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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 asking them to work together to build the airline that the country needs, while asserting that the "golden age" of the carrier lies ahead. In a welcome letter, Chandrasekaran reflected on the airline's "brilliant past" and said the entire nation is now waiting to see what "we will achieve together".

Earlier, a new board of directors met formalising the management takeover.

After the Government transferred its shares to the new owner of Air India, the Ministry of Finance in a statement said the Air India strategic disinvestment transaction has been completed on Thursday with the Government receiving a consideration of ₹2,700 crore from Talace Pvt Ltd.

Continued on Page 2

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 Bhargava said that vaccines have remained beneficial for India. "Vaccine reduces deaths considerably in the vaccinated population compared to the unvaccinated individuals. Around 95 per cent of the adult population in the country have received the first vaccine dose, while 74 per cent have been fully vaccinated," said Bhargava, as he urged the States lagging behind in vaccination to ramp up the drive.

Recently, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) too had in its bulletin cautioned that Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially. BA.2 lineage is in a substantial fraction in India and S gene dropout based screening is thus likely to give high false negatives."

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 suggested 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 Baijal, 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 '#BACKTOSCHOOL' 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 Baijal 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 Rijiju, 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. Giving an update on Wednesday, Rijiju had said China indicated the release of the 17-year-old boy and will soon share the date and time.

He had said, "Hotline exchanged on Republic Day by Indian Army with Chinese PLA. PLA responded positively indicating handing over of our national and suggested a place of release."

Delhi HC expunges judge's 'publicity' remarks against Juhi Chawla in 5G case

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.

The division bench allowed Chawla's appeal and set aside the single judge's June 4, 2021 order by which the suit filed by the actress-environmentalist and two others was dismissed with the observations that it was "defective", "abuse of process of law" and filed for "gaining publicity".

Continued on Page 2

Channi or Sidhu to lead polls, party workers will pick: Rahul

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Caught in deep political waters following rift regarding captainship, Punjab Congress' top leaders — Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and State party president Navjot Singh Sidhu — on Thursday exhorted party's national vice-president Rahul Gandhi to give the stranded ship a thrust by announcing the Chief Ministerial candidate's name in a run-up to February 20 elections.

Rahul, who gave a major push to the party's poll campaign in Punjab with his visit and also addressing a virtual rally, left it on the party workers to decide.

In a clear cut departure from the party's previous stand to contest polls under "collective leadership", Rahul Gandhi made it clear that the Congress would soon announce the name of the leader "who will lead the party in Punjab polls".

"The question here is who will lead the party in Punjab...the media calls this CM candidate...Both Sidhu ji and Channi ji told me in the car that in Punjab, the big question is who will lead Congress in Punjab....It is clear that two persons cannot lead, it has to be any one. Both also assured me...and I am happy...that whoever leads, the other person would support and back him fully," said Rahul.

"Though we don't do it (announcing CM face) normally. But if the workers want, Punjab wants...We will decide on it...and for that, we will ask the party workers...

Continued on Page 2

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.

Tension flares up along Assam-Arunachal border

Bullets exchanged after local Assamese object road construction by Arunachal Govt

Itanagar/North Lakhimpur: Tension flared up over road construction on a disputed stretch of Assam-Arunachal border at Gogamukh in Dhemaji district, after locals objected to a rural road being built by a contractor of the Arunachal State government, leading to violence, officials here said on Thursday.

The incident took place at Hime Basti area under Assam's Gogamukh police station on Wednesday evening, a senior official said.

Local villagers from Assam obstructed the construction of the road by Arunachal government. When they went to the site to protest, the contractor involved with the construction fired one round in the air," he added.

The Arunachal Pradesh government is constructing a PMGSY road of 70 km length from Likabali to Durpai in the district using the services of a local contractor.

Angry people from Assam forcibly stopped the work, damaged a few vehicles and set ablaze the temporary camp built for the road construction gang, the official said.

"On being informed, a team from Assam Police rushed to the spot. We are now dominating the area so that no untoward incident takes place," a police official said.

Arunachal's Lower Siang District Superintendent of Police (SP) Kushal Pal Singh said "the issue (dispute) is an old one and Wednesday's evening incident was between a few locals with vested interests," adding, security measures have been intensified in the area and the The situation is normal.

He said no government forces or organizations were involved in the incident.

The fracas over the border road takes place just two days after Assam and Arunachal Pradesh on Monday decided to conduct a ground level survey on status of the inter-state boundary to resolve the vexed border row at a chief ministerial level meeting.

On January 24, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held a meeting with his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu to discuss the border issue.

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804.1-km border in Udalguri, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh and Charaideo districts. There are 1,200 points of disputes along the inter-state border between the two states.

Arunachal Pradesh was a centrally-administered region initially after Independence and became a Union Territory later, before attaining full statehood in 1987. ***PTI***

Maha sees 25K cases in 24 hrs

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a relief to the health authorities, the daily Covid-19 cases dropped by more than 10,000 cases to touch a tally of 25,425 in Maharashtra on Tuesday, even as the daily pandemic cases in Mumbai came down by 474 cases to touch a tally of 1384 cases.

On a day when 74 fresh Omicron cases were reported in the state, the Covid-19 cases in the state dropped 35,756 cases on Wednesday to 25,425 on Thursday.

With the fresh cases reported on Monday, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the state went down from 76,05,181 cases to 76,30, 606 cases.Mumbai, where the daily infections have been dropping steadily for more than eight days, witnessed a drop in the number of cases from 1,858 cases to 1,384. With the latest cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,40,363 cases to 10,41,747 cases.As 36,708 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 71,60,293 cases to 71,97,001.

The recovery rate in the state rose from 94.15 per cent to 94.32 per cent.

The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 2,98,733 to 2,87,397. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.87 per cent to 1.86 per cent.With no let up in the worsening Covid-19 situation in Pune, the active cases in Pune dropped from 92,973 on Wednesday to 90,303 on Thursday.

The active cases in Mumbai dropped from 22,364 cases to 18040 cases, while the active cases in the neighbouring Thane came down from 27,497 cases to 24164 cases.

Nagpur accounted for 29918 cases, followed by Nashik (18416), Ahmednagar (11182), Raigad (9176), Satara (7449) and Aurangabad (8503)

Of the 7,40,12,958 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 7,40,12,958 have tested positive.

Channi or Sidhu to lead...

From Page 1

And the right person will take Punjab forward...and all other leaders will fight as one team," he said, while addressing the party's first major virtual rally from Jalandhar.

Till now, amidst the battle for one-upmanship, the Congress party has been building up the narrative of fighting polls under collective leadership, while projecting Channi, Sidhu and also former State unit chief Sunil Jakhar as party's face.

Sidhu, first to address the rally, raised the demand to announce the CM face while making it clear that any decision would be acceptable to him, and requested Rahul to ensure that he should have "power to take decisions...kitte darshini ghoda na bna k rakh deyo".

Channi, who always expressed his gratitude for elevating him to the Chief Minister's post, also staked his claim on the seats by seeking "one more chance" after taking into consideration his 111 days performance as the Chief Minister.

Amidst apparent unease between Channi and Sidhu, an effort was made to put up a united show when Channi addressed Sidhu as "vadde veer" (big brother) and hugged him, after inviting him to the dais during his address.

"There is no fight between us... People say there is a fight between us...we don't want people to come from outside (referring to AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal) and say that we are fighting among ourselves," he said.

Earlier, Rahul kick-started his Punjab visit by paying obeisance at the Golden Temple, along with party nominees and senior leaders.

He also partake langar by sitting on the floor along with Channi, Sidhu, and other leaders. Rahul offered prayers at Akal Takht - Sikhs' highest temporal seat - from outside only.

Rahul also visited Durgiana Temple, Ram Tirath, and also Jallianwala Bagh, before addressing a virtual rally at Jalandhar.

Air...

From Page 1

The Government has retained debt of ₹15,300 crore in Air India and Air India Express Ltd (AIXL) while 100 per cent shares of Air India, AIXL and the national carrier's 50 per cent shareholding in AISATS have been transferred to Talace.It took over two decades and three attempts for the Centre to finally hand over its flagship national carrier Air India.

In a tweet, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India has concluded successfully with transfer of 100 per cent shares of Air India to Talace along with management control.

After the Government's statement, the Tata Group also issued a statement announcing the completion of the transaction for purchase of Air India from the Government.

"The Tata Group takes over management and control of the airline, starting today. The transaction covers three entities – Air India, Air India Express and AI SATS. Air India is India's flag carrier and premier full-service airline. Air India Express is a low-cost carrier. AI SATS provides a comprehensive suite of ground handling and cargo handling services," the Tata Group said in a statement.

Acknowledging PM Modi's commitment to reforms and faith in India's entrepreneurship spirit, which made this historic transition possible, the Tata Group said, "Our Prime Minister has in action demonstrated what his commitment to minimum government, maximum governance means."

After the handover of Air India, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekharan said, "We're totally delighted that this process is complete and happy to have Air India back in the Tata Group. We look forward to walking with everyone to create a world-class airline."

Earlier Chandrasekaran called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday ahead of the official handover of Air India to the Tata Group.

"N Chandrasekaran, the Chairman of Tata Sons called on PM @narendramodi," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted, along with a photograph of the meeting. The meeting comes after all the Government representatives of Air India tendered their resignations earlier. Later, Chandrasekaran also visited the Air India headquarters.

In October last year, Tata Group announced the winning bidder for Air India with a bid amount of ₹18,000 crore. Tatas would pay ₹2,700 crore cash and take over ₹15,300 crore of the airline's debt.

Tata Sons owns 84 per cent share in Air Asia which has a market share of 5.2 per cent.

It also has 51 per cent stake in Vistara which has a market share of 8.3 per cent. With Air India under the stable, Tatas could be in control of 26.7 per cent market share and be the second biggest player after IndiGo.

Before the handover process to Tata Group, the Government has notified the framework agreement entered into by and between Air India Ltd and AI Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL) for transfer of non-core assets of the national carrier post it ceasing to be a public sector company.

AIAHL was set up in 2019, by the Government for holding debt and non-core assets of the Air India group. Four Air India subsidiaries -- Air India Air Transport Services Ltd (AIATSL), Airline Allied Services Ltd (AASL), Air India Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL) and Hotel Corporation of India Ltd (HCI) --along with non-core assets, painting and artefacts, and other non-operational assets, was transferred to the SPV.

Meanwhile, a consortium of lenders led by the State Bank of India (SBI) has agreed to provide loans to Tata Group for the smooth operations of loss-making Air India. Tata Group, which won the bid to acquire the national carrier along with Air India Express and 50 per cent stake in AISATS in October last year, is expected to formally takeover the airline on Thursday.

Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy (JRD) Tata founded the airline in 1932 and named it Tata Airlines. In 1946, the aviation division of Tata Sons was listed as Air India, and in 1948, Air India International was launched with flights to Europe.

Delhi HC...

From Page 1

The actress, who was present in the virtual hearing, volunteered to work with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) and feature in the programmes for empowering the marginalised section of the society.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid, representing Chawla, said the actress being a public concerned person had filed the suit highlighting the impact of 5G roll out on human body, and added that unfortunately the public issue was diluted due to the hyper technical difficulties in the order passed by the single judge regarding the law of pleadings.

Chawla submitted that she would be very happy to assist in any matter of public interest and she was thankful to the court for reducing the costs imposed on her.

"I would like to mention that I moved the suit for relief to my immediate family as well as all citizens of the entire country. I have been studying the effects of harmful radiation since 2010.The aspects related to my background and actions were totally ignored. It is a serious matter but it has been sidelined," she said. She further said she was thankful to the bench for acknowledging that the matter is serious and it would be an honour for her to render services by featuring in the programmes of DSLSA.

