OPINION 6

WONDROUS WAYS

WORLD 8

BIDEN: RUSSIAN THREAT TO

INVADE UKRAINE STILL 'VERY HIGH'

MONEY 9

SENSEX, NIFTY EXTEND LOSSES TO

3RD DAY AS GLOBAL CUES WEIGH

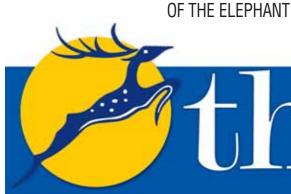
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TEAM INDIA WIN THEIR 100TH T20I GAME 12 SPORT

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38 given death for 2008 **Ahmedabad serial blasts**

11 sentenced to life imprisonment, 28 acquitted; 56 had died in blasts

PNS AHMEDABAD

Thirty-eight out of 49 accused of 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts were awarded death sentence by a special court here on Friday whereas 11 others were sen tenced to life imprisonment.

A series of 21 blasts that rocked the city on July 26, 2008, claimed 56 lives and left over 200 injured. The court had acquitted 28 others in the case on February 8.

In its voluminous judg ment running into nearly 7,000 pages, the court termed this as the rarest of rare crime. These 38 people were convicted under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Eleven others were held guilty for criminal conspiracy and under various sec-

tions of the UAPA, he said. The court imposed a fine of ₹2.85 lakh on 48 convicts and of ₹2.88 lakh on another one. It also awarded compen-



sation of ₹1 lakh to the kin of those who died in the blasts, ₹50,000 to those who were seriously injured, and ₹25,000 to those who received minor injuries.

Those who were awarded death sentences include Safdar Nagori, Qayumuddin Kapadiya, Zahid Shaikh, Qumaruddin Nagori, and Shamsuddin Sheikh. All the convicts were present for the hearing via video conference from eight different jails -Sabarmati Central jail in Ahmedabad, Tihar in Delhi, Bhopal, Gaya, Bengaluru, Kerala, and Mumbai.

"I can say that this is the case in which the highest number of convicts were awarded death sentence. Earlier, in one case 26 people were given death cases. But in this case, the

number is 38," the public pros-

ecutor said

The court had concluded the trial against 77 accused in September last year. Out of 78 accused on trial, one had turned approver. The trial had begun in December 2009 against 77 persons linked to banned terror outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM). Four more accused were

arrested later, but their trial has not commenced vet, a senior Government lawyer said. Bombs had exploded at various spots in Ahmedabad, including the State Government-run civi hospital, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation-run LG Hospital, on buses, parked

bicycles, in cars and other

places, killing 56 people.

As many as 29 live bombs were also found in Surat in the next couple of days though none of them exploded. The trial was conducted after the court merged 20 FIRs of Ahmedabad and 15 FIRs of

The State Government had transferred the investigation to the Ahmedabad crime branch, under the supervision of then ICP Ashish Bhatia. who is now serving as the Gujarat DGP.

A total of nine different judges presided over the case, starting with Bela Trivedi, in whose court charges were framed against the accused on February 15, 2010. Justice Trivedi is now the judge of the Supreme Court. Special judge AR Patel, who handed over the judgment, started hearing the case from June 14, 2017.

The police had claimed that members of the IM, a radicalised faction of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), were behind the

The IM planned the blasts as revenge for the 2002 post-Godhra riots in Gujarat in which over a thousand persons most of them from the Muslim community, had died, the investigators have said.

Refund fine, restore seized properties of anti-CAA protesters, SC tells UP Govt

Withdrawn 274 notices, says UP Govt, seeks nod for recovery of damages to public and private properties

PNS PREETAM SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to refund the fine and restore the attached properties of the alleged anti-CAA protesters for causing damage to public and private assets in December

Terming it as a case of "unjust enrichment", the court



said the State can recover the damages under the new law, once it is established before the claims tribunal that public and properties were damaged. The UP Government told

the top court that it has withdrawn 274 recovery notices and subsequent proceedings initi

tors in 2019 for property damages. The State Government asked permission from the SC to issue new notices based on the new law for recovery of damages to public and private

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

IEDs WERE PREPARED FOR BLASTS ACROSS CITY: DELHI TOP COP

New Delhi: IEDs found in a Seemapuri house on Thursday and at the Ghazipur market last month were prepared with the intention of carrying out blasts at public places across the city, according to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana

BIHAR TO MAKE DEITIES OWNER OF TEMPLE

Patna: The Bihar Government has began the process to make deities owners of the temple land instead of priests. Law Minister Pramod Kumar said on

AI TO OPERATE 3 FLIGHTS TO UKRAINE

New Delhi: Air India on Friday said it will operate three flights to Ukraine next week. The flights will be operated on February 22, 24 and 26.

Kannauj and Aurraiya did not

Campaigning ends for crucial phase for BJP, SP

VIRENDRANATH BHATT

The campaigning for the third phase of UP Assembly polls ended on Friday. The electoral battle for the 18th UP Assembly becomes increasingly crucial for the BJP and the Samajwadi Party(SP).

The challenge before the BJP is to retain the inroads it had made in this region during 2017 Assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, while the

SP is fighting for reclaiming the lost territory. Polling in the third phase will be held on February 20 on 59 seats spread across 16 districts.

These include five districts from western UP — Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Kasganj and Hathras. Six districts of the Avadh region, namely Kanpur, Kanpur Dehat, Aurraiya, Kannauj, Etawah and Farrukhabad, will go to polls along with five districts from

Bundelkhand region: Jhansi,

Jalaun, Lalitpur, Hamirpur and Etah, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Mahoba.

vote for the SP which got only The region, known for six seats in these districts. dominance of the Yadav com-Political observers feel the munity, was once a stronghold family feud between Akhilesh of the Samajwadi Party but significant share of votes of Yadav and Shivpal was a major factor for this shift. The biggest shift community went with the BJP came from Kannauj in 2019 in 2017. The BJP won 49 out of when Akhilesh's wife and sit-59 seats while the SP only had ting MP Dimple Yadav lost the to settle for 9. The Congress got one while the BSP drew a Lok Sabha contest to the BIP even though the SP was in alliance with BSP. blank from here. Even the Yadav stronghold, which includes Firozabad, Kasganj,

Continued on Page 2

Modi meets Sikh leaders, details work done by Govt for community

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

head of voting in Punjab Assembly elections on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a number of prominent Sikh repre-Friday and detailed the works done by his Government for the community.

Thirty-eight prominent Sikh representatives met the Prime Minister at his residence and felicitated him for declaring December 26 as "veer baal divas" in the memory of the four sons of the Sikh 10th guru, Guru Govind Singh, and creating Kartarpur Sahib corridor to visit the birthplace of the founder of the Sikh religion Guru Gobind Singh. Modi was presented with a "Kripan" and a shawl.

According to a Press statement from the Sikh representatives who attended the meet-

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

avoided.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with prominent Sikh personalities at his residence in New Delhi on Friday

ing, Modi said in his childhood he was greatly influenced by the lives of the Sikh gurus and "used to mention sahabjades deeds in his public speeches".

"I am grateful that I could do something in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's brave sons.., he said.

Modi was also quoted as saying in his childhood he would go to Kartarpur Sahib and had darshan of the birth place of Guru Dev through binocular at Kartarpur Sahib through binocular.

Modi maintained "if we wanted we could have won Pakistan in 1971 war and claimed Kartarpur Sahib in the agreement executed in Soviet Union but we could not

Continued on Page 2

Hijab not an essential

Islam, K'taka tells HC

religious practice of

to create unrest,

Mumbai: A special court here accused in the Elgar Parishadoverthrow the

Government. A letter placed on record prima facie speaks that the CPI (Maoist) was bent upon ending the "Modi-raj" and that they were also thinking of another incident like the death of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, by targeting the road shows of PM

Narenda Modi, the court said.

Continued on Page 2

'Elgar accused tried topple Modi Govt', court denies bail

has denied bail to three persons Maoist links case, saying that the material on record suggests that the trio and members of "serious conspiracy" to create unrest in the country and to

The three accused, Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor and Jyoti Jagtap, members of the Kabir Kala Manch, were denied bail by the special court judge DE Kothalikar on Monday.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Aday after India called for resolving the ongoing crisis in Ukraine through "quiet and constructive diplomacy", Russia on Friday welcomed this The reaction came after

Russia welcomes India's

'quiet diplomacy' call to

resolve Ukraine crisis

India on Thursday said at the UN Security Council that "quiet and constructive diplodiplomatic dialogue. macy" is the need of the hour The MEA on Wednesday and that any step that could

escalate the tension should be "We welcome #India's balanced, principled and independent approach," the Russian Embassy in India tweeted. At a meeting of the UN European nation.

Security Council on the Ukraine situation, India's Permanent Representative to the UN TS Tirumurti pitched for immediate de-escalation of the situation.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has been supportive



of tensions and resolution of the situation through sustained

set up a control room to provide information and assistance to Indian nationals in Ukraine. In addition, the Indian Embassy in Ukraine has also set up a 24-hour helpline for Indians in the eastern There are more than

20,000 Indian students there and the Indian Embassy there has urged them to leave the country for time being. Indian citizens, moreover, were advised to avoid travelling

to Ukraine Continued on Page 2 | February 5 which restricted

an essential religious practice of Islam and preventing its use did not violate Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees religious freedom. State's Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi told the full bench of the High Court comprising Justice Awasthi, Justice JM Khazi and Justice

Krishna M Dixit that the practice of wearing hijab should also pass the test of constitutional morality as interpreted in various Supreme Court judgments, including the Sabrimala "We have taken a stand that wearing Hijab is not an essen-

Bengaluru: The Karnataka

tial religious part of Islam," Navadgi told the HC bench. AG Navadgi also rejected the charge of the girls, who challenged the Karnataka Government's order on

Constitution. Article 25 gives freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion to the citizens of India. "If somebody wishes to exercise the right to freedom of religion, it has to be seen if this exercise affects public order,

health and morality," Navadgi

contended.

students from wearing hijab or

saffron scarves saying that it

violated Article 25 of the

To buttress his point, he said during the Covid-19 pandemic all the religious places were shut and the purpose for keeping the places closed was public health. In terms of hijab, it has to be tested in terms of morality, health and public order. The Government order also does not violate 19(1)(A). Navadgi argued. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees to all its citizens the right to freedom of speech

and expression. Continued on Page 2

Shah to Channi: Will look into AAP's link with pro-Khalistan outfit PNS NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday told Punjab Chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi that he would "personally look into" allegations against Aam Aadmi Party's alleged ties with pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

Shah wrote a letter to the Punjab CM on Friday in which he said, "As per your letter, a political party being in contact with and seeking support from an anti-national separatist and banned outfit during elections is a serious matter in the context of nation-

"The agenda of such people is no different from the agenda of the nation's enemies. It is condemnable that some people, in order to attain power, can go to the extent of teaming up with separatists and hurting the unity of Punjab and the country.

Shah further added, "I assure you that no one will be permitted to disturb the unity. Government of India is taking this issue seriously and I will personally look into the matter in depth."Okay, sir

Set up bench for hearing water case: K'taka to SC

Government on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking setting up of a bench to hear a plea relating to the dispute over the allocation of water of Krishana river, flowing in states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, after two judges recused themselves on January

A bench comprising Justice D Y Chandrachud, hailing from Maharashtra, and Justice A S Bopanna, who belongs to Karnataka, had on January 10 recused from the case, arising out of the water tribunal's decision, saying "We do not want be the target of

The judges, who recused themselves, were upset with the tone and tenor of mails and letters against them for being part of the bench to decide the water

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Karnataka, and said that he will consider setting up the

The bench, also comprising justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, inquired whether the parties can amicably settle the dispute.

Divan said the main issue would require adjudication from the bench itself and some of the ancillary matters may be

"I am mentioning on behalf of Karnataka. There is a judicial order of January 10, 2022, passed by a bench of Justice Chandrachud and Justice Bopanna where they have directed that the papers be placed before the CJI in the administrative side for directions. They have recognised and all the counsel agreed that this ought to be listed expeditiously," Divan said at the outset.

"We will look into this," the

Karnataka had sought the vacation of a November 16, 2011, order of the top court that restrained the Centre from publishing in the official gazette the final order of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II (KWDT) pronounced in 2010, allocating the river water to Karnataka, erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The KWDT had further modified its final order and report on November 29, 2013, to allot surplus water to Karnataka, Maharashtra, and the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh while preserving the allocation of 2,130 TMC already made among them.

The publication of the tribunal order is a necessary precondition for implementation.

However, following the bifurcation of unified Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh had moved the Supreme Court challenging the KWDT's allocation of Karnataka had argued that

thousands of crores of its dam and irrigation projects to provide water to its parched northern areas were stalled for all these years because of the 2011 order to not publish the KWDT decisions in the Official Gazette under Section 6(1) of the Inter-State Water Disputes

AIADMK seeks deployment of Central forces for civic polls Coimbatore: Demanding

deployment of Central security forces in the district to ensure a fair and free urban civic polls scheduled for February 19, AIADMK MLAs on Friday squatted and staged a dharna on the premises of the Collectorate

Led by AIADMK Whip and former minister S P Velumani, the MLAs and party workers raised slogans in support of the demands, which include sending out outsiders, allegedly all goons and rowdies, brought in by the DMK for distributing cash and gifts to the

Despite submitting a number of petitions in this regard to the district administration, no action was taken and police personnel were allegedly functioning as DMK workers, Velumani told reporters.

Collector Dr G S Sameeran was asked by Velumani to see to it that Central paramilitary forces were deployed to ensure free and fair elections.

BJP also has put forth the same demand a couple of days

Cong distorted history, glorified Akbar: Raj BJP

Jaipur: The Opposition BJP on Friday lashed out at the Congress leader Govind Singh Dotasra for accusing the party of giving a religious colour to the battle between Maharana Pratapp and Mughal Emperor Akbar.

"The fight between Maharana Pratap and Akbar was for power but BJP gave it a religious colour," PCC chief Dotasra had said Thursday at a party meeting in Nagaur.

BJP state president Satish Ponia said it was a fight of nationalism and not a power

This is not the first time that he has given such a statement. They have taught distorted history. In their eyes, Akbar is great but in this country, Maĥarana Pratap will remain great," Poonia said lambasting Dotasra's statement.

The soil of Haldighati, which is worshipped by all, is the symbol of the battle which was fought for nationalism, self-respect and motherland," he said, adding that the state-ment showed "narrow-mindedness" of Congress and its appeasement politics.

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said the struggle was for self-respect

"He should read history. Akbar was an invader, he came to invade. You taught distorted history and termed Akbar as great. "You felt ashamed calling Maharana Pratap great and therefore you kept on teaching Akbar as great," he said.

"Because of your appeasement policy, your party is cornered now and if you want to finish what is remaining, then keep on making such comments so that people get to know about your thinking," he said.

Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje said the Congress has challenged the self-respecting history of Mewar by describing the struggle of Maharana Pratap and Akbar as a fight for power.

"Maharana Pratap continued his lifelong resolve to protect the motherland. Maharana Pratap's battle with Akbar was not a power struggle, but a struggle for the security of nation," she tweeted. Raje said that for the sake of self-respect of Mewar, Pratap even ate loaves of grass in the forests.

"Congress should apologize to the public for insulting such a mighty warrior," she

tion also termed the statement as unfortunate. Former education minister and BJP MLA Vasudev Devnani said that what Dotasra said was an insult to Pratap who sacrificed his life to protect the pride of the

Deputy leader of opposi-

motherland. "Mahatma Gandhi praised Pratap's bravery at the Round Table Conference in London. Even Vietnam also talked about taking inspiration from the battle of Haldighati.

"After the formation of the state government, there is a constant conspiracy to weaken the glorious history of the great men," Devnani said.

"Calling the struggle for freedom of such a great warrior as a struggle for power is a sign of a frustrated mentality," he said.He also tweeted praising the glory of Maharana Pratap.

During the Nagaur meeting, Dotasra had said, "BJP sees everything through the Hindu-Muslim religious point of view." Maharana Pratap was the Rajput ruler of Mewar in Rajasthan who fought the battle of Haldighati with the forces of Mughal emperor Akbar, led by Man Singh-I of Amber, in 1576. *PTI*

J&K DC reviews preparations for Amarnath Yatra

Commissioner of Kashmir Pandurang K Pole on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the concerned about the forthcoming annual Amarnath Yatra.

Pole said the number of pilgrims this year may be higher compared to the last couple of years which were affected by the Covid pandemic.

He enjoined all officers to increase the capacity of camping sites, parking places and service facilities including health, drinking water and toi-

Stressing on the registration of all pony ride providers,

labours, Pole directed officers to hire pony ride providers from other districts to cater to

The divisional commissioner directed the public works department to widen the roads at critical junctions and repair the damage caused to physical infrastructure by cloudbursts the previous year.

Pole directed all the departments to start execution of work from the first week of April and complete all preparation by May 15.

He also directed establishing oxygen booths and Covid testing facilities for the pil-grime PTI added.

Goa **Carnival** to start on Feb 26

Panaji: The world-renowned Goa Carnival will begin on February 26 with traditional float parades being held in several areas in association with local civic bodies, an official said on Friday.

The first float parade will held in Panaji on February 26, followed by another the next day in Margao, Corporation of City of Panaji Commissioner Fernandes Agnelo

The state tourism department has invited applications from people who desire to be 'King Momo', a mythological figure who traditionally heralds float parade,

Process on to make deities owner of temple land instead of priests, says Bihar Law Min

Patna: The Bihar Government been buying and selling those has begun the process to make deities owners of the temple land instead of priests, Law Minister Pramod Kumar said

The Law Department will soon issue a circular, removing the names of priests from the revenue records to protect the properties from unauthorised claims, Kumar told PTI on the decision that is likely to have widespread socio-political ramifications in the state. "A priest cannot be treated

as landowner ('bhuswami'), and the revenue records will now have the name of the deities of the shrines," Kumar said. It would help in dealing

with largescale irregularities in temple land as priests have

as owners, he said.

"The Bihar government will simply implement the Supreme Court judgment passed on September 6, 2021. The SC bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and AS Bopanna had ruled that 'there is no mandate under the law' that the name of pujari or manager is required to be mentioned in the revenue records since the deity as the juristic person is the owner of the land," the minister said.

The bench had also cited the Ram Janmabhoomi case verdict to support its view that the deity presiding over a temple is a juristic person and can hold property in their name, he

Refund fine, restore...

From Page 1

It assured the court that all directions will be followed in the new notices. All the matters would be now sent to the tribunals in Meerut, Lucknow and Prayagraj for further necessary action as per the "Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Acting on the recovery

notices issued to the alleged anti-CAA protesters in December 2019 SC gave one final opportunity to the Government to withdraw the proceedings and warned that it will quash the reports for being in violation of the law.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surva Kant granted liberty to the UP Government to proceed against alleged anti-CAA protestors under the new law -- Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act notified on August 31,

"Orders in pursuance to the show-cause notices have been withdrawn, in terms of the Government orders (GOs) by the State of Uttar Pradesh, there shall be refund of any recoveries which have been made in the meantime. This will, however, be with-

out prejudice to such action as may be warranted, in terms of the proceedings and decisions of the claims tribunals, at the subsequent stage,"

The bench said it is a very important Constitutional principle that all deterrence against the evasion of law has to be provided in the four corners of the law. "There cannot be any principle of deterrence, which lies outside the fold of law", the bench said, adding that after the withdrawal of orders, it will

be a case of "unjust enrich-It noted the submission of

Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, that on February 14 and 15, 2022, two GOs were issued in terms of which show cause notices in 274 cases for alleged destruction of public properties since December 2019 have been withdrawn together with the proceedings which were subsequently car-

"In view of the enactment of the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Act, 2020, it has been stated that the State Government would refer all the cases to the claims tribunal which has been constituted in pursuance of the State legislation for further action in accordance with the law.

In view of the above a statement made on behalf of the State Government nothing further would survive," the bench

Modi meets.

From Page 1

Modi has in the past criticised the Congress for not taking measures to ensure that the Kartarpur Sahib did not fall in Pakistan when India was divided in 1947.

On this occasion Jharkhand State Gurudwara Prabandhak committee head Sardar Shailendra Singh presented the Prime Minister a "swarupa" and memorandum and urged him to extend the frequency of "Jaliawala Bagh Express" four days a week, running of "Jammu Tavi express" from Tata Nagar and opening of an AIIMS hospital at Kolhan and a ESI hospital in Jharkhand. Besides he requested that "Gurmukhi" be used while presenting caste certificates to Sikhs Shailendra Singh told The

Pioneer that he also asked the Prime Minister for establishing the Gurumukhi academy in The meeting came two days before the Punjab

Assembly polls as the BJP is trying to maximise its gains in the State in alliance with former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. The Prime Minister is seeking the support of the Sikh community post-farmer agita-

tion that culminated in the

abrogation of three Central

farmers laws which were

opposed by a section of Sikh farmers in the State. Besides, Amarinder Singh's Punjab Lok Congress, the Akali Dal faction headed by Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa is also in alliance with the BJP in the

four-corner contest against the

Congress, AAP, and the BSP-SAD alliance in the State. SAD has exited from the

National Democratic Alliance led by the BJP following the farmers' agitation. In his tweets, Modi said

munity leaders were at the forefront of popularising Sikh culture and serving society. "I was humbled by the kind words from the distinguished members of the Sikh community on various efforts of the Central Government. I

consider it my honour that the

respected Sikh Gurus have

taken Seva from me and their

blessings have enabled me to work for society," he said. BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa said Modi in the meeting said he wants to work for the community every day and regretted that the previous Congress dispensations lost

opportunities to bring Sikhs'

holy places like Kartarpur Sahib, which is in Pakistan, into Indian territory.

> Sikhs have carried a certain pain because many commitments made to them were not fulfilled but the Modi toric" works, including opening the corridor to Kartarpur Sahib and taking the decision to commemorate the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, Sirsa said.

