

OPINION 6

WHY BUDDHADEB SAID
NO TO PADMA BHUSHAN

WORLD 8

US RESPONSE ON UKRAINE OFFERS
LITTLE OPTIMISM: RUSSIA

MONEY 9

SENSEX SINKS 581 PTS AS HAWKISH
FED ROILS GLOBAL MARKETS

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BISNOI GETS
MAIDEN CALL- UP
FOR WI SERIES
12 SPORT

Air India lands up in Tatas' hands

Your arrival was much awaited, Tata Group tweets and asserts 'committed to making it a world-class airline'

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After 70 years, the Tata Group on Thursday officially took over the Air India, Air India Express and Air India SATS. The Government transferred 100 per cent shares to Tata's wholly-owned subsidiary Talace Pvt Ltd shortly after Tata Sons chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Government also transferred the management control of the company to the new owners. This completed the process of the Government selling the debt-ridden airline to the Tata Group company. "Your arrival was much awaited," tweeted the Tata Group soon after the handover.

Expressing his happiness over the development, Chandrasekaran said Tata Group was delighted to have Air India back and was committed to making it a world-class airline. Ratan N Tata joined Chandrasekaran in expressing his "thankful recognition" to the Government and its various departments for the successful completion of this important transaction.

Later Chandrasekaran reached out to employees of



Air India CMD Vikram Dev Dutt welcomes Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran on his arrival at Air India office in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

AI will boom and help civil aviation sector grow: Scindia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India will boom under the wing of the new owners and the airline will pave the way for a thriving and robust civil aviation sector in India, Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said after the carrier was handed over to Tata Sons on Thursday. "It is indeed noteworthy that the disinvestment process of @airindiain has been brought to a successful conclusion in a time-bound

manner," Scindia said on Twitter.

This proves the central government's ability, and the resolve to carry out disinvestment effectively in non-strategic sectors in the future, he noted.

"Best wishes to the new owners. I am confident that the airline will bloom under their wings, and pave the way for a thriving and robust civil aviation industry in India," he mentioned.

Chronology of Maharaja privatisation

■ June 2017: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave in-principle approval to the consideration for strategic disinvestment of Air India and its five subsidiaries. A Panel of Ministers or Air India Specific Alternate Mechanism (AISAM) was constituted for this purpose.

■ March 2018: Government invites EoI from investors for buying 76 per cent stake in Air India, remaining 26 per cent to be with the Government.

■ The buyer was required to take ₹33,392 crore or close to 70 per cent of the beleaguered carrier's debt on its books.

■ June 2018: Government decides to go slow on Air India sale till oil prices soften.

■ January 2020: Government floats EoI for Air India privatisation. Government to fully exit Air India by selling 100 per cent. The deal would also include 100 per cent in Air India Express and 50 per cent in ground handling arm AISATS. The last date to bid was extended 5 times until December 14.

■ As per the EoI, of the airline's total debt of ₹60,074 crore as of March 31, 2019, the buyer would be required to absorb ₹23,286.5 crore.

■ October 2020: Government sweetens deal; gives flexibility to investors to decide on the amount of Air India debt they want to absorb.

■ December 2020: DIPAM

Secretary said Air India EOI received "multiple bids".

■ March 2021: Hardeep Singh Puri, the then Civil Aviation Minister said: "...There is no choice, we either privatise or we close the airline.

We run a loss of ₹20 crore every day despite Air India making money now".

■ April 2021: Government starts inviting financial bids for Air India. September 15 last date to put in bids.

■ September 2021: Tata Group, Spicejet Promoter Ajay Singh put in financial bids.

■ October 8, 2021: Government announces Tata group makes a winning bid of ₹18,000 crore for Air India.

Covid cases stabilising; Omicron BA.2 in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The prevalence of Omicron sub-lineage BA.2 is gradually increasing in India, but there are indications of a plateau in the number of cases, with just the top 10 States contributing to 77 per cent of total active cases in the country.

Sujeet Kumar Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), said at a media briefing here that "Omicron sub-variant BA.2 is more prevalent in comparison to the BA.1 variant in India now. However, the BA.3 sub-variant has not been detected in India yet."

"The percentage of the highly transmissible Omicron variant increased rapidly in December and January and the prevalence of the Omicron subvariant called BA.2 is increasing in our community," the NCDC director said.

"Earlier, the BA.1 variant was dominant among the samples collected from the travellers. Now in community settings, we have found that the BA.2 sub-variant is gradually increasing," he said.

Talking about increasing cases of Omicron, Singh said that out of the total genome sequencing reports received so far, increasing cases of Omicron have been found in the month of January.

Of the total reports received, 1,292 Omicron cases



were found in December last year, whereas the number of Delta cases was over 17,000, he said.

In January so far, 9,672 Omicron cases have been found against 4,779 Delta cases, which includes 3,201 AYC variants and 1,578 Delta variants, Singh said. Mainly three States — Maharashtra, Odisha, and West Bengal — have reported the Delta variant on the basis of genome sequencing, said Singh, adding that it does not mean that only the Omicron variant is being reported everywhere.

Talking about Covid fatalities, he said that those unvaccinated and people with comorbidities are in the high-risk group. "Around 64 per cent of those who died in Delhi were from the unvaccinated group with a major comorbid population," he added.

ICMR chief Balram

Modi raises Af, pitches for regional connectivity at Central Asian summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed concern on the development in Afghanistan and stressed on creating an "ambitious road map" for "regional connectivity and integration". The PM was hosting the first India-Central Asian countries summit.

The virtual event was attended by Presidents of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

All of them greeted Modi on the just concluded Republic Day as India entered the 75th anniversary of its Independence.

Stating that the diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries have "completed 30 fruitful years", the Prime Minister expressed his concern about the developments in Afghanistan and called for greater interaction between India and the Central Asia countries.

The Prime Minister said "regional integration connectivity and integration" is important and there is a need to "make an ambitious road map to have regional connectivity and integration".



"India has deep relations with all of the Central Asian countries. Kazakhstan has become an important partner in India's energy security. I express my condolences at the recent loss of lives in Kazakhstan," Modi said as he welcomed Central Asian heads of states in his opening address.

He said India and Central Asian nations share the same concerns and goals with regard to regional security.

"We are all concerned about the developments in Afghanistan. In this context too, mutual cooperation among us has become more important for regional security and stability," he said.

Modi said the summit has three key objectives. The first one is to make it clear that mutual cooperation between India and Central Asia is necessary for regional security

and prosperity. "I want to make it clear that Central Asia is central to India's vision of an integrated and stable neighbourhood," he said.

"The second objective of today's meeting is to give an effective structure to our cooperation, which will pave the way for the establishment of a platform for regular interaction among all stakeholders," Modi said.

He said the third objective of the summit is to prepare an ambitious road map for our cooperation, which will enable them to adopt an integrated approach for regional connectivity and cooperation.

The Presidents of the Central Asian countries in their address pointed to the age-old ties with India and its "unique civilisation".

Modi had paid historic visits to all Central Asian countries in 2015. Following this, there has been continuous high-level dialogue at bilateral and multilateral forums.

The first India-Central Asia Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs had said, is a reflection of the country's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's "extended neighbourhood".

Delhi lifts Covid curbs on mkts, cinemas, eateries can run at 50%

Night curfew to continue; call on reopening schools in next DDMA meeting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Thursday decided to remove the weekend curfew and odd-even rule for shops and malls in the national Capital. The night curfew, however, will remain in place. The authority also decided that weddings can be held with 200 people or 50 per cent capacity of the venue.

According to Delhi Government sources, cinema halls, bars and restaurants can also operate at 50 per cent capacity. Delhi Government offices will also operate with 50 per cent capacity.

A decision on the reopening of schools will be taken up in the next DDMA meeting. Thursday's decision on easing of curbs in the national Capital will be implemented after a formal order is issued to give them effect.

According to sources, experts in the meeting sug-



gested reopening of schools in a phased manner. In the first phase, schools from classes 9-12 should be reopened, then classes 5-8 in the second phase, and classes 3-4 in the third phase.

Delhi's Covid-19 positivity rate has dipped below ten (9.56) per cent. A total of 4,291 cases were reported in the last 24 hours from 44,903 tests. As many as 34 deaths were also registered.

The DDMA's meeting was attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul, Health Minister Satyendar Jain, DG ICMR Balram Bhargava and several top officials. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, who is the chairman of the DDMA,

chaired the meeting.

The Delhi Government has been trying for the reopening of schools. Hundreds of parents have joined "#BACK-TOSCHOOL" campaign and written to DCPCR division. Delhi Education Minister announced on Wednesday that he will recommend the DDMA for reopening of schools in Delhi as education and mental health of students were being hampered due to the curbs. Delhi schools have been closed since December 28.

BJP leaders in Delhi also called upon Lieutenant Governor Bajjal last Tuesday demanding that the weekend and night curfew should be withdrawn, while odd-even restrictions should also be lifted.

PLA hands over missing Arunachal boy to Indian Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China on Thursday handed over the missing Arunachal Pradesh teenager to the Indian Army. The 17-year-old boy was now undergoing medical examination. He returned home after nine days.

Miram Taron was reported missing on Tuesday last week. One version claimed he was abducted by the PLA while sources in the Defence establishment here said the boy had lost his way in the jungles.

Announcing the boy's release, Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju, who also hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said, "The Chinese PLA has handed over the young boy from Arunachal Pradesh, Miram Taron, to the Indian Army. Due procedures are being followed, including the medical examination."

He said the youth was handed over to India at Wacha-Damai interaction point in Arunachal Pradesh and thanked the Indian Army for pursuing the case "meticulously with the PLA and safely securing our young boy."

The youth will return to his family after the completion of formalities in collaboration with the Army, police, health, and local officials, sources said here, adding all the Covid protocols have also been followed.

The boy hails from Jido village in the Upper Siang district and was reported missing from Shiyung La in the Indian territory's Bishing Area.

India and China on Wednesday had talked to each other on the hotline regarding the teenager and it was indicated he will be released soon after the weather improves.

A day after he went missing, the Indian Army contacted the PLA and the Chinese informed a few days later the boy was in their custody.

COVID IN MADHYA PRADESH		
Cities	Fresh Cases	Total cases
Bhopal	2049	151165
Indore	2278	192449
Gwalior	396	63286

Delhi HC expunges judge's 'publicity' remarks against Juhi

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday expunged remarks made in an order against actress Juhi Chawla that she had filed the lawsuit challenging setting up of 5G wireless networks in the country, citing health hazards, for gaining publicity.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh also reduced the costs imposed on Chawla from ₹20 Lakh to ₹2 lakh, saying that she did not take up the 5G issue in a "frivolous and casual manner".

The court said part amount of the costs will be retained since some of the applications filed in the suit were indeed completely meritless.

MP shivers, severe cold to continue for 2 more days

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Freezing cold conditions are witnessed across state and state capital; intense cold wave conditions have been witnessed and would prevail at several places in the state in next 24 hours. Intense cold night have been witnessed in Bhopal at and around 6 degree Celsius. Night temperatures were recorded in the range of 5-7 degree Celsius while day temperatures were recorded around 20-18 degree Celsius.

The Met department has issued warning of intense cold wave conditions, intense cold day conditions and dense foggy conditions across the state. Bhopal recorded night at 5.3 degree Celsius



while day recorded 19.8 degree Celsius.

For next 24 hours, cold weather conditions would prevail in Bhopal. The new system would be formed from 29 January. It can increase the night

temperature. During the day the mercury will reach around 25 while night will be above 10 degree Celsius. Raisen was coldest place at 3.4 degree Celsius in the state on Wednesday.

Warning of intense cold wave to cold wave conditions has been issued for Rewa, Umaria, Chhindwara, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Seoni, Chattarpur, Sagar, Hoshangabad, Betul, Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore, Dhar, Khandwa, Khargone, Ratlam, Ujjain and Guna districts.

Intense cold day conditions would be witnessed in Indore division and Ujjain, Datia, Tikamgarh, Betul, Damoh and Balaghat while cold day conditions would be witnessed in Rewa, Shahdol, Bhopal and Chambal divisions. Shallow to moderate fog conditions would be witnessed in Chambal division.

5 dead in Bihar after consuming intoxicant

PTI ■ PATNA

Five people died on Friday at a village in dry Bihar after consuming what the district administration called "a white chemical" though the locals alleged it was liquor.

All deaths have been reported from Ansar village in Dumrao subdivision of Buxar district.

Eight people fell ill within hours of consuming an intoxicant late on Thursday, said District Magistrate, Buxar, Aman Samir.

"Five died while three others are suffering bouts of vomiting. The boxes from which they had gulped down the

white chemical are being sent for examination to ascertain the substance," the District Magistrate told reporters after visiting the site.

Residents of the village, however, claimed that the deceased and their surviving friends hand drank concocted "daru" (liquor) from bottles of homeopathic medicine which they drank to get high, and not any white substance.

Sale and consumption of liquor is completely banned in Bihar since April, 2016. It is a punishable act in the State. The State has, however, seen more than 50 hooch deaths in half a dozen districts since November last year.

CAPSULE

PADMA FOR AZAD A POLITICAL DECISION NOT ON MERIT: CONG

Bengaluru: Senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily said on Thursday the Narendra Modi Government's decision to confer Padma Bhushan on Ghulam Nabi Azad was a political one and not based on merit. He said the former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister should not accept the award if he thinks that it harms the interest of the Congress party.

246 MILITANTS SURRENDER: HIMANTA

Guwahati: A total of 246 militants of United Gorkha People's Organisation (UGPO) and Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA) formally surrendered before Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Thursday.

Governor unfurls national flag at State-level function in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel unfurled the National Flag at a state-level programme at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day. After this the Governor took the salute of the captivating parade. There were 14 contingents in the parade at the Lal Parade Ground. Patel inspected the parade. This was followed by a march-past under the leadership of Parade Commander Priyanka Shukla. The TIC of the parade was Pankaj Mishra. Hawk Force, STE, Madhya Pradesh Special

Armed Forces-1 and 2, Madhya Pradesh Mahila Police, District Police Force, Jail Department, Chhattisgarh Platoon, Madhya Pradesh Home Guard, Mixed Platoon, Senior Division NCC, Army Wing Girls, NCC Army Wing Boys, Police Bands and squads of dog squads participated in the parade. Governor Shri Patel released colourful balloons in the open sky. In the state-level Republic Day celebrations, a presentation of Bhil-Bhagoria dance centered on the tribal culture of the state was given. Among the 7 major tribes living in Madhya Pradesh, Bhil is the main tribe. The

dancers presented various footsteps, Samuhan Paliya, Chakripali and Pramit dance postures in an attractive manner. Young men and women dressed in colourful costumes participated in the dance party. In the tribal areas of the state, Bhagoria Haats are organised before Holi in the season of Phagun. Tribal artists mesmerized the people present in the parade ground through Bhagoria dance. In the state-level Republic Day celebrations, the progress of the state and the dimension of development through public participation were displayed

through attractive tableaux. In the first part of the tableau, various products produced in the state were displayed. It was told in the tableau that food processing units have been set up for coriander, mango, orange, mosambi etc. with public participation across the state. This has increased the income of the farmers and the GDP of the state. In the second part of the tableau, the tomato and orange processing unit established at Agar-Malwa was displayed. It was told in the tableau that farmers of the state are using modern methods of horticulture, poly-house, drip irrigation, plastic sheets in

agriculture. The prestigious Krishi Karman Award of the Government of India was displayed for the last 7 years in the tableau of the Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture. Due to improved farming in the state, it has got first place in oilseeds and second place in pulses in the country. The tableau showcased the grant of GI tag to Chinnaur rice of Balaghat district. In the tableau of the Home Department, the establishment of Urja Mahila Help-desk was displayed in 700 police stations of all the districts of the state.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel during Republic Day celebrations at State-level function as Lal Parade ground in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

R-Day celebrated in Bhopal with traditional fervour

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at Rabindranath Tagore University, the flag was hoisted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University Brahprakash Pethia, and Registrar Vijay Singh. On this occasion, NCC cadets of the Naval Wing led by NCC Officer Sub Lieutenant Manoj Manral saluted the National Flag. Addressing the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Brahma Prakash said that the students studying in the city university of the country have to ensure their participation in the progress of the country. On this occasion, students of the Student Activity Council of the University pre-

sented a patriotic song and expressed their views on Republic Day. In the end, the NSS volunteer gave a beautiful dance performance on the patriotic song. On this occasion, Dean Engineering Sanjeev Gupta, NCC Officer of the University, Sub Lt Manoj Manral, and Faculty were present. Meanwhile, the 73rd Republic Day celebrations were celebrated enthusiastically in the Scope Group of Institutions by maintaining social distance as per the government order. Respected DS Raghav, Director, SCOPE Group of Institutions, as the Chief Guest, Satyendra Khare, Principal of Sect College of Professional Education College, Neelam Singh, Principal of Sect College

of B.Ed, SCOPE Public. Prakriti Chaturvedi, Principal of Higher Secondary School attended as a special guest. The chief guest of the flag hoisting programme respected D.S. by Raghav. He said in his speech that the nation is paramount for all of us. After the speech of the Chief Guest, the teachers and students of Sect College, BEd College, Engineering College and SCOPE presented cultural programs full of patriotism.

Flag hoisting at NHDC The Premier Hydro power generation company of state, NHDC Ltd., celebrated India's 73rd Republic day with great enthusiasm and gaiety on 26 January 2022. The celebrations began with the unfurling of National Flag and singing of



Chairman of MP Tourism Vindo Gontiya hoisted tricolour at the Tourism headquarters in Bhopal and addressed a gathering on Republic Day. Pioneer photo

National Anthem at NHDC Corporate Office Premises, Bhopal. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Managing Director, NHDC extended his greetings to the entire NHDC family on Republic Day. MD, NHDC said that today we must

remember the former leaders and freedom fighters of our nation. In his address, Shri Sinha said that NHDC has been a pioneer in the development of the state through hydro power generation and in the last years has set a record of touching many heights in the field of

hydro power generation. The Managing Director said that despite the pandemic like Covid, our power projects are continuing to generate electricity on 24 X 7 basis, it is an attempt to convert the challenges into opportunities. The Managing Director insisted to all the officials to follow Covid appropriate behavior and spread awareness among the people around them. On this occasion, Sinha appealed all the officials to work with team spirit, by working with full devotion and dedication. One should be ready for the new challenges of the future and strive for the progress of the corporation.

Museum of Man Director of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya,

P.K. Mishra hoisted national flag on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at the Veethi Sankul premises of Manav Sangrahalaya. The staff of IGRMS was sung the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" and a salute by security persons. The program was conducted by Assistant Keeper Rajendra Kumar Jharia. He initially threw light on the outline of the constitution, after that cultural programs, patriotic songs were presented by the officers and staff. In the group anthem, 'Sare Jahanse Achcha, chhodo kal ki baatein, O Malik Tere Bande Hum, ham bhartiya hai, and Vande Mataram was presented. Along with this solo song, O Mere Pyare Watan, Traditional Assamese Song, Ye Aan Tiranga Hai, Telugu Song were presented.