"We see reports in newspapers that are proving us correct. It would have been truly heartening if the costs had been struck down completely since in-principle I feel that I did no wrong. But I appreciate it nonetheless. I also request that the comments regarding garnering publicity be also expunged from the records," she said. The bench noted that Chawla has been taking up social causes and it has no intentions to doubt her when she raised the 5G issue; however, the exemptions sought by her in the suit probably hurt the single judge as she cannot say that court fees should not be charged from her.

"This portrays that the plaintiffs are approaching court in a casual way which we are sure you were not. May be you could have a better counsel who could have advices you better," it said.

"We wanted her here so that she can hear us. We do not discount the fact that you want to raise a serious issue. The problem is when you show complete disregard to the law. You say you will not pay the court fees as it takes years in deciding cases. You look so frivolous when you do that," it observed.Sharing an instance of the days when Justice Sanghi was practicing as an advocate, he said, "acha wakil bhi both kismat se milta hai' (you get a good lawyer by luck). Sometimes you land up in the wrong hands."

Justice Sanghi said one has to use his or her own intelligence also and as a litigant, have to keep their antennas open.On a lighter side, Khurshid said: "The whole issue is antennas have been put in the wrong direction. It is an attempt to put antennas in the right direction."The bench said unfortunately what appears is that filing of an application for exemption from court fees on the ground that cases are not decided for several years, gave an impression to the single judge that the plaintiffs were not taking up their cause with any seriousness.

ICICI Bank

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[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Naresh Sharma (Co-Borrower), Dinesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) LBBWD00001489600	Flat No. 601, Tower C,6 Floor, Sky View Apartment, Situated at Plot No. GH-02, Vasundhara Nagar, Bhiwadi Rajashan. Area of 1638 Sq. Ft..	Rs. 26,63,860/- as on January 20, 2022	Rs. 20,25, 000/- / Rs. 2,02, 500/-	February 04, 2022 From 12 Noon to 1:00 PM	February 19, 2022, From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website **(URL Link- https://disposalhub.com)** of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **February 18, 2022** before **05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **February 18, 2022** before **05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh. Delhi-110005** on or before **February 18, 2022** before **05:00 PM.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at **Delhi.**

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited** on **9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**

Date: January 28, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Quotation Notice

The **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi** invites sealed Quotations from Registered Railway leaseholders (Registered in Delhi Division) for the contract of temporary leasing of SLR/SLRD parcel space in the following trains originating from various stations over Delhi Division for a period of 90 days (or till finalisation of long term tender whichever is earlier), scheduled to be opened on **07.02.2022** as per Railway Board Letter No. 2021/TC(FM)/10/11 dated: 16.11.2021. The details are as under:-

S. No.	Train No	From	To	CC	Compart-ment	Frequency	Reserve Price per day (in Rs.)
1	12463	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JU (Jodhpur Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday	10444
2	22482	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JU (Jodhpur Jn.)	04	F-I	Daily	10888
3	22482	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JU (Jodhpur Jn.)	04	F-II	Daily	10888
4	22482	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JU (Jodhpur Jn.)	04	R-I	Daily	10888
5	22463	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Friday & Sunday	11495
6	20938	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	PBR (Porbandar)	04	FI	Monday & Thursday	14665
7	20938	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	PBR (Porbandar)	04	RI	Monday & Thursday	14665
8	22401	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UHP (Udhampur)	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Wednesday & Saturday	10776
9	19338	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	INDB (Indore)	3.9	FSLR	Monday	15334
10	12986	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	6445
11	22429	DLI (Delhi)	PTK (Pathankot Jn)	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday, Saturday & Sunday	9598
12	22806	ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal)	BBS (Bhubaneswar)	3.9	FI	Monday	26554
13	22806	ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal)	BBS (Bhubaneswar)	3.9	FII	Monday	26554
14	14152	ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal)	CNB (Kanpur Central)	3.9	FSLR	Sunday	8593
15	12282	NDLS (New Delhi)	BBS (Bhubaneswar)	3.9	FI	Thursday	31393
16	12017	NDLS (New Delhi)	DDN (Dehradun)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8199
17	14316	NDLS (New Delhi)	BE (Bareilly)	04	FI	Daily	5907
18	14316	NDLS (New Delhi)	BE (Bareilly)	04	FII	Daily	5907
19	14316	NDLS (New Delhi)	BE (Bareilly)	04	RI	Daily	5907
20	12497	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8205
21	12459	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8205
22	14681	NDLS (New Delhi)	JUC (Jalandhar City)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8079
23	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	04	F-I	Daily	8555
24	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	04	F-II	Daily	8555
25	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	04	R-I	Daily	8555
26	20473	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	04	F-I	Daily	11649
27	20473	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	04	R-I	Daily	11649
28	14021	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur)	04	F-I	Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	7899
29	14021	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur)	04	R-I	Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	7899
30	15035	DLI (Delhi)	KGM (Kathgodam)	04	F-I	Daily	6188
31	15035	DLI (Delhi)	KGM (Kathgodam)	04	R-I	Daily	6188
32	15116	DLI (Delhi)	CPR (Chhapra)	04	F-II	Sunday	16466
33	12040	NDLS (New Delhi)	KGM (Kathgodam)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	7728
34	12029	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday	10256
35	12005	NDLS (New Delhi)	KLK (Kalka)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056
36	12011	NDLS (New Delhi)	KLK (Kalka)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056
37	12918	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	ADI (Ahmedabad)	3.9	FSLR	Saturday	17299
38	12284	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Saturday	44491
39	12963	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	12399
40	12754	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	NED (H Sahib Nanded)	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday	24155
41	12782	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	MYS (Mysore Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Monday	33364
42	22168	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	FI	Monday	17438
43	22168	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	FII	Monday	17438
44	22168	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	RI	Monday	17438
45	12646	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FI	Tuesday	35742
46	12646	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FII	Tuesday	35742
47	12646	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	RI	Tuesday	35742
48	12804	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	04	FI	Wednesday & Sunday	29227
49	12804	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	04	RI	Wednesday & Sunday	29227
50	22421	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JU (Jodhpur)	04	FI	Daily	10888
51	22421	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JU (Jodhpur)	04	FII	Daily	10888
52	12455	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	13506
53	22950	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BDTS (Bandra Terminus)	3.9	FSLR	Thursday	20830
54	20914	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	RJT (Rajkot)	04	FI	Friday	18130
55	20914	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	RJT (Rajkot)	04	FII	Friday	18130
56	20914	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	RJT (Rajkot)	04	RI	Friday	18130
57	14812	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	SIKR (Sikar)	04	FI	Wednesday & Friday	2161
58	14812	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	SIKR (Sikar)	04	RI	Wednesday & Friday	2161
59	12265	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JAT (Jammu Tawi)	3.9	FI	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	12312
60	12265	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JAT (Jammu Tawi)	3.9	FII	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	12312
61	12265	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JAT (Jammu Tawi)	3.9	RI	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	12312
62	14035	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	PTK (Pathankot Jn)	04	FI	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9071
63	14035	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	PTK (Pathankot Jn)	04	FII	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9071
64	14035	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	PTK (Pathankot Jn.)	04	RI	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9071
65	12214	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	YPR (Yesvantpur Jn)	3.9	FSLR	Monday	39220
66	12457	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	04	FI	Daily	8555
67	12457	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	04	FII	Daily	8555
68	12457	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner Jn.)	04	RI	Daily	8555
69	25035	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	RMR (Ramnagar)	04	FI	Daily	5614
70	14553	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	DLPC (Daulatpur Chowk)	04	FI	Daily	8040
71	14553	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	DLPC (Daulatpur Chowk)	04	RI	Daily	8040
72	12481	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	SGNR (Sri Ganga Nagar)	04	FI	Daily	8169
73	12481	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	SGNR (Sri Ganga Nagar)	04	FII	Daily	8169
74	12481	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	SGNR (Sri Ganga Nagar)	04	RI	Daily	8169
75	15060	ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal)	LKU (Lal Kuan)	04	FI	Tuesday & Thursday	4032
76	15060	ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal)	LKU (Lal Kuan)	04	RI	Tuesday & Thursday	4032
77	22414	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	MAO (Madgaon)	3.9	FSLR	Friday & Saturday	35621
78	22654	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	TVC (Trivandrum Central)	3.9	FSLR	Monday	37466
79	20946	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	KDCY (Kevadiya)	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday & Thursday	17003
80	12644	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	TVC (Trivandrum Central)	04	FI	Friday	37290
81	12644	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	TVC (Trivandrum Central)	04	FII	Friday	37290
82	22634	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	TVC (Trivandrum Central)	3.9	FSLR	Friday	37089
83	12448	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	MKP (Manikpur)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	11656
84	22868	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	DURG	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday & Saturday	20145
85	12148	NZM (Hazrat Nizamuddin)	KOP (C Shahu Maharaj T)	3.9	FSLR	Thursday	26805
86	12045	NDLS (New Delhi)	CDG (Chandigarh)	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday, Saturday & Sunday	7371
87	12013	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	10256
88	12015	NDLS (New Delhi)	AII (Ajmer)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	10256
89	12031	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar)	3.9	FSLR	Thursday	10256
90	14164	MTC (Meerut City)	PRYJ (Prayagraj)	04	FI	Daily	11052
91	14164	MTC (Meerut City)	PRYJ (Prayagraj)	04	FII	Daily	11052
92	14164	MTC (Meerut City)	PRYJ (Prayagraj)	04	RI	Daily	11052
93	22858	ANVT (Anand Vihar Terminal)	SRC (Santragachi Jn)	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday	23424
94	12724	NDLS (New Delhi)	HYB (Hyderabad Deccan)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	24624
95	12802	NDLS (New Delhi)	Puri	3.9	FSLR	Daily	26315
96	12302	NDLS (New Delhi)	HWH (Howrah Jn)	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday, Saturday & Sunday	27981
97	12958	NDLS (New Delhi)	ADI (Ahmedabad)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	19168
98	20840	NDLS (New Delhi)	RNC (Ranchi)	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Friday	25667
99	12310	NDLS (New Delhi)	RJPB (Rajendra Nagar T)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	20511
100	12304	NDLS (New Delhi)	HWH (Howrah Jn)	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday	23184
101	15956	DLI (Delhi)	KYQ (Kamakhya Jn)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	28017
102	12394	NDLS (New Delhi)	RJPB (Rajendra Nagar T)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	16409
103	12622	NDLS (New Delhi)	MAS (Mgr Chennai Central)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	29456
104	22824	NDLS (New Delhi)	BBS (Bhubaneswar)	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday	32293

*Applicable due Taxes will be extra. In addition to the offer price quoted by the bidder, GST as applicable on date (presently @5%) and Terminal Development Charges (TDC) @2% (or as applicable) over the Railway Freight has to be paid by the successful bidder. **Date and Time for submission of Quotation:** From 11:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs on 07/02/2022 and to be opened immediately after 15:00 hrs. For the information and obtaining Quotation Forms, interested bidders may kindly contact to the office of Sr. Divisional commercial Manager/Freight, DRM Office, State Entry Road New Delhi From 28/01/2022 to 06/02/2022 on any working day between 9:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs and on 07/02/2022 up to 11:00hrs. The Demand Draft submitted for Earnest Money Deposit and Quotation Cost should be in favour of "Sr. DFM, Northern Railway, New Delhi" and must be prepared from the bidder's own bank account. In case any information is found false/incorrect, Railway Administration shall be at liberty to initiate any penal action, as per extant rules including termination as deemed fit at a later date also. All interested bidders shall read and abide by all the terms and conditions of the bid documents. Relevant information/documents are also available and can be downloaded from the official website of Railways i.e. **www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in.**

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

File No. CIID/Tender (SLRs)/Temporary/2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

190/2022

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AAP accuses BJP-led MCDs of ₹50 cr scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has accused the BJP-led Municipal Corporations of a ₹50 crore scam in collusion with the toll tax company.