> The Sikh personalities who attended the meeting with included Delhi Gurudwara Committee president Harmeet Singh Kalka, Padma Sri-awardee Baba Balbir Singh Sichewal, Mahant Karamjit Singh of Sewapanthi in Yamuna Nagar, Baba Joga Singh of Dera Baba Jang Singh in Karnal and Sant Baba Mejor Singh Waa of Mukhi Dera Baba Tara Singh Waa in Amritsar.

Jathedar Baba Sahib Singh

of Kar Sewa in Anandpur Sahib, Surinder Singh Namdhari Darbar of Bheni Sahib, Baba Jassa Singh of Shiromani Akali Budha Dal, Harbhajan Singh of Damdami Taksal and Giani Ranjit Singh, also attended the meeting.

Karamjit Singh quoted Modi as saying "Sikhi" (attributes associated with Sikhs) and service, another quality identified with the community, is in his blood. This touched our hearts, he said, lauding various initiatives of the Government for the community, including the removal of GST on langars run by gurdwaras.

Sikh leaders mentioned SIT constituted by the Government to act against those involved in anti-Sikh riots in 1984 and praised Modi.

The Prime Minister also posted a picture of his meeting with Uday Singh, spiritual leaders of the Namdhari sect.

The Advocate General also contended that the February 5 was in accordance with the law and there was nothing to object. In view of the hijab-versus-saffron scarves row, the bench had passed an interim order earlier restraining students from wearing them on the campus till the final order was passed

According to the AG, the practice of hijab should pass the test of constitutional morality and individual dignity as expounded by the Supreme Court in the Sabrimala and Shayara Bano cases.

Navadgi told the court that the uniform was in place in Udupi government pre-university college for girls since 2018. However, the difficulty began in December last year when some students approached the principal and insisted that they should be allowed to attend classes with hijab.

Accordingly, the parents were called and told that the uniform norm was there since 1985 which the students need to follow but the girls did not

agree and decided to protest. The AG also stated that when the government learnt about the incident, it said it will constitute a high-level committee with a request not to escalate the problem further. However, till then the issue had spread to other compelling government to pass an order on February 5 restricting the use of any cloth that could disturb peace, harmony and, law and order.

Navadgi told the court that the order was innocuous in nature which did not affect the petitioners' rights but said the students should wear uniform prescribed by the College Development Committee, which has got autonomy by the government.

'Elgar accused tried to create unrest, topple Modi Govt'...

The detailed order was made available on Thursday. "From the letters and documents placed on record,

prima facie it can be gathered that the applicants along with other members of the banned organisation hatched a serious conspiracy to create unrest in the entire country and to overpower the government, politically," the court said.

The material placed on

record prima facie denotes that the accused were not only members of the banned organisation CPI (Maoist), but they were carrying out activities further in the objective of the organisation, which is nothing but to overthrow democracy of the nation, it said.

Referring to a letter placed on record, the court said, "The contents of the aforesaid letter prima facie speaks that the CPI (Maoist) was bent upon ending the Modi-raj, that is the Modiled government. Not only this, they were also thinking to go for another incident, like the death of Rajiv Gandhi, by targeting the road shows of

"If these allegations are taken into consideration in proper perspective in that case, there will be no hesitation to prima facie conclude that there is prima facie case against the

an act with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of India and with intent to strike terror in section of the people in India by other means to likely to cause death of, or injuries to, any person or persons," the court added.

the material placed on record prima facie establishes that the applicants were actively involved in the organisation of Elgar Parishad conclave in Pune. Jagtap, Gorkhe and

The court further said that

Gaichor were arrested in September 2020 and have been in custody since then.

The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches delivered at the Elgar Parishad conclave, held at Shaniwarwada in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon Bhima war memorial located on the outskirts of the city.

Pune police had claimed that the conclave was backed by Maoists.

The probe in the case, in which more than a dozen activists and academicians have been named as accused, was later transferred to the National Investigation

Russia welcomes India's 'quiet diplomacy'...

Russia has positioned around 100,000 troops near its border with Ukraine besides sending warships to the Black Sea for naval exercises, triggering concerns among the NATO countries about a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia has been denying that it plans to invade Ukraine.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL **HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR** Telefax No. :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

(Short Term) GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/333/e-tendering Dated:-15-02-2022

registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-Name of Work: - Various Electrical works for newly constructed Oxygen

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from

Plant room at Govt. B&J Hospital, Srinagar. Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) :- 1.69, Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200, Time of completion (in days) :- 05, AA Accorded Vide No: :- 49 MCS of 2020 Dt:-28.08.2020, TS.NO :- MHCHD/TS/251 Dated 02/22, Earnest Money (in

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility

criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions

of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 15-02-2022 (18.00 hrs). 2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 16-02-2022(10.00 hrs) to 21-02-2022(14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover. 3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on

21-02-2022(16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office

of ExecutiveEngineer, MHCHD, Srinagar. No. DIPK-18199/21 Dated:- 16.02.2022

Sd/- Executive Enginee MHCHD, Srinagar

Campaigning ends for crucial phase for BJP...

From Page 1

However, now Akhilesh is said to have mended fences with his uncle Shivpal and is contesting the Karhal Assembly seat in Mainpuri to reassure his Yadav voters. Karhal has been a SP stronghold and was retained by the party even in 2017.

The BJP has fielded Union Minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel. who is also an OBC face in the party. However his caste is disputed as Baghel claims to be from schedule caste community and elected to Lok Sabha from Agra, a seat reserved for SC. This is being pitched as one of the big battles of this year's election. The third phase is also crucial

has the Hathras constituency where a gang-rape tore UP apart in September 2020. Akhilesh Yadav has kept the

Hathras issue alive in his campaign. He has been observing 'HathraskiBetiSmriti Divas' every month. Then there is Kasganj where the custodial death of one Altaf in November last year had become a major embarrassment for the Yogi Adityanath Government. The police claimed that Altaf has been called for questioning in a case and he ended his life by hanging from a water tap. The matter is now in court.

raid in Gorakhpur last year, is being raised at every opposition meeting. The phase also has five districts Bundelkhand that was once a stronghold of the BSP but it was swept by the BJP in 2017. While the BJP is claiming massive development in this region while seeking votes, the SamajwadiParty is exposing areas that have remained untouched by development.

for the BJP, which is seeking to retain the 49 seats it won in 2017. This phase

Kanpur is also going to polls in this phase and the murder of a city businessman Manish Gupta during a police

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IEDs part of serial blasts plan: Delhi CP

Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana on Friday said that the initial probe into the case related to the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) being found in Seemapuri on Thursday and Ghazipur's flower market on January 17, ahead of Republic Day suggest that the IEDs were prepared with the intention of carrying out blasts at public places across the national Capital.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police has also stepped up security and deployed additional personnel in northeast Delhi's Old Seemapuri area, a day after the bag containing the IED was found there.

Police said that the owner of the house, where the IED was found, and a property dealer, through whom the house was given on rent, are being interrogated. According to sources, three men were living on the second floor of the building where the IED was found. They had fled from the area before the police arrived.

Talking to reporters, Asthana said that such activi-



Delhi Police personnel stand outside the sealed house at Old Seemapuri from where an IED was found by the police in New

ties are not possible without Commissioner. local support and the initial probe suggests that these IEDs were prepared with the intention of carrying out blasts at

"The Special Cell and other police teams are investigating the case. They are probing forward and backward linkages. Police teams are trying to pre-empt every such incident in Delhi and expose any local and foreign network," said the Police

According to a senior olice officer, security has been stepped up in the area and in order to preserve the crime scene, police have also put up barricades and sealed the house.

The mother of the house The local police had also owner Aashim alleged that conducted the verification of police have taken him into custody, while his wife said they tenants in the area as part of security measures ahead of had rented out the floor, where Republic Day. A local enquiry the explosives have been has also been conducted by the found, to two persons a couple police," said the senior police of months ago.

police that he had taken the documents of two people while giving the house on rent. However, the documents are vet to be recovered by the Special Cell unit probing the case," said a police officer.

"On Thursday, when the

police team went to the house, it was vacant. The bag was found there and we immediately informed the NSG. The suspects have managed to escape. We think that the explosive recovered from Old Seemapuri had been made by the same persons who placed the IED at the Ghazipur flower market last month," police

The IED was picked up by the NSG bomb disposal squad from the second floor of the building. The IED was destroyed using a water dis-ruptor, an NSG official said, adding all pieces of evidence have been handed over to the Delhi Police.

NSG sources had said the explosive is suspected to be a mix of ammonium nitrate and RDX but a forensic lab will

I must be world's sweetest terrorist, Kejriwal tells Vishwas

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

am Aadmi Party (AAP) Anational Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed himself the sweetest terrorist in the world who builds roads, schools and provide free water and elec-

Kejriwal's remarks came after Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an inquiry into allegations levelled against the Delhi Chief Minister by former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas,

"I must be the world's first sweet terrorist who builds schools, hospitals and gives free electricity to people. The British labeled a revolutionary like Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh as a terrorist 100 years ago and today those who divide and rule like the British are labeling his disciple as a terrorist. I have ruined the sleep of these corrupt leaders because of which they call me a terrorist," he added.

AAP leader dubbed the allegations levelled by Vishwas and other leaders as "a comedy". "This is laughable. Is this possible," he asked. Kejriwal said he has learnt that "last evening, Channi got a call from the Centre saying that the matter (accusations of supporting separatists) should be investigated."

"One officer told me that over the next one or two days,

an FIR will be registered against me by the NIA. All such FIRs are welcome, but if the Centre deals with national security in this manner, then it is a matter of concern.

"The Modi Government sent the police, Income Tax and ED not just to my office but my bedroom too, yet couldn't find anything against me. How hilarious is it that the PM of the world's largest democracy gets to know of a terrorist after a poet recites nonsense for cheap publicity. We are living in such an era where the country's largest parties and their chiefs think they can make a joke out of national security," he said.

On the last day of campaigning in Punjab, Kejriwal said that all the corrupt leaders have come together as one to fight AAP and stop Bhagwant Mann from becoming the CM

"We will bring an honest Government to Punjab and eradicate corruption just like we have in Delhi. Calling upon the three crore Punjabis to unite against the BJP, Congress and Akali Dal to fix this broken and corrupt system," he added.

Kejriwal said leaders of the BJP and the Congress as well as their allies have joined hands to target him over Vishwas' accusations which he dubbed as "laughable". "Narendra Modi, Priyanka

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Charanjit Channi, Sukhbir Badal, Amarinder Singh, Navjot Singh Sidhu, all are now levelling allegations that for the last ten years, Kejriwal is hatching a plan to break the country into two parts and wants to become the Prime Minister of one part," Kejriwal told reporters in Bathinda.

"If one goes by their claims, that means I am a big terrorist. If one goes by their logic, then what were their agencies doing, why did they not arrest me? Earlier Congress was ruling and now for last over seven years the BJP is in power (at the Centre). Were all of them sleeping," he said.

AAP leader Raghav Chadha had already described Vishwas's allegations as "malicious, unfounded and fabricat-

Kejriwal pointed out that all his rivals have joined hands as he was talking about undertaking development and building schools and hospitals if his party comes to power in Punjab in the February 20 polls.

"See the sequence of the whole thing. Rahul Gandhi was the first to level accusations (after Vishwas' statement), then the Prime Minister, then Priyanka and Sukhbir Badal used the same language against me," he said. Kejriwal said peo-ple used to say when Rahul Gandhi says something people don't believe him. "But I never thought the PM too would toe Rahul's line and the PM would also become Rahul Gandhi," he said, referring to Modi targeting the Delhi CM on the issue at his poll rallies.

NMC gives nod to

'waste-to-art' park;

to showcase iconic

monuments

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shift jab centres out of schools, parents urge L-G **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ollowing the fall in coronavirus cases as well as} \\$ reopening of schools in the national Capital, the All India Parents' Association (AIPA) has written to Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal demanding that vaccination centres running in Government schools be shifted to other places and teachers posted on Covid duty

According to the letter writ-ten by Ashok Agarwal, the president of the AIPA, now that students have started returning to school, vaccination centres running in Government schools should be moved to other

"Also, teachers posted on Covid duties should be called back since the number of cases has gone down considerably. It

alleging that the agreement

Infrastructure subsidiary, Delhi

Airport Metro Express Private

Limited (DAMEPL) and Delhi

Metro Rail Corporation

(DMRC), pursuant to which an

arbitral award of over Rs 4,600

crore was earlier passed against

the corporation, was "fraud on

Manmohan said the PIL, filed by

lawyer Manohar Lal Sharma

who alleged that the agreement

would result in the Delhi Metro "going into the hands of Anil

Ambani", was misconceived, half-baked and without any

Justice Navin Chawla, said the

court cannot examine under PIL

jurisdiction the allegations of the

The Bench, also comprising

A Bench headed by Justice

public money."

Reliance

NEW DELHI ■ PTI

is important to provide a safe and secure environment to students where they can concentrate on studies as there has already been a significant learning loss due to the Covidinduced school closure", he

Amid declining coronavirus cases in the city, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) decided to reopen higher education institutions and coaching centres along with schools for classes 9-12 from February 7. It also decided to reopen schools for students from nursery to class 8 from February 14.

While the Centre has dropped the mandatory parental consent for students to physically attend schools from its guidelines and left it to the States, the Delhi Government has decided to continue with it.

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to entertain the High Court as well as the why this was done? Nothing of this sort has been done and

tral award. "You can't come on

the basis of a news report to say

the contract is vitiated. If we start

doing that, what will happen to

clause in a contract may be

opposed to public policy and

they will start challenging it...

Which investor will come to

India? We'll ensure no business

takes place in India and only lit-

igation takes place in India and

that too PIL. That's not the intent

of PIL," Justice Manmohan said.

Remarking that many times a PIL is filed to kill a good cause

by filing a premature plea and getting it dismissed, the court

asked the petitioner to avail

other legal remedies available to

him under the law and come to

court after doing some research.

"Have you written to the

According to someone, one

There is no cap of 50 per cent student strength and schools are free to decide the number of students based on their infrastructure so that the Covid protocols are followed.According to guidelines issued by the DDMA, the area or part of a school being used for vaccination or ration distribution should be properly separated or demarcated from the

area which is being used for aca-

"In this regard, the district administration shall cordon off the area demarcated for the vaccination or ration distribution centre, make separate entry or exit for this purpose and deploy a sufficient number of civil defence volunteers to avoid mingling of students with the persons coming to vaccination or ration distribution centres," the guidelines stated.

the High Court... You have

alternative remedies, explore

misconceived," the court stated.

The court clarified that the alle-

gations levelled by the petition-

er required a "full trial" and the

same cannot be done under the

PIL jurisdiction. The petitioner,

who ultimately withdrew the

petition, contended that his

petition was filed to protect

money and the agreement was

agreement was signed in collu-

sion, having the object to grab

Delhi Metro... Everybody was

hand-in-hand to get this money

released and if money is not

given fully then Delhi Metro is

given to Anil Ambani. This is a

game. This is proved by the ter-

"Since August 2008, this

This is all half-baked, quite

HC nixes PIL against DMRC-DAMEPL pact

petitioner when the contract in DMRC? Have you given any

question has been scrutinised by notice to the other side saying

Supreme Court at the time of this sort has been done and

2 labourers hurt while demolishing building in Greater Kailash area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

"The Special Cell team

has also retrieved the footage

of all the CCTV cameras

installed in the area and the

footage is being analysed," said

the official.

Two labourers got injured while demolishing a building in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area on Friday.

According to Benita Mary Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, the Greater Kailash-1 police station was informed at around 10.05 AM that some labourers got injured after a portion of a building collapsed following which police team was dispatched for the

"When police team reached the spot, they found that house number E-162 was being demolished for new construction. During the demolition of the second floor, a portion of the rear wall suddenly collapsed

mination clause," argued the

petitioner. "I will not get a sin-

gle rupee but public money of Rs

7,100 crore is going. Not only

ed and Delhi Metro will go into

the hands of Anil Ambani

because of the termination

the "agreement and release of Rs

7,100 crore under shadow fight-

ing is outcome of corruption and

fraud for vested interest" and

there is "serious fraud upon the

public money which is liable to

be investigated and prosecuted

u/s 420 and PC Act 1988". An

arbitral tribunal in May 2017

had ruled in favour of DAME-

PL, which had pulled out from running the Airport Express metro line over safety issues, and

accepted its claim that the run-

ning of operations on the line

was not viable due to structur-

al defects in the viaduct

through which the train would

The petitioner claimed that

clause," he said.

and two labourers were injured in the incident," said the DCP.

The injured were identified as Harvesh (28), who has a major injury on his head, and Ajaypal (22), who has a minor injury on his leg. Both of them are residents of Badaun in Uttar Pradesh. They were shifted to the AIIMS where they are under treatment," said the DCP.

"On the basis of Ajaypal's statement, a case under sections 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered and a probe launched," said the DCP. The family members of the injured persons have been informed about the incident, police said

Two children mowed down by a pickup

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI**

 ${
m I}$ n a tragic incident, two children were mowed by a pickup vehicle while they were play ing in the street in southwest Delhi's Sagarpur area. According to a senior police official, the incident took place on Thursday.

Police said that around 12.30 pm, they received information regarding the death of two children in Sagarpur area. During enquiry from Divyaprastha Hospital, Palam, two children Savitri (7) and Subhan (4), both residents of Nasirpur, were declared brought dead following an accident from Mahindra pickup, said the senior police official.

Woman jumps into Yamuna river along with four-year-old daughter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

32-year-old woman along A³²-year-old wollian acceptance of the Year-old daughter jumped into Yamuna river on Friday morning in Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area. The officials said that the rescue operation is going on to search The woman has been

identified as Rajni Kumari. She had a quarrel with her husband on Thursday evening.

According to the fire department, they received information at 6.45 AM about the incident.

According to a senior police official, they received information that a woman Kalindi Kunj flyover. The staff dent. Investigation is in rushed to the spot where a six- progress," said police.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With more students on campus a day after col-

leges reopened here, authorities

and volunteers were seen

ensuring Covid-appropriate

behaviour on Friday, while

teachers expressed hope that

attendance will increase in the

coming week when hostellers

resumed physical classes on

Thursday after almost two

years as Covid cases dipped in

the city, and this also meant

good news for cash-strapped

eateries and canteens as stu-

dents thronged them in lunch

two days was actually more

than we expected, but I believe

the things will return to pre-

Covid times soon," said a pro-

fessor at the Hindu College.

Authorities at the Gargi College

said outstation students have

begun arriving and the num-bers will rise from Monday

were shut in March 2020 owing to the outbreak of the coron-

Metro Station, near the varsi-

ty's north campus, saw a bee-

line of students exiting and

entering it as guards equippedwith thermal scanners checked

their temperature according to

The varsity and its colleges

The Vishwavidyalaya

onwards.

avirus infection

The attendance in these

Delhi University colleges

More students on

campus on day 2

present with head constable Sanjeev Kumar from Noida Sector-126 police station. "Devyanshi told police

that her mother along with her sister Prisha has jumped into the Yamuna river about an hour ago. Fire brigade and ambulance were called at the spot and the search was made with the help of divers but they could not be found, police said, adding the rescue operation is on.
"Her husband Ramanand

Pathak stated that Rajni along with both the girls had left the house around 6 am. They had got married in 2012. The father and brother of Rajni live in Patna, Bihar, and they have

The standing committee of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Friday approved a proposal to build a park on the waste-to-art' theme on the premises of the historic Ajmal Khan Park in Karol Bagh, officials

The South Delhi civic body had come up with a 'Waste-to-Wonder' Park in Sarai Kale Khan in February 2019. It has replicas of seven world-

famous monuments, including the Taj Mahal and Eiffel Tower, fashioned out of mechanical "The standing committee of

the North Delhi Municipal

approved a proposal to build a waste-to-art park in the old Ajmal Khan Park in Karol Bagh area. The park is spreadover nine to 10 acres," a senior official said. The approval now awaits the nod of the NDMC House. According to the proposal, 13 sculptural models of worldfamous heritage landmarks will be set up in the park, including the Great Sphinx at Giza, the Great Wall of China, Opera House in Sydney, Sagrada Familia of Barcelona and Stonehenge of the United Kingdom. Also, 12 artworks will be done in relief, including models of Angkor Wat at Cambodia, Chichen Itza of Mexico, the Grand Mosque of Abu Dhabi, London Bridge, Mount Rushmore in the US and Petra in Jordan, it says.

Unidentified men stab 18-year-old in West Delhi's Khyala area

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

n 18-year-old man was Aallegedly stabbed by unidentified men in west Delhi's Khyala area. Police said that they have arrested the two accused while a manhunt has been initiated to nab the remaining accused.

The victim has been identified as Ritik Suri, a resident of Vishnu Garden in the National Capital. Police said the victim used to frequently visit a friend place's at Raghubir Nagar area

on his Royal Enfield bike.

According to a senior police official, some locals became jealous and developed enmity following which a quar-rel broke out between them.

"A case of attempt to murder has been registered and two men — Anshu (19) and Bunty (18) — have been apprehend ed. Teams have been dispatched to apprehend remaining accused," said the senior police official.



Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta with party leaders and supporters at a protest dharna against Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Covid guidelines.
"I arrived in Delhi today so that I can settle myself over the weekend. I wasn't prepared

of DU reopening The varsity and its colleges were shut in March 2020 owing to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic

> for this and was hoping that classes would to startfrom March 1.

> "But I don't want to miss out on studies so I rushed. I will be joining college from Monday," Ritika Jain, a student of Keshav Mahavidyalaya, said

> A number of outstation final-year undergraduate and postgraduatestudents of the Delhi University recently started a petition asking it to not reopen colleges as just two months are left of the currentacademic session.

> The petition started on Change.Org and was addressed to the vice-chancellor, registrar, proctor, and the dean of students' welfare. "We are listening and are

sensitised to the concerns raised by students on various social media platforms following the University of Delhi's decision to reopen colleges. We have been noticing and getting calls from students about their struggles and acknowl-edging all the concerns raised by them," said Pankaj Arora, Dean, Students' Welfare.

