

OPINION 6
JUNTA MURDERS
POLITICAL ACTIVISTS**WORLD 8**
RUSSIA BACKS CHINA ON
TAIWAN, WARNS US**MONEY 10**
5G: BIDS WORTH ₹1.49 L CR
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NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JULY 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Delete anti-Irani tweets, HC directs Cong leaders

Jairam, Khera summoned after Smriti files ₹2 cr defamation suit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued summons to Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D'Souza on a civil defamation suit filed by Union Minister Smriti Irani, and asked them to take down tweets and other social media posts on allegations levelled against the Minister and her daughter.

The Minister has sought damages of over ₹2 crore from the Congress leaders for allegedly making baseless and false allegations against her and her daughter. The court said in case the defendants fail to comply with its directions to remove tweets, retweets, posts, videos and photos from social media in relation to the allegations made against Irani, and her daughter within 24 hours, social media platforms Twitter, Facebook and YouTube shall take down the material.

Justice Mini Pushkarna said "slanderous and bogus" allegations were made against Irani and added that, "plaintiff has made out a prima facie case and balance of convenience lies in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants".

"I am of the prima facie view that slanderous allegations were made against the plaintiff without verifying actual facts.

Grave injury has been caused to the reputation of the plaintiff in view of the tweets and retweets carried out due to the Press conference of the defendants," the judge said.

They are also directed to remove the post, videos, tweets, retweets, morphed pictures of plaintiff and her daughter along with the allegations and stop their recirculation, the court said. The matter is now listed for further hearing before the court and registrar on November 15 and August 18, respectively.

Reacting to the High Court's order, Ramesh on Friday said he will present the facts before the court and challenge the alleged "spin" given by the Union Minister.

In a tweet, Ramesh said, "The Delhi High Court has issued notice asking us to formally reply to the case filed by Irani. We look forward to presenting the facts before the court. We will challenge and disprove the spin being put out by Irani."

Irani's action came after the Congress leaders alleged that her 18-year-old daughter Zoish Irani ran a bar illegally in Goa and also targeted the Minister over this, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sack her from his Cabinet. During the hearing, Irani's counsel submitted that she is a respected citizen, and the three Congress leaders with pre-planned conspiracy of defaming and maligning the reputation of the BJP leader organised the Press conference on July 23 and made allegations without any substance.

Continued on Page 2



Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Kirit Solanki conducts proceedings in the House during ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday PTI

Kharge urges Naidu to expunge Ministers' remarks on Sonia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Outraged over attack by BJP MPs and Ministers on Sonia Gandhi in Parliament on Thursday, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday wrote to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, requesting him to expunge the remarks made by Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal against the Congress president in the House.

The party has already complained against Union Minister Smriti Irani to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with a demand that the matter be referred to the Privileges Committee for action against her. But unfazed by the

Congress' posturing, Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said Chowdhury and Sonia would have to apologise as the "Rashtrapati" remark was objectionable and hurt people's sentiments. BJP MP Nishikant Dwivedi said the Lok Sabha will only function after Sonia apologises.

Kharge also demanded that the Ministers should tender their apology for violating the conventions of the House. His letter came a day after Sitharaman and Goyal attacked Chowdhury for his "Rashtrapati" remark while referring to President Droupadi Murmu. Both the Ministers also hit out at Congress chief Sonia and demanded an apology from her.

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Another youth killed, Karnataka on the edge

Govt to hand over BJP youth leader's murder case to NIA

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Karnataka is on the boil with two back-to-back murders, first of a Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists and second of a Muslim youth.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said the probe into the murder of the BJYM worker will be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The decision comes even as one more person was arrested on Friday by the State police in connection with the killing of Praveen Nettar in Dakshina Kannada district earlier this week. On Thursday, the police arrested two persons in connection with the murder probe.

"We have decided to hand over the case to the NIA... Since it is an inter-State issue (Karnataka-Kerala), we decided to hand over the matter to the NIA," Bommai told reporters in Bengaluru.

Nettar's killers had allegedly come on a Kerala-registered two-wheeler. The Karnataka Police has been in touch with its counterparts in neighbouring Kerala in the aftermath of the killing as both State DGPs spoke to each other.