Toll tax is a significant source of revenue for the MCD, and the BJP is making a dent in this source as well, Leader of Opposition in South Delhi Municipal Corporation Prem Chauhan said adding that the AAP will protest the move in upcoming standing committee and house meeting.

"The MCD receives approximately ₹1000 crores per year. Now it is up to the MCD to decide how to take that money, through what medium, and what criteria to follow; all of these things are predetermined. Sahakar Global is a company that recently received a new tender. The company has a rule that requires a 10 per cent advance on the contract, with 5 percent coming from the government and 5 per cent coming from the company. The same thing happened in the previous tender, in which the MCD stated that it was unable to accept the full amount," he said.

He further said, "This time, the BJP-ruled MCD waived 5 per cent to the company, which was entirely in the MCD's hands. As a result, the MCD granted the company a discount of ₹35 crores. BJP leaders should explain why 35 crores of Delhi residents' money was forgiven to that company. What is the BJP-ruled MCD's connection to that company? Tomorrow, there is a meeting of the South MCD's Standing Committee, at which the MCD plans to give a discount of about ₹50 crores in the name of remission."

Leader of the Opposition for East MCD Manoj Tyagi said that in the name of Corona, the BJP first waived the money for parking violations and is now giving such a huge discount to the toll tax company.

LOP in South Delhi Municipal Corporation Prem Chauhan said that the AAP will protest the move in upcoming standing committee and House meeting

Leader of Opposition for North MCD Vikas Goel stated that waiving Rs 35 crores is not a trivial matter, and that money is being squandered behind the scenes. "The Coronavirus pandemic, according to the BJP, only existed for billionaires. They will now extort from the common man by raising the trade licence fee or raising the house tax," he said.

AAP MLA asks L-G to stop NMC from giving clinic land away for free

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Karol Bagh Vishesh Ravi met the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi on Thursday and submitted a memorandum cum letter requesting him to stop North Corporation from giving the land belonging to Jhandewalan Chest Clinic to a private institution for free.

"The sale of Jhandewalan Chest Clinic to a private institution for free is completely against the DMC Act. The North MCD has given 20 years of license for this land without charging any fee from the private organization. The land area of the clinic allotted to a private institution is 500 yards," the MLA said.

Ravi noted that the poor will not get free treatment, but they will have to pay fees for the treatment. "People were getting huge benefits from Jhandewalan Chest Clinic. It is to be noted that already there are very few government hospitals in Karol Bagh," he added.

Previously, North MCD had destroyed two MCD primary schools in Bank Street Ajmal Khan Road and grabbed 3000 Sqm of one MCD school in Pusa Lane Karol Bagh Zone violating Delhi land use change rules and RTE act to build a car parking space, he alleged.

"This is in line with a series of public spaces like schools, hospitals, and children's parks North MCD is selling for very cheap rates to private players who use it for commercial purposes. The selling of schools and hospitals for private players for commercial purposes is not ethical. There is huge corruption involved in selling people's land to the private mafia," he added.

"I requested the LG to stop North MCD from selling the land belonging to Jhandewalan Chest Clinic to a private institution for free in order to save three MCD primary schools," he said.

20-year-old woman abducted, sexually assaulted in Shahdara

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old woman was allegedly abducted, sexually assaulted and paraded on the street by her acquaintances in Delhi's Shahdara area. Police said that the incident took place on Wednesday afternoon and the accused also allegedly chopper off the victim's hair and was forced to wear a garland of chappals around her neck over personal enmity.

The Delhi Commission for Woman (DCW) said they have also sent a notice to the Delhi Police seeking strict action against the accused after several videos of the incident went viral on social media platforms.

In a purported video, the woman can be seen paraded by the locals including women who abused the victim and make her parade the street while others can also be heard whistling in the background. She can also be seen wearing a garland of chappals around her neck.

Taking to Twitter, the Delhi Commission for Woman Chairperson Swati Maliwal said that she is issuing a notice to Delhi Police in connection with the incident, demanded arrest of culprits and security for the victim's.

She also met the victim and tweeted "A 20-year-old girl was gang-raped by illegal liquor sellers, made her bald, wore a garland of slippers and turned her face black in the entire area. I am issuing notice to Delhi Police. All criminal men and women should be arrested and the girl and her family should be given security"

Meanwhile, the police has denied any allegations of gang rape and said that the woman was sexually assaulted by her acquaintances who are also her neighbours over "personal enmity".

Police said they received a call at 1:18 on Wednesday from locals about the woman.

The woman was at her husband's house in Anand Vihar when the accused, who live near her mother's place allegedly abducted her.

In her complaint to police, the victim alleged that she was abducted by the acquaintances who live near her mother's place. They took her to their house where they allegedly thrashed her. She has also alleged that they sexually assaulted her, chopped off her hair and forcefully made her wear a garland chappals. They then humiliated her in public by parading her, a senior police officer said.

"Teams were rushed to the spot where we found out that a group of people were parading a woman on the streets and were beating her up. The woman was forced to wear a garland of slippers and had black stains on her face. We rescued the woman took her to the police station, she is being counselled. We contacted her family members as well. They alleged that she was abducted from her house." said a senior police official

"The motive behind the incident is not clear but as per preliminary investigation, it has came to notice that the victim shared friendship with a boy from the family of the accused. The boy committed suicide in November last year and his family is now blaming the victim and accused her that it was because of her that their son committed suicide. And to take revenge fromher, they allegedly abducted her and wanted to teach her a lesson," he said.

"Police rescued the victim from the house of the accused. We have registered the FIR under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code. We have arrested four accused person who all are from the same family. The victim was given counselling and medical aid as well," said R. Sathiyasundaram, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Shahdara district.

All the allegations levelled by both the parties are being verified and investigation is underway in the matter, he said.

Taking to Twitter, the DCP also tweeted about the incident saying "An unfortunate incident of sexual assualt on a woman due to personal enmity happened in Shahdara District....Police has nabbed four accused and probe is on. All possible help and counselling is being provided to the victim."

BJP writes to L-G over pics of Ambedkar in Govt offices

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has in written a letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal and urged him to intervene in the decision announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal about placing photographs of only Baba Saheb Bheem Rao Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh in government offices.

The BJP leader in the letter said "We have no objection towards placing photographs of Ambedkar or Bhagat Singh but placing photographs of Mahatma Gandhi and other constitutional heads etc is also morally important."

Several political parties have their offices in Delhi secretariat and assembly premises and naturally photographs of their leaders may be placed in those offices but the decision to restrict government offices to place photographs of any national leaders other than the two, may be amended, he added.

Kapoor said Delhi's ruling party is contesting Punjab elections and CM Kejriwal's attention seems to be to influence voters of Punjab as Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh vastly influence Dalit and others voters

Kapoor said Delhi's ruling party is contesting Punjab elections and CM Kejriwal's attention seems to be effort to influence voters of Punjab as Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh vastly influence Dalit and others voters.

Delhi Govt to introduce smart classrooms in schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday said it will install smartboards in more than 20,000 classrooms. This process of making classrooms smart has started from Shaheed Amir Chand Sarvodaya Vidyalaya located at Shankaracharya Marg, where 16 classrooms have been transformed into smart classrooms by installing hi-tech smartboards.

Last Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia visited the school to review the transformation process and understand the working of smart boards.

Sisodia said that all these smart boards are equipped with state-of-the-art technology that will not only make the teaching-learning process a joyful one, but also help children learn better. With the integration of technology, children will have access to all online learning resources. Along with this, modern cameras for recording will also be installed in classrooms so that live recording of the class can be done. These recorded videos can be further accessed by students and teachers for educational purposes, whenever required.

Sisodia added that in the last 5-6 years, the infrastructure of Delhi's schools has become world-class. Five years ago, where there were no benches and proper blackboards in classrooms, today the Delhi government under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is making those schools smart and equipping them with smart technologies.

It was a dream of Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar that each child should get quality education. While fulfilling his dream, our aim is to provide quality education to each student in Delhi government schools and we are determined to do that.

Boy stabbed to death in Adarsh Nagar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed to death by two men while he was trying to save his friend from their assault here, police said on Wednesday

The deceased has been identified as Gulzar, they said.

According to police, the incident took place on Monday in Northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar when the two accused, identified as Gaurav (19) and Ajay (21), engaged in a fight with Gulzar's friend Suraj over a petty issue in a park.

The accused and the victim were known to each other, they added.

Gaurav, who had a weapon with him, thrashed Suraj. When Gulzar intervened to save his friend, he was allegedly stabbed, a senior police officer said.

AAP seeks probe into Karol Bagh land encroachment by Adesh Gupta

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday demanded a proper investigation into an unauthorised encroachment of land in Karol Bagh allegedly by Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta.

Leader of the Opposition in north Corporation Vikas Goel spoke out against the corruption at the house meeting held at the civic center. Goel brought up the matter of Adesh Gupta's unauthorised encroachment of land in Karol Bagh. He sought discussion on the issue in the house, but the BJP leadership refused to allow the discussion to take place.

Goel stated, "Adesh Gupta has illegally appropriated the corporation's land. There was a school of MCD in front of Adesh Gupta's house where he carried out illegal construction work. Even the High Court had issued a notice to Adesh Gupta for illegal construction. Gupta, on the other hand, has remained silent on the subject. There has also been no investigation or action taken against him."

He further said, "The BJP officials in power in the corporation have sensed their impending defeat in the upcoming elections and have begun seizing the corporation's lands as well as engaging in corruption by selling the company's properties at low rates."

'Peepal Baba' planted 20 million trees in 45 years

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Environmental conservationist who has been striving towards his goal for the past 45 years, Peepal Baba's as part of the Green Revolution Campaign, has decided to organise the largest Peepal and Banyan plantation drive.

Under the aegis of Peepal Baba, on the Karma Lake Land in Manesar, Gurugram, the world's largest Peepal and Banyan plantation drive was initiated last year. This drive is to be expanded this year to increase the production of the plants. In the last 45 years, Peepal Baba has planted more than 20 million saplings.

"Hariyali Kranti Abhiyan or Green Revolution Campaign" and "Give me Tree Trust" 's founder Peepal Baba was born on 26 January 1966 in Chandigarh. His father belonged to Sirsa and currently staying in Mayur Vihar, he is taking this green revolution to the nooks and corners of the NCR region. Influenced by his teacher, at the age of 10, Peepal Baba associated himself with the Green Revolution Campaign.

He said, that around 1 billion plants in the nursery were destroyed during the covid lockdown. He attempts to curb this damage by increasing plantation drives this year.

He said, "So far we have conducted plantation drives in 205 districts of 18 states in which more than 17 thousand volunteers participated and now they are taking this campaign ahead to the entire nation. More than 13 lakh plants are now trees, which were been planted in Gurugram and NCR, Meerut, Greater Noida and Lucknow."

PICTALK

Light show using 1000 drones, during the full dress rehearsal of Beating of the Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk, in New Delhi on Thursday RANJAN DIMRI

Delhi likely to witness cold day conditions; min temp drops to 6.3 degrees Celsius

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi is likely to witness cold day conditions on Thursday, with the city registering a drop of three degrees in the minimum temperature at 6.3 degrees Celsius, the weather office said.