However, some student bodies had held protests earlier this month, demanding the reopening of campuses.

14-year-old girl allegedly raped by her neighbour twice in Kirti Nagar area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A^{14-year-old} girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour twice in west Delhi's Kirti Nagar area. Police said that they arrested the accused. The accused has been identified as Servesh (27). Police said that the accused has been

arrested and sent to judicial custody on Wednesday under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and POCSO Act on the complaint of the victim, a resident of Kirti Nagar. According to a senior police official, the minor girl

alleged that her neighbour Servesh forcefully raped her in last December and then just after five days he raped her again.
"She disclosed the matter

to her mother who reported the incident to the police and the accused was arrested on the same day," said the senior police official.

DefExpo extended by a day as Covid abates in India

To be held now from March 10 till 14

PNS NEW DELHI

With Covid cases declining, the duration of DefExpo-2022, Asia's largest exhibition on land, naval and homeland security systems, has been extended by a day. The exhibition will now be held from March 10-14, 2022.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here reviewed the preparations for the event to be held in Gandhinagar,

The event is being organ-ised as one of the largest defence international exhibitions of the world with more than 1,000 exhibitors including foreign and Indian displaying their weapon systems. The theme of this year's exhibition is 'Path to Pride' to showcase India's march towards self reliance in defence manufacturing.

Giving details here about the minister's review, officials said there has been greater domestic and international interest in this 12th edition of DefExpo, since India relaxed its health protocols owing to the reduction in COVID-19 cases. So far, 930 exhibitors have

registered for the mega event and the numbers are expected to rise beyond 1,000 in the days ahead. Foreign Defence Ministers' confirmations are also being received and are



edition of the event which was held in February 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh during the pre-COVID times.

Noting that the relaxation in COVID protocols has generated greater interest in DefExpo-2022, Rajnath extended the event by one day. It will facilitate defence business through three business days and make it inclusive for young

and make it inclusive for young entrepreneurs and college and school millennial of Gujarat during two public days.

The DefExpo-2022 will be held as a hybrid exhibition, with stalls in both physical and virtual realms. This will ensure virtual realms. This will ensure greater engagement as the exhibitors will be able to cater to both physical and virtual

The defence minister was briefed that virtual attendees could participate in seminars, interact with the exhibitors and representatives; hold Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings and view product details and supporting videos.

The mega exhibition is being planned in a three venue format - exhibition at the Helipad Exhibition Center (HEC); Events and Seminars at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Center (MCEC) and live demonstration for the public at Sabarmati Riverfront.

To instil a sense of pride, the theme of the event has been christened, 'Path to Pride'. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the event will showcase India's resolve to be first amongst firsts.

With indigenous technological and logistic prowess at the forefront, the event will invigorate the defence industry, start-ups and MSMEs to cement solid partnerships with attending foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). A 50 per cent discount is offered to the MSMEs

for booking stalls at the expo.

A DefExpo-2022 mobile app was also launched by Rajnath during the review. It is an interactive and user-friendly interface for all issues related to the event. The app, avail able on the Android/iOS platforms, contains features to support exhibitors, attendees and

NSE scam probe: CBI grills former NSE CEO Chitra Ramkrishna



he CBI on Friday questioned former The CBI on Friday questioned TCEO of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna in connection with its ongoing probe into the alleged abuse of co-location facility in the NSE

The CBI has also opened look out circulars against Ramkrishna, another former CEO Ravi Narain and former COO Anand Subramanian to prevent

them from leaving the country. The agency had booked an owner and promoter of Delhi-based private firm OPG Securities Pvt. Ltd, Sanjay Gupta and other in connection with alleged abuse of NSE co-location facility to make gains by getting early access to the stock market, officials said.

Unidentified officials of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and NSE, Mumbai and other unknown persons are also being probed by the

"It was alleged that the owner and promoter of said private company abused the server architecture of NSE in conspiracy with unknown officials of NSE. It was also alleged that unknown officials of NSE, Mumbai had provided unfair access to said company using the co-location facility during the period 2010-2012 that enabled it to login first to the exchange server of the stock exchange that helped to get the data before any other broker in the market," the CBI has alleged in the FIR.

Recently, Ramkrishna was in the news after SEBI in a report on February 11 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 advisor to the managing director

The SEBI charged Ramkrishna and others with alleged lapses in the appointment of Subramanian as the chief strategic advisor and his re-designation as group operating officer and advisor to

The SEBI had slapped a fine of Rs three crore on Ramkrishna, Rs two crore each on the NSE, Subramanian, former NSE MD and CEO Ravi Narain, and Rs 6 lakh on V R Narasimhan, who was the $chief\ regulatory\ of ficer\ and\ compliance$ officer of NSE

Air India to operate 3 flights from Ukraine to help stranded **Indian citizens**



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India will operate three flights between India and Ukraine from February 22 to 26 to facilitate the easy travelling of students and professionals stranded in the eastern European nation. All three flights will land at the Boryspil International Airport in Ukraine.

Air India took to its official Twitter handle on Friday to announce that it will operate three flights between India and Ukraine to help Indian citizens.

"Air India will operate 3 flights between India-Ukraine (Boryspil International Airport) India on 22nd 24th & 26th FEB

2022," wrote Air India.

"Booking open through Air India Booking offices, Website, Call Centre and Authorised Travel Agents (sic)," it added. However, Air India, which is now owned by Tata Group did not mention where in India these fire flights--one on each date--will take off for Ukraine's Capital.

Air India's announcement came a day after the Ministry of civil aviation, on Thursday, removed restrictions on the number of flights between the two countries; the operations were taking place under an air bubble agreement. The ministry also removed the cap on the availability of seats on each

The embassy has earlier advised its citizens to temporarily leave Ukraine. On the other hand, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday has stated that India does not have any immediate plan to evacuate its citizens and its focus has been on ensuring their safety rather than on anything "larger".

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing that India has been supportive of an immediate de-escalation of tensions and resolution of the Ukraine crisis through sustained diplomatic dialogue. The government has set up a control room to provide information and assistance to the Indian nationals in Ukraine. In addition, the Indian embassy in Ukraine has also set up a 24-hour helpline for Indians in the eastern European

sending warships to the Black Sea for naval exercises, triggering concerns among the NATO countries about a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia has been denying

SC junks 2 BJP councillors' plea against Maha notification increasing nine seats in BMC

Friday refused to entertain a plea of two BJP councillors challenging the Maharashtra Government's ordinance notifying the increase of nine seats in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for which elections are scheduled later this month.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana did not agree to the contention of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the BJP leaders, that the power to increase the number of wards has to be exercised by the poll panel and not by the civic body that too through an Ordinance.

Polyatgi said the last census avail-

elections for BMC have been conduct- he said.

PNS NEW DELHI

¬iving a legal backing to its

Gfight against single-use

plastics in the country, the

Union Environment Ministry

on Thursday notified com-

prehensive guidelines for

plastic packaging ensuring a framework not only to

strengthen the circular econ-

omy of plastic packaging

waste, but also promote development of new alterna-

According to government

figures, nearly 43 per cent are

packaging material, mostly

single-use plastic which are

mostly non-biodegradable in

Union Environment

said on Twitter on Thursday: flexible, multi-layered and

Minister Bhupender Yadav

tives to plastics.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on of the number of wards from 227 to 236

The issue of increase in the number of wards depends on the population," said the bench which also comprised justices A S Bopanna and Hima

"The wards have to be decided and commissioned by the Election Commission and not by the corporation. And here the Corporation has been exercising the power through an Ordinance," Rohatgi said.

Environment Min notifies guidelines for plastic packaging

those used for packaging and

carry bags. Producers,

importers and brand owners

have to provide details of the

certificates from registered

recyclers along with data

relating to the quantity sent

for end-of-life disposal by

June 30, said the ministry.

Reuse of rigid plastic

The enforceable pre-

packaging material has been

mandated in the guidelines to

reduce the use of fresh plas-

scription of minimum level of

recycling of plastic packaging waste collected under EPR

along with use of recycled

plastic content will further

and support recycling of plas-

tic packaging waste.
The EPR guidelines will

reduce plastic consumption

tic material for packaging.

Home Min takes stock of security, development initiatives in J&K

PNS NEW DELHI

With agencies anticipating a "hot summer" in the Kashmir region, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the security situation along with the development initiatives undertaken in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Army Chief Gen Mukund Naravane and top security officials of the Central Government and the Union Territory administration attended the meeting. According to agencies, there might be more infiltration to create troubles in the regions

Kashmir, including along the

give a boost for formalization

and further development of

the plastic waste manage-

ment sector. In a significant

first, the guidelines allow for

sale and purchase of surplus

extended producer responsi-

bility certificates, thus setting

up a market mechanism for

EPR will be done through a

customized online platform

which will act as the digital

backbone of the system. The

online platform will allow

tracking and monitoring of

EPR obligations and will

reduce the compliance bur-

den for companies through

online registration and filing

of annual returns. In order to

ensure monitoring on fulfil-

The implementation of

plastic

management.



The erstwhile state was bifurcated into two union territories - Jammu said Kashmir and Ladakh - after the abro-

ment of EPR obligations, the

guidelines have prescribed a

system of verification and

a framework for levy of envi-

ronmental compensation

based upon polluter pays

principle, with respect to

non-fulfilment of extended

producer responsibility tar-

gets by producers, importers

& brand owners, for the pur-

pose of protecting and

improving the quality of the

environment and prevent-

ing, controlling and abating

environment pollution. The

funds collected shall be uti-

lized for collection, recycling

and end of life disposal of

uncollected plastic waste in

an environmentally sound

The Guidelines prescribe

audit of enterprises.

ED files suplementary chrgesheet against Unitech

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed 1 a supplementary Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) before a designated PMLA court here against the Unitech Group in a money

The Rouse Avenue Court here took the cognizance of this Prosecution Complaint on

In this Prosecution Complaint, the ED has arrayed as accused five individuals who are promoters/directors Sanjay Chandra, Ajay Chandra, Ramesh Chandra, Preeti Chandra and Rajesh Malik besides 66 domestic and overseas companies.

A prosecution complaint had been filed Control, official sources said. Shah also took stock of the progress of the develearlier on December 2 last year/. The ED had registered a Money launder-Russia has positioned around one lakh troops near its border with Ukraine, besides The population increases every opment initiatives taken in the union ter day and the number of seats cannot be ritory, they said. Jammu and Kashmir is ing case against Unitech Group following a direcincreased without the census and the ate troubles in the regions. tive from the ED on date June 6, 2018, based on currently under the central rule. Rohatgi said the last census availlast one was held in 2011 and on that, The Home Minister reviewed the the FIRs registered by Economic Offences Wing, able was of 2011 and based on that, two two elections for the BMC were held, Delhi Police, Mandir Marg, New Delhi and security situation in Jammu and

Police Station Saket, New Delhi under various Covid curbs by State Govts caused 43% drop in airlines'

domestic passengers in Jan RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Airlines suffered a major decline in their passenger numbers due to Covid-related restrictions imposed by State Governments.

As per the date of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), around 64.08 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air in January, approximately 43 per cent lower than the 1.12 crore who travelled in December. This was 17.14 percent lower as compared to January last year.

Occupancy of the flights termed as the passenger load factors (PLF) fell for all Indian carriers in January as compared to December, the DGCA data said. Major scheduled commercial airlines registered 60.5-73.4% passenger load factor (PLF) in January, down from 67-86% in the previous month. The load factors of SpiceJet, IndiGo, Vistara, Go First, Air India and AirAsia India were 73.4 per cent, 66.6 per cent, 61.6 per cent, 66.7 per cent, 60.6 per cent and 60.5 per cent, respectively, in January 2022, it mentioned.

IndiGo ferried 3.56 million passengers during January to report 55.5% market share and 66.6% PLF, during the month. The airline has carried 6.14 million passengers in December. Spicejet flew 6.8 lakh passengers and Air India flew 6.56 lakh passengers in January.

The DGCA data said that in

IndiGo and Vistara were at

However, domestic traffic has shown an upward trend as the

respectively, the DGCA said.

Securities said in a recent report.

January, Go First had the best ontime performance of 94.5 per cent at four metro airports -Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

the second and third positions at these four airports in January with 93.9 per cent and 93.6 per cent on-time performance

Covid cases reduced gradually in the Country. Average daily domestic air passengers rose sharply in the week ended 12 February, compared to the previous week, due to a decline in active cases of coronavirus. The average number of daily flyers rose to 249,000 in the week ended 12 February, up from 196,000 in the previous week, ICICI

In terms of passenger complaints, a total of 501 complaints had been received by the scheduled domestic airlines in January 2022. The number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried for the month was around 0.78.

Major reasons for complaints are flight problems and refunds. Of the total complaints received, around 85 percent or 427 have

Tap water now in every home in 100 dists under Jal Jeevan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday claimed a major milestone as it said its Jal Jeevan Mission achieved the landmark of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts in the country. Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh has become the 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' district and the fifth aspirational district to be covered under the initiative.

"A promise made by our government is now a reality in 100 districts of the country, from arid ones to those in the remotest corners," Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on

Earlier this week, the initiative had crossed the milestone of providing clean tap water to nine crore rural households.

Since the announcement of the 'Har Ghar Nal se Jal' scheme on August 15, 2019, it has provided tap water supply to more than 5.78 crore rural households

At the time of announcement of the Mission, out of 19.27 crore households in the country only 3.23 crore (17%) had tap water connections, an official statement said.

In this short period, 100 districts, 1,138 blocks, 66,328 Gram Panchayats and 1,36,803 villages have become 'Har Ghar Jal', it said.

In Goa, Haryana, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, every rural household

Omicron 10 times better at escaping vaccine than Delta

"Taking forward the clarion

call given by PM Shri

@narendramodi ji to elimi-

nate single-use plastics,

@moefcc has notified com-

prehensive Guidelines on

Responsibility on plastic

Minister, the guidelines not

only provide a framework to

strengthen the circular econ-

omy of plastic packaging

waste, but also promote

development of new alterna-

tives to plastics. "They pro-

vide a roadmap for business-

es to move towards sustain-

able plastic packaging," he

fied into four categories: rigid,

Plastics have been classi-

According to the

Producers

Extended

packaging."

India along with many other countries may have started easing Covid-19 led restrictions, a team of researchers have flagged concerns that Omicron, the super-mutant variant of coronavirus is 10 times better at escaping Covid vaccine and immunity than the previous Delta variant and that the worst of the virus may not yet be

over.
"This may also explain why the virus spread so swiftly around the world, in a short span of time from its discovery," said the researchers at University of New South Wales in Australia. They reached this conclusion after mapping the infectious rate of Omicron.

The super-mutant variant was first discovered from South Africa and Botswana in late November. It has so far spread to more than 120 countries, outpacing the dominant Delta variant in many countries.

In a highly secure clean room at the University of NSW's Kirby Institute, experts studied the strain at the beginning of Australia's Omicron wave in mid-December and found out just how adept the variant is at evading vaccines, the report

While the Delta variant was 60 per cent better at evading antibodies than the original virus found in Wuhan - even in the bodies of the double-vaxxed,

Omicron was 16.5 times better at evading immunity - 10 times more than Delta.

But while the Omicron wave is subsiding across the globe, scientists believe new variants may continue to emerge for years particularly in winter.

Already in Europe and parts of Asia, a new subvariant of Omicron known as BA.2 is rapidly spreading with indications it could be even more contagious than its predecessor, the Omicron BA.1 strain, the report

Danish health officials estimate that BA.2 may be 1.5 times more transmissible than BA.1 based on preliminary data, but it likely does not cause more severe disease

Centre gives nod to phase II of ICJS to modernise policing

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved the second phase of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project, which will be implemented at a cost of Rs 3,375 crore during 2022-23 to 2025-26. The Phase II of the ICJS project, closely monitored by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing. The project will be implemented as a central sector scheme, said MHA in a statement.

The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with the National Informatics Center (NIC). The project will be implemented in collaboration with State Governments and Union Territory administrations.

2008 AHMEDABAD SERIAL BLASTS CASE

Survivors, kin hail court's verdict, seek death for all

the kin of those who died in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts welcomed the court's decision to sentence the perpetrators to death as well as life imprisonment.

A special court on Friday handed down the death penalty to 38 persons and sentenced 11 others to life imprisonment for the 21 blasts that took place in a span of 70 minutes on July 26 that year, killing 56 and injuring over 200.

Collegian Yash Vyas, who was a 9-year-old when he suffered severe burn injuries after a bomb blast rocked the trauma ward of the civil hospital in Asarva area, said he and his mother were waiting for this verdict day for the last 13 years.

"I am happy that the court awarded death penalty to 38 persons responsible for killing innocent people, including my father and brother. Even the 11 who were given life imprisonment should have got the death penalty. There should be no mercy for such people," Yash, 22 now and a second-year B.Sc

Friday with the customary

address of the Governor which

was boycotted by the Congress-

led Opposition. When

Governor Arif Mohammed

Khan began his speech, Leader

of the Opposition VD

Satheeshan was on his feet

with a point of order as he

wanted to tell the House about

Thursday's controversy caused

by the former refusing to sign

the declaration of statement

which was to be read at the

beginning of the Session. "This

is not the time for such things.

Please understand that you are

a responsible person and

Leader of the Opposition.

There is enough time for you to discuss such things," the

Governor reminded the leader

of the opposition. Satheeshan

and other opposition members

walked out of the House wav-

ing placards bearing the slogan "Governor Go Back"

Governor was acting as a BJP

agent instead of a Constitutional head. "His

refusal to sign the statement

last evening was a murder of

democracy," said the Congress

leader. What was discernible

was the silence by the

Opposition, especially the

Congress against the CPI(M)-

silence maintained by the rul-

Equally interesting was the

led Kerala Government.

Satheeshan alleged that the

Yash spent four months in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a hospital with 50 per cent burn injuries, and continues to suffer from partial hearing impairment because of the impact of the explosion.

His father, Dushyant Vyas, was a lab technician in a cancer medical facility located on the civil hospital campus and had, on the fateful day, taken his two sons to an open ground of the hospital to teach them how to ride a bicycle.

"At around 7.30 pm, when my father saw some blast victims being brought in ambulances (from an incident in another area in the city), he decided to help them. As soon as we reached near the civil hospital's trauma ward, an explosion occurred killing my father and 11-year-old brother instantly," Yash said.

As people injured in blasts that were taking place in other parts of the city were being brought into the civil hospital, two blasts ripped the trauma centre, killing patients and kin,

medical staff and bystanders.

Among the victims were Dr Prerak Shah, who used to serve in the civil hospital, and his pregnant wife Kinjal. The duo had come to the civil hospital's gynecology ward for Kinjal's medical check-up.

"I welcome this verdict. I

always had trust in police and judiciary that one day I will get justice. However, I feel all 49 guilty persons should have been given the death penalty. Nonetheless, I am satisfied 38 will hang," said Prerak's father Ramesh Shah, a resident of Modasa town.

Jagdish Kadia, who used to sell sandwiches on his cart in Raipur Chakla area of the old city, lost his wife Hasumati Kadia in a blast that occurred

"Some19 sharp objects pierced my wife's body due to the blast. I remember my wife everyday and have been living a lonely life since then. I strongly believe even the 11 who were given life imprisonment must hang," the 65-year-old man

to sit silently for the entire 66

minutes of the Governor's

speech. What stand out in this

episode was the failure of the

treasury benches to reciprocate

or react when the Governor

listed the so called achieve-

ments of the State Government

as well as the charges against

the Centre. For the first time in

the history of the Kerala Assembly, we saw the ruling

front members sitting with frozen minds," Haridas told

Opposition, instead of oppos-

ing the Government was tar-

geting the Governor. "It is

good that the Congress and the

CPI(M) have come together

which has underscored the

stance of Sitharam Yechury, the

CPI(M) General Secretary, who

has called for unity among all

Opposition parties to take on the BJP," said Haridas.

read out by the Governor,

Kerala is the State that has

effectively managed the Covid-

19 pandemic in the country

and is designated as the best

managed State in the

to part with more funds and its

failure to hand over the GST

dues to the State are the main

problems haunting Kerala,"

read out the Governor. PNS

"The refusal of the Centre

Regarding the statement

He pointed out that the

The Pioneer.

Maha GST officials arrest private firm's director for bogus invoices worth ₹162

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

ontinuing their crackdown on tax fraudsters, the Maharashtra State Goods & Services Tax Department officials have arrested the Director of a Mumbai-based private company under the charges of accepting bogus invoices of ₹162 Crore and in the process availing a fake Input Tax Credit of ₹29.17

More than a week after they took into custody a Gujarat-based couple for allegedly accepting bogus invoices of ₹482 crore and availing fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) of ₹111 crore, the GST officials on Thursday arrested the director of Messrs Everant Feromat Private Limited from Girgaum in south Mumbai for allegedly availing a fake Input Tax Credit of

"The taxpayer dealing in Metal & Scrap was found to have been accepting bogus invoices from non-existent dealers. Upon investigation; the Directors of the company could not explain the bogus transactions with the non-existent entities; nor could they discharge the liability on the fake Input Tax Credit issue," a statement issued by the office of Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar who holds the State Finance portfolio said.

The arrested director of the private firm was on Friday produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate, who remanded him in 14 days' judicial custody

The arrested director of the private firm was on Friday produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate, who remanded him to 14 days' judicial custody.

The team led by Assistant Commissioner of State Tax Ramchandra N.Meshram carried out the entire oper-

It may be recalled that the second week of this month the State GST department officials - had in their first-ever operation conducted outside the state arrested a Gujarat-based husband and wife as Prima Mhatre of Dolphin Overseas and Sanjeev Singh of Prime Overseas for allegedly accepting bogus invoices of ₹482 crore and availing fake/ineligible Input Tax Credit (ITC) to the tune of ₹111 crore.