Angels in Uniform screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The military film 'Angels in Uniform' based on the doctors and saviors of soldiers was screened here on Thursday at Shaurya Smarak. The film was screened under the regular film screenings held at Shaurya Smarak every day. The movies screened here are based on the Indian Army, Navy and other armed forces. A film on the services rendered by the personnel of the Armed Forces Medical Services. The film also deals with the recruitment and training of doctors and nurses and the medical assistants joining the Armed Forces Medical Services. Armed Forces Medical Services is the first tri-service (Army, Navy and Air Force) organization and one of the largest organized medical services in the country. It has state-of-the-art tertiary care hospitals and specialty centers of excellence. It provides medical support to the Armed Forces during the war as well as comprehensive health care to all service personnel, ex-servicemen, and their dependents during peace. Army Medical Corps provides medical aid during natural calamities both at national and international levels. The Army Medical Corps promises both professional and personal growth at every stage of the career. In addition to the professional growth and development, the adventure and extra-curricular activities in the service ensure an all-round development essential for today's world. The film is produced by the Films Division of India and is directed by Ramesh Gupta.



Tableaux on display during 73 Republic Day celebrations, at Lal parade ground in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Pioneer photo

Assembly Speaker hoists tricolour at SAF ground, Rewa

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Republic Day is festival, which covers the history of patriotism, sacrifice and sacrifice, reminds us of our ancestors who have sacrificed their everything for the freedom of the country said Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Girish Gautam after hoisting National flag at SAF Ground, Rewa on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day. Gautam took the salute of the parade on the occasion. After observing the parade, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Gautam shared message of the Chief Minister and extended his hearty greet-

ings and best wishes to the people of the state on Republic Day. Wishing the citizens a happy and healthy life. He has said that the basic mantra of the state of 21st century is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. With this commitment, let us resolve to make the state a self-reliant, prosperous and developed state. On the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of Republic Day, Principal Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Awadhesh Pratap Singh hoisted the flag at a function organized in the Vidhan Sabha premises at 8 am. On this occasion, a march past was also done by

the contingents of the Legislative Assembly Security Force and Special Armed Forces. After observing the parade, Principal Secretary Singh said in his message that we got this freedom after the sacrifice and struggle of our ancestors, freedom fighters. It is our duty to preserve the ideal values given by our ancestors. Shri Singh said that Republic Day is an occasion when we take a pledge to discharge our duties and obligations towards the nation while expressing our loyalty and faith towards the Indian Constitution. The officers-staff and media personnel of the Vidhan Sabha were also present on the occasion.

Lenskart launches 73 Stores on Republic Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Lenskart, India's fastest growing Omni-channel eye-wear brand launched 73 stores on the occasion of India's 73rd Republic Day across 46 cities and 19 states. Lenskart aims to set-up a total of 400 stores in the FY 2022, 73 stores launched was predominantly in Tamilnadu - 17 stores, 10 in Karnataka and 6 each in Telangana and Kerala amongst others. With this company has started its countdown to successfully establish its landmark of 1000th store in February this year. The 73 store launches also include states like Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Punjab along with several others. Lenskart is the biggest eye-wear brand in India with the largest retail network in vision care and with the Republic Day launch the aims is to further expand and strengthen the network

in the country. Commenting on the Republic Day launch, Amit Chaudhary, Co Founder, Lenskart said, "We are delighted to launch 73 stores in the country on a single day on the 73rd Republic Day. At Lenskart our vision is to transform the way people see and experience the world and with the opening of these new outlets, more and more people can get access to what Lenskart has to offer. We aim to enable vision for 1 billion people by 2027 globally and this is a positive step towards it." Speaking on the launch, Sunil Menon, Chief Retail Expansion Officer at Lenskart said, "Lenskart is expanding its retail stores exponentially and we will continue to do so in the coming 2-3 years which will increase our brand's footprint. Moreover, we are strengthening our omnichannel at all stores so we can continue to offer our customers a more efficient and smarter shopping experience."

Guv unfurls tricolour at Raj Bhawan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel hoisted the flag at Raj Bhavan on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day. On this occasion Principal Secretary to the Governor D.P. Ahuja, officers, and employees were present. Patel exchanged Republic Day greetings with the officers and employees. Sweets were distributed to the children of Raj Bhavan premises. Addl Secretary to Governor Manoj Khatri, Law Officer D.P.S. Gaur, ADC o the Governor Agam Jain, Shri Subhash Anand, Controller Raj Bhavan Surabhi Tiwari, Chief Security Officer Inderjit Singh Chavda, officers of all depts and security staff of Raj Bhavan were present. The slogan of Jai Hind given by him became the national slogan. The countrymen address him by the name of Netaji. Netaji gave the slogan of 'Delhi Chalo' to the army as 'Supreme Commander' in front of the Town Hall of Singapore on 5 July 1943 and fought the British and Commonwealth forces together in Imphal and Kohima including Burma.

Indore CP selected for President's medal

PNS ■ MHOW

Indore Commissioner of Police Harinarayan Chari Mishra has been selected for the president medal for the meritorious service which he will receive from the president of India on August 15, 2022 in New Delhi. Harinarayan Chari Mishra is a 2003 batch IPS officer of M P Cadre and he started his career as a trainee officer from Indore district and after 18 years of his service he is now presently the first Commissioner of Indore police. Commissioner of police Harinarayan Chari Mishra has initiated various new campaigns to serve the society and the prominent among them are Sanjeevani help line which is a toll free number of Indore police which help the depressed people and give them counselling to lead a better life and to keep their mind away from thoughts and attempts of suicide. His second initiative is operation Prahar in this the police break the economic backbone



of the criminals and gangsters and in this police demolish the concrete building structures of the criminals which they have constructed by illegal means of earning. Commissioner of police Harinarayan Chari Mishra lead the police team to bust the drug smugglers racket and confiscated drugs worth rs 100 crores. The commissioner of police Harinarayan Chari Mishra is a role model for his fellow police men and he believes that the success of police is based on complete team work and prompt mutual communication and patriotic feeling for the mother land in the heart of every policeman.

JSS distributes monthly ration kits



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Secretary Jeev Sewa Sansthan (JSS) Mahesh Dayaramani distributed free monthly Ration kits to the members of 100 poor families here, on the Republic Day. These families will regularly be provided Ration kits for the whole year. The donation have been made available by New York based philanthropist Indu Gajwani and her generous American Companions of long Island Indo-American Lions Club. Indu Gajwani is founder char-

ter Club president. Earlier this club have donated 200 blankets through JSS, while cataract surgeries of 250 eye patients will also be done very soon in the Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital. On the occasion, Mahesh Dayaramani expressed gratitude to Indu Gajwani and her philanthropist associates who have financially supported for the people of downtrodden classes of the society. Dayaramani hoped that the blessings emanated from the contented souls of beneficiaries will definitely bring happiness and peace in the lives of the

esteemed philanthropist. He hoped that in future also they will extend their helping hands for the poor families of the society. On the occasion all Covid-19 protocols were followed. It is learnt that Indu Gajwani is active participant in the philanthropic activities of JSS for a long period. On the occasion Managing Trustee of SSEH L.C. Janiyani, staunch disciple and senior volunteers K.L. Ramnani, Vasdev Motiyani, Janak Thadani and K.L. Lohana were also mainly present in the function.

Indore to be start-up capital of the country, says Chief Minister

PNS ■ INDORE

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a conducive environment will be provided in the state for start-ups. Financial assistance and other facilities will be provided for start-ups. Indore will be made the start-up capital of the country. He urged the youths to come forward and start more and more start-ups. The state government will give them full Support.

Chouhan was addressing the Start-in-Indore Conclave organised by young start-up entrepreneurs at Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore on Wednesday. Member of Parliament Shankar Lalwani,

public representatives and a large number of young start-up entrepreneurs were present.

The Chief Minister said that youths have immense potential to work. Nothing is impossible in the world. If a man wants, he can command in the universe also. Whatever he can imagine, he can also do. Do something so that the world keeps looking at you and remembers you. If the urge to do something is created in the mind, then success is definitely achieved. He said that the success of a start-up also depends on these factors.

Chouhan said that the real strength of democracy is the people. Today we are moving fast for self-reliant Madhya Pradesh. Self-reliant Madhya

Pradesh has four major dimensions, these include infrastructure, health and education, good governance, economy and employment. Industrial investment is increasing rapidly in the state. New industrial centres are also being developed. He said that Indore would be made the capital of start-ups. New industrial areas are being developed in different areas for new industries. All the start-ups should move ahead, this is the intention of the state government. For this, full Support will be given by the state government.

The Chief Minister said that the suggestions received through today's programme would be given shape. He said that a venture fund would be set up to help

the start-ups. An effective plan will be made in this regard. Work will also be done expeditiously towards making Indore an IT hub. Chouhan said that an action plan would be prepared to provide land, financial facilities etc. to the entrepreneurs. A model will be developed to provide financial assistance to start-ups. Global Start-up Investors Summit will also be organised.

Member of Parliament Shankar Lalwani said that Chief Minister Chouhan intends that Indore should become a hub of start-ups. The work of realising his intention has started. A forum of 300 start-up entrepreneurs has been set up in Indore. This is the first event of this forum. He said that soon another mega convention would be

organised. Giving suggestions, he said that there is a need to develop a culture and environment of working 24 hours in Indore. There should also be a big IT park here.

State Disaster Management Committee Member Nishant Khare said that in the past it was very difficult and challenging to innovate. With the efforts made by the government, doing innovation and new work has become easier. He informed that about 250 start-ups have participated in today's conference. This is a great achievement.

Suggestions are being taken regarding formulation of start-up policy. Many start-up entrepreneurs also gave their important suggestions in the programme.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during the inauguration ceremony of Ravindra Bhawan and convention center in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



Bollywood actor and singer Annu Kapoor performs in a cultural programme during the inauguration ceremony of Ravindra Bhawan and convention center in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

There is vast wealth of Herbal Knowledge in Tribals: Governor

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the vast wealth of knowledge of traditional medicine and herbs of Ayurveda is hidden in the tribal traditions, dialects and languages. The possibilities of introducing this treasure to the future generations should be considered. He said that strengthening Indian languages and dialects is the amalgamation of our culture, the preservation of the singularities of diversity in unity.

Patel was addressing the inauguration programme of the seminar on "Folk Literature in Indian Languages today and tomorrow" by Regional Institute of Education virtually from Raj Bhavan. In the seminar, the Souvenir of the Regional Institute of Education was released and Padma Shri Kapil Tiwari was honoured by presenting a shawl, a cer-



tificate of honour.

The Governor has said that Indian culture is the unique culture of the world, which is multicolored, a symbol of cultural unity of diversity with the continuity of thousands of years. The soul of our folk culture is embedded in folk literature and arts, in which there is a vast treasure of folk beliefs, values and philosophy. This can be gauged from the fact that the 2011 Census found more than 120 languages spoken and understood by more than 10 thousand people in India. To understand

the essence of folk culture, art and literature, it is also necessary to understand the traditions, various aspects and prevailing customs of the society.

Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given an opportunity to preserve and promote Indian Sanatan and folk culture in the new National Education Policy. According to the new education policy, it is necessary to make effective arrangements for teaching-learning, teaching material, teaching-training for education in mother tongue. Information and communication technology today has opened up immense possibilities of new opportunities for individual oriented, field oriented education. Scholars should also reflect on how the digital platform can be used in the expansion of Indian languages. He said that the regional educational institutions should take the initiative to bring the theoretical thought of the semi-

nar into actionable form. Demonstrate the path of building a future generation capable of easy expression of people's traditions, nature, value philosophy and human feelings, cultured with folk values ??and artistic richness. He expressed hope that the discussion of the seminar would be helpful in incorporating folk literature as well as business and aesthetics in the process of change and creation by adding folk philosophy to education.

Principal Vinod Kumar Kakadia told in his welcome address that the institute is a subsidiary of NCERT. The institute is helping in fulfilling the needs of school education. Prof. Nidhi Tiwari threw light on the outline of the seminar. She informed that 280 research papers have been received for the seminar. Selected research papers will be presented in the seminar in the next three days. Suresh Kumar Makwana proposed vote of thanks.

CM grieved over demise of Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the demise of Charanjit Singh, who was the captain of the Indian Hockey team that won gold medal in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Chouhan has said that today the country has lost a legend in the form of Charanjit Singh. Indian hockey has suffered an irreparable loss due to his death.

Late Singh has rendered commendable service to the nation with his sport and by training the youth. He will always be remembered for his brilliant game and humility.

One killed, 3 injured as car turns upside down in outskirts of Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 22-year-old youth died while three others including two girls were injured after a car turned turtle hitting a road divider on their way back to home after having dinner at restaurant late in the night on Wednesday; Khajuri Sadak police have started investigation. Police said that four persons were rushed to hospital where Mohammad Zaid was declared dead while three others escaped with injuries. In the initial investigation police have found that the Zaid along with his friend Faiz and their two friends have gone to Mumbai Mehfil restaurant at Sukhi

Mohammad Zaid was declared dead while three others escaped with injuries

Sewania area and when they were on their way back at around 12 in the night car rammed into road divider after losing control. After receiving the information FRV Dial 100 police reached the spot and reached the spot and took the injured to hospital. Meanwhile a 36-year-old man who sustained injuries and under going treatment died on Wednesday; deceased was hit by a speeding vehicle on

January 25. The deceased identified as Kallu Ram was hit by a speeding unidentified vehicle. Police have started investigation. In another incident a 32-year-old man was attacked by two bike borne miscreants with acid near Benazir ground in the night on Wednesday; Shahjehanabad police have started investigation. The victim Shahzeb Khan was stone pelted when he talking near Royal market, he followed the accused but failed to nab them and while he was on his way back a bottle hit him and he started to fell burning sensation. Victim was taken to hospital and later he lodged complaint with police.

MP Nagar cops nab 3 miscreants

Bhopal: The MP Nagar police have nabbed three miscreants and recovered valuables worth Rs 1 lakh from their possession on Thursday; accused confessed theft from MP Nagar zone 2.

Acting on a tip off three persons were tracked and when they spotted police they tried to fled spot but were chased down. The detained were identified as Suresh Singh (23) of Satna, Rajesh Yadav (38) of Gajipur Uttar Pradesh and Brijesh Kumar Jaiswal (34) of Sidhi.

Police said that the accused were nabbed after Vimal Srivastava lodged complaint with police station that the site of the incident Green Petrol Pump at MP Nagar Zone 2 steel rods and construction material was stolen from the site. The stolen goods were over Rs 1 lakh which were recovered from the accused who were arrested in the investigation.

The police recovered steel rods and other construction material. During the investigation police found that the accused are habitual drinker and for spending on things by selling burgle goods.

PNB gives Rs 25,000 for LED TV to Eklavya

Bhopal: The country is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of independence in which the program 'Vidyanjali' is run by the Ministry of Education is a reflection of all efforts, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.

In the series Punjab National bank under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

activities with the aim of popularizing Vidyanjali initiative on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence and strengthening schools under the theme "Jan Andolan" of Amrit Festival of Independence Rs 25000 was provided for LED TV to Eklavya Adarsh Residential School, Rampur Chhapar, Jabalpur, students

studying in the school would be benefited from online classes and other academic activities organized in the school.

The amount was provided by the Circle Head of the bank, Sanjay Verma.

Along with this, tree plantation was also done in the school premises by Circle Head Sanjay Verma.

कार्यालय जिला सहकारी केन्द्रीय बैंक मर्यादित, मंदसौर
बैंक के सम्पत्तीय अमानतदारों, कृषक सदस्यों एवं नागरिकों को
गणतंत्र दिवस पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं
जिला सहकारी केन्द्रीय बैंक मर्यादित मंदसौर की आकर्षक ऋण एवं अमानत योजनाओं का लाभ लेने के लिये सहकारी बैंक की नजदीकी शाखा में सम्पर्क करें।
1. किसानों को रुपये डेबिट कार्ड के माध्यम से 0 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर पर सुलभ फसल ऋण
2. बैंक की जिला मंदसौर एवं नीमच स्थित समस्त 35 शाखाएँ ऑनलाइन कम्प्यूटरीकृत
3. RTGS/NEFT सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध
4. बैंक की समस्त शाखाओं में ए.टी.एम. कार्ड सुविधा प्रारंभ
5. अमानतों पर सर्वाधिक ब्याज दरें
6. वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को अमानतों पर 0.50 प्रतिशत अधिक ब्याज दर
7. आवास ऋण, भूमि भवन तारण ऋण, कोलेटरल साख सीमा ऋण, व्यक्तिगत ऋण आदि अकृषि ऋण योजना अंतर्गत आसान ऋण सुविधा उपलब्ध
8. आत्मनिर्भर म.प्र. योजना अंतर्गत नागरिकों की सुविधा हेतु बैंक से सम्बद्ध पेक्स सहकारी समितियों में सामान्य सुविध केन्द्र शीघ्र प्रारंभ

पी.एन.यादव
मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी

बी.एल.मकवाना
संयुक्त रजिस्ट्रार सहकारिता
संभाग उज्जैन एवं बैंक प्रशासक

Inter-State gang of cheats busted, three nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Cyber crime branch Bhopal have arrested three members of interstate gang from Delhi involved in duping victims in the name of facilitating loans from Reliance Finance Limited; gang has duped 280 people who were duped to the tune of Rs 25 lakh.

The accused used to operate the call center in Pitampura in Delhi. In which the accused used to contact the needy people and take huge amount in the name of getting loan from Reliance Private Limited. The accused used to get the data of the people who needed the loan from Just Dial.

After the data was received victims were contacted using fake SIM and collect money from the complainant in the form of registration fee, processing

fee and other charges in the name of getting loan from Reliance Finance Private Limited.

The nabbed accused were identified as Prashant Kumar Pati who used to Operate Call Center and did calling, Yogesh Pal would do calling and providing fake sim and Gaurav Sharma would do calling and providing fake account.

In the initial investigation about 25 lakh rupees have been cheated by the accused in the name of getting loans of about 280 people in MP and other states.

The complainant Shibbu Thapa lodged complaint of fraud of Rs 58787 which was provided in the name of various charges (registration fee, processing fee, other charges) by luring to get loan from Reliance Finance Pvt Ltd. Police registered fraud case and started investigation.

कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक, जिला चिकित्सालय बैतूल		
csurgeonbetmp@nic.in (07141-230402)		
क्रमांक/स्टोर/2022/397	बैतूल, दिनांक 24.01.2022	
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना		
वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-23 के तहत जिला चिकित्सालय बैतूल म.प्र. हेतु मेडिकल ऑक्सीजन गैस, नाईट्रस ऑक्साइड गैस, फॉयर एक्सटिंग्युशर, कार्बन डाईआक्साईड गैस एवं अन्य गैस के सिलेण्डर के रिफिलिंग किये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।		
निविदा प्रक्रिया विवरण		
1	निविदा का प्रकार	वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-23 के तहत जिला चिकित्सालय बैतूल म.प्र. हेतु मेडिकल ऑक्सीजन गैस, नाईट्रस ऑक्साइड गैस, फॉयर एक्टीग्युशर, कार्बन डाईआक्साईड गैस एवं अन्य गैस के सिलेण्डर के रिफिलिंग किये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
2	निविदा दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन क्रय करने हेतु उपलब्धता	शासकीय निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य राशि 1000/- (एक हजार रु.) है जो ई -टेंडर https://mptenders.gov.in पर देय होगा। कोई समस्या आने पर ई-टेंडर के हेल्प लाईन नम्बर पर सम्पर्क करें।
3	ऑनलाईन निविदा जारी करने की दिनांक एवं समय	31 जनवरी 2022 समय प्रातः 10.30 बजे
4	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की प्रारंभिक दिनांक एवं समय	31 जनवरी 2022 समय प्रातः 10.30 बजे
5	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की अंतिम दिनांक एवं समय	09 फरवरी 2022 समय सायं 5.30 बजे तक
6	ऑनलाईन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक एवं समय	09 फरवरी 2022 समय सायं 5.30 बजे तक
7	तकनीकी निविदा ऑनलाईन खोले जाने की दिनांक एवं समय	10 फरवरी 2022 समय सायं 4.00 बजे
8	वित्तीय निविदा ऑनलाईन खोले जाने की दिनांक एवं समय	क्रय समिति निर्णय अनुसार
(डॉ. अशोक बारंगा)		
सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक जिला चिकित्सालय बैतूल		
G-21954/21	दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।	

कार्यालय संचालक,
कमला नेहरू चिकित्सालय, गैस राहत, भोपाल
E-mail id: dirknhbho@mp.gov.in
Phone No: 0755-2731261
क्रमांक./192/संचा./कनेच/गैस/2022
भोपाल दिनांक 24.01.2022
-:- निविदा सूचना -:-
भोपाल गैस त्रासदी राहत एवं पुनर्वास विभाग के अधीन संचालित चिकित्सालयों हेतु मध्यप्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड में पंजीकृत भोपाल क्षेत्र के लिए विनिष्टीकरण का कार्य करने हेतु अधिकृत निविदाकारों से अनुबंध दिनांक से दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिये गैस राहत विभाग के अधीन संचालित चिकित्सालयों एवं औषधालयों से निकलने वाले जीव चिकित्सा अपशिष्ट के विनिष्टीकरण हेतु ई-निविदा के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :।

निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	रुपये 2,000/-
धरोहर राशि	रुपये 62,000/- (रूपये बासठ हजार मात्र)
निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय की प्रारम्भ तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 28.01.2022 समय प्रातः 10:30 बजे
निविदा जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 29.01.2022 समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 22.02.2022 समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 23.02.2022 समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे

1. निविदा की कार्यवाही शासन के पोर्टल <https://mptenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन की जायेगी। अंतिम तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात् निविदा स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी।
2. यदि किसी कारणवश निविदा प्राप्त होने/खोलने हेतु निर्धारित तिथि को अवकाश घोषित हो जाता है या अन्य किसी कारणवश निविदा नहीं खोली जाती है तो अगले कार्य दिवस में निविदा खोलने की कार्यवाही ही जायेगी।
3. संचालक, कमला नेहरू चिकित्सालय, गैस राहत, भोपाल/अध्यक्ष, निविदा समिति को किसी भी निविदा, सभी निविदाओं को अथवा सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया को निविदा समिति की अनुशंसा पर किसी भी स्तर पर बिना कारण बताये अमान्य/निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।
4. निविदा से संबंधित संशोधन एवं अन्य जानकारी <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर ही उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

संचालक
कमला नेहरू चिकित्सालय
गैस राहत, भोपाल

G-21955/21
पहला डोज रक्षा-दूसरा डोज पूर्ण सुरक्षा।

246 militants surrendered, says Assam CM

Two Barak Valley outfits to lay down arms in Feb: Himanta

Guwahati: A total of 246 militants of United Gorkha People's Organisation (UGPO) and Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA) formally surrendered before Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Thursday. Welcoming the 169 UGPO and 77 TLA insurgents into the mainstream, Sarma said that two more Bru-Reang militant outfits in Barak Valley will lay down arms in February. Speaking at a formal arms-laying ceremony, the chief min-

ister said that ULFA (Independent) and Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) will then be the only remaining active insurgent groups in the state. "Two Bru-Reang groups in the Barak Valley will surrender in the coming days. We will try to settle them by February," he said. A senior police officer, who is involved in the surrender process of the militants, told PTI that the chief minister referred to the Bru Revolutionary Army Union (BRAU) and United Democratic Liberation Front (UDLF). The UGPO and TLA militants deposited 277 firearms of various types, 720 cartridges and grenades in front of Sarma. **PTI**

TMC to make IAS Rules issue in Budget session

Likely to move resolution in RS seeking removal of Bengal Gov

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is going to raise a host of 'contentious issues' in parliament in the upcoming Budget Session, inside sources said quoting Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has directed her MPs to raise the issue of proposed amendment of Indian Administrative Services (cadres) rules in Parliament, the party sources on Thursday said. Banerjee who on Thursday had called a meeting of TMC MPs ahead of the Budget Session is known to have chalked out a battle plan for her MPs guiding them on how to raise various issues including "the most contentious" issue related to the mandatory dep-

utation of IAS officers in Delhi. Claiming that proposed amendment of the IAS Cadre Rules, 1954 would disturb the federal structure of the country compelling the State Governments to release the bureaucrats once they are asked to do so by the Centre, Banerjee earlier said that the proposed amendment is "against spirit of cooperative federalism and that it upsets harmonious arrangement between Centre and States in the matter of posting of IAS and IPS officers." In her letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue, Banerjee earlier said, "I express my strong reservations to the approach followed by the Central Government in proposing such amendment to the Cadre Rules which unilaterally mandates the State Government to make such a number of officers available for deputations prescribed under (the) central deputation reserve." Apart from the IAS issue the TMC is also likely to raise other issues regarding "some Bills sent by the State and have



been lying pending with the Centre," sources said. Besides, the party is also likely to move a resolution in Rajya Sabha seeking withdrawal of Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar who has not been in good terms with the Chief Minister. The two sides have been at loggerheads ever since the Governor assumed office in 2019. The Chief Minister is personally likely to take up the issue and start a movement demanding the Governor's removal from Bengal, sources said. With the Governor often

raising issues like increasing violence, lack of model political culture, alleged politicization of bureaucracy and disregard for the gubernatorial chair the Bengal ruling outfit have often accused Dhankhar of converting the Raj Bhavan into a BJP party office. One such war of words ensued on Thursday when Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari attacked the Chief Minister for subverting the dignity of her chair ... she has been conducting herself in most undignified manner. He earlier said how during the Republic Day Parade in Kolkata

she broke the protocol by not proceeding to receive the Governor who was the Chief Guest. "Outrageous protocol violation by CM... She did not receive Hon'ble Governor at Republic Day function. But he showed grace by walking together and greeting her on this special National day. Her conduct left much to be desired and goes against the propriety and culture of WB", Adhikari said adding "the office of the Chief Minister has been disgraced like never before." Adhikari staged a short dharna at a Vikas Bhavan that houses Education Ministry demanding early opening of the educational institutions. "The TMC Government has opened bars, liquor shops, malls and even allowed weddings with 200 people but has kept the educational institutions closed ... this is because they do not want educated people in Bengal as after getting education they will want jobs which the Government cannot create," Adhikari said.

Padma Award for Azad not on merit: Cong

Bengaluru: Senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily said on Thursday the Narendra Modi Government's decision to confer Padma Bhushan on Ghulam Nabi Azad was a political one and not based on merit. He said the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister should not accept the award if he thinks that it harms the interest of the Congress party. "Narendra Modi took a political decision," Moily told PTI here. "They have taken a decision politically; not weighing on any merit or otherwise. Now, it's for him (Azad) to take a decision (on whether to accept or decline the award). The former Union Minister, who was among the Congress group of 23 leaders who wrote to the party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020 seeking internal reforms, said Azad should think whether it's in the interest of the party or not before accepting it. **PTI**

Kerala HC acquits ultras in Kozhikode twin blast case

Court quashes life sentence in blast that shook Kozhikode in March 2006

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on

Thursday acquitted two alleged extremists of all charges in connection with the twin blast cases that shook Kozhikode city on 3rd March 2006. Judges Vinod K Chandran and AA Ziyad Rehman quashed the life sentences slapped on Thadiyantevida Nazeer and Shafaz by the NIA special court and set them free. The twin blast cases which was investigated by the Kerala

Police was transferred to the National Investigating Agency in 2009 which arrested Nazeer and Shafaz along with other accused persons. The prosecution charge was that the accused resorted to the twin blasts following the denial of bail to the persons who were arrested for the 2003 Maradu massacre in which eight Hindu fishermen were slaughtered by a group of per-

sons. While allowing the appeal filed by Nazeer and Shafaz questioning the trial court verdict, the High Court came down heavily on the NIA for its lopsided investigation. "The case has been set up by the prosecution merely on surmises and conjectures, which the Trial Court swallowed without further ado and throwing to the winds the funda-

Twin blast case was transferred to the National Investigating Agency in 2009 which arrested Nazeer and Shafaz along with other accused persons

mental principles of criminal jurisprudence. It is pointed out that the charge under the Explosive Substances Act could not have been levelled, since

the Act provides a consent of the District Magistrate, from the year 2001 onwards, which has not been obtained," said the judges. The NIA came under scathing attack by the Division Bench. "The investigating agency has carried out no investigation and has put words into the mouth of the accused, recorded them as disclosure statements, which is the only

basis of the conviction. The conduct of the Court below is seriously assailed for having not considered the objections raised by the defence, in the course of chief-examination regarding the admissibility of the confessions; which are quite a few in number," they said. The Division Bench also pointed out that the seventh accused turned approver and

the NIA's allegations were based on his statement. "The only evidence before Court was that of the approver and the lack of identification demolishes the prosecution case. There were four persons in the dock and each should have been identified separately by pointing them out from the dock by their position, dress or stand-out features," said the judges.

All Cong corporators join NCP ahead of Malegaon civic polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a political coup of sorts pulled off by the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) ahead of the Malegaon Municipal Corporation (MMC) elections, all the 28 Congress corporators – including current Mayor Tahera Shaikh Rashid – on Thursday defected to the NCP, thus causing an earthquake in the State Congress. In a development that that diminished the Congress in the Muslim-dominated town in north Maharashtra but also brought about strains in the NCP and Congress which are constituents in the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the 28 Congress corporators joined the Sharad Pawar-led party in the presence of Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, state party president Jayant Patil, senior minister Chhagan Bhujbal and Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik. At a function held at the state party quarters in south Mumbai, Malegaon Mayor Tahera Shaikh, her husband, former MLA and current cor-

porator Rashid Shaikh and 26 corporators entered the NCP, taking the NCP's strength from the 20 corporators to 48 corporators. Hitherto, the Congress and NCP were ruling the MMC as an alliance. Informed sources said that Thursday's mass-defection was an off-shoot of the resignation tendered by Rashid Shaikh as the Malegaon Congress president last year. Though the State Congress had thought that the crisis triggered by Shaikh's resignation had blown over, his wife and MMC Mayor Tahera Shaikh dropped the bombshell on the Sonia Gandhi-led party and led the entire team of disgruntled party corporators into the NCP. Though jolted to the core, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole sought to underplay the development, by saying this kind of defections did happen in politics and that some people from the NCP would soon be joining his party. "Some persons from Congress have joined the NCP. Similarly, a few people from NCP will also be joining us. But, I am not revealing details

now. We may be in alliance in MVA, but this is after all politics," Patole said. With the defection of the 28 Congress corporators to the NCP, the political arithmetic has vastly changed in the powerloom town of Malegaon in general and the MMC in particular in the run-up the local civic body polls scheduled to be held next month. Prior to the defection of the 28 Congress corporators to the NCP, the party-wise break-up in the MMC was as follows: Congress 28, NCP 20, Shiv Sena 12, BJP 9, AIMIM 7 and JD(S) 7. But, post- en masse defection of corporators from Congress to the Congress, the Sharad Pawar-led party's strength has gone to 48, while the Congress reduced to zero. Earlier, welcoming 28 Congress corporators to his party fold, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar recalled that Rashid Shaikh, who was elected to the State Assembly in 1999, was taking along with him all sections of the society in Malegaon. "Our party president Sharad Pawar has believed and practised inclusiveness in politics.

‘Panchayati Raj laws need amendments’

Kerala Ex-Panchayati Raj Secy seeks to strengthen local govt system

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

India's Panchayath Raj laws need urgent amendments and reforms to make the local government system more effective and strong, according to S M Vijayanand, Chairman, Kerala's Finance Commission. Vijayanand, former chief secretary to Government of Kerala who is the longest serving Panchayath Raj Secretary in the State, wanted the system of 50 per cent reservation of local government seats for women and scheduled caste/scheduled tribe should be reformed at the earliest. Interactions with those who get elected to the local government bodies under these categories revealed the truth that they were not at all interested in taking up major works in their wards. This is because the reservation of the ward from where they get elected would become general ward in the subsequent election and the chances of them getting re-elected become bleak. A member should get minimum tenure of two terms to undertake major initiatives," Vijayanand told a congregation of senior lawyers, judges,

Panchayat raj members in a seminar held to mark the conclusion of the ninth and last workshop organized by CG3 (Connecting Governed, Governing and Governance), an initiative launched to empower local body members to take up causes for their electorate. The veteran IAS officer, who is rated as one of the master brains in the country in the system of decentralisation of power reiterated that those in power dare to bring in anti-people measures because of the failure of Grama Sabhas and Ward Committees which he described as the Basic Units of The Republic. "What former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dreamt was transferring power to people. He had visualised Grama Sabhas and Ward Committees as institutions which were as important as legislatures and parliament. If these Grama Sabhas and Ward Committees do not succeed, the concept of decentralisation too fail," said Vijayanand. While exhorting the local body members to reject populism, he said they could play a major role in eliminating cor-

ruption. "Always bear in mind the fact that local self governments are part of federalism. The Panchayath Raj institutions should have the power and right to tax," he said. According to Vijayanand, Kerala would not have experienced the deluge and landslides it suffered since 2018 had the local self governments made use of their power and freedom effectively. "The massive floods and landslides in the State were fall out of the failure to implement the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil Committee that was constituted to preserve the sanctity of the Western Ghats, the water tower of South India. Massive deforestation and quarrying had almost robbed the Ghats of its rain forests. The Local Self bodies in Kerala which had the power to accept the recommendations of Madhav Gadgil Committee in totality failed to do so because of the intervention of vested interests. Had these local bodies put their foot down, the State administration would not have been able to over rule them," he said.

Kylasanadha Pillay, senior advocate, Supreme Court, who conceived the concept of CG3 disclosed that LAMP (Legal Awareness and Motivation Programme), a mission to take legal awareness to schools and students have found takers from Kayamkulam in Kerala to Nepal. "Though the workshop for Panchayath members has concluded, we are launching the next step of CG3. The members of urban local bodies would be trained in taking up the causes of the people," said Dr Pillay. The Kerala Institute of Local Administration under the Kerala Government has extended a hand of cooperation and collaboration with the CG3 and this is expected to turn a new page in the history of local governance in the State.

Jammu-Srinagar highway closed for 2nd day after fresh landslide

Jammu: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for vehicular traffic for the second consecutive day on Thursday due to a landslide in Ramban district, sources said. The 270-km-long stretch, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by a landslide in the Panthiyal area in Ramban, they said. As a result, hundreds of vehicles are stranded at different points on the highway, they added. Men and machinery have been deployed to clear the area for the traffic, the sources said. The highway was closed on Wednesday after a landslide in the Duggi area of the district. **PTI**

ABVP seeks resumption of classes in all edu institutions, holds demonstration in Kolkata



Kolkata: Activists of the ABVP on Thursday staged a demonstration outside the main campus of the Calcutta University demanding that schools, colleges and universities be reopened in the interest of students. Saptarshi Sarkar, the national secretary of the right-wing students' organisation, told PTI that its activists had gathered near the main gate of Calcutta University's college street campus to hold a peaceful demonstration, but the police forced them to vacate the spot. "The area was suddenly cordoned off by the police. Out activists did not get into any confrontation and left the spot. A woman member of the outfit was, however, injured in the melee," Sarkar said. Sarkar said the demonstrators demanded resumption

of classes in schools, colleges and universities, given the fact that the COVID-19 situation was showing signs of improvement and "everything else from malls to restaurants and bars are in operation". Describing the state government's 'Paray Sikshalay' initiative as a "farce", he said normal classes should resume at the earliest as "students had been suffering for about two years". Under the 'Paray Sikshalay' project, the state government has decided to hold classes in the open for pre-primary and primary students of state-run schools. A Kolkata Police officer said around 50 ABVP activists, who had assembled before the CU main gate around 2 pm, were dispersed without the use of any force. **PTI**



Shankaracharya Swami Narendranand Saraswati, Akhara Parishad General Secretary Hari Giri Maharaj pose for photographs after offering prayers on the banks of Ganga river, during the ongoing Magh Mela festival in Prayagraj on Thursday **PTI**

Biting cold in Gulmarg as mercury dips in Valley

Summer capital Srinagar records minus 1.3 degrees temp

Srinagar: The minimum temperature across Kashmir plunged below the freezing point with the tourist resorts of

Gulmarg and Pahalgam reeling under extreme cold, officials said here on Thursday. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius – down from 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said. Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 10 degrees Celsius – slightly up from minus 10.4

degrees Celsius the previous night. Pahalgam, which also serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 10.9 degrees Celsius – down from the previous night's minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, they said. The officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius, while the

nearly south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius. Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began

on December 21 last year. 'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley. The chances of snowfall are

the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall. The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31, but the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khur'd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). **PTI**



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Scalping hair

India exports hair but there's more moolah if it turns to the hair products industry

Human hair can cause hair-raising problems and the Indian Government is waking up to the reality. If India has a commodity that can never become scarce, grows for free, and has the most of it in the world, it is human hair. Yet, India gets no benefit from this asset because it is not the leader of the hair products industry. It is merely an exporter. Between April-November last, hair exports stood at \$144.26 million. The pandemic lowered these to \$15.28 million in 2020-21. Exports are also hurt by rampant smuggling. Smugglers hire people to collect raw hair and illegally move it in bulk to some East Asian countries. The allegation is the hair is processed there and sent across to China, which makes wigs and hairpieces and exports them for a tidy profit. Hair products manufacturers and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence could not end smuggling despite best efforts. It is estimated that around 16,000 tonne of human hair are smuggled even now. Finally, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade stepped in this week and placed human hair in the restricted export category. That should help genuine exporters. However, it is time the industry shifted from exporting hair to exporting hair products. There is some talk of improving value addition in export products from India, like wigs and hairpieces, to increase foreign exchange earnings. It has to turn into reality now.