The Chief Minister said Nettar's murder was a planned and organised crime.

After a meeting with Director General of Police Praveen Sood and other senior

police officials Bommai said CCTV cameras would be installed at all border crossing points along the Kerala border. Check posts would be set up and temporary police camps erected at sensitive spots in villages in the coastal region, he added.

Night patrolling would be intensified and an additional battalion of Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) deployed in Dakshina Kannada district, Bommai further said.

Regarding the killing of a youth outside a textile shop in Surathkal, the Chief Minister said the investigation into the murder would be intensified and the culprits nabbed soon. Special teams should be constituted to crack the case, he said, adding peace meetings would be held with religious leaders at the district level.

Mohammad Fazil, a native of Surathkal, was murdered by four unknown assailants outside the shop on Thursday night. Security has been beefed up in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts in view of the tense situation, police said on Friday. Schools and colleges in Surathkal, Bajpe, Mulki and Pannambur police station limits remained shut.

Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada district KV Rajendra on Friday ordered closing of all the shops and business establishments from Friday evening till morning on August 1 based on intelligence reports.

"As the next three days are crucial according to several intelligence and police reports, we felt the need for stringent decisions to maintain peace, law and order. We cannot call it a total curfew but it is only a measure to restrict public



movement for non-essential activities," Rajendra said.

Essential services will remain open including hotels, kitchens and food delivery services while all the non-essential shops across the urban areas and panchayat limits will remain shut, including cinema halls, he added.

"Prohibitory orders have been imposed from Thursday night till July 30 morning," Mangaluru Police Commissioner N Shashikumar said. Mangaluru is the district headquarters of Dakshina Kannada district.

All liquor shops will remain shut and 19 check-posts have been set up including at the Karnataka-Kerala border, where all the vehicles will be searched, the official said. He added that no one will be allowed to roam in the city beyond 10 pm.

Meanwhile, a large number of people took part in the funeral procession of Fazil.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah demanded the resignation of Bommai, saying law and order in the state has 'completely collapsed'. The killings in the state shows 'intelligence failure'.

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After row, Delhi to revert to old retail liquor sale policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After New Excise Policy controversy, the Delhi Government on Friday decided to go back to the old regime of retail liquor sale in the city.

The Excise Policy 2021-22, which was extended twice after March 31 for a period of two months each, will come to an end on July 31.

According to officials, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the excise portfolio, directed the department on Thursday to "revert" to old regime of the excise policy for a period of six months till a fresh policy is in place.

Detailed report on P3

Demolish floors of 48 buildings around Mumbai airport, asks HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Upbraiding the Mumbai suburban collector for not complying with the orders of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bombay High Court on Friday directed the city suburban district administration to take steps to demolish unauthorised floors and/or structures of 48 buildings around the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA).

A HC division of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik directed the collector to pull down the "unauthorised floors and structures" that are posing "obstacles" to the approach path to Mumbai airport.

Detailed report on P5

Order likely to return after 2 weeks of Parl Session washout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Monsoon Session of Parliament, which commenced on July 18 has been a complete washout so far over a torrent of Opposition's protest on a range of issues and the confrontation over Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury comment against president Droupadi Murmu, may finally see some order next week.

Efforts are on to find a solution next-week to run Parliament without obstruction and hold discussions on price rise on Monday.

A number of Bills have been passed without any discussion in the absence of Opposition presence and fre-

quent adjournments. The suspension of 27 Opposition MPs from the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha for unruly actions has made the matters worse for reconciliation between the two sides as the Opposition is insistent that these suspension must be withdrawn.