According to weather officials, the city has been reeling under cold day conditions for the last three to four days due to rains, fog and little exposure to the sun.

Tuesday was Delhi's coldest January day in nine years, with the maximum temperature plunging to 10 degrees below normal and settling at 12.1 degrees Celsius.

Before this, January 3, 2013 had recorded a maximum temperature of 9.8 degrees Celsius, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data. It was also the second consecutive "severe cold day" in the national capital. Wednesday was also a cold day.

According to IMD, a "cold day" is when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

A "severe cold day" is when the maximum temperature is at least 6.5 notches below normal.

"There will be mainly clear sky. The city will witness cold day conditions at isolated places on Thursday," the IMD forecast said.

It said that maximum temperature of the day is likely to hover around 17 degrees Celsius.

Avoid blame game: SC tells Centre, Delhi to jointly act on Tihar Jail security

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Centre and the Delhi Government to jointly hold a secretary-level officials' meeting with Prisons DG at Tihar Jail to discuss the recommendations submitted by Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana in a report on prison reforms. The report came after it was found some Tihar jail officials were extending undue assistance to jailed ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra.

Stressing the need to avoid the "passing the buck" between the Centre and the city government, the bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah also directed to submit a joint affidavit including their decisions and implementations and steps taken in view of the jail security. Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, submitted before the top court that the Ministry of Home Affairs, has considered the Commissioner's report and taken decisions accordingly.

However, it was noted that the recommendations were actually reiterations of various guidelines contained in the Model Prisons Manual 2016 and other advisories issued by the MHA to the state governments from time to time, the ASG submitted.

Divan said prisons is a state subject and the state government alone can make laws and take decisions in matters of prisons in their jurisidiction.

On November 10, last year, the Supreme Court expressed its dissatisfaction over the delay by the MHA in taking action on recommendations submitted by Asthana in his report.

Daily Covid cases decline 42% in city, 34 mortalities

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Thursday reported a considerable decline of 42 per cent in daily Covid cases, at 4,291, against 7,498 cases on Wednesday, while there were 34 deaths.

The positivity rate has also reduced to 9.5 per cent with active cases declining to 33,175 as per the Health Department bulletin.

The fresh Covid infections and deaths have pushed the tally to 18,15,288 and the death toll to 25,744.

With Covid recovery rate climbing at 96.75 per cent, the active cases rate in Delhi stands at 1.82 per cent while the death rate continues at 1.42 per cent.

With 9,397 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, the total number of recoveries has gone to 17,56,379. A total of 26,812 Covid patients are being treated in home isolation at present.

The number of Covid containment zones has also declined to 42,388 in the city.

Meanwhile, a total of 44,903 new tests — 41,187 RT-PCR and 3,716 Rapid Antigen - were conducted in the last 24 hours, taking the total to 3,46,92,453.

Out of 539 vaccines administered in the last 24 hours, 134 were first doses and 149 second doses. Meanwhile, 256 precautionary doses were also administered in last 24 hours. The total number of cumulative beneficiaries vaccinated so far stands at 2,93,45,447 according to the health bulletin.

HC reserves order on Ansals' plea

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday reserved the order on the plea filed by real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal against their seven year sentence in the Uphaar tragedy evidence tampering case.

After hearing the arguments of counsel for convicts and for the victims of the Uphaar tragedy, Justice Subramonium Prasad reserved the order and said the court will further hear their appeal against conviction on February 23.

On November 8, 2021, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House Court, Dr. Pankaj Sharma, had sentenced Ansals to seven years imprisonment besides imposing a fine of Rs 2.25 crore on both in the evidence tampering case.

During the course of the hearing on Thursday, the bench said: "We will try to pronounce the judgment on the petition before the date of hearing in the trial court. If, in any case, it is not pronounced by then, I will direct the trial court to continue the hearing on appeals."

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Ansals, submitted that no judicial system considers the primary conviction as final.

"There is a need to adopt a larger view and not a tactical one... it was alleged that I delayed the trial which is not true. We had challenged the summoning order on the charge, even during that period, trial was not stayed," he said.

He further submitted with regards to the allegations related to the conspiracy of tampering with evidence, "there is no direct evidence of tampering. The only ground was that I would be the beneficiary of delay".

"If all the documents were intact and exhibited before the court, then what led to this delay is questionable, he added.

On January 11, the Delhi Police had told the High Court that Ansals cannot take advantage of their old age in their plea seeking suspension of their jail terms.

Delhi Police's counsel, advocate Dayan Krishnan also submitted that the duo had made every attempt to delay the trial in the matter during the course of hearing in the matter before a bench of Justice Prasad.

Meanwhile, senior advocate N. Hariharan, appearing on behalf of Gopal Ansal, argued that delay was not caused due to alleged conspiracy as the court had allowed the secondary evidence to be placed in the case.

"Delays were due to legal challenges and that was the right of the accused, still the proceedings at trial court continued."

On the other hand, advocate Pramod Kumar Dubey, counsel for the petitioner, argued that the "prosecuting agency took adjournment 226 times, it was the prosecution not the accused who took these adjournments. Sushil Ansal took only 12 adjournments while Gopal Ansal took only 15".

He also submitted before the court that the lungs of the petitioner were affected during the subsequent waves of Covid.

"In view of the age, situation, ailment of the petitioner, the sentence should be suspended during the pendency of the appeal," Dubey said.

On June 13, 1997, halfway through the screening of Hindi film "Border", a fire broke out in the Uphaar cinema, located in Green Park in south Delhi, killing 59 people in one of the worst tragedies in the country.

₹2,000 CRORE FRAUD CASE

ED arrests Karvy Group's CMD, CFO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested CMD Comandur Parthasarathy and CFO G Krishna Hari of Karvy Group under Prevention of Money laundering Act (PMLA) in a money laundering case connected with the fraud committed through illegal diversion of clients' securities by Karvy Stock Broking Ltd worth Rs 2,873.82 crore and pledging of these securities with banks/ NBFCs for seeking loans leading to subsequent loan default.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation based on the FIR filed by HDFC bank with CCS Hyderabad Police under various sections of IPC for defrauding HDFC bank.

Subsequently, more FIRs have been filed by other banks and few investors.

The ED has recorded the statement of various employees of the Karvy Group, and conducted searches at nine locations on September 22, 2021.

"The ED has uncovered the complex web of transactions designed by the senior management of the Karvy Group to misuse the securities of their clients and to raise loans fraudulently which were then rotated via multiple related companies and diverted away from the stated purpose," the agency said in a statement.

The shares of clients who did not owe any funds to KSBL were also transferred to the margin/pool Account of KSBL and were pledged with the banks/ NBFCs, it said.

The Power Of Attorney (POA) given by the clients to KSBL to facilitate exchange settlements was grossly misused by KSBL at the directions of the CMD and senior executives. Comandur Parthasarathy and G Krishna Hari were the main conspirators who gave instructions to others, it said.

Fund trail investigation has shown that the borrowed funds were transferred to other group companies, particularly to one wholly owned subsidiary of KSBL---Karvy Realty (India) Limited (KRIL) and then to 14 shell companies floated by Karvy Group, it said.

These have been further diverted by layering done through complex web of transactions from the several accounts of group companies without any financial rationale, the agency further said.

Various financial consultants and defunct NBFCs were used to route the funds. Further, it was found that KSBL availed loans from NBFCs to the tune of Rs 400 crore in the name of five such shell companies by pledging shares of clients of KSBL after illegally transferring these shares to their account.

The fraudulently availed loans were used to clear pending loans of related companies, do massive stock transactions which have allegedly turned into complete losses and diverted to personally-held family companies.

The ED had earlier frozen shareholding of Parthasarathy worth about Rs 700 crore.

The ED is investigating the money trail to trace the proceeds of crime which are close to Rs 2,000 crore.

Parthasarathy and Hari were lodged in Central Jail, Bangalore and on production warrant of ED court, they were produced before the PMLA Special Court MSJ Hyderabad on January 20, 2022. Through an order dated January 25, the Court has remanded the CMD and CFO of the Karvy Group to four-day ED custody from Thursday to Sunday.

Bank loan fraud: ED attaches assets of Hyderabad-based firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 43.25 crore belonging to Hyderabad-based Sheetal Refineries Limited and its promoter and MD Jitender Kumar Agarwal under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for defrauding State Bank of Hyderabad and Punjab National Bank in a bank fraud case.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by Bank Securities and Fraud Cell, Bengaluru for causing a total loss of Rs 87 crore, the ED said in a statement.

"The ED investigation revealed that the accused promoters availed various credit facilities from SBH and PNB Hyderabad, by submitting fabricated financial statements, invoices, etc. They got Letters of Credit (LCs) issued from lending Banks in the name of related shell entities as if material is being purchased," it said

Letters of Credit were discounted by the related entities and the money so received was routed back to the promoters of Sheetal Refinery.

The company defaulted in payment of LCs on due date and LCs devolvement caused loss to the banks. Sheetal Refineries owe Rs 146 crore to the banks.

The diverted loan proceeds which are nothing but proceeds of crime were utilized for purchase of properties and to foreclose older loans and were not used for the stated purposes, it said.

In this case, the ED had earlier attached six immovable properties of registered value of Rs 8.30 crore and five movable assets worth Rs 1.23 crore.

Now, the ED has attached 15 more assets. The purchase value of these assets is Rs 43.25 crore. With the present attachment of 15 more properties located in Telangana, the total attachment in this case is Rs 52.78 crore.

Covaxin, Covishield to be available in clinics, hospitals, not stores

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hospitals and clinics can now purchase Covid-19 vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin but these will not be available at medical stores for general public, as per the condition put by the India's drug regulator, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), on Thursday which granted regular market approval for the jabs for use in adult population.

Vaccination data has to be submitted to the DCGI every six months and updated on the CoWIN app.

Under the said conditions, the firms shall submit data of ongoing clinical trials and the vaccines to be supplied for programmatic setting. Monitoring of adverse events following immunization will be continued.

""The CDSCO has now upgraded the permission for Covaxin and Covishield from restricted use in emergency situations to normal new drug permission in the adult population with certain conditions," Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted on Thursday.

The DCGI approval was granted under the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.

The DCGI's approval came after the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on January 19 recommended granting regular market approval to the Serum Institute of India's (SII's) Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for use in adult population subject to certain conditions.

Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at SII, had submitted an application to the DCGI on October 25, seeking regular market authorisation for Covishield. The DCGI had sought more data and documents from the Pune-based company, following which Singh recently had submitted

a response along with more data and information. "Such a large-scale vaccination with Covishield and containment of Covid-19 infection is in itself a testimony of the safety and efficacy of the vaccine," he had said.

In an application sent to the DCGI, V Krishna Mohan, whole-time director at the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, submitted complete information regarding chemistry, manufacturing and controls, along with the pre-clinical and clinical data while seeking regular market authorisation for Covaxin.

Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) took up the challenge to develop, produce and clinically evaluate a vaccine (Covaxin), from the SARS-CoV-2 strains isolated from Covid-19 patients in India, Mohan had said in the application.

If colleague honoured, greet him with appreciation: Karan Singh on Nabi's Padma award

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid internal rumblings in the Congress over Ghulam Nabi Azad being awarded Padma Bhushan, senior Congress leader Karan Singh on Thursday said national awards should not become subject of intra-party controversy and if "one of our colleagues" is honoured, he should be greeted with warm appreciation rather than "snide remarks".