India raises huge quantities — 80 per cent — of the best quality of human hair in the world. All of it is donated, at places of worship. The Tirumala temple is the biggest source in the country. If hair export is banned, India's exports of hair products can touch \$3 billion annually and go up to \$6 billion in a few years. Importantly, stopping exports can bring back around 8.6 lakh jobs lost over the last few years and open up new jobs as well. It is not difficult for India to become the leader in the hair industry. But with it

comes the responsibility that Indian hair collectors, aggregators, product manufacturers and exporters are unaware of. For instance, the collection of hair from non-temple areas like salons and the villages is not organised at all. Planned collection can earn regular employment for rag-pickers. It can reduce the clogging of hair in pipes and sewers — the biggest contributor to rising plumbing costs. India should have expertise in synthetic hair materials and products to be able to compete with countries that lack natural hair. That the production of polymers, used to make synthetic hair products, leads to several environmental problems is another complication on the way. Indian manufacturers need to speed up research into a key area — the life cycle of hair products. At present, the products have a short life and are deemed disposable. If these are designed for a circular economy where they can be recycled, reconditioned and remanufactured, they can help reduce the demand for hair.

PICTALK



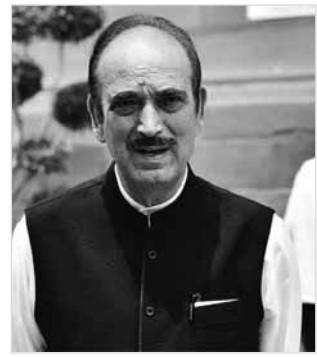
Fishermen row their boats in the Arabian Sea near the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, in Mumbai

PTI

Missing focus

Rather than taking a jibe at Azad, the Congress will do well to get ready for Assembly polls

The announcement of the Padma Bhushan for senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has set the cat among the pigeons in the 'grand old party'. While several party members — especially those belonging to the so-called G23 — have congratulated him for being named for the prestigious award, there understandably is a section that is miffed with the Kashmiri leader for accepting the honour. The prominent Congress leaders from among the G23 who supported Azad include Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor, with Sibal even calling it "ironic that the Congress doesn't need his services when the nation recognises his contributions", but the party's chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh took a swipe at Azad, hinting that the latter should have refused to accept the honour. Even though the reasons for the upset section's grouse are not being explained openly, it is being speculated that these leaders are not happy with Azad as he has accepted the award from the BJP-led Government. Now, to put matters in the right perspective, even though the honour may have been bestowed upon Azad during the BJP-led Government's rule at the Centre, it can by no stretch of imagination be counted as coming from the Bharatiya Janata Party.



It has simply been announced by the Government of India, by the President who is the executive head of the sovereign Republic. However, the upset colleagues refuse to subscribe to this view and, in this context, are even citing the "example set by" former West Bengal Chief Minister and CPM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, who has since refused to accept the award. Now Bhattacharjee's reasons and circumstances could be totally different from Azad's who has been for a long time now sidelined within the party and practically forced into oblivion. Had the Congress been treating him fairly, even of late, there was a possibility that the Kashmiri leader might have considered the wishes of the party old guard and high command. But now that he has been left to his own devices, there is no justification in trying to vilify him, especially for something which isn't even his own doing. It's time that the Congress, which is already in a visible state of decline across the country, had a relook at its priorities and kept its focus on Assembly election in the five States that are going to polls within days from now.

Why Buddhadeb said no to Padma Bhushan



PRAFULL GORADIA

It could have been an opportunity to re-enter the mainstream of politics; in India, there is increasing space for politicians of quality

It is a pity that Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, West Bengal's former Chief Minister, has refused to accept the Padma Bhushan he was offered this Republic Day by the President of India. The offer was not from the Bharatiya Janata Party Government or the Prime Minister. Even his refusal was confused; no one informed him or any member of his family, said Buddhadeb, as if that was the reason for declining the honour. The late Jyoti Basu had declined the opportunity of becoming a coalition Prime Minister when Deve Gowda had to resign as the PM. Later, he described it as "a historical blunder". The immediate reason given then was his party, the CPM, did not permit him to accept the post. While one might not question the genuineness of these persons in not accepting the honour/executive post, their refusals certainly do say something.

With the demise of Marxism as an ideology the world over, these could be the little opportunities to re-enter the mainstream of politics, at the Centre or in States. Why not seize them like floral bouquets? Is there something inherently different about communists? It is true that in Eastern Europe, some of them have managed to creep into the mainstream. However, in Europe, politics has swung towards the Right, especially because of a wave of migrants from Africa and Arabia, more so from Syria. In India, the Left is vacant without any prejudicial obstruction as in Europe. In fact, in our country there has been increasing space for politicians of quality; the Congress continues its decline, which increasingly looks terminal, while no replacement for it as a national Opposition has come up. The communists cannot, it appears, see this widening gap.

Is this because the communists are essentially trade union leaders and not politicians? When their trade unions weaken, they sink with their cadres. In the free world, Margaret Thatcher blew the whistle and best the Left could do in



response to her uncompromising right-wing way of rule was to bring forth Tony Blair, but with the novel label of New Labour, which shunned Leftism during its 10 years in power. The Soviet Union collapsed and scattered into 16 Republics with the advent of the 1990s. The French and Italian communist parties went virtually out of existence just a little earlier.

Nor did Leftism revive in the rest of Europe after 1991. China learnt its lesson from the Soviet Union and converted itself into a pseudo-capitalist system. The Beijing experiment is a novel one with the Communist Party of China owning the armed forces and controlling, with shares, many or most of China's mega enterprises. This was done perhaps with the objective of thwarting any revolt against the regime. Citizens there aren't allowed to set up a political party to compete for votes. But isn't this a new version of fascism?

Can it last? If so, for how long? After all, the CPC members are not blood relations, and they cannot remain beholden forever. Nevertheless, the Chinese experiment is unique and has been studied by experts, although one must add that it



IN INDIA, THE LEFT IS VACANT WITHOUT ANY PREJUDICIAL OBSTRUCTION. THE CONGRESS CONTINUES ITS DECLINE, WHICH INCREASINGLY LOOKS TERMINAL, WHILE NO REPLACEMENT FOR IT AS A NATIONAL OPPOSITION HAS COME UP

is a work in progress.

Until the 18th century, religion, particularly Christianity, provided the governing ideologies through monarchs. The French Revolution shook up this ideological duality and gave birth to a kind of pseudo-nationalism. To prevent nationalism being used or misused by capitalists, the communists supported by the industrial classes became the antidote to the Soviet Union in the lead. The spectre of communism spreading throughout the continent and engulfing European civilisation was very real, and it was in order to prevent such an eventuality that fascism was born. It first came into being in Italy under Benito Mussolini and was soon adopted by Adolf Hitler in Germany with all its consequences, particularly WWII. Today, both communism and fascism have virtually expired. Some former communists believe that they lost because of their lack of democratic functioning within the party. There can be no denying that parties that spawned and brought this ideology to power acquired dictatorial authority over their respective countries. The result was that the fascist leadership did not obtain any regular feedback

nor authentic information about how people felt, or where their country was headed. Third, people in the world outside also did not come to know as to what was happening in a particular communist country.

Regimes did not change often; it was only when a revolutionary cataclysm took place that everyone, inside and outside the country, became aware of what had been wrong. By the time they did become aware, they found that it was too late; they were swept away by the tide of change. It needs no reiteration that communism as an ideology has no future anywhere in the world. Places like China and North Korea have to use the State's brute muscle to remain in power. For any political future in free countries, former communists have to jettison their hidebound mindset and embrace a democratic way of functioning, beginning with their own parties.

But given the inherent contradiction between democracy and communism, this does not look like materialising.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAVE GHULAM NABI AZAD ALONE

Sir —Those who believe in the adage, "Coming events cast their shadow earlier" were already perking their ears when the Prime Minister got emotional and broke down during Ghulam Nabi Azad's farewell function in February last year due to his long association with the latter. Now, several people, including some of Azad's colleagues, are casting aspersions on him upon being conferred the prestigious Padma Bhushan, though some expressed happiness and extended their greetings. Among the G-23 members, Anand Sharma heaped praise on his friend being awarded the country's third highest honour but Kapil Sibal's tweet, "Congratulations bhajiyan; ironic that Congress does not need his services when the nation recognises his contributions to the public service", carried a sarcastic touch.

Jairam Ramesh came up with the phrase "Ghulam, not Azad" (enslaved, not free) and simultaneously referred to former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee who refused to accept the honour. Film star-turned-politician Raj Babbar, however, felicitated Ghulam Nabi Azad, calling him an elder brother whose immaculate public life and commitment to Gandhian ideals have always been an inspiration. The Congress leadership, meanwhile, has maintained a studied silence. All these scenarios have made public the ideological fissures continuing unabated among the grand old party members.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

DON'T LET THE GUARD DOWN

Sir —On the one hand, the spirit of people has been just amazing and an example is the way people have been venturing out in large numbers to celebrate festivals and functions. On the other hand, most people have been turning a blind eye to the current COVID status, especially in the wake of the Omicron variant, by not wearing masks. Ignoring such serious yet simple protocols as wearing masks, these people pose a great threat to society. Incidentally, I see numerous

Arunachal teen returns home



It's heartening to know that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has handed over 17-year-old Miram Taron from Zido, in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, to the Indian Army. The matter of Miram's kidnapping was first reported by BJP MP Tapir Gao, though the PLA had denied the kidnapping allegation. Instead, it claimed that he "illegally entered Chinese territory... and then was routinely questioned... and given humanitarian assistance". Kudos to our Army for pursuing the case meticulously with the PLA and safely securing our Miram back home. This is not the first such incident. In March 2020, a 21-year-old was kidnapped by the PLA from the Asaphila area in the same district and was returned after two weeks.

On September 3, 2020, five youth of Tagin community, engaged as porters for the Indian Army, were captured by the PLA on the McMahon line and returned home after 10 days. The reason for this type of dispute with China and why our citizens are continuously harassed is that Upper Siang district shares the boundary with China. People from Arunachal Pradesh often go into the interiors for hunting and inadvertently cross the border. To stop it permanently, some barbed wire barricade on the border with China or other method should be resorted to. Who knows it may create a major problem for both the nations one day?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

people venturing out for their daily needs without wearing masks. Sticking to my own mask, I have been advising to wear masks to many people in my native areas in Tamil Nadu.

As for the Omicron threat, it depends on us to keep away these fears. Even though vaccination has been a big hit worldwide, people should come out only after wearing masks. Plus, the Government and all media houses should come forward to churn out daily local feeds with a strong message and celebrity voice/word of advice. After all, countries have to look into their economic needs like agriculture activities and industrial operations. For this, the international community must come out of the COVID loop soon.

P Senthil Saravana Durai | Mumbai

KICKING UP A CONTROVERSY

Sir — This refers to three different issues, with the common agenda to defame Prime Minister Modi, that are hitting the head-

lines in media during the last three days. I would like to repudiate these one by one. The first issue pertains to withdrawal of "Abide with me" from the Beating Retreat ceremony. The Scottish-origin tune has been replaced by Lata Mangeshkar's popular "Ae mere watan ke logo".

The second controversy which should be laid to rest is the shifting of Amar Jawan Jyoti to the National War Memorial. The eternal flame at India Gate has still not been extinguished. The third dissent is the refusal to accept the Padma Vibhushan bestowed on former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and its acceptance by Ghulam Nabi Azad, with castigation of the latter by his party colleagues. The corollary of all these uncalculated-for situations is that since all this has been done by the Modi dispensation, it is not acceptable to those who hate him ad nauseum.

Sagar Singh | Muzaffarnagar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

It's our sacred national duty to follow the precautions suggested by our scientists and experts.



President — Ram Nath Kovind



The Afghan girls must return to schools, women to work. Our religion allows it.

Afghan ex-President — Hamid Karzai

I feel proud when I watch a patriotic film... Films have the power to evoke that emotion.



Actor — Rakul Preet Singh



Setbacks normally are part of life when you are in sports. But not these kinds.

Indian women's football coach — Thomas Dennerby

I know nothing about this award (Padma). If they've decided to offer it to me, I refuse to accept it.




West Bengal ex-CM — Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

FIRST COLUMN


PRE-POLL GUARANTEES
FILL UP's HORIZON

Freebies do represent unfulfilled aspirations and needs of society



VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT

With the election fever in Uttar Pradesh gaining momentum, pre-poll promises of freebies by major political parties are filling the horizon of the poll-bound state. Samajwadi Party (SP) has taken the lead in promising doles. Congress and comparatively new entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have zealously spiced up the freebie pot as well. These freebies pertain to free electricity, unemployment dole, pension for targetted sections, crop loan waiver, free two-wheelers for girls, etc. Considering there are about 28 million power consumers in UP, of which the domestic connections comprise 24 million, the promise of free power by competing political parties has created the maximum buzz in the media and the public alike. Taking a leaf from its gainful experience in Delhi, where it the ruling party, AAP has announced to provide 300 units of free electricity to domestic consumers if voted to power. It also promised to waive off out-



standing power bills and give free power to farmers if it formed the UP Government. Besides, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had also announced to provide ₹5,000 unemployment dole per annum to the beneficiaries. Not to be left behind in the pre-poll math, SP president Akhilesh Yadav also announced to provide free power up to 300 units to all households. Yadav promised ₹25 lakh ex-gratia to the kin of the farmers who died during the recent protest against the central farm laws. Meanwhile, Congress has promised to give smartphones and electric two-wheelers to girls if the grand old party forms the next UP Government after more than three decades of political wilderness in the State. Moreover, the party has talked about increasing pension for widows and senior citizens, increasing honorarium for ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and Anganwadi workers, free bus travel for women, three free gas cylinders a year, etc.

Interestingly, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has promised to double the ex gratia payment under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana from ₹6,000 to ₹12,000 if it forms the next Government. Meanwhile, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is yet to release its official poll manifesto, which the party calls 'Sankalp Patra'. The party had gained immensely from its pre-poll promise of crop loans waiver in the run-up to the 2017 UP elections. After coming to power, the BJP government of Yogi Adityanath, in its first cabinet meeting on April 4, 2017, had approved to waive crop loans worth almost ₹36,000 crore, projected to benefit 8.6 million small and marginal farmers. The flagship crop loan waiver scheme was hailed as a game changer for the party. In its recent Supplementary Budget of nearly ₹8,500 crore for 2021-22, the Yogi Government allocated about ₹4,000 crore for the bottom of the pyramid sections, viz., unorganised workers, including farm labourers, sharecroppers, and street vendors to be distributed as social security payment or doles. Besides, ₹670 crore was allocated for senior citizens and farmers' pension schemes, wherein their payout was increased from ₹500 to ₹1,000 a month. This is estimated to benefit more than 5.6 million elderly persons in the state. The financial grant to the differently-abled was doubled and the honorarium of shikshamitras hiked by ₹2,000 a month. Freebies do represent the unfulfilled aspirations and needs of the society, while on the other, they cast a taint on the tendency of pre-poll allurements to gain advantage at the hustings. A discerning voter is expected to make an informed choice before casting his/her vote to keep the Indian democracy healthy and vibrant beyond the narrow boundary of pre-poll guarantees.

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

Texas crisis exposes Pakistan's tentacles



NANDINI SINGH

There are no US-Nato forces in Afghanistan and rogue elements have the entire country to themselves to train Pak-backed militants, suicide bombers

The Texas hostage crisis at a synagogue that US President Joe Biden called an 'act of terror' has been resolved with the release of four hostages and the death of the hostage-taker but the dreadful situation has brought back the focus on Al Qaeda and its Pakistan connection.

The hostage taker identified by FBI as a British citizen named Malik Faisal Akram demanded for release of a terrorist in the US prison called 'Lady Al Qaeda', who is a Pakistan-born neuroscientist, Aafia Siddiqui. The case of the so-called Lady Al Qaeda has exposed links of Pakistan government, Al Qaeda and Taliban as Islamabad has joined forces with the terror groups to seek release of Aafia Siddiqui from the US prison.

The hostage-taker, Malik Faisal Akram, who stormed a Texas synagogue on the Sabbath and was holding hostages before he was shot and killed was demanding the release of 'Lady Al Qaeda', who is serving 86 years in a federal prison less than 30 miles from where the hostage standoff took place for attempting to murder US soldiers in Afghanistan.

Siddiqui was arrested in Afghanistan in 2008 with cyanide and plans to attack the Brooklyn Bridge and Empire State Building. Later she was extradited to the US and convicted in 2010. The demand for her release has brought a number of terror and jihadists groups together along with Pakistan establishment, who have been plotting or negotiating to seek Siddiqui's release. Terror groups in Pakistan, Afghanistan, who have taken US citizens hostage have tried to negotiate with the US Government offering they would free US citizens in return for Siddiqui's release.

This curious case of Aafia has also exposed how Al Qaeda, Taliban and Pakistan government are operating hand in glove with one another. Their causes are common and they work in collaboration with each other keeping the terror network very much activated.

Aafia was born in Karachi, Sindh in Pakistan to a Sunni family and later went to the US to study. Aafia returned to Pakistan from America for a time following the 9/11 attacks and again in 2003 during the war in Afghanistan. Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, a Pakistani Islamist militant and the principal architect of the 9/11 attacks, held by the US at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, named Aafia as a courier and financier for Al-Qaeda. She was later placed on the FBI Seeking Information- Terrorism list and remains the only woman to have been featured on this list.

Pakistanis view her as the 'national symbol of honor and victimization' and the Pakistani news media have called her trial a 'farce' and 'politicized' from the start. In July 2019, while visiting Washington DC, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan suggested Siddiqui should be exchanged for



PAKISTAN HAS BEEN DISOWNING TERRORISTS OF PAK ORIGIN WHENEVER THEY ARE ARRESTED IN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT NOT SO IN THE CASE OF AAFIA. IN AUGUST 2009, PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER YUSUF RAZA GILANI MET WITH SIDDQUI'S SISTER AT HIS RESIDENCE AND ASSURED HER THAT PAKISTAN WOULD SEEK HER RELEASE FROM THE US

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



Shakil Afridi, a Pakistani doctor accused of helping the Americans confirm the identity of Osama bin Laden, in advance of the raid where he was killed.

Earlier, the Pakistan embassy in the US hired a three-person defence team to supplement Al Qaida terrorist Aafia's two existing public defenders during her trial. The Pakistani government paid \$2 million for the services of three lawyers to assist in the defense of Siddiqui during the trial. This is a curious case, where a Government has so openly come out to support an Al Qaeda terrorist exposing its own nefarious designs, how Pakistan harbours Al Qaeda militants and uses them too, all the while giving false assurances to the Americans that it is helping them to finish Al Qaeda, which is very much active and calling shots more after lying low for some time until the Taliban consolidated its takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

Terror groups carried out a number of attacks to take revenge for Aafia's imprisonment, which again exposes whether it is Al Qaeda, Taliban or Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan or Haqqani network or JeM; they all are one when it comes to jihad or targeting foreign nationals or people of other religions. They join forces with covert support from Pakistani establishment to target whom they brand as an 'enemy of Islam.' According to a video released by Hakimullah Mehsud, head of the Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) at the time, the 2009 Camp Chapman attack in Afghanistan that killed seven CIA officers was partly in revenge for Aafia's imprisonment. The 2010 Times Square car-bombing attempt

occurred one day after Mehsud released another video promising to avenge Siddiqui. The perpetrator of the attempt was Faisal Shahzad, a recently naturalized Pakistan-born citizen who had contacts with Jaish-e-Muhammad and Hakimullah Mehsud.