The Maharashtra GST Department officials so far arrested several errant taxpayers involved in 16 different tax evasion cases and unearthed fake ITC scams involving bogus billing of more than

Mamata picks old guard to show she's boss, not bhatija

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Tn a clear indication showing that it was she and not her nephew Abhishek Banerjee called the shots in the Trinamool Congress, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday appointed most of her loyalists in top party posts.
Even as the old and new genera-

tions (led by her nephew) fought for supremacy in the TMC the Chief Minister made her preference for the older generation clear, saying however that two sides should work in coordination to take the party to newer heights. Banerjee who addressed the first ever meeting of the national working committee constituted a fortnight ago --- amid ongoing intra party feud --- told her leaders that "there is a need for the newer generation to come forward and work. But there is also a need for a coordination between the old and the new ... It will have to be remembered that old is gold," insiders said.

The Chief Minister also asked the leadership to shun extravagance and lead a simple life so as to send the right message to the people.

"We are a poor party ... We have certain ideology and principles and should follow that ... Everyone is expected to shun extravagant lifestyle and lead a simple life" Banerjee said.

Most of her loyalists like Chandrima Bhattacharya, Forhad



Hakim Subrata Bakshi were given tor posts. Her nephew Abhishek around whom a parallel power centre had been created however managed to retain his number two post as party national general secretary.

His loyalists however were ignored for any plum post. No decision was taken on poll consultant Prashant Kishor's I-PAC which is considered to be close to the junior

Unlike earlier ocassion Banerjee appointed three national vice presidents - Yashwant Sinha, Subrata Bakshi and Chandrima Bhattacharya. Yashwant Sinha and Amit Mitra have been given the responsibility to chalk out the economic policy as well. Firhad Hakim a powerful minor-

ity leader and minister has been appointed as the coordinator between the Chief Minister and the NWC.

A tug of war between Mamata and Abhishek loyalists had been on in the TMC for supremacy ever since the party roared back to power in last year's Assembly elections.



Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini arrives from Goa as part of President's Fleet Review 2022 Sail Parade activities, in Visakhapatnam. The expedition commenced from Goa on January 12

Opp-led by Kerala Cong boycotts Guv's

KOCHI: The fourth session of ing front members including responsibility by reading out the 15th Kerala Legislative the ministers even as the the statement. "The Pinarayi

quence over the achievements

Government during the last

nine months. Though the

Governor read out in detail the

charges levelled against the

BJP-led Central Government,

the ruling front members sat

grim faced. There was no

thumping of desk at any point

of time while he read out the

statement prepared by the

permssionof the Speaker, there

was no thumping of desks or smiling faces to be seen. Some

of the senior members and

ministers were seen dozing off

while the Governor listed the

achievements made by the

Speaking to reporters, Satheeshan said that under

Article 163 of the Constitution.

Governor was bound to read

out the declaration of statement

made by the Government.

'The Governor conspired with

the Government of Kerala and

signed on the ordinance that

weakened the Lok Ayukta.

Governor insulted and humil-

iated the House," alleged

political commentator, said the

Governor successfully com-

pleted his Constitutional

KVS Haridas, a seasoned

Vijayan-led

Even as the Governor concluded the speech with the

Government.

Pinarayi

Satheeshan.

overnment.

the

Kerala

address, waves placard 'Guv go back'

South Asia's first BSL-3 mobile lab set up in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

As part of a project under-taken by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, South Asia's first Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) containment Mobile Laboratory was set up in Nashik of north Maharashtra on Friday.

Inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, the Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) containment Mobile Laboratory aims to help the health authorities detect and investigate highly infectious pathogens that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings. The laboratory has been

designed and built by ICMR in collaboration with Mumbai based bio-safety equipment maker Klenzaids.

The laboratory is airtight, access-controlled, bio-decontaminable, fitted with safe change HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Absorbing) filtradecontamination system, giving it the tag of BSL-3 Enhanced. The lab is controlled through an intelligent

control automation system, which maintains the working environment under negative air pressure, maintains equipment parameters and records all necessary data.

The mobile laboratory provides a public health solution to this problem. It can be simply driven around to various locations, just like a normal bus. This laboratory will be able to access remote and forested areas of the country where specially trained scientists from ICMR can investigate outbreaks using samples from humans and animal sources. These activities will ensure timely and on-site diagnosis with rapid turnaround time for reporting these outbreaks. Speaking on the occasion,

Union Minister, Dr Pawar said that the Biosafety level-3 Mobile Laboratory was a significant value addition to the Government's efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure through the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

Dr Pawar further said the real-time data collection which will enable us to ensure quick containment and preventing further spread of any emerging viral

Terming the launch of the Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) containment Mobile Laboratory as "historic", ICMR's Director General Dr. Balram Bhargava said: "The need for such laboratories is more pronounced in India and the neighbouring regions, with vast animal and human population living in proximity. The existing infrastructure of BSL-3 laboratories is fixed and dependent on transporting samples from near and far locations, often leading to delays in diagnosis".

Dr Bhargava recalled that during the Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala, samples had to be transported to National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. "It was then we felt a mobile laboratory could be of great help during outbreaks of highly infectious pathogens. Such mobile Laboratories can be stationed at different regions of the country and may be mobilised in case of sudden outbreaks," he said."In view of repeated outbreaks of highly infectious pathogens like Nipah, Covid-19, it is critical to be able to detect the emerging epidemics/pandemics at a very early stage", he said.

Adventure sports outfit gets notice for safety failure during trekking that led to death On February 2, two

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

aking serious cognisance of the recent tragic death of an uncle-nephew duo at famed Hadbichi Shendi hillock at Nashik in north Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Directorate of Tourism (M-DoT) has slapped a notice on a private "unregistered" adventure sports outfit for alleged failure to take adequate safety measures that led to the mishap.

On February 2, one Indraprastha Trekkers' Group (ITG), Ahmednagar had organised a tough trek to Hadbichi Shendi hillock, in which 17 participants including some girls had participated. On that day, two of the trekkers - identified as Anil S. Wagh (35) and his nephew Mayur D. Mhaske (22) - had a fatal fall when they were descending from the hillock, while one Pravin Pawar was injured when he tried to rescue them. Following the mishap, un-registered, ill-equipped, formal and informal groups engaged in such treks have

"From August 2021, we had made it compulsory for organisations engaged in adven-

Daily Covid cases drop to 2,000

of the trekkers had a fatal fall when they were descending from the hillock tures, sports/tours/activities to

register themselves, within six months. Till date, the ITG has not registered itself," M-DoT's Joint Director Dr. Dhananjay D. Sawalkar said.Sawalkar said that a total of 25 adventure activities related to aerial, terrestrial and water sports have been listed for which registration is compulsory. "However, after the dead-

line passed, many organisations or groups have not yet registered themselves for conducting such adventure sports activities. We will take stringent necessary action against them," Dr. Sawalkar warned. The M-DoT has demand-

ed the ITG to provide its registration details, whether there are trained operators for their adventure treks, what kind of safety and security equipduring the February 2 trek at Hadbichi Shendi and whether it follows the government

HC rejects PIL seeking removal of Bengal Guv Jagdeep Dhankar

Says Guv not answerable to court for duty dispensation

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Friday rejected a PIL seeking direction to the Union Government to remove Jagdeep Dhankhar as the Governor of West Bengal.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Justice R Bharadwaj said that the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his office under Article 361 of Constitution.

The bench rejected the petition that sought direction to the Union government to remove Dhankhar as the governor of West Bengal.

Petitioner Rama Prasad Sarkar, a lawyer practising at the high court, claimed in the writ petition that Dhankhar is interfering in the functioning of the state and also maligning the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal by commenting critically against

The petitioner claimed that Dhankhar is "acting as the mouthpiece of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)".

Seeking direction to the Centre for removal of Dhankhar as governor alleging that he is partisan, Sarkar's petition claimed that he is bypassing the state council of ministers and dictating officials directly, "which is violative of the Constitution".

in Maha, Mumbai logs 202 T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The daily Covid-19 infections in Maharashtra dropped to 2,068 on Friday, while the daily cases came down in Mumbai from 259 to 202.A day after the state recorded 2,797 cases, the daily infections dropped to 2,068. With fresh infections, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the state rose from 78,53,291 to 78,55,359.

With 15 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 1,43,532 to 1,43,547.

With the fresh 202 cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,54, 991 to 10,55,193. While the recovery rate stood static at 98 per cent, the overall growth rate of Copvid-19 cases in the

February 11 and 17 dropped to 0.03 per cent.

As 4,709 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 76,81,961 to 76,86,670. The recovery rate in the state rose from 97.82 per cent to 97.85 per cent.

The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 23,816 to 21,159. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 1.82 per cent.

The active cases in Pune dropped to 6032. The active cases in Mumbai dropped from 1945 on Thursday to 1780 on Friday, while the number of active cases in the neighbouring Thane dropped from 1423 on Thursday to 1279 on Friday.

Nagpur accounted for 2061 active cases, followed by Ahmednagar (1824), Nashik (1120) and Aurangabad (1071).

Of the 7,70,01,972 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 78,55,359 have tested positive (10.20 per cent) for COVID-19 until Friday. Currently, 2,37,252 people are in home quarantine while 1,139 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, no fresh Omicron case was recorded in Maharashtra on Friday, resulting in the total number of the new Covid-19 variant cases remaining static at 4,456. Of these cases, 3,531 patients have been discharged after they tested negative in the RT-PCR tests.

Till Friday evening, 8904 samples had been sent for genome sequencing, out of which, results of 7,991 patients have been received.

BJP youth wing seeks ban on hijab in edu institutions

Aligarh: The BJP's youth wing on Friday took out a march here, demanding a complete ban on hijab in educational institutions in the country.

Members of the Bharativa Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), who took out their march from the Centre Point Market in the Civil Lines area, were heading for the Aligarh Muslim The demonstrators warned

University (AMU) crossing, but were stopped by police, leading to angry exchanges.

that they would intensify their protest in educational institutions in the district.

BIYM district vice president Saurabh Chaudhry said his organisation would hold demonstrations in all educational institutions to check students from wearing hijab or caps inside educational institutions.

Security measures at AMU have been tightened as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident.

Additional City Magistrate Sudhir Kumar, who received a copy of a memorandum stating the BJYM's demands, said it would be forwarded to the and central

governments. The demonstration comes amid a row over hijab versus saffron scarves in Karnataka. which started at the end of December in Udupi in the

southern state.

On Thursday, the Karnataka government ordered

that students in schools managed by its minority welfare department should not wear saffron scarves, hijab or any religious flags.

In Aligarh, on Tuesday, students belonging to the BJYM in some colleges in the city wore saffron shawls while attending classes.

The same day Raghuraj Singh, a senior BJP leader of the district, who holds the rank of a minister of state in the Uttar Pradesh government,

had released a statement warning AMU students, who were protesting over the hijab issue. to mend their ways or the UP police would enter their homes and drag them out from

Singh had stirred a controversy by saying that "either such wayward elements should mend their ways or migrate to Pakistan or Afghanistan where they will find that there is no democracy or right to protest



which they enjoy in India". PTI | People engaged in sand mining activities in the River Ganga despite Bihar Government's ban in Patna on Friday

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

Meaningful apology

Atrocities on former colonies deserve at least heartfelt regret, like the Dutch PM offered

The Netherlands Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, on Thursday apologised to Indonesia for unprecedented violence the Dutch used during the former's War of Independence between 1945 and 1949. He said his Government accepted the findings of a historical review that described Dutch violence as systematic, excessive and unethical as the country tried to regain control of its former colony after World War II. Nearly one lakh Indonesians were possibly killed in the violence while the original figure of official Dutch historians was between 1,500 and 5,100. Earlier, in Mach 2020, King Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands also apologised for his country's violence against its former colony of Indonesia. He also formally recognised Indonesia's independence date in his first State visit to Jakarta. The first Dutch apology for its 350-year colonial rule came in 2013 when a Dutch ambassador expressed remorse. This is not the first apology for colonial excesses. It will not be the last. There were post-colonial cases of violence, too, the worst-ever being the Jewish Holocaust and the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Massacres and genocide in Africa continued till recently. The initiators of the Iraq war do not still see any reason to apologise. Violence is a policy for the colonial power. Structural violence



is integrated into the functioning of any aggressive power. It takes years, even centuries, for attitudes to change, for former empires which were proud of their expansionist policies to suddenly seek forgiveness from their

But it does happen eventually as massive exposure of violent, inhuman acts shocks the people of the past colonial powers. The retribution is complete not when the apology is made because an apology is a short passage of text. The retribution is complete when past powers grapple with changing attitudes and how to present "contested" heritage. Eventually, they will get it done

and their past will look not so glorified. Sovereign or collective national apologies provide public accountability. They atone for a painful period of a country's past. These apologies act as moral gatekeepers to prevent human rights abuses in the future. However, what about those cases where the apologies never come, or they do come but without meaning anything? The last apartheid President of South Africa, FW de Clerk, apologised in 1992 for the segregation policies. However, he refused to take responsibility for apartheidperiod abuses like torture and assassinations. The half-hearted apology was forgotten the moment it was given. Only the US House of Representatives ever apologised for African slavery. The Americans never apologised for the nuclear bombings on Japan though an American President visited Hiroshima. A British Prime Minister visited Amritsar to publicly apologise for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The British apologised for the Irish Potato Famine but not for the Bengal Famine of 1943 in which three million Indians died of hunger as critical food supplies were diverted to the war theatre.



Russian ambassador Valery Kuzmin pays his respect at the WWII Soviet Heroes cemetery inBucharest

Third coming?

The non-Congress, non-NDA parties are floating a new balloon to take on the BIP

here's a bit of new wine in an old bottle. A handful of Chief Ministers – including West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu's MK Stalin, Telangana's KCR and Maharashtra's Uddhav Thackeray, among others are trying to forge a political alternative to the BJP at the national level. They have even announced a conclave of their leaders soon, though the date and likely venue is not in public domain yet. What makes sense here is that with the virtual demise of the Congress at the national level, the Opposition space is wide open at the



political platform. And, to be fair to these regional leaders, they have had their moments of glory in picking up a direct fight with the indomitable Narendra Modi-Amit Shah combine and emerged victorious after the bloodbath at the hustings. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has proved to be a tough bargain for the duo, even trying to take his party's footprint to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and as far as to the smaller State of Goa; Mamata has bruised Modi in Bengal; Akhilesh is giving him a run for his money, and the results are still awaited; so the aura of his invincibility has lost some of the sheen that Modi arrived at

the scene with in 2014.

With the BJP getting a firmer toehold and larger imprint in Telangana, too, sometime-on-sometime-off KCR has started fiercely guarding his turf and is therefore trying to help cobble up a union of smaller, like-minded parties opposed to the BJP and indifferent to the Congress' already waning influence. Ironically, the idea of an alternative germinated in the 1960s to counter the might of the Congress. But today the Congress is not even part of it. The fight is primarily between the satraps and the BJP. Since Modi's ascension to power at the Centre in 2014, the regional parties have been steadily ceding ground to the saffron colour. Of course, the BJP had had to sacrifice some of its longtime allies too, like the SAD in Punjab and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra. But it has chosen to play the game of brinksmanship and spring back into the game after silently licking its wounds. How long, and to what effect, will it last is anybody's guess? Perhaps the results of this cycle of five Assembly polls will hold a clue to 2024.

Wondrous ways of the elephant

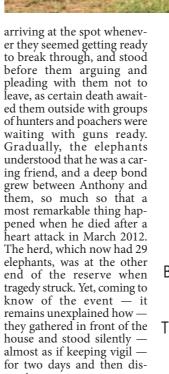


Elephants understand everything we say, provided it is put simply. They are in many ways more human than us; yet we treat them shabbily

his happened at the Addo National Elephant Park in South Africa in December 2010. A herd of elephants was out taking the air, and doing some foraging, when a baby elephant became a trifle adventurous. Breaking away on its own, exploring the land around, it slipped and fell into a small depression where it got stuck. Hearing his/her piteous cry, all the mama elephants rushed to the rescue. It was a difficult lift but they managed after a while with powerful pulls and pushes by their trunks. As the exhausted baby lay on its belly with four legs spread out in four directions, the mama elephants gathered all round rebuking him/her just as elderly relatives of a family would collectively berate a young boy or girl whose misguided quest for excitement had led to the jettisoning of discretion and trouble.

The event provided yet another reminder of the immensely strong mutual ties that bind elephants and how humane the latter are. Taking an elephant away from a herd and bringing him/her to a distant place to labour for a human master, causes him/her intense sorrow born of loneliness and haunting memories of old ties that have been severed.

This is particularly so because elephants have long memories that transcend species. They remember acts of kindness and the people behind them. The story of Lawrence Anthony, the Elephant Whisperer, who was a wildlife conservationist, environmentalist and best-selling author, and the herd of seven elephants he took into his reserve, Thula Thula in Zululand, South Africa, is well-known. The damage they had been causing to crops and villages, breaking out again and again from confinement, had enraged people who were determined to kill them. Requested to take them in by the authorities, Lawrence agreed as he knew they would otherwise die. Exceptionally ciever benemoths, they posed a major problem for Lawrence.



Many more such events can be cited. My grandmother, Punyalata Chakraborty, once narrated a story from the days when under the "Sunset Law", Government confiscated and auctioned a land if revenue



PARTICULARLY SO **BECAUSE ELEPHANTS** HAVE LONG MEMORIES THAT TRANSCEND SPECIES. THEY REMEMBER **ACTS OF KINDNESS** AND THE PEOPLE **BEHIND THEM**

found on arrival at the treasury that the sack containing the money for revenue payment had disappeared. A thorough search some distance down the road to the treasury drew a blank. He was in trouble; because it was too late to somehow put together the money and bring it over to the treasury. Facing disaster, he stood crying before his beloved elephant, stroking her trunk and saying that he would now have to part with her per force. The elephant listened and, perhaps getting a hang of what it was about, opened her mouth. The sack fell out! Of the various conjectures, the one that became a consensus was that the sack had fallen from her back, on which the zamindar and the mahout sat, somewhere down the road to the treasury. The zamindar did not notice it, but she did and had picked it up and had perhaps thought of carrying it all the way back home and drop it there before she had changed her mind

in what was then East Bengal,

Did she understand what the zamindar was saying? One

does not know. I was, however, an eyewitness to an incident in a South African game sanctuary some time ago. Travelling in a car, we had run into a herd of elephants that did not recognise the vehicle and were taken by surprise. As they glared suspiciously, the ranger accompanying us, a young woman by the name of Antia, began talking to the matriarch calmly in Africkaans, as if she was explaining a matter to a fellow human being. The matriarch listened intently and led the herd away after Antia had fin-

Curious, I had Antia at the end of the drive as to what she had told the matriarch. She replied, "I just said, Mamma, you know us. We go about the sanctuary every day and never have we caused the slightest harm to you or your babies. So, please go your way. You have nothing to worry about." Then she added, "Elephants understand everything we say, provided it is put simply. They are in many ways more human than us. And, yet, we treat them so horribly

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

was not paid before sunset on He adopted the strategy of a specified date. A zamindar,

ERS TO TH

THE GLORY OF OUR DEMOCRACY

- Speaking on how a democracy should function, Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong is reported to have said that Nehru's India has become one where almost half the MPs in the Lok Sabha have criminal charges against them, including those of rape and murder. Though it is uncalled for, it is a bitter truth coming from a foreign dignitary. It is a fact. Many criminals ruling us is the order of the day. India, as the largest democracy in the world, should have barred criminals from becoming lawmakers in its 70 years of self-rule. The Vohra Committee report is simply lying around, gathering dust.

The Union Government is slack in barring criminals from contesting elections and becoming lawmakers. The same goes for the EC and the Supreme Court. But criminals have taken full control over Indian politics. Men, muscle and money power have a distinct say in elections but the EC and the apex court remain silent spectators. Indian politics has become dirty and corrupt because of criminals becoming lawmakers. People have lost faith in this Indian model of democracy. The lesser voter turnout in elections is a direct result of such developments. Two, it's not only Nehru's India but an India of many great leaders.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

FOCUS ON THE JOB AT HAND, PARTIES

Sir — Since former Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh and the Congress leadership have parted ways, their noises are only about castigating each other prior to the Assembly election. It's high time that they concentrated seriously on the Assembly election, knocking on the door of the voters. The Captain's comments laughing away Bhagwant Mann as the AAP's chief ministerial candidate by differentiating between "comedy and the serious business of running a Government", however, fall on hard ground given that the people of Punjab have voted the actor to take on the political mantle.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's observation that the BJP finds Jawaharlal Nehru responsible for every

It's not funny, dear Djoker!



ennis great Novak Djokovic's pledge for #NoVaxStand and his denial to accept vaccines into his body are grabbing global attention. We all know that star players these days let out their personal issues to the world media: A few years back, Japanese player Osaka voiced out her hesitation to public speaking and to media interaction. And now the way Novak announced that he could skip more Grand Slam events and tournaments as a price for not taking the vaccine is not right.

There is absolutely nobody happy with his decision. He is a talented tennis player, and his resistance to COVID-19 vaccine is driving him away from his profession. His #NoVaxStand may be absolutely correct until the choices are under his personal control but, as a celebrated player, his #NoVaxStand is not appropriate to send out for the whole world.