Singh's comments come amid a controversy triggered soon after the announcement of the Padma awards on Tuesday evening when Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, while commenting on CPI (M) leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's refusal to accept the award, said, "He wants to be Azad not Ghulam".

Several members of the group of 23 leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi demanding an organisational overhaul in the Congress congratulated Azad for being awarded Padma Bhushan, saying it was "well-deserved". Reacting to the row, Singh said he was distressed at the "unseemly controversy" over the well deserved Padma Award to Azad.

"These National Awards should not become subject of inter-party controversy, far less of intra-party ones," Singh, a former Union minister and party stalwart, said in a statement.

"I have known Ghulam Nabi for half a century since he first started his political career as an active participant in my second election campaign for the Lok Sabha in 1971 from the Udhampur constituency, to which he belongs," he said.

Since then, Singh said, he has seen Azad rise through sheer dint of hard work, dedication and administrative ability to becoming a Cabinet Minister, both with P V Narasimha Rao and Dr Manmohan Singh.

As Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha for seven years, he played a positive and constructive role in our Parilamentary system, Singh said.

Azad also served as the first Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir from the Jammu region, and his short stint is still remembered positively in both regions, he said. "If one of our colleagues is honoured he should be greeted with warm appreciation rather than snide remarks," Singh said.

Congress veteran and former law minister Ashwani Kumar also came out in support of Azad and hit out at Ramesh, saying his criticism of Azad is nothing less than a "shameful innuendo" and does not do justice to the ethos of the Congress.

Active Covid cases in India decline to 22,02,472

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The active Covid-19 cases have decreased to 22,02,472 and now comprises 5.46 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has decreased to 93.33 per cent. However, more than 400 districts are still reporting over 10 per cent positivity rate. Also, the daily positivity rate - the share of coronavirus tests that return positive and considered a key marker of the pandemic's status - is up from 16.10% to 19.59% while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 17.75 per cent, as per the data available from the Union Health Ministry.

The active cases have decreased to 22,02,472 and comprise 5.46 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has decreased to 93.33 per cent, the Health Ministry said.

The death toll has climbed to 4,91,700 with 573 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,76,77,328 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent. The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid vaccination drive has exceeded 163.84 crore. India's Covid tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

SC asks Punjab not to arrest SAD leader Majithia in drugs case till Jan 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday orally asked the Punjab Government not to take any coercive step against SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia till January 31 when it hears his pre-arrest bail plea in a drugs case. In another case, the apex Court directed Maharashtra Police to not to arrest BJP MLA Nitesh Rane for 10 days in an attempt-to-murder case registered in Sindhudurg district.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli took note of the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Majithia, that the plea seeking anticipatory bail plea needed urgent hearing as the accused has been facing "political vendetta". "This is political vendetta. He is called to police station. This is all due to the election fever", said Rohatgi while seeking urgent hearing of the plea of Majithia. "Is it election fever. All are rushing to this court," the bench said.

The Punjab Police, which is aware of the fact that a plea has been filed in the apex court, is trying to arrest him, he said. Senior advocate P Chidambaram, appearing for the Punjab Government, said that Majithia has gone into hiding and now appearing here through the counsel. "Is it fair Mr Chidambaram, when you know that his petition is going to be listed," the CJI observed, adding, "Tell your government to not do anything. We will list on Monday."

The pre-arrest bail plea of Majithia, who was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on December 20 last year, was dismissed by the Punjab and Haryana HC on January 24 and an appeal has been filed in the apex court.

In another case, sisposing of the pre-arrest bail plea of Rane, son of Union Minister Narayan Rane, a bench headed by Chief Justice Ramana asked him to surrender before the trial court in the meanwhile, and seek regular bail in the matter. The Bombay High Court on January 17 had refused to grant pre-arrest bail to Rane in the case, noting that a balance was needed between conflicting considerations of personal liberty and a proper investigation in the matter.

The high court had rejected the anticipatory bail applications of Rane and another accused Sandesh Sawant, but had allowed a similar plea of the third accused in the case, Manish Dalvi.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

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.	Amrit Maan/ Ambika Gautam/ Tanya Traders/ LBGUR00005053493	Plot No I/4417, Khasra No 815- 556, First Floor, Village Sikdarpur Mandoli Road Ram Nagar Extn. Shahdara, Delhi/ January 25, 2022	July 26,2021 Rs. 92,35,236/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Chander Mohan Sethi/ Sethi Estates Private Limited/ Mayank Sethi/ Seema Sethi/ Sethi Buildwell Private Limited/ LBDEL00002006350	House No-E 18 Preet Vihar, Delhi/ January 25, 2022	September 25,2021 Rs. 2,86,34,975/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Raghu Nath Mandal/ Rakhee Mandal/ LBDEL00004636444	Flat No -115, First Floor, Dda Janta Flat, South Enclave Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Dakshin Puri, Delhi/ January 25, 2022	October 16,2021Rs. 17,43,364/-	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

Info correct: Twitter on Rahul plaint of sharp drop in followers' number

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote to Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal last month flagging a sharp drop in his followers, Twitter on Thursday said numbers are 'meaningful and accurate'. Twitter also pointed out that it does not arbitrarily censor political content and elevating political debate and open discourse is fundamental to its service and core values.

Responding to him, Twitter's vice president, Global Public Policy and Philanthropy, Sinead McSweeney has said, "Twitter is deeply committed to India" and will ensure that public conversation is healthy, which includes diverse voices, diverse points of view, allowing people to be better informed and to participate safely and comfortably.

The Twitter spokesperson said the platform has been fighting spam and malicious automation strategically and at scale with machine learning tools, and as part of those consistent and ongoing efforts to ensure a healthy service and credible accounts, follower counts can and do fluctuate. "We remove millions of accounts each week for violating our policies on platform manipulation & spam. You can take a look at latest Twitter Transparency Center update for more context. While some accounts notice minor difference,in certain cases no.could be higher," it added.

Reacting to the Twitter's response, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Rahul Gandhi's stand has been that social media platforms cannot be suppressed, subjugated and denigrated to trolls' space and there should instead be a healthy debate and discussion on them. "The plurality, the multi-culturalism, the open debate, the critique of policies and programmes of the government and that the social media patforms should be healthy forum for debates and discussions has been the stand of Rahul Gandhi, which now stands vindicated," Surjewala added.

In the letter dated December 27, last year, Rahul alleged that there is a shadow ban on him which restricts his tweets and the number of people who can follow him. "I want to bring your attention to what I believe is Twitter's unwitting complicity in curbing free and fair speech in India," Rahul wrote. He further wrote that he has been "reliably, albeit discreetly, informed by people at Twitter India that they are under immense pressure by the government to silence" his voice. Along with the letter, Rahul also sent an analysis of data from his Twitter account showing that his followers have barely increased for several months since August when his account was suspended for eight days.

"Perhaps not so coincidentally, it was precisely during these months that I raised the plight of a rape victim's family in Delhi, stood in solidarity with farmers and fought the government on many other human rights issues. In fact, a video of mine that promised farmers that the 3 infamous farm laws will be repealed is among the most watched video on Twitter posted by any political leader in India in recent times," Rahul said in the letter.

Rahul had pointed out that the ideological battle between liberal democracy and authoritarianism across the world is being shaped on social media platforms and this places a huge responsibility on those that are at the helm of companies such as Twitter. As a leader of India's largest opposition party, Rahul said it is his duty to raise my voice on behalf of our people against injustice. Rahul's followers crossed 19.6 million on Thursday morning, after being stagnant at 19.5 million for many months.

Responding to him, McSweeney said,"We understand increased transparency is at the foundation to promote healthy public conversation on Twitter and to earn trust. We know it is critical that people understand our processes and that we are transparent about what happens as a result. We assure you that Twitter, Inc. Treats its role as a platform service provider with utmost seriousness and we are deeply committed to India".

Centre mulling to revisit booster dose policy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is rethinking over the relevance of the precaution Covid-19 dose to all the categories. Currently the jabs are being administered to the frontline and healthcare workers along with 60 plus population in the country.

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) for Covid-19 held a high level meeting with NITI Aayog a day ago and sources said that the high-level panel members were skeptical about the benefits of the third dose being administered. "The NTAGI presented some research papers on third doses administered in several countries which have not helped in curbing infection, to the NITI Aayog in the meeting", a source told .

Some cases of getting infected even after a third dose have also been reported in India. The source said that the experts from NTAGI have assessed the data from the countries where booster doses have been administered. It has also studied the impacts of the third dose against the infection.

The NTAGI is expected to meet the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) next week with some more fact finding papers on the third dose, source said. However, the policy on booster or precaution dose could be revisited for the extension of the policy among other age group beneficiaries. As per the source, the precaution dose may continue among healthcare and frontline workers and 60 plus population.

The NTAGI for Covid-19 also met WHO officials and said that India "will not blindly follow others" on its booster dose policy.

During the meeting, officials assessed real-world data from countries across the world that are administering booster doses to their population.

"Boosters have not helped the cases in any country that has administered the third dose. Besides, we will not blindly follow what other countries have done. We have to look at our local epidemiology and science, and our decisions have to be based on that assessment," the NTAGI members discussed

Apart from local data, public health experts are also analyzing the infection patterns, behaviour of the virus, emerging variants and viral loads along with breakthrough and reinfections.

Congress to chalk out plan for Budget Session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Top Congress leaders will hold deliberations on Friday morning to discuss the party's strategy during the upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi will hold discussions with senior party leaders at a virtual meeting of the Parliamentary Strategy Group.

The group is headed by Sonia Gandhi, who is also the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) .

Other members of the group include former prime minister Manmohan singh, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and

leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, senior party leaders A K Antony, KC Venugopal, Anand Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, K Suresh, Jairam Ramesh, Manickam Tagore and Ravneet Singh Bittu.

The meeting is called before every Parliament session to decide the party's strategy. The Budget Session of Parliament starts on January 31 with the president's address to the joint sitting of both houses. The Union Budget will be presented on February 1.

RRB-NTPC protests: Congress extends full support to students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Thursday extended their full support to the protesting students who has called a `Rail Roko Andolan' against the Railway Ministry's alleged irregularities in a recruitment exam.

While Congress General secretary Priyanka Gandhi spoke on a virtual mode to few aspirants and also those affected by the police lathicharge in Prayagraj, the Congress student's wing workers held a demonstration in front of the Railway Bhawan against police brutality on job aspirants.

During the interaction, Priyanka assured the students that she would raise their voice from all forums. "Don't get afraid. Ensure that elections are held on your issues of your employment. The Government did not give you job but commit atrocities on you and suppress you," said Priyanka, according to a statement, issued by the Congress. Priyanka also assured students she will visit them in Prayagraj.

"When leaders come to you for vote, fix their answerability. The solution to deal with recruitment processes that are held for years is preparation of a job calendar. We have talked about job calendar in our youth manifesto," she said.

The Uttar Pradesh Police had on Wednesday arrested two people and lodged a case against around 1,000 unidentified persons in connection with the alleged rioting and blocking of the railway track by some job aspirants. Six policemen were also suspended with immediate effect for using "unnecessary force" during the incident, which took place on Tuesday.

President of the National Students' Union of India Neeraj Kundan led a protest march to the Railway Ministry, where an effigy of minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was burnt, the outfit said in a statement.

"The protesters who crossed the barricades erected by the police were detained and was taken to the Mandir Marg Police station," it stated. Kundan said that students were the worst sufferers of the Covid pandemic. "The government is completely ignoring the education sector. Before taking vital decisions the government doesn't consult the students concerned, instead of imposing unnecessary new rules on them. If they protest, they are beaten," he alleged. The NSUI national president claimed that over 1,40,000 posts are vacant in CBT 2 group D since 2019.