The Taliban threatened to execute US soldier Bowe Bergdahl, whom they had captured in 2009 in retaliation for Lady Al Qaeda - Siddiqui's conviction. Bergdahl was later released in 2014 in exchange for five Guantanamo Bay detainees. In September 2010, the Taliban kidnapped Linda Norgrove, a Scottish aid worker in Afghanistan, and Taliban commanders insisted Norgrove would be handed over only in exchange for Siddiqui. But later Norgrove was accidentally killed. In July 2011, then-deputy of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, Waliur Rehman, announced that they wanted to swap Siddiqui for two Swiss citizens abducted in Balochistan. The Swiss couple escaped in March 2012.

In December 2011, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri demanded the release of Siddiqui in exchange for Warren Weinstein, an American aid worker kidnapped in Pakistan in August 2011. Weinstein was accidentally killed in a drone strike in January 2015.

Al Qaeda, Taliban, TTP and a host of other affiliated outfits have been kidnapping Americans, Europeans to make an exchange offer for Siddiqui's release and the recent hostage taking in a Texas synagogue is just another incident in the long series of events for several years. Given Pakistan's insistence on release of Siddiqui, now questions are being raised whether

all the kidnappings, hostage takings for Siddiqui was at the behest of Pakistan or whether Pakistan gave a tacit approval for the same? Pakistan's role in these terror activities has become more and more suspect.

Pakistan has been disowning terrorists of Pak origin whenever they are arrested in other countries but not so in the case of Aafia. In August 2009, Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani met with Siddiqui's sister at his residence and assured her that Pakistan would seek her release from the US. In 2010, President Asif Ali Zardari requested Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, that the U.S. considers repatriating Siddiqui to Pakistan under the Pakistan-US Prisoner Exchange Agreement. Siddiqui, who had links to al Qaeda and the banned jihadi group Jaish-e-Muhammad has received support not only from Islamic terror groups but Pakistan Government too and this in itself is a clear sign of hobnobbing between jihadists and Pakistan.

The latest hostage crisis at a Texas synagogue and number of similar incidents in Af-Pak demanding release of Lady Al Qaeda must be taken as a warning; the threat of Al Qaeda remains imminent, Taliban takeover of Afghanistan would only worsen it. Now there are no US-Nato forces in the region to check these rogue elements and they have the entire Afghanistan to themselves to train militants and suicide bombers backed by Pakistan government and ISI; this is a dangerous scenario and the sooner the world takes note the better.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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PRIYANKA GANDHI


Sardar Patel's rationale for a permanent civil service

Principles of new public management are needed to make administration facilitatory, rather than regulatory, to private enterprise and capital

Good Governance is necessary for development and citizen's satisfaction. One of the indicators used by the World Bank to measure Governance is its Effectiveness, measured in terms of the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies. India has improved its Percentile Rank in Governance Effectiveness, but remains low (66.8), much below Denmark and Norway (98), Australia (93.8), New Zealand (93) and even a single-party ruled country like China (72.6). Did our founding fathers err in their vision for the Civil Service?



RAKESH SARWAL



MRINALI DUDI

(Sarwal is Additional Secretary, NITI. Dudi is an intern at NITI. The views expressed are personal.)

As early as October, 1945, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had a resolution adopted at conference of Congress Chief Ministers authorising the setting up of two all-India services, the IAS and the IPS, to succeed the ICS (Indian Civil Service). Despite oppositions, Sardar Patel stood his ground for varied reasons - avoid an administrative gap and to retain the steel frame for a diverse republic as India.

A permanent civil servant is not bound to any political party or leader; its autonomous nature makes it stand unique and therefore work independently for the welfare of society hence, is also accountable to the Constitution of India on which they take oath of allegiance. Patel's public acknowledgment of the patriotism and dedication

of public servants and his expression of trust in them, gave them the self-assurance without which they could not have given their best.

The services need to shed the colonial legacy that makes officers act as the rulers rather than as public servants. Rapid Assessment System (RAS) in which a generic technology-enabled platform is used for seeking real-time citizen feedback on public services have been tried in many countries with success.

A lack of articulated and consistent goals, mismatch

between authority and accountability which loosens the scope for fixing responsibility, duplication of roles, absence of a system of strong incentives or disincentives, in-adequate delegation or excessive discretion - all these bring slack in the system. Lean, accountable, empowered work teams with clear responsibilities are likely to deliver better results, as in the case of Elections, Census or disaster relief.

Interference by or collusion with politicians can come in the way of delivery of services as per rules. Sometimes, cases of transfer and posting receive greater attention than those of public policy. Tenures of officers are one indicator of the flux in the dynamic systems of governance. For example, tenures of Chief Medical Officers range from eight months to three

years across the States. While political engagement and participation in governance is essential for ensuring accountability, transparency and garnering citizen's perceptions, the bounds and norms of acceptable conduct are social constructs built over time.

The New Public Management (NPM) in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Scandinavian countries represented an attempt to make the public sector more businesslike and in order to increase the performance of government, private sector management principles borrowed. It seeks to borrow from the private sector principles of flexibility, transparency, minimum Government, de-bureaucratisation, decentralisation and market orientation. The main principle of NPM is to empha-

size economy, efficiency, and effectiveness by downplaying the importance of regulation. It is not surprising that these countries score high on governance effectiveness index.

Today's government is trying to inject more specialists into the bureaucracy through lateral hires at the level of Director and Joint Secretary. Globally, countries like US, Belgium, UK, Australia have in fact institutionalized this practice as a part of their system. Debates around lateral hires have centered around perceived lack of rigour in the selection procedure. It is feared that due to the pressure of a fixed term contract, the lateral hires might not express or put forward their views freely and in an unbiased manner.

There is no doubt that India's permanent civil service

needs reform. This is vital to the country's progress and development. While the country needs talent and expertise to man specialized assignment, Patel's ideals of permanent, unbiased, independent administrators who can work for the betterment of country with a loyalty towards the people and commitment to rule of law should be kept alive. The ideas of the Constitution makers need to be imbibed in the process of lateral hires. In addition, principles of new public management need to be mainstreamed by amending our regulations to make the administration facilitatory, rather than regulatory to private enterprise and capital. This way the administration will be strengthened and made more relevant to current requirements.

US response on Ukraine offers little optimism: Russia

AP ■ MOSCOW

The U.S. rejection of Russia's main demands to resolve the crisis over Ukraine left little ground for optimism, the Kremlin said Thursday, while adding that dialogue was still possible.

Tensions have soared in recent weeks, as the United States and its NATO allies expressed concern that a buildup of about 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine signaled that Moscow planned to invade its ex-Soviet neighbor. Russia denies having any such designs — and has laid out a series of demands it says will improve security in Europe.

But as expected, the U.S. and the Western alliance firmly rejected any concessions on Moscow's main points Wednesday, refusing to permanently ban Ukraine from joining NATO and saying allied deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe are nonnegotiable.

The U.S. did outline areas in which some of Russia's concerns might be addressed, possibly offering a path to de-escalation. "There is no change, there will be no change," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, repeating the warning that any Russian incursion into Ukraine would be met with massive consequences and severe economic costs. All eyes are now on President Vladimir Putin, who will decide how Russia will respond amid fears that Europe could again be plunged into war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that response from the U.S. — and a similar one from NATO — left "little ground for optimism." At same time, he added that "there always are prospects for continuing a dialogue, it's in interests of both us and Americans." Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted that U.S. response contained some elements that could lead to "the start of a serious talk on secondary issues" but emphasized that "the document con-

tains no positive response on the main issue." Those are the Russian demands for the non-expansion of NATO and the non-deployment of weapons that may threaten Russia.

Lavrov told reporters that top officials will now submit their proposals to Putin, who has the American response, and Peskov said the Russian reaction would come soon.

The evasive official comments reflect the fact that it's Putin who will single-handedly determine Russia's next moves. The Russian leader has warned that he would order unspecified "military-technical measures" if the West refuses to heed the demands.

Peskov added that Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden will decide whether they need to have another conversation following two calls last month. While the diplomacy sputters on, so, too, do maneuvers that have escalated tensions.

Russia has launched a series of military drills: Motorized infantry and artillery units in southwestern Russia practiced firing live ammunition, warplanes in Kaliningrad on Baltic Sea performed bombing runs, dozens of warships sailed for training exercises in the Black Sea and the Arctic, and Russian fighter jets and paratroopers arrived in Belarus for joint war games.

Meanwhile, NATO said it was bolstering its deterrence in the Baltic Sea region, and the U.S. ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert for potential deployment to Europe.

Amid the tensions, thousands of Ukrainians expressed their resolve to stand up to the Russian pressure under the hashtag #UkrainiansWillResist on Twitter and Facebook. "No one will force Ukrainians to accept the Kremlin ultimatum," wrote Andrii Levus, who initiated the online campaign.

Beyond the fears of a Russian invasion in Ukraine, there also has been speculation that Moscow's response could include military deployments to the Western Hemisphere.

While a senior Russian diplomat recently pointedly refused to rule out such deployments to Cuba and Venezuela, a top Putin associate expressed skepticism Thursday at that prospect.

"Cuba and Venezuela are aiming to come out of isolation and restore normal relations with the U.S. to a certain extent, so there can't be any talk about setting up a base there as happened during the Soviet times," Dmitry Medvedev, a deputy head of Russia's Security Council, said in an interview with Russian media.

While he charged that the West is using Ukraine as a way to contain Russia, he somberly acknowledged that a Russia-NATO conflict "would be the most dramatic and simply catastrophic scenario, and I hope it will never happen."

As concerns rise about a possible Russian invasion, another conflict still simmers in Ukraine. In 2014, following the ouster of a Kremlin-friendly president in Kyiv, Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency in the country's eastern industrial heartland.

Fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed rebels has killed over 14,000 people, and efforts to reach a settlement have stalled.

Ukrainian and Russian envoys and others sat down in Paris on Wednesday to discuss a resolution to that conflict, but Medvedev said that Moscow sees no point in talking to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — and suggested that only a change in leader would defuse tensions.

He expressed hope that the Ukrainians would eventually become "weary of that bedlam and elect the leadership that would pursue policies ... aimed at normal economic relations with Russia." That comment follows a British claim that the Kremlin is seeking to replace Ukraine's government with a pro-Moscow administration — an allegation Russia denied.

US rejects Russia's 'bar Ukraine from NATO' demand as talks see new life

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ■ WASHINGTON

The United States on Wednesday rejected Russia's key demand to bar Ukraine from NATO and said it believed Moscow was ready to invade but offered what it called a new "diplomatic path" out of the crisis.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he would speak again in the coming days to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, whom he met Friday in Geneva, as a separate initiative by France brought a promise by Moscow at least to keep talking to Ukraine's government.

One month after Russia put forward sweeping security proposals, having sent tens of thousands of troops to Ukraine's border, the United States delivered a reply in coordination with NATO allies and said it was ready for any eventuality.

"It sets out a serious diplomatic path forward should Russia choose it," Blinken told reporters of the US response, which he said would remain confidential.

He renewed an offer on "reciprocal" measures to address mutual security concerns including reductions of missiles in Europe and transparency on military drills and Western aid to Ukraine.

But he made clear that the United States would not budge on Russia's core demand that Ukraine never be allowed to join NATO, the US-backed military alliance.

"From our perspective, I can't be more clear — NATO's door is open, remains open, and that is our commitment," Blinken said. Russia, which has a complicated historical relationship with Ukraine, has fueled an insurgency in former Soviet republic's east that has killed more than 13,000 people since 2014. Russia that year also seized Crimea after the overthrow of a government in Kyiv that had resisted efforts to

move closer to Europe. The United States has warned of severe and swift consequences if Russia invades, including possible personal sanctions on President Vladimir Putin, and NATO has put 8,500 troops on standby.

"While we are hoping for and working for a good solution -- de-escalation -- we are also prepared for the worst," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said.

Blinken's deputy Wendy Sherman, who led a previous round of talks with Russia, said Putin seemed ready to invade despite the US warnings.

"I have no idea whether he's made the ultimate decision, but we certainly see every indication that he is going to use military force sometime perhaps (between) now and the middle of February," Sherman told a forum.

She said Putin may be waiting so as not to overshadow February 4 start of Winter Olympics in Beijing, which Russian leader will attend amid a diplomatic boycott by United States and several of its allies.

French-led talks

In another bid to defuse tensions, senior Russian and Ukrainian officials met for eight hours in Paris with representatives of France and Germany. Dmitry Kozak, the Kremlin deputy chief of staff, said talks were "not simple" but that another round would take place in two weeks in Berlin.

France said after so-called Normandy Format talks that envoys committed to a fragile July 2020 ceasefire in eastern Ukraine between government forces and pro-Moscow separatists.

"We need a supplementary pause. We hope that this process will have results in two weeks," Kozak said. An aide to French President Emmanuel Macron also called talks "difficult," but told reporters, "In current circumstances, we received a good signal."

World remembers Holocaust as antisemitism rises in pandemic

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Holocaust survivors and politicians warned about the resurgence of antisemitism and Holocaust denial as the world remembered Nazi atrocities and commemorated the 77th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp on Thursday.

"I have lived in New York for 75 years, but I still remember well the terrible time of horror and hatred," survivor Inge Auerbacher, 87, told the German parliament.

"Unfortunately, this cancer has reawakened and hatred of Jews is commonplace again in many countries in the world, including Germany."

Commemorations are taking place amid a rise of antisemitism that gained traction during lockdowns as the pandemic exacerbated hatred online. "This sickness must be healed as quickly as possible," Auerbacher said. German parliament speaker Baerbel Bas noted that the coronavirus

pandemic has acted "like an accelerant" to already burgeoning antisemitism. "Antisemitism is here - it isn't just on the extreme fringe, not just among the eternally incorrigible and a few antisemitic trolls on the net," she said. "It is a problem of our society - all of society."

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in November 2005 establishing the annual commemoration, and chose Jan 27 - the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many International Holocaust Remembrance Day events were being held online this year again. A small ceremony, however, was to take place at the site of the former Auschwitz death camp, where World War II Nazi German forces killed 1.1 million people in occupied Poland. The memorial site was closed earlier in the pandemic but reopened in June. In all, about 6 million European Jews and

millions of other people were killed by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust. Some 1.5 million were children. "Our country bears a special responsibility - the genocide against European Jews is a German crime," Bas told a special parliamentary session in Berlin attended by country's leaders. "But at same time it is a past that is everyone's business -- not just Germans, not just Jews." Israel's parliamentary speaker, Mickey Levy, broke down in tears at Germany's Bundestag while reciting Jewish mourner's prayer from a prayer book that belonged to a German Jewish boy who celebrated his bar mitzvah on eve of Kristallnacht.

Levy said Israel and Germany experienced "an exceptional journey on way to reconciliation and establishing relations and brave friendship between us". Auerbacher recalled being nearly hit by a stone thrown by Nazi thugs during the anti-Jewish pogrom of November 1938.

France to organise event focused on Indo-Pacific under its EU presidency

New Delhi: France on Thursday announced that under its presidency of Council of European Union, it will host a ministerial meeting focused on Indo-Pacific -- Paris Forum -- on February 22. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian announced this during an online discussion and extended an invite to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who also took part in the event titled "The French Presidency: EU-India Partnership in Indo-Pacific". Le Drian said it will be first time that in EU council presidency there will be an event focussed on relations between EU and Indo-Pacific. This Indo-Pacific meeting will be held on February 22 and High Representative of EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles will be in Paris for it, he said. Le Drian hoped for Jaishankar and other partners to partici-

pate in event and contribute to peace and stability in region. "What I wish is for this Paris Forum to allow for concretisation of the principles we share with respect to rule of law, harmonious relations and post-Covid recovery," he said. Le Drian said security and defence, connectivity and digital issues and global challenges will be on the agenda of the Indo-Pacific ministerial meeting in Paris. The French foreign minister asserted that India plays a key role in the Indo-Pacific.

In his remarks, Jaishankar said the French aircraft flying at the finale of the Republic Day parade was a visible example of the strategic ties between India and France. Asserting that France has an Indo-Pacific resident presence, Jaishankar called for strengthening the India-France partnership and said that focusing it on the Indo-Pacific is timely." PTI

German archbishop pushes reform after criticism over abuse

Berlin: The archbishop of Munich said Thursday that Catholic church needs deep reform to overcome "disaster" of sexual abuse and made clear that he intends to stay in his job, after a report faulting him and predecessors including retired Pope Benedict XVI for their handling of abuse allegations and cases in Germany. Cardinal Reinhard Marx last year offered to resign over church's abuse scandal, an extraordinary gesture at time which was rejected swiftly by Pope Francis. Marx, a prominent reformist ally of pontiff, was faulted over his handling of two cases in report commissioned by his archdiocese from a Munich law firm. He told a news conference a week after report's release that he will look over those cases "to learn from them." Marx said he hadn't renewed his resignation offer. "In current situation, that struck me as just disappearing," he said. AP

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, गरियाबंद छत्तीसगढ़

eegar_phe_cg@nic.in

निविदा निरस्तीकरण

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हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड,
गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)

R.O. No-67194/7
R.O. Date - 27/01/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one lady Namely **Renu W/o Santosh Kumar R/o H.No. C-24, Gali No.22, S.B.S. Colony, Karawal Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from her House, since 30.12.2021. In this regard, a case **DD No 50-A dated 2.01.2022 has been registered at P.S. Karawal Nagar Delhi**. The description of the missing / kidnapped lady are as under.

Age: about 40 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow Colour Blouse & Saree, and chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing lady then please inform P.S.Karawal Nagar Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**, providing clue about the person.

Ph:011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No.011-24368639

Sd/- SHO
Karawal Nagar, Delhi
PH.011- 22932232

DP/1313/NE/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, ICICI Bank Ltd., ("Bank"), that the original Allotment letter and other connected documents (hereinafter collectively referred as "Documents") listed herein below pertaining to the immovable property (More particularly described in "Schedule) of Mr. Ravi Chawla deposited with our client by way of security, have been misplaced from the custody of our client. "Allotment Letter dated July 27, 1988, 5 Nos of Receipt issued by DDA dated Feb 14, 1984, Dec 22, 1984, Feb 16, 1985, Jun 24, 1985, Jul 12, 1988, Possession slip dated Mar 13, 1989 and Demand letter dated Jan 15, 1984, executed by Delhi Development Authority in favour of Prakash Chawla in respect of Flat No-B-1/1256, Sec-B, Pocket-I, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070. Any person(s) coming into possession of the aforesaid Documents and / or any person(s) who is/are having knowledge of the whereabouts of the Documents, are hereby requested to intimate the undersigned forthwith, about the same at the below address. Public are warned not to deal with the Documents and any person receiving or dealing with the said Documents would do so at their own risk and responsibility (including criminal liability) and our client shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person(s) on account of any such unauthorised dealing. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our client will proceed to take such action including applying to concerned authorities for issue of duly Certified Copies of the Documents.

