at 10 yards and feeding him with fast but loopy balls, aimed at his helmet visor as he continuously played.

It was important for me to stay till the end: Surya

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Enjoying a brilliant run of form, India batter Suryakumar Yadav says he is relishing the role of a finisher whose unbeaten knocks can steer the team home consistently.

In the opening T20 against the West Indies here on Wednesday, India suffered a few hiccups after a flying start given by skipper Rohit Sharma (40) but Yadav revived their 158-run chase with an unbeaten 18-ball 34. The side eventually won comfortably by six wickets.

"I think it was very important for me to stay till the end and win the game for my side," Yadav said in the post-match media interaction.

Returning to the ODI fold in the third match against South Africa in Cape Town last month, Yadav looked in fabulous touch with a 32-ball 39 but failed to finish their 288-run chase as India suffered a 0-3 series defeat.

"I have been in these situations many times, and whenever I have got out leaving 20-25 runs behind, I have felt bad after going back to the hotel. The situation was



perfect tonight," the 31-year-old added. Yadav got good support from Venkatesh Iyer at the other end with the Kolkata Knight Riders pace bowling all-rounder taking initial charge in his 13-ball 24 not out.

Yadav lauded Iyer's aggressive stroke-play. The duo put together a match-winning 48 runs stand from 26 balls.

"...The way he came to bat, his positivity was completely different, that passed onto me. He started his innings with a boundary, I felt it was the perfect platform for both of us to finish the game," he said.



Henry takes 7-23 as NZ bowls out Proteas

AP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

When Matt Henry woke up in his Christchurch hotel room Thursday it was to a day of warm promise. He was about to play his 15th test match for New Zealand in a stop-start career of seven years and to do it in his hometown in front of friends and family. He looked forward as a new-ball bowler to the chance of bowling first on a green seaming pitch at Hagley Oval. All he needed was for his captain Tom Latham to win the toss.

Latham did - for the first time in a half-dozen matches as New Zealand captain. A little more than four hours later Henry had taken career-best figures of 7-23 and South Africa had been bowled out for 95, its lowest score against New Zealand.

The high promise of the morning had been thoroughly fulfilled.

Henry had raced through the South Africa order, taking three wickets before lunch to leave the Proteas 44-4, then four more including two with consecutive deliveries in the second session before the innings ended in the 50th over, well before tea.

By stumps on the first day of the first test, New Zealand was 116-3, leading by 21. Henry Nicholls was 37 not out, the highest score of a first day on which 13 wickets fell, and South Africa-born Neil Wagner, the night-watchman, was 2.

Nicholls shared a vital 75-run partnership with Devon Conway for the second wicket which steered New Zealand into the lead. Conway, also South Africa-born and playing against his countrymen for the first time, was out for 36 just before stumps.

New Zealand went into the match with a patchwork batting lineup in the absence of captain Kane Williamson who is still laid low by an elbow injury and Ross Taylor, who retired last month from test matches.

Williamson and Taylor jointly represent almost 15,000 runs, 198 tests and 43 centuries.

Mandhana set to bolster batting

PTI ■ QUEENSTOWN

Staring at another series defeat, a struggling India will welcome the return of star opener Smriti Mandhana for the third women's ODI against New Zealand here on Friday.

Mandhana, the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year, had exited mandatory quarantine in Christchurch to join the squad ahead of second ODI but needed a few days to get match ready.

Pacers Renuka Singh and Meghna Singh are also available for selection after completing their quarantine. Lead pacer Jhulan Goswami, who had to miss the second game due to a neck spasm, is also expected to play on Friday.

Though Mandhana's return will be very much welcomed, India did not lose the previous game due to their batting. The bowlers let the team down as they were unable to defend a competitive 271-run target.

Goswami's absence was also felt as only 10 overs of pace was used with Pooja Vastrakar bowling seven overs and debutant Simran Bahadur three. The spinners did not leak a lot of runs but were unable to get the breakthroughs. The team also needs to improve its fielding going into the must-win game.

T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who has scored only two 50 plus scores in ODIs since the 2017 World Cup, badly needs a big score. Yet to fire with the bat in the series, the 32-year-old has been playing a bigger role with the ball.

She bowled nine overs of off-spin in the second ODI and was the most expensive bowler.

With a spin bowling all-rounder like Sneha Rana warming the bench, Harmanpreet needs to deliver to keep her place in the eleven.

Opener Shafali Verma is also under pressure, having averaged a modest 25 in the eight games that she has played so far since making her



India's last series win came back in 2019-20 in the West Indies and they badly need some momentum going into the World Cup.

India's last series win came back in 2019-20 in the West Indies

debut last year. It will be a tough call for skipper Mithali Raj to pick the opener alongside Mandhana with S Meghana also grabbing her opportunity in the southpaw's absence.

India's last series win came back in 2019-20 in the West Indies and they badly need some momentum going into the World Cup.