At a Press conference Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said Modi government issued the notification of these jobs ahead of 2019 general elections which stated that there will be examination for Group-D railway posts.

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 minister 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 Guv

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 deputation 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 ofposting 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 anamendment to the Cadre Rules which unilaterally mandates the State Government to make such a number of officers available for deputationas 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 haveoften accused Dhankhar of converting the Raj Bhavan into a BJP party office.

One such war of words ensued on Thursday when Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu 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 uptoher 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.

"TheTMC 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

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 persons.

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 fundamental 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 corporator 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.

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TENDER NOTICE — **Date: 28.01.2022.**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all the bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/CR/SS/0976	RENEWAL OF GROUP TERM LIFE & OTHER RELATED INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THE EMPLOYEE OF BRPL FOR FY : 2022-23	4.5 Crore	17.02.2022 15:00 HRS	18.02.2022 15:00 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/CR/SS/0977	RENEWAL OF VARIOUS GENERAL INSURANCE POLICIES IN BRPL FOR FY : 2022-23	10.00 Crore	17.02.2022 16:00 HRS	18.02.2022 15:30 HRS

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

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.	Kanchan/ Rohit Kumar/ LBDEH00003562693	Flat No. 606, Sixth Floor, Tower-A, The Capital, R 3 and R 4 , Residential Sector IIE, IIT Park , Opp. Touchwood School, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand/ January 25, 2022	October 13, 2021 Rs. 10,82,736/-	Dehradun/ Ghaaziabad/ Delhi

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

Date : January 28, 2022
Place: Ghaaziabad

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

dpcc

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
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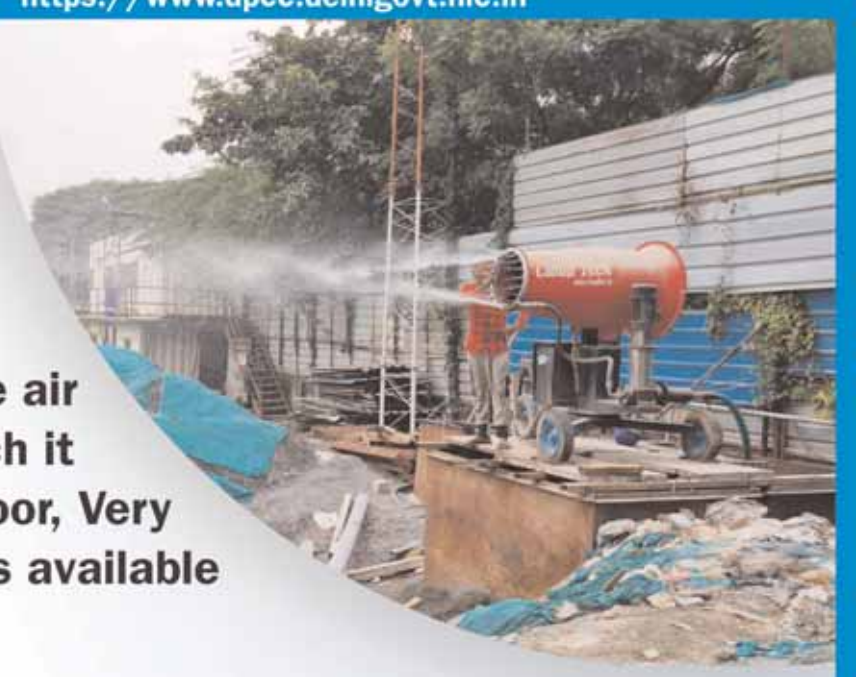

Citizens of Delhi are advised to initiate the following steps in different categories of air quality. The air quality and category in which it falls i.e. Good, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe + is available at www.cpcb.nic.in.

(1) MODERATE TO POOR CATEGORY **Ambient PM2.5 values between 61-120 ug/m3 or ambient PM10 values between 101- 350 ug/m3**

a) Keep engines of your cars/bikes/scooters properly tuned.
b) Maintain proper air pressure in tires of cars/bikes/scooters.
c) Keep your PUC certificate up to date.
d) When you are out for a drive, do not idle your vehicle , turn off the engine.
e) Do not dispose of waste / garbage in the open spaces.
f) Report air pollution activities through SAMEER App/Green Delhi App.

(2) VERY POOR CATEGORY **Ambient PM2.5 values between 121-250 ug/m3 or ambient Pm10 values between 351-430ug/m3**

a) People to minimize the use of personal vehicles and use public transport.
b) Be sure to replace air filters at recommended intervals in your automobiles regularly.
c) Avoid dust-generating construction activities during the months of October to January, if possible.

(3) SEVERE CATEGORY **Ambient PM2.5 values > 250 ug/m3 or ambient PM10 values >430 ug/m3**

a. Choose a cleaner commute - share a ride to work or use public transportation or walk or cycle.
b. People whose positions allow them to work from home should work from home.
c. Do not use coal and wood for heating purposes.
d. Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning.
e. Combine errands and reduce trips. Walk to errand when possible.
f. Do not burn garbage, plastics and other discarded items.

(4) SEVERE + CATEGORY **When ambient PM2.5 values > 300 ug/m3 or ambient PM10 values >500 ug/m3**

a) Children, the elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases stay indoors as much as possible, and to avoid outdoor activities.

Sd/-
Member Secretary (DPCC)

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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.

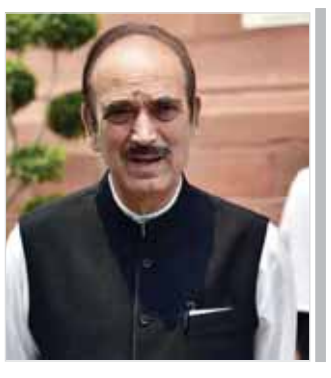
PICTALK

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.

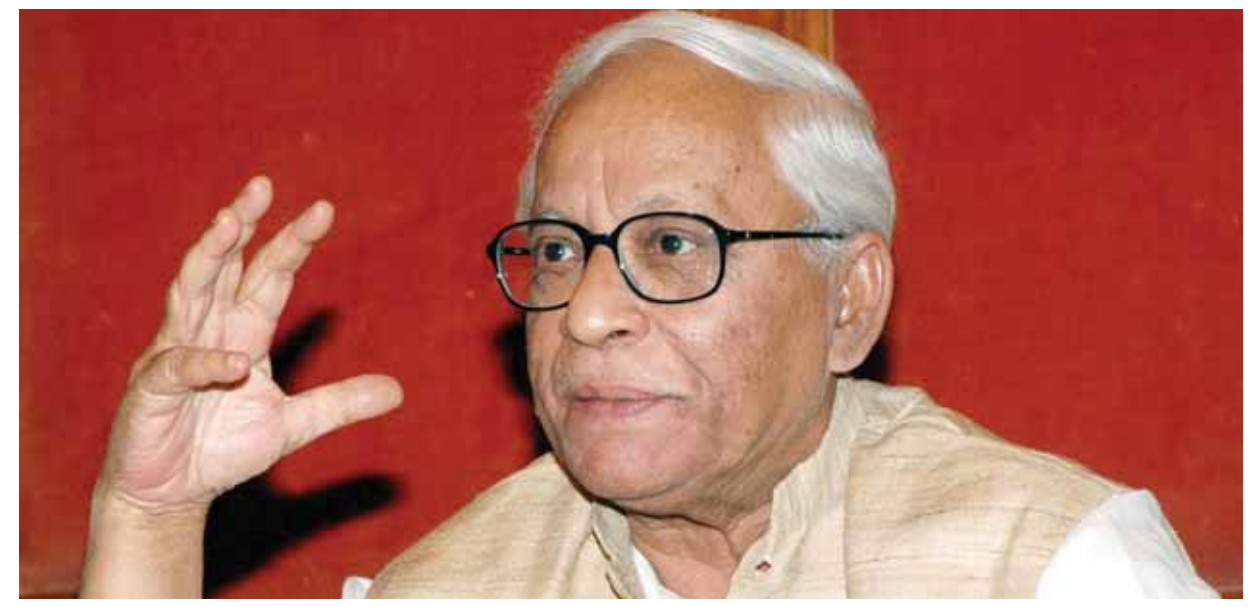


It has simply been announced by the Government of India, by the President who is the executive head of the sovereign Republic. However, the upset colleagues refuse to subscribe to this view and, in this context, are even citing the "example set by" former West Bengal Chief Minister and CPM leader Buddhadeb 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 Buddhababu, 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 is a work in progress.

> 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

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 bhaijan; 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 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 about important Corona protocols 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 headlines 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 Budhadeb Bhattacharjee and its acceptance by Ghulam Nabi Azad, with castigation of the latter by his party colleagues. The corollary of all these uncalled-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*

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*

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 SIDDIQUI'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 netwok 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.

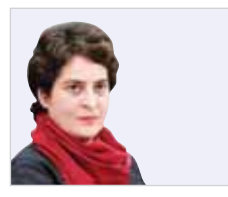
Al Qaeda, Taliban, TTP and a host of other affiliated outfits have been kidnapping Americans, Europeans to make an exchange offer for Siqqiqui's release and the recent hostage taking in a Texas synagogue is just another incident in the long series of events for several years. Given Pakistan's insistence 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 hob-nobbing 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.

POINT COUNTER POINT

I REQUEST STUDENTS THAT RAILWAYS IS YOUR PROPERTY, PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY IT. WE WILL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS.
— RAILWAYS MINISTER
ASHWINI VAISHNAW



NO AMOUNT OF CONDEMNATION IS ENOUGH FOR THE REPRESSION OF YOUTH ASSOCIATED WITH RRB NTPC AND GROUP D EXAMINATIONS.
—CONGRESS LEADER
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

RAKESH **SARWAL** MRINALI **DUDI**

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

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 indepen-dence 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?