According to sources, a discussion on the price-rise and imposition of the GST on some essential items is expected to be held on Monday. The Government has been holding that it was ready for discussion "right away" but the Opposition was demanding a discussion by suspending the "question hour" to which the BJP was not ready for.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by National Stock Exchange CEO Ashish Chauhan (L) during a ceremony for laying the foundation stone of IIFSCA Headquarters building, launch of India International Bullion Exchange and launch of NSE IFSC-SGX Connect, in Gandhinagar on Friday. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel are also seen. "India is now in company of countries like the USA, UK and Singapore where new trends in the global financial sector are shaped," said Modi PTI

Abetment of suicide FIR can't be quashed on settlement: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that an FIR under Section 306 IPC (abetment of suicide) cannot be quashed under Section 482 CrPC on the basis of settlements between the accused and the victims. The bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and V Ramasubramanian said that "abetment of suicide" also falls in the category of heinous and serious offences and are to be treated as crime against society and not against the individual alone.

"Heinous or serious crimes, which are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society, cannot be quashed on the basis of a compromise between the offender and the complainant and/or the

victims," the bench said rejecting a patch up between an accused and the victim's relatives.

The apex court's observation came on the appeal against the Gujarat High Court verdict quashing the FIR against the accused citing a settlement with the victim's cousin, who was the complainant in the case.

The FIR was registered against the accused for cheating the victim of more than ₹2.35 crore, leading to his suicide. The victim's wife Daxaben approached the apex court against the High Court's order and the rejection of her recalling the HC judgment.

"Orders quashing the FIRs and/complaints relating to grave and serious offences only on a basis of an agreement with the complainant, would set a dangerous precedent, where



complaints would be lodged for oblique reasons, with a view to extract money from the accused.

Furthermore, the financially strong offenders would go scot free, even in cases of grave and serious offences such as murder, rape, bride burning, etc., buying off informants/complainants and settling with them," said the apex court's order quashing the HC's order.

Long break in monsoon to affect paddy sowing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The paddy sowing season across north and east India is likely to be adversely impacted due to the prolonged break in monsoon. Only isolated rainfall is expected over the Indo-Gangetic region till the first week of next month, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

The IMD data showed that India has received 9 per cent more rainfall, 465.6 mm, as against the normal of 428.3 mm, so far since the onset of the southwest monsoon. But the prolonged break in the monsoon has become a cause of concern.

The Ministry of Agriculture's latest data showed that the total area under kharif

crops has dropped to 823.43 lakh hectare till Friday as compared to 841.66 lakh hectare last year, a decline of 18.26 per cent. Paddy acreage is reported at 231.59 lakh hectare as compared to 267.05 lakh

hectare last year, a decline of 35.46 per cent so far, is an important indicator of the overall food-grain output and eventually the possible situation of buffer stock.

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Pedestrians cover themselves with plastic sheets during monsoon rain near India Gate in New Delhi on Friday PTI

New Edu Policy to enrich culture, knowledge: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the new National Education Policy (NEP) is in sync with the nation's roots and has gained unprecedented acceptance from the entire country. Noting that the NEP is rooted in "Bharatiyata" while assimilating global perspective, Shah said the policy enriches knowledge and culture and is aligned with aspirations of society. Shah said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the NEP 2020 is a foundation for building a great India and this education policy will be the cause behind a great India.

"The purpose of education is to develop character, empathy, courage and prepare students to deal with challenges of life. Education can enable India to reach the pinnacle of success. Society is looking up to us with expectations and hope to make it happen. Our educational aspiration is not only for earning degrees and certificates but also to achieve global good," Shah said at an event on the completion of two years

since the launch of the NEP.

"The National Education Policy is in sync with the roots of the nation and has gained unprecedented acceptance from the entire country," he said.

Continued on Page 2



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during the launch of new initiatives on completion of two years of National Education Policy, at Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on Friday PTI

IAF to phase out MiG-21 by 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to retire the entire ageing fleet of MiG-21 fighter jets by 2025. The first squadron (18-20 fighter jets), based in Srinagar, will bid adieu by September this year. Three other squadrons will follow suit over the next three years.

The Russian made MiG-21s were inducted into the IAF in 1963 and till now nearly 400 mishaps have taken place involving this aircraft. Around 200 pilots have been killed in these crashes.

In the last seven months alone six MiG-21s crashed, underlining the urgency to retire these jets. In fact, the planes acquired the dubious nickname of

"Flying Coffin" due to its alarming safety record. The IAF has over the years been phasing out MiG-21 which at one point of time numbered 874 and formed the mainstay of the country's air defence. The planes were upgraded from time to time to ensure operational readiness and fill the gap arising out of delays in procurement of the latest jets.