His fans are upset for not seeing him on the court. Novak himself accepted that he was not against vaccination, but only wants to support the freedom to choose what we put into our body. I think that in such a pandemic situation, we can't be selfish to cater only to our freedom and personal choices; instead we must take vaccines for the safety of our own self and others. Novak, too, must let go of his stubbornness towards anti-COVID vaccines, and allow his fans to enjoy his matches in the upcoming tennis events

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

problem in the country, despite being at the helm of affairs for seven years, stands justified. Singh also took to task the incumbent dispensation at the Centre for the fault lines in the country's foreign as well as economic policies in view of Chinese incursions on Indian soil on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the Ladakh border. After all, Punjab will on Sunday have the final call on which party deserves to lead the State. However, the din of speculation will end only on March 10.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

STRONGER UNITED THAN DIVIDED

 $Sir — The COVID-19 \ pandemic \ will \ leave$ a lasting imprint on the global economy, causing permanent changes and imparting important lessons to the population. Virus screening is likely to become a routine of our life, just like security measures became ubiquitous after 9/11. It is important to invest in the infrastructure necessary to detect future viral outbreaks. This investment protects economies in case immunity to COVID-19 turns out to be

temporary. The pandemic crisis has accelerated the pace of digital transformation, with further expansion in e-commerce and increases in the pace of adoption of telemedicine, videoconferencing, online teaching, and fintech. Companies with international supply chains are dealing with shortages and bottlenecks.

We are likely to see many of these companies reshore some of their production. Unfortunately, this trend will not create many jobs because most of the production is likely to be automated. Governments will play a much bigger role after turning insurer and investor of sort of the last resort during the crisis. Public debt will balloon and create financial challenges around the world. The most important lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of working together on problems that affect the entire human race. We are much stronger united than divided.

Ankita Meena | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

In Punjab, the NDA will form the Government. A new chapter of development will



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



Europe is on the edge of a precipice. There's still time for President Putin to step back

British Prime Minister -Boris Johnson

I believe we must cope in life. Eventually, what is meant for us will come to us



Filmmaker —Aishwarvaa Raiinikanth



If you guys can keep quiet for a while, I think he (Virat Kohli) will be alright

India captain -Rohit Sharma

The Congress is the only party that can take along people of all faiths, castes and



Congress leader -Rahul Gandhi

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UKRAINE: THE INVASION NEVER COMES

Only the Americans believe that it is coming



GWYNNE DYER

ince January 18 till date, The Americans have been saying that "every indication that (Russian President Vladimir Putin) is going to use military force sometime perhaps between now and the mid-

It's not clear whether any of these officials really believes these dire predictions, since there are other plausible reasons why they might utter them: to whip the European NATO allies into line, or simply to restore Joe Biden's reputation as a determined leader standing up for 'freedom' after his less than stellar performance in the Afghan debacle last August.

But even if the Americans really do believe what they are saying, the prospective victims of the 'imminent' Russian invasion, Ukraine's own leaders clearly do not.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, responding to a warning by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on 27 January that cur-



rent Russian troop movements could lead to a "fully-fledged Russian invasion," said: "I don't consider the situation now more tense than before."

"There is a feeling abroad that there is war here. That's not the case. I am not saying an escalation is not possible...(but) we don't need the panic." And Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, added on 2 February that the Russian troops near Ukraine's border are "insufficient for a largescale military operation."

But how could all those expensive American (and British) intelligence agencies get things so wrong? Well, they got Iraq's alleged 'weapons of mass destruction' wrong in 2003, didn't they? In fact they cooked the evidence then to justify their masters' desire to invade Iraq. They're not above going back into the kitchen to serve their current masters' needs.

Or maybe they're just not very bright. Last week's story of an alleged Russian plot to shoot a "very graphic" fake video of a Ukrainian attack involving corpses, blast damage, Ukrainian military hardware including Turkish-made drones, and actors playing Russian-speaking mourners, all to 'justify' a Russian invasion of Ukraine, was beneath contempt.

Behind all this nonsense, however, there are real strategies at work. Putin's goal is to neutralise NATO's military presence near Russia's borders as much as possible, and at the least to neutralise Ukraine. Biden's is to rebuff the broader Russian aim at all costs, and protect Ukraine as much as possible without fighting a war. This gives both men a strong motive for exaggerating the threat of war, but none at all for fighting one.

It is already stated NATO policy not to fight for Ukraine, although it threatens sanctions if Russia invades. And while Moscow gains leverage from its unspoken threat to invade Ukraine, actually doing so would cripple Russia economically and might even end Putin's rule, because

the Ukrainians would fight and the occupation would be a nightmare. Knowing all this, the Ukrainians are relatively relaxed about the 'crisis'. Putin never overplays his hand in this sort of situation (consider Georgia 2006, Crimea and Donbas 2014, Syria 2015), so he'll eventually take whatever he can get in term of concessions on NATO dispositions in Eastern Europe (if anything) and shut the crisis down.

And NATO only loses if it loses its nerve. It is not illegitimate for Eastern European countries that spent half a century under what amounted to a Soviet military occupation to seek reassurance by joining the rival alliance once they are free, especially since it does not create any significant military threat to their former overlords.

The younger George Bush made a big mistake by inviting Ukraine to join NATO in 2008, but the other members were never really going to let it in: too far east, too close to Moscow. Wait this 'crisis' out, and it will eventually go away.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

The big leap forward for post-Covid recovery



With investment not forthcoming from the corporates, it was imperative to raise investment, especially in the infrastructure sector

rith a relatively comfortable position of the Union Government's exchequer, it was obvious for the middle class to expect some relief in personal income tax, farmers to get a hike in 'Kisan Samman Nidhi' and corporate sector to get even unwarranted relief in taxation. However, the Finance Minister belying all such hopes, retained status quo and decided not to go for populism and refused to fall into the arguments of corporate's mirage of investments. By now the govern-ment has fully realised that despite all efforts of luring corporates the necessary investment is not forthcoming from them, and the country cannot afford to wait for them any more. In view of the decline in economic activities during Covid, it was imperative to raise investment in the country, especially in the infrastructure sector, to take the economy on the path of fast mode recovery.

If we see budgets of the last two-three decades, the governments had been washing their hands off from capital expenditure. It seemed that perhaps the entire responsibility of capital investment was of the private sector. It was thought that foreign investment can make up for every shortcoming, be it investment, technology development, employment or export. But despite all the efforts for the last almost one decade, public as well as private capital investment has been on decline, as percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

However, there has been a change in the thinking of the government in the last few years and it has started investing capital in many sectors including infrastructure, with an ultra-huge target of infra-structure investment of Rs. 100 lakh crore in 5 years, including from private sector. Need was also felt to increase both public and private investment to revive the economy hit by Corona. Due to Corona, the government's finances were in doldrums, both due to dip in revenue and because of commitment for much higher expenditure on relief, health, including vaccination and also the stimulus package for the economy. It was not possible then, to raise funds for investment. But thanks to the 9.2 percent growth in the current fiscal year, there has been a significant increase in GST receipts as well as direct taxes. Taking full advantage of this fiscal space, capital expenditure (capex) was increased in the year also a provision of Rs.7. 50 lakh crore has been made, up by 35 percent compared to current fiscal, which is 19 percent of the budget. This is probably the highest ever Capex in the last 30 years.

In this situation, while avoiding populist policies, the Finance Minister has opted to provide sufficient allocation for 'PM Gati Shakti' Project, which aims at coordinated development of various types of infrastructure so that the country's work efficiency is increased and logistic cost for businesses be reduced. Provision has been



DURING THE CORONA PERIOD. THE

GOVERNMENT **OUTLINED THE** GOAL OF SELF-RELIANT INDIA, MODIFYING ITS OWN 'MAKE IN INDIA' POLICY **ANNOUNCED** EARLIER. **PRODUCTION** LINKED **INCENTIVES SCHEME WAS** LAUNCHED BY **IDENTIFYING 14** SECTORS WHICH HAVE BEEN AFFECTED THE MOST DUE TO IMPORTS

structure, infrastructure for education, drinking water and housing for the poor. We can definitely say that this budget is not a populist one and is futuristic with a focus on development for the next 25 years.

Since the years of Green Revolution, chemical farming was

made for various types of infra-

structure including digital infra-

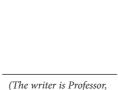
promoted in the country, due to which agricultural production did increase in the country, but at the same time, the cost of farming also increased and unwanted chemicals including pesticides entered our food plate. For some time, the emphasis of the government has been towards chemical-free farming. Provision has been made in this budget for promotion of natural farming, zero budget farming and organic farming, taking forward the goal of chemical-free farming. We have been going through excessive production of food grains and shortage of oilseeds, due to which the country's dependence on Provision has been made in the budget to rectify the same by encouraging production of oilseeds. Although the farmers' agitation is over, to improve the condition of the farmers, provision was needed to ensure remunerative price for their produce, which has got place in the budget.

In the era of globalization, protection had become a dirty word. Due to the obsession for globalization, tariffs were constantly reduced, causing unprecedented increase in imports, especially from China. The manufacturing sector of the country was almost destroyed. Our API industry was finished due to the gimmicks adopted by China, the electronic industry almost died in its infancy, the chemical industry was also badly hit. How the smallscale industries suffered, is known to all. Country was imposing nearly 10 percent of average tariff, which was hardly one fourth of bound tariffs rates in WTO. Even before Corona, in his budget presented in February 2018, the former Finance Minister of the Modi government, Arun Jaitley, had announced hike in tariff from 10 percent to 20 percent, for protection of India's electronics and telecom industry. After that this prudent policy of protection continued. During the Corona period, the government outlined the goal of selfreliant India, modifying its own 'Make in India' policy announced earlier. Production Linked launched by identifying 14 sectors which have been affected the most due to imports. Last month, a \$10 billion support was also announced to manufacture semiconductors in the country. All this happened for the protection and promotion of the industries of the country.

Continuing this policy in the present budget as well, the government has announced hike in tariffs. A special allocation of Rs 19,500 crore has also been made in the budget to promote the production of solar energy equipment in the country.

Though, push for capital expenditure and protection and promotion of domestic industry is also likely to create employment, limited efforts towards promotion of small-scale industry is a cause of major concern in the budget. Promotion of self-employment in the country, should be the first priority for both central as well as state government. For this Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) can help. Further government can infuse more funds and seed capital for small businesses to motivate youth to start their own enterprises. Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDCs) can also be established in each district of the country. In this regard enhanced lending to MSME sector by extending the guarantee cover for such loans is a welcome

Although, the budget has taxed tal assets at the rate of 30 percent and gift of virtual digital asset will also be taxed at the hands of recipients, looking at the dangers of national security, the menace of money laundering and other related dangers emanating from the transactions in cryptos ban on private crypto currencies is the only solution. However, the announcement of the issue of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a welcome move.



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Delhi). The views

expressed are personal.)

WE SHALL LAUNCH A PORTAL FOR SUGGESTIONS ON CHANGE OF NAMES (OF CITIES, VILLAGES) ACROSS ASSAM. —CHIEF MINISTER **HIMANTA BISWA SARMA**





THE CM IS ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE HISTORY BY RENAMING PLACES. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT HISTORY. -LEADER OF OPPOSITION **DEBABRATA SAIKIA**

Baghel a dark horse vs Akhilesh like Shubhendu?

The BJP has sent key organisers, strategists and hundreds of workers to Karhal constituency

mid shifting of majority votes, the next phases of polls in Central UP hold the key. The party winning the region reigns Lucknow.

The trends in the first two phases in UP and Uttarakhand turned curiouser. The minority votes are consolidating and majority votes are shifting. It gives jitters to contestants and is becoming a serious study for

social scientists. It is not easy to say if the trends would continue in the next phases. The split of majority votes finds echo in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Kalyanpur, Kanpur Dehat addresses. Modi called upon the "Hindus not to split their votes' deprecating Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's move to divide majority votes in Goa.

Whether it changes the



SHIVAJI SARKAR

perception in Central UP and leads to Hindutva consolidation or not is to be watched. The Samajwadi Party got 90 seats here in 2012 and a mere 12 in 2017. BJP also had a loss and windfall. In 2012, it got 10 seats that soared to whopping 90 of 118 seats in 2017.

The region spreads from Hardoi in the West, Lucknow, Kanpur - heart of the region -Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Etawah -the Yadav belt - to Bundelkhand. The region understands the pulse and the party that controls it reigns UP.

It also has the key seat of Karhal. It will decide whether Akhilesh Yadav would be in the UP Assembly and could lead the state or not. The intense contest forced SP to recall relaxing patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav to address a rally at



Karhal on February 16.

Now Akhilesh faces stiff resistance as BJP pits central minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel against him. The BJP has sent key organizers, strategists and hundreds of workers to the constituency. It is too prestigious for the party. High pitched contest is crucial if Baghel could emerge a dark horse like Shubhendu Adhikari who trounced Mamata Banerjee at Nandigram in

almost a part of the region. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had considered contesting from

Ramjanmabhoomitemple is not a great vote attractor. In the recent Zila (district) Panchayat elections BJP could get eight of 40 seats. The rest went to SP and allies. Yogi quietly shifted to Gorakhpur. Chief priest of Ramjanmabhoomi temple Mahant Satyendra Das says he told Adityanath to shift as there is commotion in Ayodhya for houses and shops being demolished due to infrastructure projects in the wake of the construction of the temple. Soaring real estate prices and manipulative land deals also are

issues, party workers say. This is an aspirational region. It contributes signifi-

Ayodhya is adjacent or cantly to agriculture but is poor on human development index. This makes the contest

tough in these seats. The region remembers Covid-19 bodies floating in the rivers, the difficult migrant labourers' trek, acute poverty and farmer problems. Akhilesh is contesting on the issue of an empathetic regime. The two major contenders have their strengths and weaknesses. Most sitting MLAs are proving a liability for the BJP.

While SP campaign is measured, sharp and avoids inciting passion, the BJP is aggressive, often raising threats from "SP's goondas, Hijab and Hindu insecurity", an attempt to polarize. There are sections of the people who are heeding Yogi. But there are others who have

decided to oppose him. There is

a palpable yearning for change in the regions.

A new social coalition is emerging. Majority community is aligning with unemployment, high prices and issues of junking of ten-year-old cars, stray cattle guzzling crops and

many more But in the first two phases it is also observed that caste groups like Tyagis and some others were swept by the Modi and community sentiments, 'rashtravad' (nationalism), law and order, women's safety and free food dole.

The silent voters may give jitters to everyoone. Amid euphoria there are fears too as minority voters consolidate. The political parties are apprehensive of BJP's influence over

the official machinery Akhilesh Yadav, instead of

Yadav candidates like in 2017, has a broader caste mix alasoincluding other OBCs, Jats, Thakurs, Brahmin, Saini, Shakya, Kurmi, Gujar and other marginal castes. This constitutes about 44 percent of the total voters. He has been adventurous in pitting Thakur, Brahmin, Jat, Gujar and other candidates even in minority hotbeds in Saharanpur, Deoband and Amroha. The bouquet, RLD leader SK Mukherjee says, is more

selecting only minority and

practical than Yogi's 80-20 (percent) formula. He excludes 20 percent minorities. In lighter vein, he says that Yogi is attempting for 80 marks in an exam against Akhilesh's 100. But polls are more than arithmetic with emotions and creepy calculations.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Biden: Russian threat to invade Ukraine still 'very high'

resurged Thursday as U.S. President Joe Biden warned that Russia could invade Ukraine within days, and violence spiked in a long-running standoff in eastern Ukraine that some worried could provide the spark for wider conflict.

World dignitaries raced for solutions, but suspicions between East and West only seemed to grow, as NATO allies rejected Russian assertions it was pulling back troops from exercises that had fueled fears of an attack. Russia is believed to have built up some 150,000 military forces around Ukraine's borders.

Concerns escalated in the West over what exactly Russia is doing with those troops, which included an estimated 60% of Russia's overall ground forces. The Kremlin insists it has no plans to invade, but it has long considered Ukraine part of its sphere of influence and NATO's eastward expansion an existential threat.

The U.S. Government issued some of its starkest, most detailed warnings yet about what could happen next.

Speaking at the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken revealed some conclusions of U.S. Intelligence in a strategy that the U.S. And Britain have hoped will expose and preempt any invasion planning. The U.S. Has declined to reveal much of the evidence underlying its claims.



People pass by an unexploded missile fired by pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine's east and taken to Kyiv as a reminder of war, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday, Feb. 18, 2022 Russia has announced massive nuclear drills while Western leaders grasp for ways to avert a new war in Europe. Tensions are soaring after unusually dire U.S. warnings that Moscow could order an invasion of Ukraine any day

He told the diplomats that a sudden seemingly violent event staged by Russia to justify invasion would kick it off Blinken mentioned a "so-called terrorist bombing" inside Russia, a staged drone strike, "a fake, even a real attack ... using chemical weapons."

The assault would open with cyberat-tacks, along with missiles and bombs across Ukraine, he said. Painting the U.S. Picture further, Blinken described the entry of Russian troops, advancing on Kyiv, a city of nearly 3 million, and other key targets.

U.S. Intelligence indicated Russia also would target "specific groups" of Ukrainians, Blinken said, again without giving details.

In an implicit nod to Secretary of State Colin Powell's appearance before the Security Council in 2003, when he cited unsubstantiated and false U.S. Intelligence to justify the U.S. Invasion of Iraq, Blinken added: "Let me be clear. I am here today not to start a war, but to prevent one."

Biden's own comments on the Russian threat were unusually dire.

Speaking at the White House, he said Washington saw no signs of a promised Russian withdrawal, and said the invasion threat remains "very high" because Russia has moved more troops toward the border with Ukraine instead of pulling them

Allies watch for Kremlin | **US Senate approves** attempt to justify Ukraine invasion

Kyiv: The U.S. Issued some of to invade, but it has long conits starkest, most detailed warnings yet about how a Russian invasion of Ukraine might unfold, and its Western allies went on high alert for any attempts by the Kremlin to create a false pretext for a new war

in Europe.
U.S. President Joe Biden sounded unusually dire Thursday, as he warned that Washington saw no signs of a promised Russian withdrawal but instead saw more troops moving toward the border with Ukraine, indicating Moscow invade within

days.
"Every indication we have is they're prepared to go into Ukraine, attack Ukraine," Biden told reporters at the White House. Ĥe said the U.S. Has "reason to believe" that Russia is "engaged in a false flag operation to have an excuse to go in," but he did not provide

Western fears focus on an estimated 150,000 Russian troops - about 60% of Russia's overall ground forces - posted around Ukraine's borders. The Kremlin insists it has no plans

sidered Ukraine part of its sphere of influence and NATO's eastward expansion an existential threat. A key demand in this crisis is that NATO promise never to allow

Ukraine to join.

Biden planned to speak
by phone Friday with trans-Atlantic leaders about the Russian military buildup and continued efforts at deterrence and diplomacy.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken revealed some conclusions of U.S. Intelligence, part of a strategy designed to expose and pre-empt any invasion planning. The U.S. Has declined to reveal much of the evidence underlying its

Blinken told diplomats at the U.N. Security Council that a sudden, seemingly violent event staged by Russia to justify an invasion would kick off the assault. Blinken mentioned a "so-called terrorist bombing" inside Russia, a staged drone strike, "a fake, even a real attack ... using chemical weapons."

resolution for Ukraine, warning Russia

Washington: The US Senate overwhelmingly voted Thursday to show unwavering support for an independent Ukraine and "condemn' Russian military aggression toward its neighbour as fresh fears emerged of a possible invasion that could spiral toward a European war.

Action in the Senate came

after President Joe Biden said the US has "every indication" of a potential Russian attack on Ukraine in a matter of days. US officials have outlined stark scenarios of President Vladimir Putin's potential plans as Russian troops remain massed at the Ukraine border.

The resolution from the senators does not carry the force of law but puts the US legislative body on record with "unwavering United States support for a secure, democratic, and independent Ukraine" and "denounces the Russian military buildup" on Ukraine's border. The vote was unanimous, without objection or the formal roll call.

"This Congress is united in its support of Ukrainian inde-



pendence and sovereignty," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, in introducing the measure with Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and others.

Senators have been racing all week to mount a response to rising tensions in the region, many eager to go even further by imposing devastating sanctions on Putin that would send shockwaves through the Russian economy.

Ukraine has strong allies in the Senate, where there is broad support for sanctions on Russia as a powerful foreign policy tool to be used if Putin furthers his aggression toward Ukraine.



OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Dated: 09.02.2022 EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. V/S M/S. EVINIX INDUSTRIES LIMITED

"ORDER." As per my order dated 09.02.2022 the under mentioned property will be sold by public e-auction sale on 24.03.2022 in the said Recovery Certificate:

The auction sale will be "online e-Auctioning" through website : www.auctiontiger.net Date and Time of Auction: 24.03.2022 between 03.00 pm and 04.00 pm (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 PM, if required)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Sr. No.	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs)
1.	Land and Building situated at Khasra No. 43, Sector 45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad, Harayana - 121 003	1,71,00,000/-	17,10,000/-
2.	Plant and Machinery lying in Lot No. 1	20,34,000/-	2,03,400/-
3.	Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 2 together	1,91,34,000/-	19,13,400/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" through website portal: www.auctiontiger.net. The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi-A/C R.C. No. 6/2019" or through NEFT/RTGS to the following account - IDBI Bank, Name of Beneficiary: Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, Account No. 0004103000054719. IFSC Code IBKL0000004. The said Demand Draft/Pay Order or original proof of payment through NEFT/RTGS qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of identity (voter lcard/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 22.03.2022 before 4.00 PM. In the case of individual, a declaration if the bid is on his/her own behalf or on behalf of his/her principals be also submitted. In the latter case, the bidder shall be required to deposit his/her authority and in case of default, his/her bid shall be rejected. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered. The envelope containing EMD or original proof of payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS, along with details

of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc., should be super-scribed "RC No.6/2019"

The property is being sold on "as is where is basis" & "as is what is basis". The bidders are advised to go through the portal www.auctiontiger.net for detailed terms and conditions for

auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proce edings and/or contact Sh. Meghrai Deshmukh, Deputy Vice President-Legal Mobile No. 7506642534 and Sh. Naman Awasthi-Assistant Manager-Legal. Mobile No. 9100018502. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well

in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from M/s. Eprocurement Technologies Limited. A-201, Wall Street-II Opp. Orient Club. Near Gujarat College. Ellis Bridge Ahmedabad-380006 Contact Person: Mr. Ram Prasad. Contact No. 8000023297 & Sh. Gagan Prakash. Contact No. 9265562818 & Sh. Chintan Bhatt Contact No. 9978591888 Email ID: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net. chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, gaganprakash@eptl.in The interested bidders may avail online training on e-auction, after deposit of EMD, from M/s.