SCHEDULE

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OPEN E-TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162
Date: 24/01/2022. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dr.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan. Sl. No.; **Tender No.;** Brief Description of Item; Qty; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) : (1); **63204213** Set of Stator and Rotor Stamping for Traction Motor Type 6FRA-6068. One set consisting of 05 items; 595.00 Set; 20/000000; 21/02/2022 at 11:00 AM. (2); **75224128** Set of Fabricated Items for WAP-7 with Hotel Load Converter; 72.00 Set; 0.00; 14/02/2022 at 11:00 AM. (3); **75213872A**; Set of Inter Lock Assy. for Cab doors for WAG-9HC/WAP-7; WAP-5 as per Spec. No. CLW/MS/3/111 Alt-6 and Drg. No. 1209-09-133-021 Alt-2 (01 set consisting of 02 No. RH and 02 Nos. LH) as per set details attached; 323.00 Set; 253300.00; 21/02/2022 at 11:00. (4); **75213878B**; Set of Miscellaneous Hardware Items (Electrical) for WAG-9HC/ WAP-7/WAP-5 locos as per Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/187, Alt-M [Each set consist of 31 items as per pdf annexure]; 460.00 Set; 60280.00; 21/02/2022 at 11:00. PRS-311 PCMM/CLW/CRJ Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

WHO staff complaint, email allege racism and abuse in Asia

AP ■ GENEVA

Current and former staffers of World Health Organization in Western Pacific of racist, unethical and abusive behaviour that has undermined UN health agency's efforts to curb coronavirus pandemic.

The allegations were laid out in an internal complaint filed in October and again in an email last week, sent by unidentified "concerned WHO staff" to senior leadership and the executive board and obtained by the Associated Press. Two of authors said more than 30 staffers were involved in writing it, and that it reflected experiences of more than 50 people. The internal complaint and email describe a "toxic atmosphere" with "a culture of systemic bullying and public ridiculing" at WHO's Western Pacific headquarters in Manila, led by Dr. Takeshi Kasai, director of a vast region

that includes China and his home country of Japan. The AP also has obtained recorded snippets of meetings where Kasai is heard making derogatory remarks about his staff based on nationality. Eleven former or current WHO staffers who worked for Kasai told AP he frequently used racist language. Staffers, who did not identify themselves to WHO "for fear of retaliation," said in the email that Kasai's authoritarian style has led to departure of more than 55 key staff in past year and a half, most of whom have not been replaced.

This resulted in a lack of understanding and involvement with member countries that "significantly contributed" to a surge of cases in many countries in region, they said. However, other WHO staffers pointed out that spikes in COVID cases were due to numerous reasons, including countries' own resources and timing of their national efforts.

North Korea fires 2 suspected missiles in 6th launch in 2022

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Thursday fired two suspected ballistic missiles into the sea in its sixth round of weapons launches this month, South Korea's military said. Experts say North Korea's unusually fast pace in testing activity underscores an intent to pressure the Biden administration over long-stalled negotiations aimed at exchanging a release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions against the North and the North's denuclearization steps. The renewed pressure comes as the pandemic further shakes the North's economy, which was already battered by crippling U.S.-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons program and decades of mismanagement by its own government. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the weapons, which were likely short-range, were launched five minutes apart

from an eastern coastal area and flew 190 kilometers (118 miles) on an apogee of 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) before landing at sea. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who described North Korea's repeated missile firings as "extremely regrettable," but said there has so far been no reports of damage to vessel and aircraft around the Japanese coast. The North also last week issued a veiled threat to resume the testing of nuclear explosives and long-range missiles targeting the American homeland, which leader Kim Jong Un suspended in 2018 while initiating diplomacy with the United States. Kim's high-stakes summitry with then-President Donald Trump derailed in 2019 after the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective successors, assigns, heirs). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manish Jain/ Kohnoor Jewel Studio/ Madhu Jain/ Rupal Jain/ LBDEL0001587524	D - 81, Second Floor, Veer Nagar, Near Rana Pratap Bagh Jain Colony, New Delhi, Delhi/ January 24, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 33,06,793/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Abdul Karim Wani/ M/s Gulam Ahamad Wani/ Mahbooba Akhtar/ LBDEL00001654457	Plot No- R-8, First Floor, Block- R, South Extension Part- 2, Delhi/ January 25, 2022	July 02, 2021/ Rs. 74,27,377/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date : January 28, 2022
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक छत्तीसगढ़ आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (सिम्स चिकित्सालय) बिलासपुर छगगो

FAX(0)-07752-224200, PHONE(0)-07752-230030

क्रमांक 268 /ओगो/सं.सं.अधि./सिम्स चिकि./2022 बिलासपुर, दिनांक 24/01/2022

लोकल परचेस एवं पेशनरों हेतु तृतीय निविदा 2021--22

निविदा कार्य का नाम	सिम्स चिकित्सालय, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में उपचारार्थ सौजन्य, पेशनरों, लोकल परचेस (L.P.) एवं मुख्य सजी विशेष स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजना की औषधी एवं चिकित्सा सामग्री की अपातकालिन स्थिति में उक्ताल पुर्रि के लिए सिम्स चिकित्सालय के समीप जो की सड़क मार्ग से सिम्स चिकित्सालय के मुख्य द्वार से 500 मीटर के दायरे में स्थित हो ऐसे स्थानीय विलर दवा विक्रेताओं से निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है।
निविदा प्राप्त मुख्य	रुपये 2000.00 (दो हजार मात्र) का demand Draft वापसी योग्य नहीं। जो की संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक (Joint Director Cum Superintendent, CIMS Hospital Bilaspur C.G.) सिम्स चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) के पक्ष में देय हो।
निविदा प्राप्त फायदा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	09/02/2022 संघ्य 5.00 बजे तक। संघित साखा सिम्स, चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)।
निविदा कार्य जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	28/02/2022 दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक।
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	28/02/2022 संघ्य 4.00 बजे के बाद।
निविदा जमा एवं खोलने के हेतु निर्धारित स्थान	कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक, सिम्स चिकित्सालय, बिलासपुर में कार्यालय दिवस एवं अवधि में।

उपरोक्तानुसार इच्छुक निविदाकारों से निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

हस्ता/-

R.O.No - 67192/4 संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक
R.O. Date - 27/01/2022 सिम्स चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर (अगगो)

UN chief urges major Afghan aid increase, unfreezing assets

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Chief urged nations Tuesday to greatly boost humanitarian aid for millions of Afghans living in "a frozen hell" and release nearly \$9 billion in frozen assets to pull Afghanistan's economy back from brink of a collapse that could set off a mass exodus of people fleeing country. "Time is of essence," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Security Council. "Without action, lives will be lost, and despair and extremism will grow." Guterres said liquidity must be urgently restored to Afghan economy. He said that means freeing up country's frozen currency reserves, re-engaging with its Central Bank and finding othr ways to inject money, including allowing

A nurse checks the weight of a child in the makeshift clinic organized by World Vision at a settlement near Herat, Afghanistan, on Dec. 16, 2021 (AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov, File)

Iran state TV shows dissidents' images after apparent hack

AP ■ DUBAI

Channels of Iran's state television broadcast images Thursday showing the leaders of an exiled dissident group and a graphic demanding the country's supreme leader be killed, an incident state TV later described as a hack. The graphics showed the leaders of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq and the name of an account on two social media platforms, which claimed to be a group of hackers who broadcast the message praising the dissidents. The MEK, now largely based in Albania, did not immediately answer telephone calls from The Associated Press. The incident marked a serious breach for Iranian state TV, which is controlled by hard-liners in the country.

Tata to get loans from SBI-led consortium for AI

New Delhi: A consortium of lenders led by State Bank of India (SBI) will soon provide loans to Tata Group for the operations of Air India as well as to retire the airline's high cost borrowings.

After nearly 70 years, Tata Group on Thursday regained ownership of Air India. With the completion of the deal, the group will own 100 per cent stake in Air India, Air India Express and a 50 per cent shareholding in AISATS.

Bankers said the SBI-led consortium has agreed to grant both term loans and working capital loans depending on the airline's requirements.

All large lenders, including Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Union Bank of India, are part of the consortium, they added.

"Many banks have agreed for refinancing of Air India debt to Tatas and the process has begun," one of the bankers said. Existing lenders who do not wish to participate in refinancing of debt to Tatas will get



their money repaid through the refinanced amount, the banker said.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is among the entities that had given loans earlier to loss-making Air India. Now, the IPO-bound LIC has decided not to extend more loans to the airline and will not participate in the current funding round led by the SBI, the bankers said.

Talace Private Limited -- a subsidiary of the Tata Group's holding company Tata Sons -- on October 8, 2021, won the bid to acquire debt-ridden Air India. It had offered Rs 18,000 crore, including cash of Rs

2,700 crore which has now been paid to the government. The term loans to Talace will help in retiring the high cost borrowings of Air India, the bankers said.

The amount of loans likely to be extended by the consortium could not be immediately ascertained.

"The strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India successfully concluded today with transfer of 100 per cent shares of Air India to M/s talace Pvt Ltd along with management control," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a tweet on Thursday. **PTI**

Sensex sinks 581 pts as hawkish Fed roils global markets

Mumbai: Equity benchmark Sensex tumbled 581 points on Thursday, in tandem with a global selloff after the US Federal Reserve signalled policy tightening from March.

A depreciating rupee and persistent foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index ended 581.21 points or 1.00 per cent lower at 57,276.94. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 167.80 points or 0.97 per cent to 17,110.15.

HCL Tech was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 4.17 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's, Wipro, TCS, Titan and Infosys. On the other hand, Axis Bank, SBI, Maruti, Kotak Bank, Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank were among the gainers, climbing as much as 2.81 per cent.

The Federal Reserve left policy rates unchanged on Wednesday, but chairman

Jerome Powell said the US central bank is likely to raise interest rates in March and end its massive bond buying program to combat surging inflation. Investors fear foreign capital outflows from emerging markets like India after rate hikes in the US.

"As the Fed left key interest rates near zero, its hawkish commentary quickly washed away gains in global markets, leading to a gap down opening in indices back home.

"As FPIs continued to book profits from Indian equities, value stocks made a comeback with the PSU Bank Index rallying over 5 per cent in afternoon trade today, well supported by auto stocks to stage a smart recovery. As IT and pharma stocks witnessed profit taking, textile stocks were sought after in the broader market on the back of earnings," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities. **PTI**

20 years later: India's CPSE privatisation off to 'Maharaja' start

New Delhi: After a hiatus of nearly two decades, the Government's programme to privatise state-owned firms restarted with the handing over of debt-laden national carrier Air India to the Tata Group.

With the new owner shelling out Rs 18,000 crore for the buyout of the 'Maharaja', this would be the highest-ever amount garnered through privatisation, and is even more than the cumulative sum mopped up through strategic sales from 1999-00 to 2003-04.

The Government had in October last year inked the share purchase agreement with the Tata Group for sale of

national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore. Tatas would pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt. The deal also includes sale of Air India Express and ground handling arm AISATS.

The government had garnered roughly over Rs 5,000 crore during that five-year period by privatising 10 CPSEs. Besides, three hotel properties of Hotel Corporation of India and 18 of ITDC were also sold off by way of slump sale.

Here is a timeline of strategic sale of central public sector enterprises

(CPSEs) to private entities between 1999-00 to 2003-04: 1999-00 - Modern Food Industries Ltd -- Rs 105 crore 2000-01 - BALCO, Lagan Jute Machinery Co Ltd -- Rs 554 crore 2001-02 - VSNL, Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC), Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd (HTL), Paradeep Phosphate Ltd (PTPL), some hotel properties of HCI and ITDC -- Rs 2,089 crore 2002-03 - Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL), Indian Petrochemicals Corporation (IPCL), some ITDC hotel properties -- Rs 2,335 crore 2003-04 - HZL (second tranche), Jessop & Co -- Rs 342 crore. **PTI**

Gold plunges ₹563; silver declines ₹1,186

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Thursday plunged Rs 563 to Rs 48,215 per 10 grams amid weak international precious metal prices, according to HDEC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious settled at Rs 48,778 per 10 gram.

Silver also tumbled Rs 1,186 to Rs 62,792 per kg from Rs 63,978 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,810 per ounce. **PTI**

Sebi amends rules; to send notices, summons via instant messaging services

New Delhi: Sebi will now be sending show cause notices and summons to alleged offenders of securities market rules through instant messaging services, a move that will make the process faster.

At present, the regulator sends such documents through either registered post, courier or electronic mail. Also, Sebi has tweaked norms pertaining to powers of investigating authority for seeking information and documents in respect

of any transaction in securities markets, which are under investigation.

To effect these, the regulator has amended Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) norms relating to securities market, according to a notification issued on Tuesday. Summons or notices issued by Sebi under PFUTP norms will be served on the person by delivering or tendering it to that person or his duly authorised agent. **PTI**

Sebi strengthens MF norms; winding up of schemes only after majority unitholders' consent

New Delhi: In a move aimed to further safeguard the interest of mutual fund investors, Sebi has made it mandatory for trustees of mutual funds to obtain the consent of unitholders when majority of trustees decide to wind up a scheme.

Under the new norms, mutual fund trustees will be required to obtain the consent of the unitholders when the majority of the trustees decide to wind up a scheme or prematurely redeem the units of a close-ended scheme.

The trustees will have to obtain consent of unitholders by simple majority of the unitholders present and voting on the basis of one vote per unit held and publish the results of voting within 45 days of the publication of notice of circumstances leading to winding up, Sebi said in a notification issued on Tuesday.

In case the trustees fail to obtain the consent, Sebi said the scheme would be open for business activities from the second business day after publication of results of voting.

Amending mutual fund norms, Sebi said the trustees will give notice within one day, disclosing the circumstances leading to the winding

up of the scheme to the regulator and in two daily newspapers having circulation all over India as well as a vernacular newspaper circulating at the place where the mutual fund is formed.

The decision to amend the regulations came after the Supreme Court in July held that the trustees are required to seek consent of majority unit-holders for closing mutual fund schemes after publishing notice disclosing reasons for their decision to wind up schemes.

The Supreme Court's decision came in the case pertaining to winding-up of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund's six debt schemes. The fund house shut its six debt mutual fund schemes on April 23, 2020, citing redemption pressures and lack of liquidity in the bond market. The schemes - Franklin India Low Duration Fund, Franklin India Dynamic Accrual Fund, Franklin India Credit Risk Fund, Franklin India Short Term Income Plan, Franklin India Ultra Short Bond Fund, and Franklin India Income Opportunities Fund - together had an estimated more than Rs 25,000 crore as assets under management. **PTI**



Arun Joshi AD-PR with colleague on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day, at a State-level function at Savai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur Pioneer photo

POS biz grew to \$4 bn annualised transaction value, deployed over 1.25 lakh machines: BharatPe

New Delhi: BharatPe, a fintech company for merchants, on Thursday said it has witnessed 200 per cent growth in annualised transaction value to USD 4 billion (about Rs 30,078 crore) from its POS business over the last 12 months. The Point of Sale (POS) business - BharatSwipe - now contributes about 25 per cent to the overall payments Transaction Processed Value (TPV) of the company, a statement said.

BharatPe has ramped up the reach of its POS business by 25X to over 250 cities in the last 12 months and since the launch

in the second half of 2020, company has deployed more than 1.25L BharatSwipe machines across offline shops, it added.

"The growth can be attributed to the expansion of the company's POS business in non-metro cities, with more than 50 per cent of BharatSwipe machines being deployed in tier II/tier III towns and cities since 2021. BharatSwipe has been universally adopted by small merchants and retailers across categories including grocery, food and beverage, electronics and durables, among others," it said. **PTI**

Oil nears \$90; petrol, diesel price freeze enters record 83rd day

New Delhi: With the forthcoming high stake assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, the freeze on petrol and diesel prices is now the longest ever even as international oil prices climbed to USD 90 per barrel for the first time in seven years.

Brent - the key global oil benchmark - soared to USD 90.02 per barrel on Thursday amid tensions between Ukraine and Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer that have fanned fears of energy supply disruptions to Europe.

Analysts expected weaker Omicron impact to keep prices elevated.

But domestic fuel prices - which are directly linked to international oil prices - have not been revised for 83 days now, beating the 82-day hiatus of 2020.

Petrol costs Rs 95.41 a litre in Delhi and diesel is priced at Rs 86.67 - the same as it did after accounting for the excise duty cut and a reduction in VAT rate by the Delhi government. **PTI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to General Public that the property documents viz. Site Possession Slip and Allotment cum Demand Letter qua property bearing No. 89-C DDA Flats, Gubali Bagh, Delhi-110007, issued by Delhi Development Authority in the name of Smt. Geeta Devi W/o Sh. OP Rohatgi & D/o Bagwati Devi have been lost. Smt. Geeta Devi had lodge complaint with PS Crime Branch Delhi vide LR No. 55315/2022 dated 19.01.2022 at around 14.34 hrs. If any person(s) who finds the above said documents are requested to contact either the undersigned or Mr. Dinesh Kumar S/o Sh. OP Rohatgi having mobile 9811160345 and return the same at the address mentioned herein above.