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 isnot bound to any political party or leader, its autonom-ous 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 ser-vices as per rules. Sometimes, cases of transfer and posting receive greater attention that 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 engage-ment and participation in governance is essential for ensuring accountability, trans-parency 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 flexibili-ty, transparency, minimum Government, de-bureaucratisation, decentralisation and market orientation. The main principle of NPM is to emphasise 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 time con-tract, 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 exper-tise to man specialized assignment, Patel's ideals of permanent, unbiased, indepen-dent administrators who can work for the betterment of county with a loyalty to-wards 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 addi-tion, 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 contains 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 participate 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 faulted 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,
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eegar_phe_cg@nic.in
निविदा निरस्तीकरण
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पजीकृत एजेंसी/ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा ग्राम बेहराबुड़ा, मैनपुर, मालगॉव एकल ग्राम जलप्रदाय योजना के कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय का निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 146/दिनांक 22.11.2021 सिस्टम टेण्डर नं. 87309, जी क्रमांक – G-65378/1/ दिनांक 26.11.2021 आमंत्रित की गई थी। इस सिस्टम टेण्डर नं. में तकनीकी एवं पात्रता निर्धारण के संबंधों के कारण इस सिस्ट्म टेण्डर नं. को निरस्त किया जाता है।
शीघ्र ही पुनः उक्त कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जावेगी।
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

RENU
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 a as under.
Age: about 40 years, **Height**: 5'2", **Complexion**: Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** 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 June 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 Ved 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
A residential Flat No. 1256, Pocket - I, Sector B, Floor No. 3rd in the layout plan of Housing Estate at Vasant Kunj , New Delhi - 110070.
Mittal & Mittal Co. Advocates
614, 6" Floor, R.G. Trade Tower,
Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura,
Delhi - 110 034.
Ph.9811191761, 9891188839
E-mail: mittal782004@yahoo.co.in

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
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, Dy.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]; 83220421;** Set of Stator and Rotor Stamping for Traction Motor Type 6FRA-6068. One set consisting of 05 items; **595.00 Set;** 2000000.00; **21/02/2022 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 752241283;** Set of Fabricated Items for WAP-7 with Hotel Load Convertor; **72.00 Set;** 0.00; **14/02/2022 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75213872A;** Set of Inter Lock Assly. 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 Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/187, Alt-M [Each set consist of 31 items as per pdf annexure]; **460.000 Set;** 60280.00; **21/02/2022 at 11:00.**
PR5-311 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 have accused top director 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/ Kohinoor Jewel Studio/ Madhu Jain/ Rupal Jain/ LBDEL00001587524	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 Ahamdad 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 छ0ग0
FAX(o)-07752-224200, PHONE(o)-07752-230030
क्रमांक 268 /औ0गं0/सं.सं.अधि./सिम्स चिकि./2022 बिलासपुर, दिनांक 24/01/2022
लोकल परचेस एवं पेंशनरों हेतु तृतीय निविदा 2021–22

निविदा कार्य का नाम	सिम्स चिकित्सालय, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में उपचारार्थ मरीजों, पेंशनरों, लोकल परचेस (L.P.) एवं मुख्य मंत्री विशेष स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजना की औषधी एवं चिकित्सा सामग्री की आपातकालिन स्थिति में तत्काल पुर्ति 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 चिल्हर दवा विक्रेताओं से निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाना है।
निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य	रूपये 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 फार्म प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	09/02/2022 संध्या 5.00 बजे तक। संबंधित शाखा सिम्स, चिकित्सालय बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)।
निविदा फार्म जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	28/02/2022 दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक।
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	28/02/2022 संध्या 4.00 बजे के बाद।
निविदा जमा एवं खोलने के हेतु निर्धारित स्थान	कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक, सिम्स चिकित्सालय, बिलासपुर में कार्यालयीन 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 (छ0ग0)

UN chief urges major Afghan aid increase, unfreezing assets

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Chief urged nations Wednesday 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 international funds to pay salaries of doctors, teachers, sanitation workers, electricians and other civil servants.China and Russia reiterated their calls for unfreezing Afghan assets, while U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Biden administration is examining "various options to ease liquidity crunch.

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 Inida 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 crore2000-01 - BALCO , Lagan Jute Machinery Co Ltd -- Rs 554 crore 2001-02 - VSNL, Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC), Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd (HTL), Paradeep Phosphate Ltd (PPL), 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 HDFC 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 Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur Pioneer phot

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, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi-110007, issued by Delhi Development Authority in the name of Smt. Geeta Devi W/o Sh. OP Rohtagi & 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 Rohtagi having mobile 9811160345 and return the same at the address mentioned herein above.

Pranay Trivedi (Advocate)
Ch. No. 638, 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.cubical90.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,ON SECOND + THIRD FLOOR (DUPLEX) WITH CAR GARAGE NO. 365, MANDAKINI ENCLAVE ALAKNANDA NEW DELHI- 110019, vide DDA's File No. F35(473)81/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. 9870504438 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Public Notice

To be known to all that I, **Shri Pritpal Singh** S/o Shri. Ragubir Singh R/o 06B Road no 12, East Punjabi Bagh,Delhi-26 owner of **DDA plot no 57 Transport Centre Rohtak Road Delhi** has applied for **conversion** of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no **LD14419CL/CON/15012022** dated 20.01.22 in DDA.That the original documents i.e. **posession letter,site posession slip,lease deed** & Occupancy certificate of the above property have been lost, An fir vide **LR no. 64159/2022** against this effect has been lodged in crime branch police station delhi. Any person claiming any right, interest,having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/ph no 9999992243 with in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or director (CL), A- block, 2nd Floor,Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-23

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Tilak Raj

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

SHO
P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.
Ph.: 011-29551326, 29551597
DP/856/SD/2021

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Authorised 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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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/ LBDEL00002377467	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-b, Naraina 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 Capital & Housing Finance

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070.
CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Webside: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 Authorised 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 Authorised 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 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. 00000380 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 Jeewan 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, Khasra No-487, Village Peeragarhi, West Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110085
(LC No. 00043578 of Delhi - Safdurjung 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 Skyon Sector 60 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana :- 122001
(LC No. 00002254 of Rohini Branch) Nirmal Singh (Borrower) Rachhpal Kaur (Co Borrower 1) Balvinder Singh (Co Borrower 2) Rupinder Kaur (Guarantor 1)	22-11-2021 /₹ 7697007 /-(₹ Seventy Six lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven) NPA (09-10-2021)	PropNo. 138, entire prop Killa No. 16, Mustil No. 32 Village Khyala Chand Nagar Kanhaiya Park New Delhi Delhi :- 110063
(LC No. 00001783 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) B D Builders Private Limited (Borrower) Dheeraj Malik (Co Borrower 1) Yudhvir 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-1/11882,khasra No- -291 -294,vill-uldhanpur,naveen Shahdara, Near - Shri Ram Satsang Bhawan Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110032
(LC No. 00043787 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Vivek Chanana (Borrower) Kalawati Chanana (Co Borrower 1) Om Prakash Chanana (Co Borrower 2) Chanana 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) Tejvinder Singh (Borrower) Gurpreet 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 Darapur Mansarover Garden New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110015
(LC No. 00044000 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Vivek Chanana (Borrower) Kalawati Chanana (Co Borrower 1) Om Prakash Chanana (Co Borrower 2) Chanana Plastics Private Limited (Guarantor 1) Himani Chanana (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 Delhi 110065
(LC No. 00000433 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Pramod Kumar Shrivastav (Borrower) Shobhit Kumar Shrivastava (Co Borrower 1) Usha Rani Srivastava (Co Borrower 2)	18-12-2021 /₹ 3827719 /-(₹ Thirty Eight lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen) NPA (09-11-2021)	Plot No. 51, Ist Floor Silver Park Shivpuri Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110051
(LC No. 00002376 of Rohini Branch) Amey Buildtech Private Lmited (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.BGH-A, Surajpur Site C, Greater Noida-201308 Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201308
(LC No. 00001593 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 - Safdurjung 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, Sudershan Park Plot No-82 Khasra No-653 Near C Block Atta Chakki New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110015
(LC No. 00000684 of Cannaught 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, Ff 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,tower-e4 Maya Garden City , Near Escon Arena Zirakpur , Punjab , India Zirakhpur 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 Roof Right, Khasra 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-20/22, New No-d-20/22 3rd Floor Rear Side With Roof, Kh No.1625/904 Old Govind Pura, Shahdara, Vil Khureji Khas 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 Prop No. K-1 Tf With Roof Block K, Kh. No. 18/2/1 Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden Portion 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 Thirty Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (09-11-2021)	Unit No 2030, 19th Floor, Block F, Galaxy North Avenue-ii, Plot Gc-3D gh-03, Gaur City 2, sector 16c Greater Noida west Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201308
(LC No. 00001061 of New Delhi-west Branch) Chetan Arora (Borrower) Pooja Arora (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 /₹ 2197626 /-(₹ Twenty One lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Six) NPA (09-11-2021)	Plot No-321, Second Floor Pocket-16, Block-D Secor-3, Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110085
(LC No. 00001988 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Mansi (Borrower) Gourav (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 Jalib 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,ugf,front Lhs, Plot No-51a, 52, Kh.no-96,unione Residency Vill-akbarpur Berampur, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201009
(LC No. 00000357 of Dwarka Branch) Arun Kumar Singh (Borrower) Anu Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 /₹ 1641016 /-(₹ Sixteen lakh Forty One Thousand Sixteen) NPA (09-11-2021)	Flat No- Ugf- 1,ugf, Front Side Rhs flat,plot No- Mm- 72,mm Road Dlf Ankur Vihar, Village Sadullabad, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201010
(LC No. 00002386 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Raju (Borrower) Pinky (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 /₹ 1459293 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Three) NPA (09-11-2021)	1/3054(new)& A-20 (old),second Floor Lhs Without Roof,gali No.18,vill-sikdarpur, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110032
(LC No. 00043598 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Manav Bhautiya (Borrower) Ramu (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 /₹ 1438037 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Thirty Seven) NPA (09-11-2021)	Property No. 75 Second Floor Sector -20, Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110085
(LC No. 00001286 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Khang Shong Vano Ravi (Borrower) Somi Khang Shong Vano (Co Borrower 1) K S V Ashok (Co Borrower 2) K S V Vandana (Guarantor 1)	18-12-2021 /₹ 1270555 /-(₹ Twelve lakh Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Five) NPA (09-11-2021)	P.No.23,UGF,Front Side (L.H.S), Kh.No. 78/1/3,Vill. Hastsal,Gali No.21 Om Vihar Phase-3, Uttam Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110059
(LC No. 00005447 of Karnal Branch) Vivek Dhaka (Borrower) Indu Wo Vivek Dhakka (Co Borrower 1)	18-12-2021 /₹ 1253800 /-(₹ Twelve lakh Fifty Three Thousand Eight Hundred) NPA (09-11-2021)	Khewat No. 1609 Khata No. 2352 Khasra No Dewru Road , Sonipat Near Jp Jain School Dewru Road Sonipat Sonipat Haryana 131001
(LC No. 00003652 of New Delhi Branch) Sikka Promoters Pvt Ltd (Borrower) H S Sikka (Co Borrower 1) Gurinder Singh Sikka (Co Borrower 2) Kusum Kaur (Guarantor 1)	22-12-2021 /₹ 910360 /-(₹ Nine lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Sixty) NPA (09-11-2021)	Property No. C-1 A Left & Rear Side Portion Of B. F. & G. F Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110092

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 28-01-2022
Place: Delhi
Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

Food for the soul

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

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

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 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.)

RECIPES

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

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

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.

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

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.

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 mid-fielder 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 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 eight 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.

Ash Barty defeats Madison Keys, storms into final

IANS ■ MELBOURNE

World No. 1 tennis player Ash Barty became the first Australian woman to reach the final at her home major since 1980 by defeating a resurgent American Madison Keys 6-1, 6-3, here on Thursday.

The crowd at Rod Laver Arena enjoyed a rendition of 'Girl on Fire' prior to the semifinals at the Australian Open. American Keys, too, had been on fire, tallying a career-best winning streak of 10 after a difficult 2021 that saw her rankings fall outside the top 50. But Barty is on another level at the moment, showing her impeccable skills at the Australian Open.

The world No.1 increased her own winning streak to 10, the last nine in straight sets. Opponents have grabbed a total of 21 games off the Queensland native this fortnight. An indication of Keys' night came in the opening game. Leading 30-0, Barty thwarted three game points before taking advantage of a first break-point.

The serve, slice, and forehand all make up Barty's vast weaponry yet so does her movement. She scurried to a Keys drop shot, then ripped a forehand cross-court. A hefty second serve - an ace if not for a good stretch from the 2017 US Open finalist - helped Barty consolidate for 2-0.

The world No.1 increased her own winning streak to 10, the last nine in straight sets. Opponents have grabbed a total of 21 games off the Queensland native this fortnight

But at 30-all in the next game, Barty's floated slice on a second-serve return barely dropped in. There was no luck involved on the next point when Barty curled a forehand for 4-1.

Still one of the hardest hitters around, Keys found the right balance between aggression and not going for too much, which has been an issue throughout her stellar career. Only once this Australian Open had Keys hit more unforced errors than winners in a match.