E-procurement Technologies Limited, A-201. Wall Street-II, Opp. Orient Club, Near Gujarat College Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006 Contact Person: Mr. Ram Prasad, Contact No. 8000023297 & Sh. Gagan Prakash. Contact No. 9265562818 & Sh. Chintan Bhatt Contact No. 9978591888 Email ID: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net. chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, gaganprakash@eptl.in.

The prospective buyer may inspect the site on 10.03.2022 and 11.03.2022 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM. Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order or NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible to participate in on line e-auction.

The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by 22.03.2022 before 4.00 PM in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 24.03.2022. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes

The bidders shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only) (in respect of Lot no. 1 & 3) Rs. 20,000/- (in respect of lot no.2).

The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi/CH, i.e., EARC, immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.

The Successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C R.C. No. 6/2019 by next bank working day i.e. by 04.00 PM with this Tribunal.

The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 6/2019, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold 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 purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

15. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dasti, speed post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat of drum in its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal

16. Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in vernacular language, having

adequately wide circulation in the area. 17. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs

The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the

Lot No.	Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrances to which the property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other know particulars bearing on its nature and value
1.	Land and Building situated at Khasra No. 43, Sector 45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad, Harayana - 121 003	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
2.	Plant and Machinery lying in Lot No. 1	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
3.	Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 2 together	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known

Matter be listed on 28.02.2022 for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of e-auction.



of the publication be filed before next date of hearing

(Dattatrey Bajpayee) Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi

Satellite photos give a bird's eye view of Ukraine crisis

Washington:Widely available commercial satellite imagery of Russian troop positions bracketing Ukraine provides a bird'seye view of an international crisis as it unfolds. But the pictures, while dramatic, have limitations.

High-resolution photos from commercial satellite companies like Maxar in recent assembly areas, airfields, artillery positions and other activities on the Russian side of the Ukrainian border and in southern Belarus as well as on the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized from Ukraine in

The images confirmed what U.S. And other Western officials have been saying: Russian forces are arrayed

within striking distances of Ukraine. But they could not provide conclusive information about net additions or subtractions of Russian forces or reveal when or whether an invasion of Ukraine would happen. In such a fluid crisis, even day-old satellite photos might miss significant changes on the ground.

Russia to stage massive nuclear drills amid Ukraine standoff

Moscow:The Russian military on Friday announced massive drills of its strategic nuclear forces, a stark reminder of the country's nuclear might amid Western fears that Moscow might be preparing to invade Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will personally oversee Saturday's exercise, which will involve multiple practice launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles and cruise **AP** | missiles, the Defense Ministry

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin would observe the drills from the Defense Ministry's situation room and supervise the practice missile launches himself.

The ministry said it planned the maneuvers some time ago to check the readiness of Russia's military command and personnel, as well as the reliability of its nuclear and conventional weapons.

Origo Commodities India Pvt Ltd Morigo (CIN: U51103DL2011PTC213352)

Registered Office: FK-06, First Floor, Somdatt Chamber - I, 5, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066 Corporate Office: Plot No. 37, 1st Floor, Institutional Area, Sector - 18, Gurgaon - 1220016 Tel: +911244934750 email:info@origoindia.com website: www.origoindia.com

PUBLIC NOTICE CORRECTION FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

Notice is hereby given to all the stakeholders that period mentioned in the financials of the Company for the quarter ended 31st December, 2021 published in the newspaper "PIONEER" English and Hindi (Delhi Edition) on Friday, 18th February 2022 be read as follows: (Figures In Lacs)

For the 9 month period ended For the quarter ended For the year December 31, 2021 September 30, 2021 December 31, 2021 December 31, 2020 March 31, 2021 Unaudited Point No. 5 be read as follows

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Road Bangalore- 560068

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction

of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand

notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

As Described In The Loan Document/ Property Document Covering Door No 354, Ward 20 Arakinar Po, Beypore Village Meenchandatown Resy No 132/11B, Calicut 673028

Date of Symbolic Possession: 14- Feb- 2022

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

FORMAT C-1

DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES

Name and address of Candidate: S. Manpreet Singh Ayali R/O V.P.O Gorsian

, Manpreet Singh Ayali, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare

Name of Election: General Legislative Assembly Election Puniab -2022

for public information the following details about my criminal actecedents:

Fir No. 0026 | Challan has | Not Applicable | U/S 186, 323, 341, 511 IPC. Fir was

(B) Detail about cases of conviction for criminal offences.

Kadar Baksh, Tehsil Jagraon, Distt. Ludhiana-142033.

Case No. | Status of

CHI/40693/ Appearance

and Date | Cases

not been

presented

Name of Political Party: SHIROMANI AKALI DAL

*Name of Constituency: 068-DAKHA.

SI. A. Pending Criminal Cases

The above standalone results have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 8th February 2022 and have been reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company in accordance with the requirement of regula 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations).

For Origo Commodities India Private Limited

Date:18th February, 2022 Place: Gurugram

Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number

Bhavin Mekunnath/ Divya/

LBCLT00002413295

Date: February 19, 2022

Place: Gurgaon

No. Name of

Court

Sh. Sumit

Ludhiana

PS North,

2. Nil

Chandigarh

Makkar CJM, 2021

(Matter under | before the

investigation) | court

No. Name of Court & Date(s) of order(s)

Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)

09-Aug-21 Rs.

36.26.663.00/-

|Section(s) of Acts concerned and

U/S 188/283/341/431 of IPC 1860 & 8B of

National Highway Act. Fir was Registered when

Highways was blocked during protest (Dharna)

brief description of offence(s)

registered for protesting against

Description of offence(s) & Punishment imposed

CM Haryana.

Not Applicable

Not Applicable

Name of Branch

Calicut

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

Race excluded as WH rolls out climate justice screening tool

Washington: The Biden administration on Friday released a screening tool to help identify disadvantaged communities long plagued by environmental hazards, but it won't include race as a factor in deciding where to devote

Administration officials told reporters that excluding race will make projects less likely to draw legal challenges and will be easier to defend, even knowledged that race has been a major factor in terms of who experi- Advisory Council.

ences environmental injustice.

The decision was harshly challenged by members of the environmental justice community.

"It's a major disappointment and it's a major flaw in trying to identify those communities that have been hit hardest by pollution," said Robert Bullard, a professor of urban planning and environmental policy at Texas Southern University in Houston and a member of

Pak court directs Islamabad IG to file report on detained journalist's police torture allegation

Islamabad: The Islamabad High Court on Friday ordered the city police chief to file a report by February 21 on the allegation of police torture made by a senior media personality who was arrested recently.

Mohsin Baig was arrested on Wednesday from his house here by officials of police and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on the complaint of communication minister Murad Saeed that he made "indecent" comments against him during a TV talk show.

Baig told the media while being presented before a court after his arrest that he was subjected to physical torture by the

the Islamabad High Court (IHC) of a petition filed by Baig's wife for the dismissal of terrorism and other charges

brought against him. The petitioner's lawyer said Baig was severely tortured by 15 people in the room of the Station House Officer (SHO).

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah ordered the Inspector General (IG) of Islamabad to file a formal report of alleged torture by police personnel by February 21. He also ordered that legal access to Baig should not be blocked.

However, the IHC dismissed the petition by saying that only Baig himself can file the petition to delete terrorism charges against him and also granted permission to Baig to file the petition.

The issue of torture again came up during a hearing by

Hundreds rescued from ferry fire near Greek island

Athens: A fire on an Italybound ferry in the Ionian Sea early Friday required rescuers to carry out an overnight evacuation of more than 280 people near the Greek island of Corfu, authorities said.

A crew member and two passengers were hospitalized with breathing difficulties. There were no initial reports of anyone missing, but a full check of passenger and crew member lists was expected to take several hours, the Greek

The rescued passengers

were being transported to "This is a difficult opera-

tion and we must remain cautious. The final accounting of the people on board will take place on Corfu when everyone rescued is assembled there," Greek Deputy Minister for Shipping Costas Katsafados told state-run ERT television.

Sensex, Nifty extend losses to 3rd day as global cues weigh

lower for the third day in a row on Friday as participants remained cautious amid geopolitical uncertainties in eastern Europe. Persistent selling by foreign investors and expectations of policy tightening by global central banks kept sentiment muted, traders said.

After swinging about 700 points between gains and losses, the BSE Sensex finally closed 59.04 points or 0.10 per cent lower at 57,832.97. On similar lines, the NSE Nifty edged lower by 28.30 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 17,276.30.

The Sensex was dragged

Gold climbs Rs 77; silver jumps Rs 379 PTI NEW DELHI

old prices rose by Rs 77 to Rs 50,037 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 49,960 per 10 grams. Silver zoomed by Rs 379 to Rs 63,869 per kg, from Rs 63,490 per kg in the previous

Healthcare industry veteran Kapil Khandelwal's Toro

Finserve has announced the

launch of its maiden health-

care fund with a USD 1 billion

(about Rs 7,450 crore) com-

mitment from investors, pri-

marily hedge funds and

healthcare industry players.

Khandelwal, who launched

the country's first quant (algo-

based) hedge fund -- EquNev-

Toro Finserve

launches USD 1

bn healthcare fund

77, reflecting overnight gains in COMEX gold prices," Tapan Patel, senior analyst (commodities) at HDFC Securities, said. In the international market, gold was trading 0.1 per cent lower at USD 1,896 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.94

sell-off was seen in late hours.

Rupee spurts by 40 paise to over 2-week high against US dollar

The rupee spurted by 40 I paise, its biggest singleday gain in over three months, to settle at a more than twoweek high of 74.66 against the US dollar on Friday on hopes of a diplomatic solution to the East-West standoff over Ukraine. A fall in crude oil prices also supported the local currency, analysts said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 75.03 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.60 and a low of 75.05. The rupee settled at 74.66, registering a rise of 40 paise or 0.53 per cent over its previous close of 75.06. The rupee had closed the session on Thursday at 75.11 (provisionally) but later settled at 75.06.

Govt to launch doorstep distribution drive to

PNS NEW DELHI

the seventh year of implementation with the upcoming Kharif season, the government on Friday said it will launch a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to

ensure all farmers are well aware and equipped with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under the PMFBY, the Agriculture Ministry said. The doorstep campaign will be launched in all implementing states in the upcoming Kharif season, the ministry said in a statement. PMFBY, launched in February 2016, aims to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities. According to the ministry, over 36 crore farmer applications have been insured under the PMFBY, with have already been paid under the scheme as of February 4, this year. The crop insurance scheme has been able to provide financial assistance to the most vulnerable farmers as around 85 per cent of the farmers enrolled with the scheme are small and

hedge funds and from a few domestic healthcare industry players, Khandelwal told PTI on Friday, but refused to name them citing confidentiality. The first investment should be done over the next three-four months, he added. Khandelwal, who has over

mitments are from global

30 years of experience in the healthcare industry, launched Toro Finserve in 2020. He was previously associated with KPMG in Bahrain as a part-

'The Founders': Book tells story behind making of tech giant PayPal

 $M_{
m story}^{
m apping}$ the trailblazing story of multinational digital-payments company PayPal, a new book sheds light on how a scrappy start-up turned into one of the most successful companies of all time, worth over USD 70 billion today.

"The Founders", written by author Jimmy Soni, offers colourful anecdotes about perennially popular figures like Elon Musk and Peter Thiel with the gripping true story of how PayPal reimagined the digital age. It will hit the stands on February 24.

Based on original research and rare interviews with Peter Thiel, Elon Musk and others

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Dr. Jalaja Raj W/o Mr. N. Pown Raj R/o Flat No.153, 2rdFloor, Pkt. 3, Sec.23, Rohini allottee of Flat No.153, 2rdFloor, Pkt. 3, Sec.23, Rohini, Delhi has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Demand Letter, Handing Over Possession, Site Possession, N.O.C for electricity and water connection, Bank challans etc. of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station Tilak Marg, New Delhi, vide NCR No.4196/2007 on 17.12.2007. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with abov named person at above address/phone no 9871155155 within 15 days from the date o publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect t this property can personally inform or Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director(H)-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is known to all men that the owner allottee Anjali Aggarwal Sharma w/o Shr Vineet Kumar Sharma R/o Flat No Vikram1402, Grihparavesh Sector-77 Noida has given her General Power of Attorney to Mr. Parvinder Singh S/o Shri Daljit Singh R/o C-206, Prateek Wisteria Sector-77. Noida., in respect of Flat No Vikram 1402, Grihparavesh Sector-77 Noida, and the above said GPA holder is transferring the above said flat in favour of Sumitavo Biswas S/o Shri Jagdiswa Biswas R/o 2149, Vasto Tower, Mahagur Moderne, Sector-78, Noida. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection with documentary evidence is the Group Housing department of Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice

Parvinder Singh

K1t Capital -- which he later sold to the England-based Coleman Group in 2018, said the digital healthcare impact ner, headed the global health-care division at Wipro, and fund will make most of its was the managing director of investments to accelerate Cisco's healthcare business in adoption of digital healththe APAC and emerging mar-

> the book, published by Atlantic Books, claims to contain "juicy details not yet made public".

'genius' than 'scenius'.

"Modern technology tales are usually told as stories of individual achievement-more

of tender can be seen and

website where the tende

Price rise needed for survival of certain Coal India subsidiaries

Mining major Coal India has flagged an urgent need for price hike of the dry fuel, contending that without which, "certain subsidiaries" would find it "difficult to survive", company sources

said on Friday.

It is also trying to bring stakeholders on board to build a consensus for hiking prices, they said. In an effort to tide over inflationary pressure, the miner will likely raise prices after the assembly elections in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, in March the sources said.

"Every day is critical for me. A price hike has become very urgent. For certain subsidiaries, survival depends on it," Coal India Cĥairman Pramod Agrawal is understood to have told investors on Thursday, they said. Agrawal, however, did not disclose the name of the subsidiaries

Global coal prices have been on the higher side, which has led to greater demand for the dry fuel from domestic sources.

He also said wage negotiations are expected to be completed in 2022-23. The mining behemoth is facing huge cost pressure from proposed wage hikes and fuel costs, the sources said.

In the second quarter of the current fiscal, higher diesel prices had resulted in cost inflation by around Rs 700 crore, the chairman had said earlier.

Particulars

ncome (after tax)]

Equity Share Capital

otal income from operations let Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax

omprising Profit/(Loss) for the period lifter tax) and Other Comprehensive

shown in the Audited Balance Sheet

of the previous year Earnings per share (of 2/- each)

Place : Hisar Date : 11th February, 2022

SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd."

UNITED TEXTILES LIMITED

Registered Office:- 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar

CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND

NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

1.43

. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Sto

Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015. The ful format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the website of the Sto

(Erstwhile Small Business Fineredit India Pvt. Ltd.) Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. on 26th February 2022 or thereafter at 10 AM at 0 - 7, 1st Floor, 'above Look Saloon', Lajata Nagar-2, New Delhi-110024, Faridabad, Haryana-121001 and Gurugram branch First Floor, Property No. 342/9, Subhash Nagar, 1 st Floor, New Railway Road, Gurugram-122001, Noida Branch add- Plot No. 5, Ground Floor, Opposite White Castle Hotel, Main Dadri Road, Salarpur, Bhangel, Sector 101, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida 201304 (UP), Ghaziabad add- 82, ABSEMBT, RDC RAI NAGAR, GAZIABAD -201002, Hapur add- First Floor, Above PC Jewellers, Garah Pargana, Garah Road, Tehsil & District Hapur 245101, (UP)
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

B2, BASEMENT, RDC RÅI NAGAR, GAZIABAD -201002, Hapur add- First Floor, Above at Pargana, Garah Road, Tehsil & District Hapur 245101, (UP) ents to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have in dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. be auctioned belong to Doeduce land mocounts of our various Customers with banch name. h. PR00947695/AP00182435, PR00973325/AP00153595, PR009862727/AP00336316, pp. 8009701805/AP00182435, PR00973326/AP00153595, PR00988510/AP00327273, pp. 800973127/AP001825359, PR00988510/AP0032729, pp. 800978172/AP00330279, pp. 80097872/AP00330279, pp. 8009

For more details, please contact:

SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Contact Number(s): Lajpat Nagar 1800-102-8012 / 011-40305228 / 207, Faridabad:
01294314725/4104450 and Gurgaon Branch 0124-4276037,

Ghaziabad branch - 9205325672, Hapur branch - 8439761293

(SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.reserves the right to alter the imber of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.

Exchange, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website, www.unitedtextileslimited.com.

(Rs. in Lakhs except per Share data
Quarter Ended Half Year Ended Year Ended
31.12.2021 30.9.2021 31.12.2020 31.12.2021 31.12.2020 31.3.2021

1326.82

300.00

Address Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square, Sangam

Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala,

Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300

Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com|

738.82

For United Textile Ltd.

DIN 07079208

CSB Bank gets RBI nod Co-promoter to appoint Pralay Mondal as Deputy MD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SB Bank on Friday said the Reserve Bank has approved appointment of Pralay Mondal as the deputy managing director of the private sector lender for three years.

"Pralay Mondal has been appointed as Deputy Managing Director of CSB Bank post RBI's approval in terms of Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. His tenure is for three years from February 17, 2022," CSB Bank said in a statement. His prior appoint-

ment in the bank since September 23, 2020 was as President (Retail, SME, Operations and IT). With over 30 years of banking experience across multiple business and functions including retail assets, retail liabilities, business banking, products and technology, Mondal has been instrumental in building up various facets in leading banks and reputable organisations such as Axis Bank, Yes Bank, HDFC Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Wipro InfoTech and Colgate Palmolive.

Mahindra Electric ties up with CSC to promote EV adoption in rural India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd (MEML) on Friday said it has partnered with Common Service Centres (CSC), a government organisation that helps provide employment in rural India, to promote adoption of electric vehicles. Through this association with CSC, MEML will offer its range of electric vehicles like the Treo and Alfa to aspiring customers the rural markets. Commenting on the partnership, MEML CEO Suman Mishra said,"Such tie-ups can provide gainful employment opportunities for the educated youth in India to earn a proud livelihood." The earning ability with

Mahindra electric three-wheel ers is quite high while the maintenance is the lowest when compared to conventional fuel vehicles and the benefit to environment is significant, she added.

Gangwal resigns from IndiGo board

PTI NEW DELHI

ndiGo's co-promoter Rakesh **⊥**Gangwal on Friday resigned from the board of directors of parent company InterGlobe Aviation, stating that he will gradually reduce his equity stake in the airline over the next five years. Gangwal and his related entities own around 37 per cent stake in this company. Rahul Bhatia and his related entities own around 38 per cent in InterGlobe Aviation.

"I have been a long-term shareholder in the company for more than 15 years and it's only natural to someday think about diversifying one's holding," Gangwal said in his letter to the board members. "Accordingly, my current intention is to slowly reduce my equity stake in the company over the next five plus years," he added. At an extraordinary general meeting held on December 30, IndiGo shareholders had approved a special resolution to remove a clause from the company's Articles of Association (AoA) which gave its two promoters the power of right of first refusal when one of them wanted to sell his shares.

Sebi lifts restrictions on 10 entities in Zee Entertainment insider trading case

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday lifted restrictions imposed on ten entities, including individuals, in a matter pertaining to alleged insider trading in the scrip of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd.

They were alleged to have traded in the scrip of the firm while in possession of unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) pertaining to audited financial results of ZEEL for the quarter ended June 30, 2020. They allegedly violated Prohibition of Insider Trading norms. Consequently, the regulator had barred 15 entities from accessing securities mar-

ket till further directions The 15 entities are -- Bijal Shah, Gopal Ritolia, Jatin Chawla, Amit Bhanwarlal Jajoo, Manish Kumar Jajoo, Gomati Devi Ritolia, Ďaljit Gurucharan Chawla, Monika Lakhotia, Pushpadevi Jajoo, Bhawarlal Ramniwas Jajoo, Bhawarlal

Jajoo HÚF, Ritesh Kumar Kamalkishore Jajoo, Successure Partners, Yash Anil Jajoo and Vimla Somani.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II. DELHI**

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.

SALE PROCLAMATION

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. V/S M/S. EVINIX INDUSTRIES LTD.

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY CD#1: M/s Evinix Industries Limited Throug Official Liquidator Attached to Punjab & Haryana High Court,

Chandigarh Corporate Bhawan, Plot No. 4-B, 2nd Floor, Sector-27-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh

CD#2: Mr. Rajeev Taneja S/o Mr.T.D. Taneja Rammashraya, KH-43, Sector-45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad-121003 (Haryana). Also at: House No. 218, Sector-21-B, Faridabad121007 CD#3: Mr. K.M. Gupta S/o Mr. J.K. Gupta, Rammashraya, KH-43, Sector-45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad-

121003 (Haryana). Also at: N-158, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi CD#4: M/s Ambros Exports P. Ltd. Rammashraya, KH-43, Sector-45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad-121003

(Haryana). Also at: M-43, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Whereas as per Recovery Certificate No. 6/2019 dated 07.03.2019 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II mentioning a sum of Rs.87,59,81,515/-(Rs. Eighty Seven Crores Fifty Nine Lacs Eighty One

Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Only) has become due from you as per the ibid Recovery Certificate drawn in OA No.215/2012 by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, Delhi. The applicant is entitled to recover a sum of Rs.48,03,49,779/- (Rs. Forty Eight Crores Three Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine Only) and Applicant No.2, PNB is entitled to recover a sum of Rs. 39,56,31,736/- (Rs. Thirty Nine Crores Fifty Six Lacs Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Six Only) from the CDs jointly and/or severally with pendentelite future interest @ 12% p.a. from 30.08.2012 onwards until recovery for Rs.1,50,000/-.