Pranay Trivedi (Advocate)
Ch. No. 636, Saket Courts, New Delhi

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 3rd February, 2022, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results Prov. of the Company for the quarter ended on 31st Dec., 2022. The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website www.cbci90.com as also on the website of the Stock Exchange viz. BSE Limited - www.bseindia.com

For Cubical Financial Services Limited
Sd/-
PLACE: NEW DELHI (Ashwani Kumar Gupta)
Date: 27-01-2022 Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Dr. USHA PRASAD am the owner of Flat No. 365/0N SECOND + THIRD FLOOR (DUPLICATE) WITH CAR GARAGE NO. 365, MANDAKINI ENCLAVE ALAKNANDA NEW DELHI- 110019, vide DDA's File No. F3473981/SFS. My few original documents of the said Property viz. (1) Allocation Letter of the Flat (2) Possession Letter of the Flat (3) NOC for Electric & Water connection of the Flat (4) Demand/Allotment Letter of Car Garage and (5) Possession Slip of Car Garage have been misplaced. An Information Report of this effect has been lodge in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 67856/2022 on 24.01.2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9870504436 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Tilak Raj, S/o Sh. Bharat Singh, R/o H. No. 142, Khanpur Village, New Delhi, Age: 46 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Unknown, has been missing since 29.11.2019 from P.S. Neb Sarai area, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 39A, dated 30.11.2019 has been logged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/856/SD/2021

SHO
P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.
Ph.: 011-29551326, 29551597

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank hereby inform that all scheduled auctions, to be held for the period from **January 20, 2022 up to February 28, 2022** under recovery of dues as per court orders, stands postponed until further notice, due to unprecedented outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19). The list of auctions that are postponed are given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD	Scheduled Date & Time of Auction
1.	Ravinder Kumar (Borrower), LAROH00035177651	MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R LXI Mfg Yr. -2016 Reg No. - HR46E5117	Rs. 80,000/-	25,000/-	January 28, 2022 - 11.00 AM Onwards
2.	Dinesh (Borrower), LAROH00034435594	HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XcentMfg Yr. - 2016 Reg No. - HR46D0050	Rs. 80,000/-	25,000/-	January 28, 2022 - 11.00 AM Onwards

Date: **January 28, 2022**
Place: **Delhi/NCR**

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ritika Soeny/ Jitendra Soeny/ LBDEL00005079693	Prop No 13/42-A, Second Floor, Without Roof Rights, Block-13 Tilak Nagar Delhi/ January 24, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 37,53,082/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Ashish Dhingia/ Onkar Singh Dhingia/ LBDEL00001101022	Flat No. 302, Second Floor, Jahangir Puri, Delhi/ January 24, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 1,86,353/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Jyoti Kumar/ Raman Kumar/ LBDEL00002400225	Flat No 33, Third Floor, Block C8, Pocket 3, Sector 34, Rohini, Delhi/ January 24, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 11,05,059/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Kishan Lal/ Devender/ LBDEL00002389726	Flat No 42, First Floor DDA LIG, Block-C3, Pocket- 3, Sector-34, Rohini, Delhi/ January 24, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 11,36,068/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Manjeet Kumar/ Shashi Yadav/ LBGUR00002364572	Flat No 52, Second Floor, Block E6, Pocket 3, Sector G8, Narela, Delhi/ January 24, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 10,60,357/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Pankaj Jain/ Chander Sen Jain/ LBDEL00005207467	Flat No 6, 1st Floor, Pocket 2, Sector G2, Narela, Delhi/ January 24, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 10,60,949/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Amit Kumar Mathur/ Supriya Mathur/ Sumit Kumar Malviya/ Vision India Ayurved (P) Ltd/ LBDEL00005201200/ LBDEL00002440117	Flat No 298, Type A, Block B, PKT 3, Bindapur, Delhi/ January 25, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 21,91,881/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Anita Sharma/ Narender Sharma/ LBDEL00004972103	DDA Flat 25B, 1st Floor MIG Sheikh Sarai Phase-1 Delhi/ January 25, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 1,33,76,709/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Dhiraj Kumar/ Wizmore Communication Pvt Ltd/ Ranjita Jha/ LBDEL00002379472	Flat No B53/II, First Floor DDA Mig Block-6, Narela Vihar Delhi/ January 25, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 85,43,828/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : **January 28, 2022**
Place: **Delhi/ NCR**

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Piramal Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Armiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai-400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639. Website: www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) [formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL)] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or for realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 0000380 of Azadpur N S P Branch) Govinda Bagri (Borrower) Ravi Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Chet Ram (Co Borrower 2)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3067996 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six) NPA (09-01-2021)	D-2/173,third Floor, Block-d-2 Kh No-11/21, village Asalatpur Khadar, Jeevan Park,uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00003049 of Noida Branch) Pankaj Sharma (Borrower) Kusum (Co Borrower 1) Devender Bhardwaj (Co Borrower 2)	27-07-2021 / ₹ 3087834 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No-64, Kharsa No-487, Village Peeperagari, West Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 00043578 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Babita Mehta (Borrower) Amarjeet Singh (Co Borrower 1)	08-10-2021 / ₹ 14954406 /- (₹ One Crore Forty Nine lakh Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred Six) NPA (10-07-2021)	Flat No. 506 5th Floor Tower E (block E2) Ireo Skykon Sector 60 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana : 122001
(LC No. 00002254 of Rohini Branch) Nimral Singh (Borrower) Rachhpal Kaur (Co Borrower 1) Balvinder Singh (Co Borrower 2) Rupinder Kaur (Guarantor 1)	22-11-2021 / ₹ 7897007 /- (₹ Seventy Six lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven) NPA (09-10-2021)	PropNo. 138, entire prop Killa No. 16, Musali No. 32 Village, Khayla Chand Nagar Kanhaiya Park New Delhi Delhi - 110063
(LC No. 00001773 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) B D Builders Private Limited (Borrower) Dheeraj Malik (Co Borrower 1) Yudhir Singh Malik (Co Borrower 2)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 22462922 /- (₹ Two Crore Twenty Four lakh Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (09-11-2021)	Prop No-m-30,old No-11/11882,kharsa No--291 -294,vill-udhanpur,naveen Shahdara, Near - Shri Ram Satsang Bhawan Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110032
(LC No. 00003787 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Vivek Channana (Borrower) Kalawati Channana (Co Borrower 1) Om Prakash Channana (Co Borrower 2) Channana Plastics Pvt. Ltd (Guarantor 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 9912266 /- (₹ Ninety Nine lakh Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six) NPA (09-10-2021)	Plot No 826 1st Floor Without Roof Right Block D New Friends Colony New Delhi Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110065
(LC No. 00002793 of Gurgaon Branch) Vijender Singh (Borrower) Gupreet Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 7908451 /- (₹ Seventy Nine lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty One) NPA (09-11-2021)	Property No. FA- 343, Old No. FA- 91, Second floor, Village Basai Dangar Mansarovar Garden New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110015
(LC No. 00044000 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Vivek Channana (Borrower) Kalawati Channana (Co Borrower 1) Om Prakash Channana (Co Borrower 2) Channana Plastics Private Limited (Guarantor 1) Himani Channana (Guarantor 2)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 4029939 /- (₹ Forty lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine) NPA (09-10-2021)	Plot No 826 1st Floor Without Roof Right Block D New Friends Colony New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110065
(LC No. 00004333 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Pramod Kumar Shrivastava (Borrower) Shobhit Kumar Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1) Usha Rani Shrivastava (Co Borrower 2)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 3827719 /- (₹ Thirty eight lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen) NPA (09-11-2021)	Plot No. 51, 1st Floor Silver Park Shipuri Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110051
(LC No. 00002376 of Rohini Branch) Arney Buildtech Private Limited (Borrower) Virender Singh (Co Borrower 1) Meghna Thakur (Co Borrower 2)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 3715411 /- (₹ Thirty Seven lakh Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Eleven) NPA (09-11-2021)	Flat No B401, Fourth Floor, Plot No 1b, Gulistan CGHS Ltd, Sector-13 Dwarka New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110075
(LC No. 00041313 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Sheel Kumari (Borrower) Satendra Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 3684135 /- (₹ Thirty Six lakh Eighty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Five) NPA (09-11-2021)	Villa No B-77, Block-B, Paramount Golf Foreste, Plot No-AGA, Surajpur Site C, Greater Noida-201308 Greater Noida Gautamdhur Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201308
(LC No. 00001193 of Durgapur Branch) Raja Mitra (Borrower) Mousumi Mitra (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 3455884 /- (₹ Thirty Four lakh Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four) NPA (09-11-2021)	Flat No F 1102, At Princess Park, Sector 86 Parklands, Faridabad, Haryana, Princess Park Faridabad Faridabad Haryana 121001
(LC No. 00042515 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Tapas Biswas (Borrower) Sona Biswas (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 3295197 /- (₹ Thirty Two lakh Ninety Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety Seven) NPA (09-11-2021)	H.No F-169 A, Sudeshar Park Plot No-82 Kharsa No-653 Near C Block Atia Chakki New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110015
(LC No. 00000884 of Cannanught Place Branch) Gurmeet Singh (Borrower) Pramjit Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 3098829 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine) NPA (10-07-2021)	Wz-54-a/5, Flt Without Roof Right Chaukhandi Extn, Kh No-15/11 Tilak Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110018
(LC No. 00000455 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Manoj Sangwan (Borrower) Anu Rani (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2875445 /- (₹ Twenty Eight lakh Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Flat No. 301 , Third Floor,lower-e4 Maya Garden City , Near Escon Arana Zirakpur , Punjab, India Zirakpur Ludhiana Punjab 141001
(LC No. 00001749 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Rajiv (Borrower) Jyoti (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2528365 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Five) NPA (09-11-2021)	1/7265, Rhs Third Floor Right, Kharsa No-241, Gali No-04, East Gorakh Park, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110032
(LC No. 00000944 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Bala Bhatia (Borrower) Sanjay Kumar Bhatia (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2510535 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Ten Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Five) NPA (10-07-2021)	Old No-2022, New No-d-2022 3rd Floor Rear Side With Roof, Kh No.1625/04 Old Govind Park, Shahdara, Vil Khureji Kharsa Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110051
(LC No. 00000956 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Harvinder Singh (Borrower) Harjeet Kaur (Co Borrower 1) Gurmeet Singh (Co Borrower 2)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2328730 /- (₹ Twenty Three lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty) NPA (09-08-2021)	Southern Eastern Portion Port No. K-1 Tf With Roof, Block K, Kh. No. 18/21 Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden Garden Plot No 1 Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110018
(LC No. 00000756 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Dalvir Singh Rawat (Borrower) Manju Rawat (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2239162 /- (₹ Twenty Two lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (09-11-2021)	Unit No 2030, 19th Floor, Block F, Galaxy North Avenue-II, Plot Gc-30 gh-03, Gaur City 2, sector 16c, Greater Noida west Gautamdhur Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201308
(LC No. 00001061 of New Delhi-west Branch) Chetan Arora (Borrower) Pooja Arora (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2197628 /- (₹ Twenty One lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Six) NPA (09-11-2021)	Plot No-321, Second Floor Pocket-16, Block-D Sector-3, Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110085
(LC No. 00001988 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Mansi (Borrower) Gaurav (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 2040895 /- (₹ Twenty lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (09-11-2021)	Property No.37, Ground Floor Kh No.56 Block-m-37 Gali No 6 Vill- Nangli Jailo New Mahavir Nagar, Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110018
(LC No. 00004800 of New Delhi Branch) Manish Kumar Yadav (Borrower) Vikas Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 / ₹ 1759228 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (09-11-2021)	Flat No-107,jugf,front Lhs, Plot No-51a, 52, Kh.No-96,unione Residency Vill-akbarpur Berampur, Gh

Food for the soul

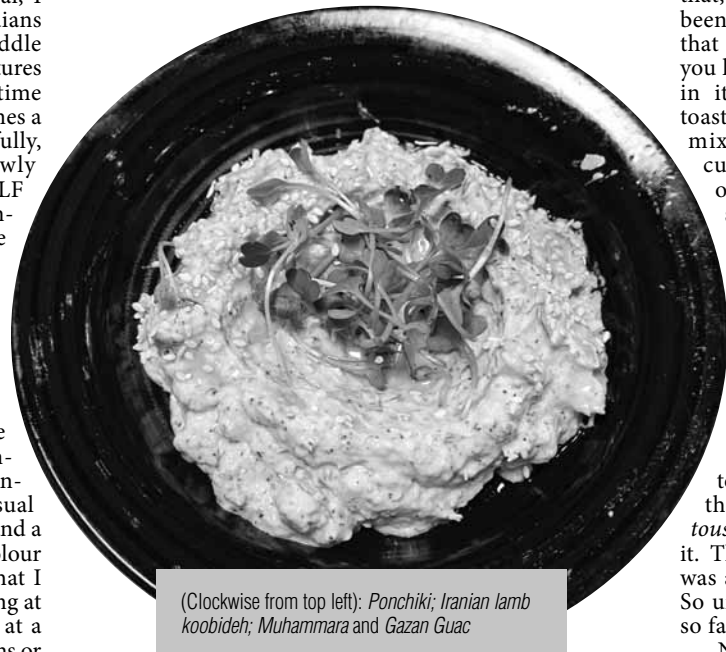
SAMEER BAWA’s taste buds are tantalised by the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean flavours of Cafe Mez



If I say that there is a real dearth of Middle Eastern restaurants in Delhi/NCR, I am confident that there would hardly be anybody who would accuse me of exaggeration. There are only a handful of eateries and I am surprised why, over the years, Levantine food concepts have not captured the imagination of restaurateurs. After spending a few years in Dubai, I can safely say that Indians have a palate for Middle Eastern flavours and textures and it's only a matter of time before the cuisine becomes a rage in India. Thankfully, concepts like the newly opened Cafe Mez in DLF Cyberhub, Gurgaon reinforce my point and give my ‘Arabic food’ deprived body some respite.

I visited Cafe Mez a few days ago and was immediately transported to a different world as soon as I stepped into the restaurants. Large windows which allowed abundant natural light, casual yet comfortable seating and a soothing blue & white colour scheme made it seem that I could very easily be eating at a cafe in Beirut, dining at a Greek restaurant in Athens or enjoying a Lebanese meal in Dubai. Well, that was the impression if I looked at the optics in isolation.

“I wanted to create a cafe where you could enjoy great breakfast options from the Middle East to the Mediterranean and, at the same time, use the freshest of ingredients to create a friendly cuisine throughout the day”, says Ashish Dev Kapur (co-owner, Cafe Mez). Super-talented chef Megha Kohli is



(Clockwise from top left): Ponchiki; Iranian lamb koobideh; Muhammara and Gazan Guac

at the helm of affairs in the kitchen. I have known Megha from her time at Lavaash by Saby and she comes in with a lot of pedigree. She has an individual style and most of the preparations on the menu are a nifty amalgamation of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean elements. Almost all the dishes dance on the periphery of authenticity due to a unique twist. Most of the preparations

carefully thread the needle between creativity and authentic flavours. And I shall explain how.

We started with the *Muhammara*, *Gazan guac* and *Fattoush salad*. Red peppers, walnuts and pomegranate molasses are the main ingredients for a *Muhammara* along with some olive oil and spices but I loved the way the dip is decorated with black olives and



cucumber peel. Even without that, the dish would have been complete but I loved that little touch. Also, when you look at a *Fattoush salad*, in its original form, it is toasted pita or *khubz* with mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumber, peppers and onions drizzled with sumac and pomegranate molasses. Chef Megha's version is sans the toasted pita and drizzled with lemon herb dressing and feta which adds the Mediterranean element to it. I must confess that, at an individual level, I missed the toasted pita in the mix of things and feel that a *fattoush* is incomplete without it. The *Gazan guac* though was a stunning preparation. So unique, so subtle but yet so familiar.

Next up was the *Bacon and egg pide*. I have sampled that before during a meal at Lavaash by Saby a few years ago and had very high expectations. It was that and much more. It is chef Megha's take on Georgian bread with an egg and cheese at the core topped with generous chunks of bacon. When you cut through the bread, the runny egg yolk oozes out of imprisonment and lusciously laces the bread. Gastronomic heaven! For the mains, we

requested the *Chicken Shawarma roll* and the *Iranian lamb koobideh*. The shawarma was decent with succulent chunks of chicken and pickle engulfed in a pita and served with fries but the showstopper was the *Koobideh*. Flavourful and juicy ground lamb kebabs on a bed of thin bread with a side of spiced onions and *Tzaziki*. Absolutely brilliant. Every bite is an experience in itself. One prep that is definitely for the Gods.

I culminated the meal on a sweet note with some *Ponchikis*, an American doughnut filled with Nutella or rose-scented custard. It's a serving of two *ponchikis* and I chose one of each. Best decision ever as the custard and chocolate provided a great contrast. All in all, we had a fabulous meal. The restaurant has a well-stocked bar and you can have a lazy afternoon out with some cocktails or savour your favourite bottle of wine with the lovely food. The service orientation of the staff is also top-notch and they would ensure that you have a pleasant dining experience. As I was stepping out of the restaurant, my taste buds couldn't thank me enough for the tantalising play of flavours and textures. I made silent promises to myself that I shall be back soon. Very soon!



A smoothie start

SAMRAT REDDY makes a case for drinking breakfast to get a full dose of nutrition

It is said that breakfast, the most important meal of the day, should ideally never be skipped. In the pandemic, there has been a sudden change in people's eating habits where they are opting for healthier and more nutritious food.

While breakfast looks different in different parts of the world, it is most eclectic in India, where there are so many food choices — from fruits and juices to oats, Indian staples like *poha*, idli, dosa, parathas and more. Over the last couple of years, Indians have discovered ‘smoothies and smoothie bowls’, which are packed with health benefits and are known to make a person feel fuller for a longer period.

Our body needs proteins and nutrients to function properly and, when it's not provided with healthy food and fluids, it deteriorates. Smoothies and smoothie bowls are an excellent source of vitamins, folate, minerals, dietary fibre, proteins and carbohydrates besides being a delicious addition to breakfast.

Eating healthily and keeping healthy is such an overrated concept that it has been made to appear like a difficult task when, in truth, it is as simple as returning to our origins. We have a body that, like any other machine, has to be used to maintain it. When it comes to food, it's the same thing as machine fuel. The tougher the fuel is for the body, the more adulterated (far from natural food) it is. The most significant change we need to make is to eat more natural foods and avoid manufactured foods.

The simplest way to do this is by inculcating the habit of increasing the fruit intake in all forms, either as cut fruits or simple blends such as smoothies. Starting your day with smoothies will help detox, recharge and refresh the body. Fruits and vegetables in smoothies act as detoxifying agents and help cleanse the body. These smoothies have great health benefits due to their nutritious elements like vitamins, minerals, iron, fibre and proteins. They also help in weight loss and re-energise the body to attain a better immune system.

Here are some interesting smoothie ideas that are not just tasty but rich in health while helping you lose weight as you kick start your day with these. The best thing about a smoothie is that you can include different fruits like apple, banana, pineapple and more to create your flavours. Drinking smoothies makes it easier to absorb water into our body helping us stay hydrated throughout the day.

Fruits like watermelon, pineapple, date, musk melon have a lot of water content in them. These fruits not only keep you hydrated but also



decrease your risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, increase your energy levels and keep your cells active. Bananas and apples are rich in fibre, protein and help blood glucose control.

MAKING YOUR MORNING SMOOTHIE EFFECTIVE:
Liquids are a must. Water, juice, non-dairy milk, coconut water are some of the low calorie, fewer sugar options that should be added to your meal smoothie.

Add protein and natural flavours. Avocado is one option that gives great flavour to your smoothie.

Fill it with something fresh. Add some fruits and vegetables like watermelon, apple, banana, muskmelon, carrots, baby spinach to make it filling and nutritious.

Blend until smooth. Put all your ingredients into the blender jug and let it work its magic till it looks smooth. So, just feed your body with the right nutrition and your body will love you for it. Do try replacing your morning routine breakfast with a smoothie sometime and you will know why people are making a switch.

Swap your regular breakfast with a smoothie and smoothie bowl to turn on the nutrient powerhouse in your body. Hydrate yourself with the abundant fibres in farm-fresh fruits and vegetables and stay fit with power-packed smoothies.