The visitors will have to piece together a near perfect game to beat New Zealand, a team which seems to be getting better with every game. Their top-order is in top form with Suzie Bates and Amelia Kerr starring with hundreds in the first and second game respectively.

Regular skipper Sophie Devine, who passed on the leadership responsibility to Amy Satterthwaite in the second ODI as part of the team's "contingency" plans, has done well with the ball but needs to do more as a batter.

New Zealand pacer Lea

Tahuu said her team is aiming to seal the series on Friday.

"We are in a position to put a series away which we have not been in for a long time. We are looking to go out there and nail our skills tomorrow and hopefully be 3-0 up," she told NZC.

Squads: India: Sabbhineni Meghana, Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, Mithali Raj (captain), Harmanpreet Kaur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Simran Bahadur, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Sneha Rana, Meghna Singh, Taniya Bhatia, Renuka Singh, Smriti Mandhana, Jhulan Goswami.

New Zealand: Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates, Amelia Kerr, Amy Satterthwaite (c), Maddy Green, Katey Martin (wk), Brooke Halliday, Hayley Jensen, Jess Kerr, Rosemary Mair, Fran Jonas, Lea Tahuu, Lauren Down, Frances Mackay, Hannah Rowe.

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Young India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi says he just focussed on bowling stump to stump and not give any room to the West Indies power-hitters to free their arms during his dream debut in the opening T20I here.

Bishnoi snapped up two wickets for 17 runs in his quota of four overs in his maiden international match on Wednesday as India registered a six-wicket win over West Indies to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

"The planning was to bowl on right line and length, the plan was not to give the batters much room because if they are able to free their arms then they can hit hard," Bishnoi told fellow leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in a video posted by BCCI.

"They are one of the best T20 sides, so I just tried to bowl stump to stumps and not give room and in the process I ended up bowling 5-6 wides as well." Handed the India cap by Chahal, the 21-year-old dis-



missed Roston Chase and Rovman Powell in one over to derail the West Indies in the middle overs.

"Everyone has a dream of playing for India. I was excited and nervous when I came to the practice as there are so many seniors but I felt really good when Rahul (Dravid) sir

welcomed me," said Bishnoi.

"I enjoyed myself with my seniors during the practice sessions. I have to learn a lot and I will strive to do my best for the team."

His exploits also earned him the Player of the Match Award on Wednesday.

Dhull scores century FC debut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sir, only if I work hard will I play elite cricket," said Yash Dhull while describing how life changes after an U-19 World Cup win, with a heady cocktail of fame, adulation, money and hanger-ons capable of sending a young mind into a tailspin.

But on Thursday, at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Dhull started his journey from being among the boys with a muscular hundred -- 113 off 150 balls -- against a good Tamil Nadu side on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy.

Dhull doesn't have the swagger that West Delhi's steely 18-year-old Virat Kohli had during those early conversations nor the spunk which made St Stephen's and Modern School (Barakhamba) alumnus Unmukt Chand the toast of the nation back in 2012.

With his golden ear studs,

Manjot Kalra had a rock-star appearance but one look at Dhull and he would seem like a person happy to disappear in a crowd and then suddenly come out owning the stage, like it has always belonged to him.

Rahane hits century on return to Ranji, keeps himself in India contention

His Test career at stake, beleaguered India batter Ajinkya Rahane compiled a much-needed century to keep himself in India reckoning while guiding Mumbai to 263 for three against Saurashtra in their Ranji Trophy opener here on Thursday.

Choosing to bat after winning the toss, Mumbai were also boosted by Sarfaraz Khan's unbeaten 121 off 219 balls on the first day of their elite group D match. The focus was, however, firmly on Rahane who ended the day at an unbeaten 108 from 250 deliveries.

The 33-year-old Rahane,



who had a mediocre Test series against South Africa in the recently concluded tour of the Rainbow Nation, got to his ton in 212 balls, hitting 14 fours

and 2 sixes along the way.

Porel grabs four-four as

Bengal pacers rattle Baroda

Ishan Porel was the wreck-in-chief grabbing 4/40 as

Bengal pacers shared bulk of spoils to bundle out Baroda for a paltry 181 on day one of their elite Group B Ranji Trophy fixture at the Barabati Stadium here on Thursday.

In reply, Bengal were 24/1 at stumps on day one with the two Sudips -- opener Gharani (11 batting) and one drop Chaterjee (nine batting) in the crease after skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran (4) got out cheaply in the fifth over.

Put into bat, Baroda got off to a steady start with skipper Kedar Devdhar (31) surviving early on after being dismissed off an Akash Deep no-ball.

But the lanky Porel triggered the collapse in the 15th over, with his twin blows of Devdhar (23) and Pratyush Kumar (0) in the space of three balls.

On a roll, Porel picked his third in the form of Shivalik Sharma (4) in his next over to reduce Baroda to 47/3.