- 2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-
- auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website M/s. E-procurement Technologies Limited, A-201, Wall Street-II, Opp. Orient Club, Near Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006 Contact Person: Mr. Ram Prasad, Contact No. 8000023297 & Sh. Gagan Prakash, Contact No. 9265562818 & Sh. Chintan Bhatt Contact No. 9978591888 Email ID: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, gaganprakash@eptl.in on 24.03.2022 between 03.00 p.m.to 04.00 p.m. with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 PM, if required.
- The sale shall be of the property of the CD(s) 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.
- The property shall be put up for the sale as specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale will also be stopped if, before auction is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.
- 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 the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further 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
- The Reserve Price below which the property shall not be sold is: 7.2

Description of the Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	(EMD) (In Rs)
Land and Building situated at Khasra No. 43, Sector 45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad, Harayana - 121 003	1,71,00,000/-	17,10,000/-
Plant and Machinery lying in Lot No. 1	20,34,000/-	2,03,400/-
Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 2 together	1,91,34,000/-	19,13,400/-
	Land and Building situated at Khasra No. 43, Sector 45, Mewla	Land and Building situated at Khasra No. 43, Sector 45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad, Harayana - 121 003 Plant and Machinery lying in Lot No. 1 (In Rs.) 1,71,00,000/-

- 7.3 The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price, alongwith documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof, etc., and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, latest by 22.03.2022 before 4.00 PM in the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 24.03.2022. In the case of individual, a declaration if the bid is on his/her own behalf or on behalf of his/her principals be also submitted. In the latter case, the bidder shall be required to deposit his/her authority and in case of default, his/her bid shall be rejected. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get o's Recextended for 5 minutes. The bidder(s) shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only) (in respect of
- Lot no. 1&3) Rs. 20,000/- (in respect of lot no. 2). The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi/
- CH, i.e., EARC, immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
- 7.6 The Successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 6/2019 by next bank working day i.e. by 04.00 PM with this Tribunal.
- 7.7 The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 6/2019, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery
- Officer as above). 7.8 In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, 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 purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
- The CH Bank/CHFI is directed to authenticate and verify about the veracity of the details given herein. 10. 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 SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Lot No.	Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrances to which the property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other know particulars bearing on its nature and value
1.	Land and Building situated at Khasra No. 43, Sector 45, Mewla Maharajpur, Faridabad, Harayana - 121 003	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
2.	Plant and Machinery lying in Lot No. 1	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
3.	Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 2 together	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known

Sd/-(Dattatrey Bajpayee) Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi

lower by mainly Ultratech Cement, M&M, Infosys, Equity indices surrendered mid-session gains to close Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance and Nestle -- dropping as much as 1.88 per cent.

In contrast, HDFC topped the gainers' chart with a jump of 1.25 per cent, followed by L&T, Axis Bank, SBI, Dr Reddy's, Kotak Bank and HDFC Bank. On the index, 17 shares closed in the negative zone. "...Market opened low taking cues from yesterday's sell-off in Wall Street following

Reports that the US Secretary of State agreed to meet the Russian foreign minister in order to ease tension helped the domestic market to

the release of FOMC meeting

trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat gold at Delhi were up by Rs

deliver crop insurance policies to farmers

As the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) enters

The doorstep campaign Meri Policy Mere Hath' aims to marginal farmers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf or President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work. Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

	Name of work with its location	Annual zone work for maintenance & repair of bridges in jurisdiction of ADEN/ROK for period of 02 years for period ending 30.06.2023. (NIT 37-W-IV-21-22)
2	Approx. cost of work	(1) Rs. 79,99,997.16
3	Earnest money	(1) Rs. 1,60,000.00
4	Date and Time of	Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 hrs.
	submission of tender and	on 01.03.2022 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs.
	opening of tender	on 15.03.2022
5	Website particulars,	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e.
	published e-tender, notice	www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Serving Customers with a Smile

360/2022

No.: 128-W/260/Tender Notice/37-W-IV/21-22 Date: 17.02.2022

No. SSA/Esstt/Print/IE/MAHW/518/2021/8986 Date: 18.02.2022 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission(Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web Offset Machine/ Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of Module, Activity Book, Hand Book in Assamese Version. To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document.

bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing

the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/ Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director, Janasanyog/CF/3408/21 SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

shape my understanding of -Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Great musicians like Lataji,

Bollywood

DIA MIRZA

Marriage is about balance, harmony and communication. Right from the first moment that I met Vaibhav, there was a deep connection and trust between us and everything that followed was simple. easy and effortless. I truly feel at home with him because he sees me as I am and has no desire to alter me



DARSHAN JARIWALA Since the pandemic, the delivery mode of content and especially theatre has changed. Teleplays are a great way of archiving good theatre and this is a positive step that must be encouraged. Electronic media and storytelling through film, the small screen and via the web is the way forward.



SHORTCIRCUITS

Ever since I started as a Climate Warrior, my intent was to create as much awareness as possible around sustainability as a way of life and how climate change is going to impact all our lives. I wanted to reach out to as many people as possible.



JAKE GYLLENHAAL

At some point, it's important that when a star's supporters become unruly, we feel a responsibility to make them civil again and not allow cyberbullying. This involves a deeper philosophical question. About how we have to take responsibility for what we do.

KANYE WEST

When I already had the house and the wife and the kids and the plaques... (I) would still have moments where I felt suicidal. I would still have moments where I'm addicted to Percocets (a pain reliever) and don't even realise it, you know what I'm saying?



TALK CELEB

POLYGLOT PRIYAMANI

The actor has stretched her boundaries to act in films from five different languages, says Saimi Sattar

hile the heroes might have been grabbing eyeballs, Priyamani has the distinction of having acted in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi films. The recipient of the National Film Award for Best Actress and three Filmfare Awards, she made her debut in the Telugu film Evare Atagaadu (2003). She gained widespread recognition for her role as village girl Muththazhagu in the Tamil romantic drama Paruthiveeran (2007). Her notable works include Raam (2009), Raavan (2010), Raavanan (2010), Pranchiyettan & the Saint (2010), Chaarulatha (2012) and Idolle Ramayana (2016). She will be seen in Bhamakalapam next. Excerpts from an

□What made you take up *Bhamakalapam*?

The reason why I took up Bhamakalapam was the way it was narrated. When Bharat Kamma, the director, narrated the story over Zoom, I really liked the way it was told. I had not played the character before and I felt it would be a good debut character for me to play and that too for an OTT platform.

□How do you approach any character? Do you take inspiration from people around you or listen to the director's ver-

I am more of a spontaneous actor. I did not do any homework for this role. I just went with my instinct. I do observe a lot of people on a day to day basis and how they observe a situation or how they are at home or how they manage their home and how they are at it. So, I observe that on a combinaday to day basis. So, maybe, some of these reactions inspire me. More so, it is also, how the director envisions the character. Sometimes when I feel that the character needs to be toned down a little bit — be it the body language or the dialogues — I suggest it to the director and he also makes some suggestions. It is a give and take. And I was fortunate that Abhimanyu as a director was kind enough to incorporate story was unimy suggestions for the character.

☐The big screen and OTT... what is the difference for actors?

I wouldn't say there is much of a difference between the two per se. But one difference is the variety of characters that can be played in OTT, it is a lot different. And even the choice of roles is quite vast and different. It is also quite challenging.

☐You do not have a background in the industry. How tough were the initial years?

Fortunately for me, I wouldn't say it was very tough but I have had my fair share of ups and downs in the initial years. My first film was Kangalal Kaidhu Sei in Tamil. We started shooting in 2002 but it was released in 2003. Similarly, there was Balu Mahendra's Adhu Oru Kana Kaalam that we start-

ed in 2004 and by the time it was released it was the end of 2005. I did feel every time I chose to do a film, by the time it was released it took a vear or a vear and a half. There were times I was sitting at home and doing absolutely nothing or doing some modelling work. And once Paruthiveeran (2006) came and released... the rest as they say is history. Pellaina Kothalo

(2006)... Did you think it would become so big? And what were the challenges that came in your I honestly did not think it would become

so big but I was really happy that people loved the film. The tion of Jagapati Babu and myself. It was my first film Telugu where I was playing the lead and the versal and the director Madantod me absolutely loved it and told him that I wanted to

be a part of it.

Then Jagapati

Babu called to say that he was excited for me to be a part. The only challenge I had to go through was learning Telugu. I started talking to people and that is how I picked it up. The film was the breeziest one that I have done. It was a fun film and even now I think a lot of people watch it, they tag me in social media posts and tell me that they have watched the film and loved it.

> ☐How difficult is playing a reallife character as you did in Thirakkatha (2008)? Do you emulate the mannerisms? Or how do you go about it? The difficulty

Thirakkatha was after the ovarian cancer thing came up. The makeup took three hours. The makeup boy was in tears when the whole thing was done. A little bit of difficulty also cropped up when Ranjith (the direc-

tor) wanted me to walk a little odd or a little differently. Moreover, the whole film was on my shoulders. After the narration, the first thing that I asked Ranjith sir was, 'Do you have the faith in me that I can do it? It is such a beautiful story. I don't know what faith you have in me that I can carry it.' He said. 'I have faith in you and only you can do it.' I am really thankful that he thought that I would the role. I did emulate a n y

What makes you take up any project? Primarily the script and if my role is good. And if I am convinced that I can take up the project I do it. Else, I would not. I have

his guidance. □You have acted in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi films. How do you get the nuances right? What

blind trust in Ranjith sir and I just followed

is the difference in industries? I am one of the lucky ones to have acted in all five industries and I am still doing it. The nuances are just as per the director's wishes. I just go one step at a time.

The difference is in the language, the crew, the co-stars, directors and the unit. Apart from that, the shooting process is very much the same in all the languages.

□Awards or popular acclaim. What would you choose?

Why not both? Awards are a reward for your work and popular acclaim is equally

Films from South India are making waves while earlier, the Hindi film industry held sway. What would you attribute the reasons

I am glad that South India is being recognised and at this point, we should all be called Indian actors rather than Bollywood or South Indian actors. And yes, I am glad that South Indians are getting recognition in Bollywood whether it is the technicians or the artistes. Earlier, there were Sridevi, Rekha, Vyjayanthimala, Hema Malini all of them ruled Bollywood and then there was a dearth. So, better late than never.

Do you think the audience will return to theatres or will OTT continue to hold

I hope that theatres go back to normal viewing. I feel that situation is slowly getting better. I hope that theatre viewing doesn't end because all of us work hard in making our films. The theatrical experience is completely different. You don't get the same feeling when you are watching it on OTT. During the pandemic, the OTT was booming but I hope that theatrical experience comes back to normal and people return to cinemas with

maintained this and I will always continue





Actor Kangana Ranaut was in the capital for the promotion of her new reality show, Lock Upp. Indian television producer, film producer and director, Ekta Kapoor, accompanied her to the Bangla Sahib

ism. It

¬he Padma Shri awardee, from Arunachal Pradesh, is one of the few modern Indian writers that have managed to add 'seminal' as a title in front of their names.

achievement. She was the first woman from her state, then NEFA, to be selected for IAS, but decided to pursue journalism instead. Although she excelled in the field, she has never thought about how her life would have been if she had chosen the former career. We're glad she didn't! Or we wouldn't be blessed with such great stories and poetry.

Poetry and prose are her strong suit, but she defines poetry as "the real lifeline." The writer had also won the Sahitya Akademi Award for her novel The Black Hill in 2017.

Read on for excerpts from an exclusive interview with Dai about her latest creation, Escaping the

○•• What inspired you to begin this book and this saga? Please give us an overview of the same.

This book was always in the making, at the back of my mind, even when I was writing something else. A part of the book is a recollection of NEFA times based on firsthand accounts when Arunachal was the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA). Shillong was the capital and I can't imagine how our parents took all the trouble to ferry us back and forth from boarding school in Shillong to wherever my father was posted at the time.

For my brothers and me, childhood was a landscape of rivers, stones, sand, ferry ghats and walking – one posting was a six-day foot march through the dense jungle when we were cajoled, carried, from one camp to another until we

Stories of time, geography and memory

the in front of their names.
The writer dons multiple caps of the NEFA account of the NEFA days in her latest book, Escaping The Land. By Khushbu Kirti

> reached our destination — a small outpost, where it was a solid three months' winter break before making the return journey back to school. Much of this travelling was through the districts now linked by the country's longest rail-road Bogibeel bridge and the country's longest Dhola Sadiya bridge, the latter also known as Bhupen Hazarika Setu, linking Assam and Arunachal

> It was how it was then with the families of NEFA officers serving in the Indian Frontier Administrative

The other portion of the book is more current, dealing with contemporary state politics with flashbacks inspired by real events. Viz: Achingmori, the era of political interpreters, the 1962 war, the constitutional and political changes, growth and attainment of statehood.

In fact, 2022 marks the closure of the erstwhile North East Frontier Agency and is the state's golden jubilee year of achieving Union Territory status under the brand-new name of Arunachal Pradesh — 'land of the dawn-lit mountains'.

➡From Kojum-Koja to Arunachal Pradesh, talk to us about the journey covered in the

About the story of the ancient civilisation of Kojum-Koja, this crept in because these references to



mythical times and different worlds like a land of fish and stars are parts of oral literature that is still chanted by traditional shaman priests invited to perform at special festivals.

₩What is the significance of the title — *Escaping the Land*? It was the only title I could think

Midway, I thought maybe -NEFA Notebook, but somehow, 'EL' as it is labelled in my manuscripts, stuck. It's a way of looking at what we say about the grass being greener on the other side. There was a boom period when everyone who had money was looking to invest outside of the state, going into big business, housing schemes and buying apartments.

It's also about the desire to travel out from your hometown, to be somewhere else, even though, more often than not, it's just to come back full circle — that sort of thing.

Is the objective behind writing this recording the history of your land and talking about the untold stories?

Well, in the last 50 years, Arunachal has undergone tremendous changes. I can tell you Itanagar has changed overnight from a rather ragged place of unfinished buildings to a place full of Korean eateries, gyms and shopping malls. So writing is a record of sorts, of a feeling a remembrance of where we came

from to get here.

For this book, I would say that there is still a great deal of nostalgia for the NEFA days. After all, it is the state's common foundation. I also feel there was an air of innocence about that time, of integrity and even romance, and I wanted to write about this based on my father's anecdotes, those of his colleagues and books and memoirs of some great pioneer officers like Nari K Rustomji, Krishnatry, Indira Miri, to name

Recently, a family in Assam was remembering how their father had gone off a long time ago, across the river, to serve as a school teacher in one of those unheard-of places in NEFA. They saw him on rare home visits, now and then, they told me, reminiscing. So, these are the stories

of time, geography, memory. Also, I feel the NEFA era and the Indo-China border war has little documentation/record/ of the tribal peoples' voices — how it was, what did they hear, what happened in the villages, what about the atmosphere of utter pandemonium as everyone fled before an advancing the Chinese army and how does it impact us now.

What is never lost is the original obsession that was a dream of love'. Please elaborate on this for

In the context of the book, I guess this line is for Lutor and Umsi. nere is love for the land, love for its

people, love for each other, maybe lost, and found. In the end, I think everyone wants to find and feel, a return to love. This can be a feeling of anticipation — a sense of wonder and mystery that is equal to a state of being in love, that there is something bigger than us beyond our doubts and struggles. Hard to explain. The reader will have to find its meaning for themselves.

➡I truly believe we need more female authors to write stories of women since they were either wiped out from the pages of history or their truths misconstrued by male voices. Care to weigh in?

Yes, in the historical context, the stories of women have been lost or misconstrued, but we can find them again and make up our minds. There are well known and widely read women writers taking a look at the literature of different periods from biblical times to Greek drama, western classical literature and portrayals of women in the great epics the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Female authors are writing in every genre with great impact, so I think the job is getting

How do you like to portray your female characters? For, Maying seems to be a determined woman looking for herself by unravelling the stories of people around her.

About portrayal of female characters: the female characters are like the women I know. There's love, loyalty, wit and endurance, intellect and vulnerability. Maying is determined because in the book she represents these qualities of women who are secure because they know who they are.

FERRAN EARNS DRAW FOR BARCELONA

AP BARCELONA

Rangers stunned Borussia Dortmund 4-2 in the Europa League on Thursday while Barcelona had to come from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Napoli in their play-off first leg tie.

In Dortmund, James Tavernier gave Rangers the lead with a 38th-minute penalty after a handball by Dan-Axel Zagadou from a corner.

Three minutes later, Dortmund again failed to cope with a Panagara

again failed to cope with a Rangers

Joe Aribo nodded the ball to the far post where Alfredo Morelos was unmarked and scored from close

Four minutes after the break, Ryan Kent, who tormented Dortmund all night, found John Lundstram who scored with a pow-

Jude Bellingham replied for the home team with a rasping left-foot

But two minutes after that, Rangers scored again as Zagadou, attempting to deprive Morelos of another tap in, deflected the ball into his own goal.

Raphael Guerreiro cut the deficit with eight minutes left with a ferocious long-range left-footer but

Rangers survived without further

"It is a great night but only a great night," said Rangers manager Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

"We are not through to the next round, which is what we want. We know we have to have a good performance next week."

Napoli gained a 1-1 draw in

The visitors, challenging for the Serie A title, opened the scoring in the Nou Camp against a home team that is scrambling just to finish in the top four in Le Lies. the top four in La Liga.
Polish midfielder Piotr

Zielinski ran onto his own rebound to slam the ball home after 29 min-

Barcelona increasingly dominated possession but needed one of four penalties awarded for handball by VAR in the Europa League on Thursday to level.

Adama Traore's cross hit Juan Jesus on the arm after 59 minutes.

Ferran Torres converted the penalty with confidence for his first goal at Camp Nou for Barcelona but his cool deserted him as he hit two good chances over the bar as Barcelona dominated the closing



"We played very good foot-ball," said Barca coach Xavi. "But of course, it's not a friend-

ly, it's the Europa League. The result is insufficient, but I am very happy with the performance." Real Betis, who won 3-2 at Zenit

Real Betis, who won 3-2 at Zenit Saint Petersburg, and Sevilla, who beat visiting Dinamo Zagreb 3-1, both stayed on course for the final in their home city.

Ivan Rakitic gave Sevilla the lead from the spot. The next three goals came in four minutes just before half time. Mislav Orsic levelled for the visitors but Sevilla quickly replied through Lucas Ocampos and through Lucas Ocampos and Anthony Martial, with his first goal since arriving from Manchester

Zenit, who have played only friendlies since their last Russian League game on December 12, looked rusty at the start conceding to Guido Rodriguez and Willian Jose in the first 18 minutes.

Artem Dzyuba and Malcolm brought Zenit level with goals three minutes apart, but the home team then presented Betis with the winner in the 41st minute.

Aitor Ruibal ambushed Yaroslav Rakitskyi and found Andres Guardado who curled the ball into

the goal.
Real Sociedad grabbed a 2-2
draw away to RB Leipzig.
The Basques led twice, first

with a goal by defender Robin Le Normand. Christopher Nkunku

Mikel Oyarzabal restored the lead with a penalty spot but Emil Forsberg levelled from the spot with eight minutes left.

Atalanta came from behind to edge Olympiacos 2-1 in Bergamo.

Albanian defender, Berat Diimsiti who had not scored since

Djimsiti who had not scored since November 2018, struck twice within two minutes following corners. In Tiraspol, Braga dominated possession and had more goal

attempts, but Sheriff won 2-0. Luxembourg midfielder Sebastien Thill converted a first-half

penalty and with Braga pressing, Sheriff sealed victory on the counter-attack in the 83rd minute with a goal by their Adama Traore.

In the Europa Conference League, Celtic had a less distinguished evening than their Glasgow rivals, losing 3-1 at home to Norway's Bodo/Glimt. Leicester responded after Vito

Hammershoy-Mistrati of Randers cancelled an earlier Wilfried Ndidi goal just before half time.

Court cites lab delay in ruling allowing Valieva to skate

The judges who let Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva continue to compete at the Beijing Olympics blamed anti-doping officials in a legal document published Friday for a "failure to function effectively." a "failure to function effectively."

The Court of Arbitration for Sport explained its verdict in the case that has dominated Olympic headlines for more than a week in a 41page document, citing the "untenable delay" at the testing laboratory in Sweden as a reason for letting the 15year-old Valieva skate in the women's competition. Valieva's positive test for a heart medication was only revealed during the Olympics despite her urine sample arriving at the Stockholm lab on Dec. 29. The lab's staffing was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The full verdict was published early Friday, hours after the 15year-old Valieva's mistake-filled free skate dropped her from the lead to finish fourth in the women's individual

event at the Beijing Games. Valieva was cleared to skate by an urgent CAS ruling Monday after an appeal hearing that started Sunday night and ended at around 2 a.M.



Monday. The World Anti-Doping Agency and International Olympic Committee appealed against the decision by the Russian anti-doping agency to lift Valieva's initial suspension, which had been triggered by the pos-

"Put simply, athletes should not be subject to the risk of serious harm occasioned by anti-doping authorities' fail-

ure to function effectively at a high level of performance and in a manner designed to protect the integrity of the operation of the Games," the verdict

Valieva's lawyers suggested she tested positive "as a result of domestic interaction with her grandfather who uses Trimetazidine' after heart replace-

RUUD PULLS OUT OF RIO OPEN

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Second-seeded Casper Ruud of Norway pulled out of the Rio Open clay-court tournament with an abdominal injury.

Ruud told a news conference that he was still feeling the effects of an injury he picked up during Sunday's final of the Argentina Open, which he won.

I tried as much as I could, but unfortunatelly it wasn't possible," Ruud said. "It was a tough decision, I was looking forward to play here.'

Ruud was replaced by Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena, who lost his second-round match against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 6-3, 6-2 after the second set was halted for a rain delay.

Cerundolo will next face Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic, who beat sixthseeded Lorenzo Sonego of Italy 7-5,

Rain came back to Rio late on Thursday and forced the suspension of the two remaining matches of the day. Seventh seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain was beating Argentina's Federico Delbonis 5-4 when play was stopped. The encounter will take place Friday.