Drinking a smoothie will not only keep you hydrated throughout the day but will be beneficial for your body with a boost of all vitamins and proteins.

(The author is the founder, Drunken Monkey, a smoothie delivery chain with more than 200 options.)

R E C I P E S

SUPER SEEDS *CHIKKI*

WHAT YOU NEED

- Sesame: 2 cups
- Jaggery: 1 cup
- Daily dose trail mix: 3 tbsp
- 7-in-1 superseeds and nut mix: 1 tbsp
- Ghee: 1 tbsp

METHOD

- Heat a pan and dry roast sesame seeds until golden brown. Keep the heat low so that the seeds don't burn.
- Remove it and keep it aside.



- In the same pan heat some ghee and roast daily dose mix. Remove daily dose mix from the pan and keep aside.

- Now add jaggery in the pan and melt it.
- Add 1/4th cup water and mix well
- Now add all the dry ingredients in the jaggery syrup and mix well.
- Meanwhile, line a baking tray or a plate with butter paper.
- Pour the hot mixture on the tray and flatten it with the back of a spoon.
- Cut the *chikki* into squares.

Courtesy: Pavitra K, lead, new product development at True Elements

VEGAN SPICY PUMPKIN

CAPPUCCINO

WHAT YOU NEED

- Espresso: 30 ml
- Almond milk: 200 ml
- Pumpkin puree: 3 tsp
- Honey: 15 ml
- Nutmeg: A pinch
- Cinnamon: 1 stick
- Whipped cream

METHOD

- In a pan take almond milk, honey, pumpkin purée, cinnamon stick and nutmeg. Boil at medium heat.
- Once the milk starts boiling, remove it from the fire and also remove the cinnamon stick. Pour the milk mixture into a French press and just push and pull the plunger six-eight times to get a nice silky and smooth texture foam.



- Take a shot of espresso or Moka pot coffee into a serving mug, pour the milk with foam over the espresso.
- Make sure you get a thick layer of milk foam top. If you can't manage to get it by pouring then just scoop it with the help of a spoon
- For garnish, add whipped cream on the top and sprinkle some freshly grated nutmeg.

CHOCOLATE PRUNE

BANANA MUFFIN

WHAT YOU NEED

- All-purpose flour: 1.5 cups
- Ripened mashed bananas: 2 large
- Prunes: 1 cup
- Dark chocolate 175 gm
- Butter at room temperature: 1/2 cup
- Eggs: 2
- Sugar: 1/2 cup
- Vanilla essence: 1 tbsp
- Baking powder: 1 tbsp
- Baking soda: 1/2 tbsp
- Salt: 1/4 tbsp

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 170°C.
- Sift together flour, salt, baking powder and soda.
- Cream together butter and sugar. Add one egg and beat until incorporated well. Add another egg and beat again. Add vanilla essence and mix.



Now add the melted chocolate and mix.

- Add flour mixture in three batches and fold it until mixed well. Add chopped prunes.

- Fill the muffin pans, lined with the muffin liners. Bake them in the preheated oven for 18 to 20 minutes or until skewers come out clean.

GARLIC OLIVE TAPENADE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Garlic cloves: 6 (finely chopped)
- Black olives: 1 cup
- Green olives: 1/2 cup
- Olive oil: 1/3 cup
- Capers (optional): 2 tbsp
- Dijon mustard: 1 tbsp
- Dried rosemary: 1/2 tbsp
- Dried basil: 1/2 tbsp

METHOD

- Put the black and green olives in a blender and add, cloves, capers, mustard, rosemary, and basil to them till everything is nicely minced.
- Slowly pour in the olive oil and blend till the mixture becomes a smooth paste.
- Top it with chopped olives and serve with your favourite crackers.

Courtesy: Del Monte



3 SPICE LATTE

WHAT YOU NEED

- French press coffee: 200 ml
- Cloves 3
- Freshly grated nutmeg: A pinch
- Cinnamon: 3 small sticks
- Water: 60 ml
- Demerara sugar for sweetness
- Milk: 200 ml
- Whipped cream: Optional

METHOD

- Combine the water and spices in a saucepan,



cover and simmer for three-four minutes.

- Add the demerara, milk and bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and stir in the coffee.
- Strain to remove the spices and pour the

coffee into a coffee mug or glass.

- For a creamier option, add a swirl of whipped cream on the top, sprinkle some demerara and cinnamon.

Courtesy: Abdul Sahid Khan, head trainer at Lavazza India

INDIA LOOK TO AT LEAST FINISH ON PODIUM IN ASIA CUP

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Their title hopes already over, India would be desperate for at least a podium finish when they take on China in the third-fourth place play-off match of the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Friday.

Lack of match practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic after a successful 2020, where they finished a historic fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, cost India dearly as they produced inconsistent performances in crucial matches to crash out of the title race.

After thrashing lowly Malaysia 9-0 in their opener, India suffered a 0-2 defeat against Asian Games champions Japan before thrashing Singapore 9-1 to qualify for the semifinals.

But in the semifinals, some sloppy defending and poor penalty corner conversions put paid to India's hopes as they were beaten 2-3 Korea, who set up a clash against Japan in the summit clash on Friday.

The Indians controlled the game in the first two quarters to go into half time with a slender 1-0 lead.

But a determined Korea stunned the Indians in the 31st, 45th and 47th minutes before Lalremsiami reduced the margin

Some sloppy defending and poor penalty corner conversions put paid to India's hopes as they were beaten 2-3 Korea, who set up a clash against Japan in the summit clash on Friday. The Indians controlled the game in the first two quarters to go into half time with a slender 1-0 lead.



just six minutes from the hooter but in the end it proved to be too late.

After resolute defending in the first two quarters, the Indian defence

led by skipper and goalkeeper Savita conceded three soft goals to hand

over the match to Korea. And come Friday, the Savita-led

Indian defence, which also includes the experienced duo of Gurjit Kaur and Deep Grace Ekka, will have to be on their toes to finish on the podium.

While the Indian forwardline have enjoyed decent outings in the tournament so far with the likes of Vandana Katariya, Monika, Navneet Kaur and Lalremsiami finding the net on more than one occasion, it is the lack of co-ordination between the midfield and backline that put paid to India's hopes.

Penalty corner conversion is another key area where Indian need to improve by leaps and bounds.

Barring a hat-trick against Singapore, seasoned drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur and her partner Ekka looked off-colour from set pieces throughout the tournament.

Going by world rankings and recent head-to-head record, India definitely hold an edge over China in Friday's match.

While India are placed 10th in the world rankings, China are ranked 13th.

In their last three outings, India had defeated China twice -- 3-1 in the Asian Champions Trophy in 2018 in Donghae, Korea and 1-0 win in the last Asian Games -- before playing out a 0-0 draw in the Tokyo Olympic Test event in 2019.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S SINGLES SEMIFINALS: A SHOT AT HISTORY



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Even before he hit his first ball at this year's Australian Open, Rafael Nadal knew he had an open door to set the men's record for most career Grand Slam singles titles.

So far he hasn't let it close. Nadal plays Matteo Berrettini in one semifinal on Friday at Melbourne Park, knowing he's potentially two match wins from a 21st major title.

He's tied for the record of 20 with Roger Federer, who is recovering from right knee surgery, and Novak Djokovic, who was deported from Australia on the eve of the tournament following an 11-day visa saga over his decision not to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

In the other semifinal, Daniil Medvedev plays Stefanos Tsitsipas in a rematch of their 2021 Australian Open semifinal. Medvedev won last year's semifinal, then lost to Djokovic in the final.

After Nadal's tough five-set win over Denis Shapovalov on Tuesday, he looked to take away some of the pressure of that 21st major. "I don't believe that my happiness, my future happiness is going to depend on if I achieve one more Grand Slam than the others, or if the others achieve more Grand Slams than me,"

Nadal said.

"For me, the fact that we are equal at 20 ... The only thing that says is that we share an amazing part of the history of our sport, and for me it's a real honor to be part of it." Nadal spoke highly of Berrettini, among the players like Tsitsipas and Shapovalov who could replace the Big Three who have dominated the sport for nearly 20 years.

"Matteo, he's one of the best players of the world," Nadal said.

"I need to play my 100% and my highest level if I want to keep having chances to fight, to be competitive, and to try to be in the final."

The pair have only played once — Nadal beat the Italian in the semifinals of the 2019 U.S. Open in straight sets. Berrettini has matured since, having lost the Wimbledon final last year to Djokovic in four sets. Nadal gives a decade in age to Berrettini — 35 to 25.

U.S. Open champion Medvedev will have to overcome the fatigue from a late-night, 4 hour, 42-minute, five-set comeback win over Felix Auger-Aliassime on Wednesday.

Djokovic was firmly on Medvedev's mind during his escape over Auger-Aliassime, who won the first two sets and had a match point in the fourth.

Hockey legend Charanjit Singh dies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, died on Thursday at his home in Una, Himachal Pradesh after suffering a cardiac arrest that followed prolonged age-related illnesses.

The former midfielder was 90 and would have turned a year older next month. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

Charanjit suffered a stroke five years back and was paralysed since then.



"Dad was paralysed after suffering a stroke five years back. He used to walk with a stick but since the last couple of months, his health deteriorated and this morning he left us," his younger son V P Singh told PTI.

Besides captaining the Olympic gold-winning team in 1964, he was also a part of the silver-winning side in

the 1960 edition of the Games. He was also a part of the 1962 Asian Games silver-winning team.

"His last rites will be performed today after my sister reaches Una from Delhi," V P Singh said.

His wife died 12 years ago. While his elder son is a doctor in Canada, his younger son was next to him when he breathed his last.

His only daughter is married and based in New Delhi.

His last rites will be performed this evening in Una.

The two-time

Olympian was a part of India's glorious days. A charismatic halfback, Charanjit had led the Indian team to a historic gold medal in 1964 Tokyo Olympics, beating Pakistan in the final and also featured in the Indian team that won silver in the 1960 Games in Rome.

Charanjit was an alumni of Col Brown Cambridge School, Dehradun and Punjab University. After his illustrious career in international hockey, he worked as the director of the physical education department in Himachal Pradesh University in Shimla.



Manjunath stuns 7th seed Cheam to storm into Odisha Open quarters

PTI ■ CUTTACK

Unseeded Mithun Manjunath stunned seventh seed June Wei Cheam of Malaysia in straight games to storm into the men's singles quarterfinals of the Odisha Open here on Thursday. Manjunath took 40 minutes to outclass Cheam 21-11 21-18. He will next face Priyanshu Rajawat.

Third seeded Indian Subhankar Dey, who had beaten sixth seed Xiaodong Sheng of Canada on Wednesday, also eased into the last-eight with a 21-16 21-14 win over compatriot Rahul Yadav Chittaboina.

Kiran George also moved to the men's singles quarterfinal with an easy 21-12 21-13 win over compatriot Chirag Sen.

Subhankar will play George in the next round. Continuing her good run of form, young Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod got the better of compatriot and junior world no 1 Tasnim Mir in straight games to advance to the women's singles quarterfinals. Bansod took just over half an hour to dispatch 16-year-old Tasnim 21-13 21-15 in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals of the BWF Super 100 tournament.

The 20-year-old Bansod, who had lost to PV Sindhu in the final of the Syed Modi International last week before defeating her idol Saina Nehwal at the India Open earlier this month, will take on the winner of the clash between Tanya Hemanth and Vijetha Harish.

Fifth seed Ashmita Chaliha also booked a quarterfinal spot as she got the better of compatriot Anupama Upadhyay 21-17 21-16. She will take on Rucha Sawant, who defeated Nikki Rapria to reach the final eight.

Chaliha will face Rhucha Sawant in the quarterfinals. Qualifier Unnati Hooda cruised past eighth seed Disha Gupta of USA 21-6 21-9 in just 20 minutes to set up a quarterfinal clash against Samiya Imad Farooqui.

In the mixed doubles event, the India pairing of Dhruv Rawat and Shikha Gautam lost 11-21 14-21 to the Sri Lankan duo of Sachin Dias and Thilini Hendahewa in the second round, while Ayush Makhija and Deeksha Choudhar handed Chirag Arora and Nish Rapria a 21-5 21-16 loss to move to the quarterfinals.





RAVI BISHNOI GETS MAIDEN CALL-UP FOR WINDIES SERIES

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi was on Wednesday rewarded with a maiden India call-up for the upcoming Twenty20 series against the West Indies, while senior wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav also returned to the white-ball setup after a knee surgery.

Skipper Rohit Sharma on the day cleared his fitness test and as reported by PTI on January 17, was back in charge for the series that starts with ODIs in Ahmedabad from February 6.

Among senior players, Ravichandran Ashwin has been dropped from the white-ball team, while Washington Sundar, who missed the South Africa series due to COVID-19, was back in the squad. "Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami have been rested from the series,"

BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying in a press release.

While Ashwin is believed to be

injured and out for six weeks, BCCI statement didn't mention his injury status so it can be concluded that even if he is fit, he wouldn't have been picked after an indifferent white-ball series in South Africa.

The other notable comeback has been Baroda batter Deepak Hooda, who had changed states and did wonderfully well for Rajasthan in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as well as Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Hooda is being looked as a potential finisher in shorter formats and for now in the ODI team. He was part of the Nidahas Trophy squad in Sri Lanka four seasons back but didn't get a game.

"If you go and look at Hooda's performances in white-ball cricket this season, most of his runs have come when the team has been in trouble. That shows he can take pressure. The selectors would like to see more of M Shahruxh Khan, who is a good talent. There are a lot of matches and if he has a good IPL, who knows, he will

"Ravindra Jadeja is undergoing his final stage of recovery post his knee injury and will not be available for the ODIs and T20Is. Axar Patel will be available for the T20Is," Shah added

be right there," a BCCI source informed PTI on condition of anonymity.

However it is understood that Himachal Pradesh captain Rishi Dhawan wasn't in consideration as his bowling is friendly medium pace and can't be seen as a finisher in

white-ball cricket.

It is also learnt that vice-captain KL Rahul will be available from the second ODI onwards as he is set to miss the first 50-over game due to personal reasons.

"Ravindra Jadeja is undergoing his final stage of recovery post his knee injury and will not be available for the ODIs and T20Is. Axar Patel will be available for the T20Is," Shah added. Bishnoi has been one of the finds of the Indian Premier League for the Punjab outfit and has been picked up by new franchise Lucknow Super Giants from the drafts for the next IPL. In 42 T20 games, he has 49 wickets at a great economy rate of 6.63. In 17 List A games, he has 24 wickets and an economy rate of 5.48.

He primarily bowls googlies which is his stock delivery and occasionally

bowls leg-breaks. With Kuldeep, Yuzvendra Chahal and Bishnoi, India is again going back to the trusted formula of wrist spin which gave

them lot of success between 2017 to 2019.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been dropped from the ODI squad but retained for the T20Is while former skipper Virat Kohli featured in both the teams.

It is understood that Kuldeep, who had lost his mojo in the Kohli-Ravi Shastri era, has been called back as the current team management and selectors feel that he has the X-factor to contribute to the team's cause.

He underwent a knee surgery in September last year.

Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel, who were part of the New Zealand T20 Internationals are predictably back as reported by PTI.

The six-match series against the West Indies will feature three ODIs starting in Ahmedabad from February 6, followed by as many T20 Internationals in Kolkata.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the BCCI has curtailed the number of venues from six cities to two.

Roach returns to West Indies squad

PTI ■ ST JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

Seasoned pacer Kemar Roach and young all-rounder Nkrumah Bonner have been recalled to the West Indies ODI squad for the three-match series in India beginning February 6. Roach, who has not played any List A cricket since his last ODI in 2019, has made the return with West Indies great Desmond Haynes picking him in his first squad selection since taking over as lead selector. Six additions have been made to the squad, to be led by Kieron Pollard, that lost to Ireland at home. The ODIs against India will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 6, 9 and 11.

The T20Is will be played at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on February 16, 18 and 20 and the Caribbean squad for that is expected to be announced on Friday. Besides the experienced Roach, the 22-year-old Bonner, a



middle-order batter whose last ODI appearance was exactly a year ago, and Brandon King, an opener, have been recalled to the squad.

The 27-year-old King's last one-day outing in national colours was back in 2020. Roach has so far played 92 ODIs with 124 wickets. Bonner made his ODI debut in Bangladesh a year ago and has so far played three matches, while King has appeared in four matches

in this format. "Kemar Roach is one of our leading fast bowlers and we believe we need bowlers upfront to get early wicket, and Kemar, with an economy rate of five, is certainly good enough to play. "Over the last few years, Nkrumah Bonner's cricket has come on leaps and bounds and we believe he should be given an opportunity to play in the 50-over format," said Haynes in a statement."

Powell's 107 leads West Indies over England by 20 runs



AP ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Rovman Powell hit 10 sixes among his 107 runs from 53 balls to lead West Indies to a 20-run victory over England and a 2-1 lead in the five-match Twenty20 series. Powell, brought in for Odean Smith, formed the backbone of the home side's 224 for five, with Nicholas Pooran clubbing 70 off 43 deliveries. England finished at 202-9. Tom Banton gave England hope of pulling off its third-highest chase ever with a 39-ball 73 but his dismissal left the tourists needing 96 from 45 deliveries before Phil Salt kept its flickering hopes alive.

NZC moves all games against Indian women to Queenstown

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

The Indian women's team will play all its six upcoming matches against New Zealand in Queenstown as NZC on Thursday announced a revised schedule to reduce chances of a COVID-19 outbreak.

The Indian women's team, which is already in New Zealand, is now scheduled to play all five ODIs and a T20I, starting February 9 at John Davies Oval in Queenstown.

The bilateral series, which is key for India ahead of the World Cup in March-April, was earlier scheduled to begin with the one-off T20I at McLean Park in Napier followed by the first ODI at the



same venue two days later.

The Saxton Oval in Nelson was to host the second and third ODIs on February 14 and 16, with the final two ODIs to be played in Queenstown on February 22 and 24.

Other changes in the schedule announced by NZC include the South Africa men's side remaining in Christchurch for the entire duration of its visit, playing both its scheduled Tests at Hagley Oval rather than decamping to Wellington for the second match, as initially scheduled.

Australia's three T20s against the New Zealand men's side will now be hosted in Napier (subject to MIQ availability), and the Netherlands men's tour is set to be split between Mount Maunganui (one T20 and one ODI) and Hamilton (two ODIs). All matches have been kept on originally-scheduled days.



आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव



प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना-ग्रामीण
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin



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सबको आवास - 2024

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3.50 लाख नवीन आवासों की स्वीकृति एवं हितग्राहियों को आवास निर्माण के लिए प्रथम किश्त रु. 875 करोड़ का वितरण

वर्चुअल कार्यक्रम

28 जनवरी, 2022, दोपहर 12.00 बजे
कुशाभाऊ ठाकरे इंटरनेशनल कन्वेंशन सेंटर, भोपाल

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श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्य प्रदेश



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