On Thursday, pressed by Barty, though, she committed 24 unforced errors, coupled with eight winners. Barty bypassed a break-point with an ace to lead 5-1 and sent a forehand return down the line to seal the opener.

Keys' defending, not that big-hitting, aided in escaping from 0-30 at 0-1 in the second. A fist pump ensued from the 26-year-old after holding at deuce for 2-2.

Barty miscued on a drive volley after stretching the World No.51 and suddenly faced a break-point. But a fine forehand approach close to the net - made more difficult given the slight momentum change - allowed the Australian to later finish at the net.

Keys, maybe and understandably, dwelled on her opportunity. Barty took advantage for 4-2 after Keys decided to approach from deep in the court.

Friends, both smiled at the net after Barty caressed a forehand on match point for winner number 20 on the night, mixed with a mere 13 unforced errors.

China demands US halt Olympics 'interference'

AP ■ BEIJING

China is demanding the US end "interference" in the Beijing Winter Olympics, which begin next week, in an apparent reference to a diplomatic boycott imposed by Washington and some of its allies.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the demand in a phone call with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday Beijing time, according to a news release posted on the Foreign Ministry's website.

The U.S. Has said it will not send dignitaries to the Games, which open Feb. 4, in a protest over China's detention of an estimated 1 million or more Uyghur and other Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, along with crackdowns on human rights elsewhere in the country.

The boycott does not prevent U.S. Athletes from taking part in the Games, which are being held under strict anti-pandemic restrictions.

China has also protested what it

says are calls within the State Department to withdraw staff and their dependents from the embassy and consulates around China over the tightening rules.

The news release said Wang also called for an end to U.S. Support for self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

Wang also complained that the U.S. Hasn't altered tough political and economic policies toward China under the administration of President Joe Biden, despite its expressed wishes for a less confrontational relationship.

A brief statement from the State Department said that Blinken and Wang exchanged views on how to manage strategic risk, health security and climate change.

Vietnam, Myanmar settle for draw

IANS ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Vietnam and Myanmar played a 2-2 draw in their final AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Group C tie at the D.Y. Patil Stadium, here on Thursday.

Vietnam came from behind twice to salvage a point and finish third but will have to wait till the Group B matches conclude later on Thursday to know their knockout stage fate, with the two best third-placed teams to join the respective group winners and runners-up in the quarter-finals.

Myanmar, needing a win to finish above their Southeast Asian rivals, started the more aggressive of the two sides and had a first look on goal in the second minute after Tun Win Theingi's threaded pass found Thaw Thaw, whose shot failed to trouble Vietnam custodian Tran Thi Kim Thanh.

Vietnam came close to finding the net a minute later when Nguyen Thi My Anh tried to catch Myanmar goalkeeper Nwe May Zin off her line but her shot from distance was denied by

the crossbar.

That set the stage for a well balanced game as both teams created opportunities with Nwe denying Vietnam's Huynh Nhu in the 13th, while Tun's header from inside the box was cleared away two minutes later.

However, it was Vietnam who conceded the first goal when Nguyen Thi Thanh Nha brought down an advancing Noe Khin Myat inside the box, with Tun making no mistake in converting the penalty.

Vietnam fought back and after several missed opportunities, they finally levelled the score at the stroke of half-time, with Nguyen Thi Tuyet Dung beating Nwe off a corner set-piece. Mai Duc Chung's charges were wasteful in front of the goal after the restart with Huynh Nhu and Nguyen Thi Tuyet Dung both missing chances.

Myanmar, however, edged ahead again in spectacular fashion in the 49th minute when Tun set up Tun Khin Marlar, who found space before smashing her effort into the back of the net.

Vietnam were given a lifeline when Myanmar's Saw Thaw Thaw conceded a penalty in the 62nd minute after she brought down Nguyen Anh Thi My inside the six-yard-box.

Huynh Nhu made no mistake from the penalty spot, sending Nwe the wrong way to level the tie for a second time as both teams had to settle for a share of the points.

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 secetary 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 Shahrukh Khan, who is a good talent. There are a lot of matches and if he has a good IPL, who knows, he will be right there," a BCCI source informed PTI on condition of anonymity.

"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

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 wicketsBonner 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."

The series will be part of the ICC ODI Super League and the West Indies will have the opportunity to win points to be one of the top seven teams, excluding hosts India, to gain automatic qualification for the 2023 World Cup.

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.

Salt, one of three T20 debutants alongside George Garton and Harry Brook, brought the equation down to 36 in an over, flaying the first two deliveries for six en route to a 22-ball 50 before being bowled.

England was captained by Moeen Ali because of a slight quad injury to Eoin Morgan.

The final two matches are on Saturday and Sunday, also in Bridgetown.

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 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. The changes in the venues is aimed to cut down on domestic travel and the increased likelihood of exposure to the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

"These risk mitigations are based on avoiding known Covid-19 hotspots, and include limiting air travel, limiting accommodation transfers and, essentially, operating in safer environments," NZC chief executive David White said in a statement.

"We know the more domestic flights we have, and the more movement there is between hotels, the greater the chance of a match or even a series being put at risk," he added.

White added the intent is to explore the concept of allowing multiple pods, each of no more than 100 spectators, in venues in accordance with government guidelines.

Tough road awaits Kuldeep, Harbhajan wants Team India to 'stick by'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

When Kuldeep Yadav had gone for a skier during a Kolkata Knight Riders practice session in the UAE last September, little did he know that within seconds his world would come crashing down with a twisted knee.

Those present at the Dubai training facility were horrified seeing his condition as he lay there writhing in pain, waiting to be stretchered out.

In a week's time, he underwent a major knee surgery in Mumbai, which cast doubts on how long it would take for him to get fit for competitive cricket. He visited Mathura with his family on Thursday to offer prayers on his comeback, for Kuldeep really needed some divine intervention to make his way back into the Indian team.

Otherwise, all that he could have done was to wait at home to hear from the BCCI if it would hold the now-postponed Ranji Trophy, where he was supposed to lead Uttar Pradesh.

"It will be a very tough road ahead for Kuldeep. He hasn't had any proper domestic games under his belt and it's not easy to make an international comeback just like that," one of India's greatest spinners, Harbhajan Singh, told PTI when asked about his expectations.

"He wasn't playing regularly before surgery and when you are making a comeback in white ball, the first thing that's at the back of your mind is 'I don't want to get hit'.

"So it's like striking a balance as you are naturally dealing with a lot of insecurities. It's a test of mental fortitude," said Harbhajan, who saw Kuldeep from close quarters at KKR nets.

But Kuldeep has the skills and the 'Turbanator' expects that he can get a few early wickets and make it a different ball-game.

"Let me make it clear. If he gets a couple of early wickets, he will be a different bowler but things may not go as per plan. It might take some time for him to get back the rhythm.

"My only suggestion would be that stick with him since you have shown conviction based on his past performances and give him enough time and confidence. He is a man who can deliver the goods for India," said the holder of 700-plus international wickets.

The national selectors made an exception for him as he is one of the rare cricketers who is coming back without having to prove his match-fitness as there is no domestic cricket at the moment.

The rub of green finally seems to be going Kuldeep's way after enduring rough times as his exclusion from the playing XI wasn't always a cricketing one during the earlier regime of Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri.

Call it India's bare spin cupboard and injuries or poor form of some elite spinners.

ICC unveils NFT in partnership with 'FanCraze'

PTI ■ DUBAI

The International Cricket Council on Thursday released 'ICC Crictos', the official range of digital (NFT) collectibles, in partnership with FanCraze.

Crictos enables fans to collect and trade their own slice of cricket history from a range of ICC events.

Featuring 75 unforgettable moments from the 2015 and 2019 editions of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, fans can start their Crictos collection with one of three packs: a Base Pack, a Booster Pack and a Hotshots Pack.

Fans that have reserved a pack will be the first to have the chance to own NFTs of some of the most talked-about shots, catches and wickets in international cricket.

The roster of collectibles will continue to grow and will include classic plays from past ICC Men's and Women's events as well as iconic moments created at future events.

The number of Crictos vary by pack-type and Crictos will vary in their rarity across four tiers: Common, Rare, Epic and Legendary with Common Crictos being the most minted whilst Legendary will be the rarest.

Finn Bradshaw, ICC Head of Digital said: "We are so excited to drop our first packs of Crictos today which is a unique opportunity for fans to own and be part of historic moments in cricket. Crictos will be a digital record of those moments cricket fans love, and enable them to collect these legendary video highlights. "This Beta launch is our first step into the cricket metaverse and those lucky enough to be part of it can start their Crictos collection today and shortly start growing it by trading on the peer-to-peer marketplace through our partners FanCraze before we move to a full launch in the near future."

Some of the digital collectibles include Glenn Maxwell whipping one over square leg for a boundary against Sri Lanka, Hardik Pandya smashing Mohammad Amir through the covers at Old Trafford in 2019 and Joe Root drilling one over long-on in the World Cup 2019.

Alongside MS Dhoni and Steve Smith moments, a Lasith Malinga yorker from the ICC Men's World Cup 2019 can be found.

Other NFT products of 2019 edition include David Warner executing a checked lofted drive down the ground for six at the 2019, KL Rahul lofting Akhila Dhananjaya over long-off for a six and AB de Villiers showing his 360-degree range against Andre Russell.

England first team to reach U-19 World Cup semifinals

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Jacob Bethell's blistering batting display helped England advance to the semi-finals of the ICC U-19 World Cup with a six-wicket win over South Africa here.

Bethell was one of the bowlers to restrict South Africa to 209 all out before hitting 88 to see England set up a clash with either Sri Lanka or Afghanistan.

South Africa endured a slow start having won the toss and chosen to bat, their first boundary came off the final ball of the fourth over, before Joshua Boyden dismissed Valentine Kitime off the next delivery.

Boyden would claim his 12th wicket of the tournament to send the other opener Ethan-John Cunningham back to the hutch and reduce South Africa to 21 for two.

Dewald Brevis and Gerhardus Maree combined to steady the South African ship, adding 55 runs to the total before Bethell dismissed Maree.

Brevis remained a familiar stronghold for South Africa as he brought up his fourth fifty-plus score in a row eventually falling just short of a century on 97.

His dismissal brought about a batting collapse for South Africa as three wickets fell for one run as the batters went in search of boundaries, but only found the grateful hands of fielders with Rehan Ahmed claiming figures of four for 48.

The final-wicket partnership of Matthew Boast and Asakhe Tsaka frustrated England adding 40?runs as South Africa ended on 209 all out.

Bethell came out all guns blazing in England's chase, hitting the fourth fastest half-century of U19 World Cup history, reaching fifty off just 20 balls, as the Young Lions went at over 10 an over.

George Thomas was a delighted onlooker at the non-striker's end only moving into double figures in the tenth over, before smacking a six to bring up England's hundred.

South Africa finally struck as Bethell went for one heave too many but not before he had put on 88 from 42 deliveries to place England as overwhelming favourites.

That tag was backed up by good partnerships in the top order, before William Luxton came in at five to strike 47 from 41 balls and get England into the semi-finals with a six.

Zimbabwe, West Indies win in the Plate competition

Matthew Welch's 78 helped Zimbabwe set Scotland a tricky chase of 249 in their Plate quarterfinal.

Scotland were unable to build partnerships as they slumped to 140 all out to see Zimbabwe advance to meet Ireland. They will be joined in the semi-finals by hosts West Indies who were too good for Papua New Guinea in a 169-run win. The West Indies will now face the United Arab Emirates, while Papua New Guinea are set to take on Uganda in the Plate play-offs.