AFC Women's Asian Cup in India most engaging ever

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The recently-concluded AFC Women's Asian Cup held in India was the most engaging event on digital platforms in the tournament's history, the continental football

body said on Friday. The Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) digital channels witnessed unprecedented growth during the January 20 to February 6 tournament in Mumbai and Pune as the statistics grew by a staggering 5324 per cent as compared to the 2018 edition in Ĵordan. "The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 has left an indelible digital footprint, with the engagement and coverage of the showpiece surpassing the previous edition and soaring to an all-time high record," the AFC said in a statement. The tournament's digital platform received more than 270 million impressions, 17 million engagements and 74 million video views across its channels.

The AFC reached out to more fans by producing coverage in Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Farsi and Indonesian, in addition to its coverage in

"The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022



has achieved many milestones, on and off the pitch, with our talented football teams and officials creating history while our digital platforms continue to rise in record numbers and engaging with more fans than ever before," AFC's General Secretary Datuk Seri Windsor John said. The tournament, however, turned out to

be a heart break for India as they were forced to withdraw after playing their first group match as the home team could not assemble enough players for the second game due to a COVID-19 outbreak in their hotel.

Hamilton says he's energized for Formula One season

AP ■ BRACKLEY (UK)

ewis Hamilton downplayed spec-Lulation he considered quitting Formula One following last year's controversial finale that cost the Mercedes driver a record eighth championship.

"I never ever said I was going to stop," Hamilton said Friday at the launch of Mercedes' car for the upcoming F1 season.

Hamilton said he "needed to take a step back" after the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, where Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won his first world title following a controversial ruling.

"It was obviously a difficult

time for me," Hamilton said in his return to the public eye.

"I eventually got to a point where I decided I (am) going to be attacking again coming into another season." Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff said he was "never concerned" that Hamilton would stop racing. "Within the team, we knew he needed to take the time to reflect on things and particularly to understand how he would return in the



right frame of mind," Wolff said. "I think what he did was absolutely right to take himself out of the microcosm of Formula One and step aside and flake out socially," he added. "And he has come back in a great mindset. He's posi-

tive, he's determined and he, yet again, adversity that was thrown at him will make him stronger. It's On Thursday, attack mode." motorsport's governing body announced that Michael Masi will be replaced as F1's race director.

Indian men's and women's team fail to qualify for knock-outs

PTI ■ SHAH ALAM (MALAYSIA)

Tndia's campaign at the ■Badminton Asia Team Championships came to end as the men's and women's teams failed to advance to the knockout round after going down to their respective opponents here on Friday.

While the men's team lost 2-3 to three-time defending champions Indonesia, the women's side were hammered 1-4 by Japan.

The Indian men's team had earlier lost 0-5 to Korea and beaten Honk Kong 3-2. It needed an outright win against title holders Indonesia to advance to the knockout stage.

The Indians finished third in the group stage behind Indonesia and Korea. Hong Kong finished last.

The women's team also needed a win to qualify for

the knockouts but found Japan to be a formidable opponent. The Indians had earlier lost to hosts Malaysia 2-3.

India Open winner Lakshya Sen and Mithun Manjunath gave a good account of themselves

Sen, a world championship bronze medallist, eked out a hard-fought win over Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 21-18 27-25 in 46 minutes to start the proceedings on a bright note for India.

However, the two inexperienced doubles pairs and singles player Kiran George couldn't rise to the occa-

The pair of Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam went down in straight games 16-21 10-21 to Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin in less than 30 minutes as Indonesia levelled the tie.



Hyderabad look to consolidate lead at top

PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

With the chasing pack snapping at their heels, Hyderabad FC will look to leave no stone unturned in their bid to consolidate their top spot when they take on FC Goa in an Indian Super League match here on Saturday. Hyderabad are on 29 points from 16 games but have ATK Mohun Bagan breathing down their neck having the same number of points

but with a game in hand. The Mariners take on Kerala Blasters earlier in the day but Manolo Marquez would want his wards to decide their own fate with a win on Saturday which would all but secure their place in the semifi-

Hyderabad are currently in the midst of their

best-ever season. In their last match, they equalled their record points total in a single season of 29 points, in just 16 matches. They have also won eight matches, the most they have managed in a single season.

Bartholomew Ogbeche has been in the form of his life for Hyderabad, scoring 14 goals so far but for Marquez the pleasing fact is that others have also contributed with goals and assists making the team

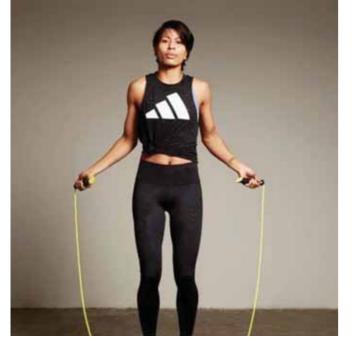
Javier Siverio was handed a start in the last game and he rewarded his coach with a crucial goal as they won 2-1 against Bengaluru FC. Siverio now has six goal contributions

with only Ogbeche

involved in more goals for

the club. Joao Victor also scored in the previous match and now has four goals to his name, his bestever return in a single season. FC Goa, meanwhile. are not mathematically out of the semifinal race but realistically the defeat to ATK Mohun Bagan the other night virtually ended all their hopes. FC Goa are in ninth spot with 18

points from 17 matches. Glan Martins is suspended for the game against Hyderabad FC, Pereira confirmed.



My ultimate goal is to win Gold for India: Lovlina

World

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who created history at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics by winning a Bronze medal in the women's welterweight category, has set her eyes on the Gold at the Paris Olympics 2024 and says that she's hungry to bring more laurels to the country and will give her best to change the colour of her medal in the world's biggest sporting extravaganza.

In an interaction with The Pioneer, the 24year old Assamese stop, and my goal is to

Championship Bronze medals besides having a pair of Bronze in the Asian Championship, said: "My ultimate goal is to win gold for my country, which will inspire many young girls to opt for boxing as their career. "I'm planning a dif-

pugilist, who has also

two

won

ferent strategy this time, which I cannot disclose, but I will give my 200% and make sure to book my seat and make my country proud, "she said. "I just don't want to

Lovlina became an overnight sensation in the country after the Olympics and the

win Gold for the coun-

try," Lovlina added.

Bronze in Tokyo changed her life completely, but she doesn't want to get carried away by the fame and still prioritises her training over anything.
"My life has experi-

enced some changes (after getting the Olympics medal). Earlier, I was not so busy. Now I am doing a lot of events. Amid all this, I take care of my

attend as few events as possible. I don't miss my training. My ulti-mate goal is to play." Lovlina has been associated with adidas for a long time and said that it has been their

training so that it does

not get affected. I try to

biggest support for better game play.
"Adidas has been my biggest supporter. There was a time when I didn't have the money to buy sports equipment. It was Adidas who sponsored me in 2018 and supported me through-

out, "she concluded.

Team India win their 100th T201 game

huvneshwar Kumar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel produced superb bowling in slog overs as India survived some anxious moments before walking out with an eight-run won over West Indies in the second T20I that handed them an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here on

Chasing a stiff 187, wicket-keeper-batter Nicholas Pooran (62 off 41 balls) and Royman Powell (68 not out from 36 balls) hit belligerent fifties to keep them in the hunt as they needed just 29 runs from the last two overs.

But death bowling specialist, Bhuvneshwar Kumar revived India's hopes by removing the dangerous-looking Pooran with a slower off-cutter.

Under pressure after he dropped Rovman Powell off his own bowling, Bhuvneshwar was brilliant and conceded just four runs in the over.

Needing to defend 25 in the final over, Patel was hit for two consecutive sixes but he held his nerves to seal the issue for India.

This was India's 100th win in

one match to go on Sunday.

Earlier continuing his impressive run in his debut series, Ravi Bishnoi dismissed Brandon King (22) in his third delivery to break the second-wicket stand.

But Pooran and Powell looked without any trouble against the Indian attack.

Wicketkeeper-batter Pooran continued his impressive form to smash a second successive half-century, while Powell gave a fine support at the other end with a 28ball 50 as the Windies recovered from being 59/3 inside nine overs.

Dropped on 21 by Bishnoi in the 10th over, Pooran brought up his fifty in 34 balls -- his second in as many games -- with a slog over off Deepak Chahar's final over.

Powell then completed a 28ball fifty as India looked under real pressure before Bhuvneshwar turned it around.

Earlier, Virat Kohli was back among runs with a fifty while Rishabh Pant smashed a quick-fire unbeaten 52 to lift India to a challenging 186/5.

Kohli hit his 30th fifty in the shortest format, his first since the 57 versus Pakistan in the T20



World Cup on October 24 last year. cut, pulled and also took the aer-The former captain's sheer ial route en route to his 41-ball 52 elegance was on full display as he that had seven fours and one six.

Luck also favoured Kohli on the day as the former skipper

a slog over long-on after Jason Holder failed to get hold of the catch as the ball went over the

But Kohli failed to make it big and was cleaned up by Chase two balls later after the Windies offspinner breached his gate for his tĥird wicket.

Chase was impressive in the middle overs to return with 3/25 and which included the wickets of Rohit Sharma (19) and Suryakumar Yadav (8).

Thereafter it was Pant and Venkatesh Iyer (33 from 18 balls) show on offer as they took charge on the likes of Kieron Pollard and Romario Shepherd in their 76-run partnership from 35 balls.

Pant (52 off 28 balls) brought up his third fifty in T20Is with a double in the penultimate delivery of the innings, taking just 27 balls to get to the milestone.

Earlier India got off to a slow start with Sheldon Cottrell bowling four dots on the trot before dismissing Ishan Kishan in the second over of the day.

Kishan, who was the most expensive buy of the IPL 2022 mega auction, looked listless and under pressure to continue his poor form and departed for two after his 10-ball stay.

But thereafter it was Kohli

show at the sparsely-crowded Eden as the former India skipper delighted his fans with his elegant timing

and strokeplay.

Getting off the mark with a boundary with a whip to the square leg boundary, Kohli found his timing early on and got a second boundary in the same over of

Kohli was the aggressor and skipper Rohit was happy to play the second fiddle as the duo took India's score to almost 50 in the first six overs.

Akeal Hossain.

There was a clear shift in India's batting in the powerplay as the duo were not afraid to take the aerial route.

Rohit departed for 19 in 18 balls after a fine partnership with Kohli that yielded 49 runs from 36 balls before Chase gave the breakthrough in his first over removing the Indian skipper after inducing a thick leading edge to be caught at the point.

In his next over, Chase accounted for Suryakumar but Kohli ensured that there was no further damage.

India suffer 3-wicket loss in 3rd women's ODI

PTI ■ QUEENSTOWN

Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami's impressive three-wicket haul was the only bright spot as India yet again failed to defend an imposing total with hosts New Zealand notching up a seriesclinching three-wicket victory in the third ODI here on Friday.

It was Goswami yet again who led the bowling pack, after sitting out of the second ODI. She accounted for the three New Zealand wickets at the top to rock the home side's run chase of 280.

India seemed to be cruising to their first win of the tour when they reduced New Zealand to 171 for 6 in the 35th over but in the end they could not do so as Lauren Down (65 not out) took the hosts home with five balls to spare.

This was the second highest run chase in women's ODI cricket history.

New Zealand needed 105 runs from the last 15 overs and 64 from 10 with four wickets in hand and the Indians failed to polish off the home side's lower order. Down and Katey Martin (35) made

life difficult for the Indian bowlers with a 76-run stand for the seventh wicket.

New Zealand needed 18 runs from

the final two overs and Goswami conceded 12 in the penultimate over before Down, who was dropped on 10, hit a six in the first ball of the final over bowled by Deepti Sharma to reach 280 for 7 and

India had lost the first two ODIs by 62 runs and three wickets, respectively, after suffering a 18-run defeat in the lone The 39-year-old Goswami struck in

the third ball of New Zealand run chase by removing captain Sophie Devine for a duck before clean-bowling Suzie Bates (5) to leave the hosts at 14 for 2 in 2.3 She then returned to break a danger-

ous-looking partnership between Amy Satterthwaite (59) and Amelia Kerr (67) by dismissing the former in the 24th over. Satterthwaite and Kerr had revived the New Zealand innings with a third-

wicket stand of 103 runs. After Kerr -- who had hit a match-



winning 119 not out in the second game -- was out in the 31st over, New Zealand lost three quick wickets for just 19 runs to be reduced to 171 for 6 in the

Earlier, India rode on half centuries from Sabbhineni Meghana, Shafali

Verma and Deepti Sharma to post 279 -- their highest total against New Zealand -- after being asked to bat.

Young openers Meghana (61) and Verma (51) gave India a flying start with a stand of 100 in 13 overs, but the visitors lost wickets at regular intervals later to be all out for 279 in 49.3 overs.

Star opener Smriti Mandhana once again missed the match -- her fourth game of the tour, including the lone T20I - as she came out of quarantine on

Meghana was in sensational form as she consumed just 41 balls for her 61 and struck nine fours and two sixes. Verma had seven fours in her 57-ball knock.

Vice-captain Harmenpreet Kaur's wretched form continued as she made just 13 off 22 balls to add to her identical 10 runs each in the first two ODIs.

Yastika Bhatia (19) and captain Mithali Raj (23), who scored back-toback half centuries, were also unable to contribute much but Deepti Sharma rose to the occasion with a brilliant run-a-ball 69 not out down the order to take India's score past 275 mark.

Sharma struck seven fours and one

New Zealand used as many as seven bowlers with Hannah Rowe and Rosemary Mair picking two wickets



Katich tenders resignation from SRH assistant coach's post

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I} ndian Premier League franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad is once again in news for all the wrong reasons after former Australian batter Simon Katich resigned from the post of assistant coach after reportedly being unhappy with some of the side's hefty auction buys.

Katich, who along with West Indies legend Brian Lara and former India batter Hemang Badani, were added to the SRH coaching group headed by Tom Moody and Muttah Muralitharan, resigned immediately after the auction. Although the SRH management, headed by Kavya Maran, hasn't yet issued any official statement, it is understood that his resignation has been accepted and well-known coach franchise, has been brought back.

'The Australian' reported that Katich's resignation was primarily due to the fact that the pre-auction strategy discussed wasn't followed at the two-day auction where SRH had some whopping big buys like Nicholas Pooran (Rs 10.75 crore), Washington Sundar (8.75 crore)

and Rahul Tripathi (8.50 crore). Some of the SRH big buys have been baffling although it's not always a player's quality but the auction dynamics that determines the

final price of a player. Left-handed spin bowling all-rounder Abhishek Sharma's Rs 6.75 crore deal also

grabbed eye balls.

Abhishek is being looked as a potential opener for this edition of IPL.

The 21-year-old hasn't done anything in his four seasons in the league which would warrant such a steep price and many were shocked at Pooran's bid after he had endured one of the

worst IPL seasons in the UAE last time round. SRH's three retentions have also come under scanner as they couldn't convince their best performer spinner Rashid Khan to stay back while keeping New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who has a recurrent elbow condi-

tion. Add to that, they kept two Kashmiri youngsters, pacer Urman Malik, more for his raw pace and Abdul Samad for his big hitting prowess for Rs 4 crore each.

To prove myself, I need chances: Yash Dhull

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

7ash Dhull always knew Y that a smooth transition from age-group to happen if he is ready to counter challenges and that is precisely what worked for him on his Ranji Trophy debut for Delhi against Tamil Nadu. The Under-19 World

Cup winning skipper, who has been a career middleorder batter, was asked to open against a formidable domestic side like Tamil Nadu and he came out in flying colours with a cracking 113 that had no less than 18 boundaries.

"In my cricket career, there has been a lot of coaches but someone who had guided me from childhood is Rajesh Nagar sir. Nagar sir had told me that when Ranji Trophy will come, I might be asked to open, so I should be mentally prepared," soft-softspoken Dhull told PTI in an interview after his opening day exploits.

Delhi cricket is replete with instances where

Wicketkeeper Het Patel hit a patient 72 off 139 balls to

keep Gujarat in the hunt for a cru-

cial first innings lead against

Madhya Pradesh on the second day

of their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy

ed at the overnight score of 235 for

7, were bundled out for 274 in 96.3

overs. In reply, Gujarat ended the

day at 244 for 6, thanks to Het

Patel's vital knock, in which he

slammed eight fours and a lone six. Gujarat still trail by 30 runs at

At one stage, Gujarat were reeling at 167 for 5 as their top-

order faltered despite decent con-

Railways' solid response to

Panchal and Manprit Juneja.

Madhya Pradesh, which start-

match here on Friday.

the SCA stadium.

Karnataka's 481

PTI ■ RAJKOT



young players have lost track after showing early promise. There is no choice if someone is assigned an unfamiliar role. The player needs to accept it rather than choosing the easy option of cooling heels.

"Whatever the team demands from you, it needs to be done without any questions asked. I am ready to bat any position. I am just starting off in my

career and now I need to make a mark with consistent performances and for that I need chances.

"So when you are told to play, you need to be ready to grab that chance. When I was informed that I would be opening the innings, mentally I was said Dhull, who looked like having played first-class cricket forever on his launch day.

praiseworthy as Dhull had not played any red ball cricket this season after being named for India U-Behar Trophy (National U-19 days format) even started.

"Cricket at this level will be as much about mindset as it is about technique. It's all in the mind and if I can have the right attitude, then things will fall in place," the youngster showed maturity beyond

So what is Dhull's process of preparing for a big match? "I do my visualisations

of how I am going to play a particular bowler," said the 19-year-old.

"Try to watch videos and close my eyes and try to be in that zone where I can see the bowler running up and I am in mind deciding on a particular shot that I intend to play. What will he bowl to me and what will be my reaction time, all these things I try visualize," explained.

Coach Powar 'not concerned' about series defeat

PTI ■ QUEENSTOWN

es so far in its ongoing tour of New Zealand but coach Ramesh Powar is "not concerned at all" as he attributed the poor performance to lack of game time due to COVID-19 and quarantine-related issues.

India suffered an 18-run defeat in the lone T20I before losing the three ODIs on the trot to concede the five-match series to New Zealand. The visiting team has not won a match so far.

"We had only three days of practice sessions ahead of tour. You cannot get into a competitive series like against New Zealand in such less time. So, there will be some rustiness in the players' approach," Powar said at the post-match conference after India lost by three wickets in the third ODI here on Friday.

"There is no concern at all, I'm not concerned about anything. After Australia, we did not play any



that batting has clicked on this tour but there has been "inconsistencies" in bowling department but expected that things will be sorted out before the World Cup starts next month.

"Batting has clicked. From England tour to where we are now. We have scored 270, 280. In Australia also, we have

runs to his score. Railways hit back

with some quick wickets and had

dred to take Mahrashtra to an

imposing 415 and put them in a

commanding position against

Assam on the second day of their Elite Group G Ranji Trophy game

The 22-year-old Shah, a right-

handed batter, who hails from

Chinchwad near Pune, took the

pedestrian Assam attack to clean-

overnight score on unbeaten 165,

and remained the cynosure of

eyes at the Choudhry Bansilal

here on Friday.

219 off 401 balls

the opposition at 438 for 9.

scored 260, 270 so batting unit has done its job," said Powar, adding that opening batter Smriti Mandhana will be available from the next game after coming out of quarantine on Tuesday. "It is now the bowling unit to get into rhythm. There were restrictions on doing practice, other limitations. So, I have to give (benefit of doubt) to the bowlers, they will come back hard when the World Cup begins." India put up 270-plus targets to New Zealand in the second and third ODIs but the bowlers failed to defend on both the occasions.

Lalit Yadav's special hundred

puts Delhi in command against TN

Lalit Yadav hammered 10 sixes Shah's maiden double ton takes enroute to his maiden first-class Maharashtra to 415; Assam 81/2 in hundred and batted brilliantly with the tail to put Delhi in a strong position against Tamil Nadu after day two of the Ranji Trophy Debutant Pavan Shah slammed his maiden double hun-Group H here on Friday.

Resuming the day at 291 for seven, Delhi ended up getting an imposing first innings score of 452 all out courtesy Yadav's 177 off 287

Delhi also got two crucial wickets before stumps, leaving Tamil Nadu at 75 for two and trailing by 377 runs.

If the opening day belonged to India U-19 star Yash Dhull, Friday ers as he hammered 20 boundaries was all about Yadav who batted and two maximums enroute his fearlessly in his entertaining Shah started from his innings. Besides 10 sixes, he smashed 17 fours

Sarfaraz's 275 takes Mumbai stadium here, as he kept playing to mammoth 544/7d against

Young Sarfaraz Khan hit a stroke-filled 275 to propel Mumbai to a mammoth 544/7 and put 41time champions in a commanding position on the second day of their Elite Group D Ranji Trophy game against defending champions Saurashtra here on Friday. Sarfaraz, who continued from

his overnight score on 121, took the Saurashtra attack to cleaners and hammered 30 boundaries and seven maximum in his 401-ball

The 24-year-old was at his best at the Narendra Modi stadium as he spared no bowler. His senior pro Ajinkya Rahane fell for a patient 129 off 290 balls, but more importantly kept himself in contention for a place in the national team.

Sarfaraz and Rahane, a Test specialist, conjured 252-runs for the fourth wicket and pulled the domestic heavyweights out of trouble after they were 44/3 at one

Ranji Trophy Updates

Het Patel keeps Gujarat in hunt for first innings lead against MP

unbeaten half-century to lead Railways' strong response to Karnataka's huge first innings score of 481 on the second day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match here on Friday.

Railways finished the second day at 213 for 3. The team's cause was helped by Ghosh's knock of 78 (108 balls, 12 fours, 1 six) and fifties by Mrunal Devdhar and Vivek Singh after Karnataka had rode on tons by skipper Manish Pandey's 156, (121 balls, 12 fours, 10 sixes) and K V Siddharth's