The phase out plan in the last some years has seen the front-line SU-30s replacing the MiG-21s. With the induction of nearly 100 indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA), the IAF will ensure full readiness in the next few years.

The Srinagar-based 51 squadron "Sword Arms" will retire on September 30.

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Zero tolerance for terrorism must: India at SCO meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is an urgent need to address the global energy and food crisis triggered by disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at a meeting of the SCO in Tashkent on Friday. With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto listening, Jaishankar said “zero tolerance” for terrorism in all its manifestations is a “must”.

In his address at the foreign ministerial meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), he also underlined the potential of the Chabahar port in Iran for the economic future of the grouping. Talking about the current global challenges, Jaishankar said the response required includes resilient and diversified supply chains as well as reformed multilateralism.

The external affairs minister reiterated India’s position on Afghanistan and highlighted its humanitarian support to the war-torn country including the supply of wheat, medicines, vaccines and clothing.

The major highlights of the deliberations included a decision to grant permanent membership of the bloc to Iran and make Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia its dialogue partners.

The ministers also supported the applications of Bahrain and the Maldives for the status of SCO dialogue partners.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for the upcoming summit of the grouping in Samarkand which is expected to be attended by Prime



In this handout photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, centre, and Kyrgyzstan’s Foreign Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev arrive to attend a Foreign Ministers’ meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on Friday

AP | PTI

Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders of the eight-nation grouping.

“Participated in the SCO Foreign Ministers’ Meeting at Tashkent. Highlighted that world faces an energy and food crisis due to disruptions from the Covid pandemic and Ukraine conflict. This needs to be urgently addressed,” Jaishankar tweeted. Response required includes resilient and diversified supply chains as well as reformed multilateralism. Zero tolerance for terrorism in all its manifestations is a must,” he said. He said India will give the “fullest support” for the success of the Samarkand summit. “Reiterated India’s position on Afghanistan and highlighted our humanitarian support: wheat, medicines, vaccines and clothing. Underlined the

potential of Chabahar port for SCO’s economic future,” Jaishankar said in another tweet.

Jaishankar said the meeting was “very useful” in preparing for the Samarkand summit.

“Spoke of the economic progress in India, stressing the relevance of startups and innovation. Cooperation in traditional medicine is in the common interest of SCO members,” he added.

Earlier, all the foreign ministers of the SCO nations called on Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Jaishankar said he conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s personal greetings to the Uzbek President. “Appreciated the momentum generated by Uzbek Presidency in fields of security, economy, trade, connectivity and culture,” he said.

Probe irregularities in construction of classrooms, Lokayukta orders CS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a complaint of alleged financial irregularities in construction of classrooms in Delhi government schools, Lokayukta on Friday directed chief secretary to furnish response of department concerned after an enquiry.

Complainant Manoj Tiwari, northeast Delhi BJP MP, was present in Lokayukta court along with his West Delhi counterpart Parvesh Verma for a hearing in his complaint.

“Lokayukta has asked the chief secretary of Delhi government for an enquiry and furnish the report by October,” Tiwari said.

In 2019, Tiwari had filed a complaint with Lokayukta alleging financial irregulari-

ties in the construction of the additional class rooms in the schools of Delhi government’s education department in various parts of the city.

Lokayukta Justice Harish Chandra Mishra after hearing the counsel for the complainant, said that he felt it appropriate to seek a response from Delhi government over the complaint before proceeding further in the matter.

He directed for sending the complaint and related affidavit to Chief Secretary of Delhi Government to get the response to the allegations from the appropriate department, if necessary, upon an appropriate enquiry.

The Lokayukta fixed October 20 as next date of hearing, expecting that the response of the concerned

department of the AAP-led Delhi Government will be filed by then.

The BJP leaders including Tiwari had alleged a “scam” in construction of classrooms in Delhi government schools, claiming the cost was raised to as much as ₹28 lakh per classroom as compared to normal cost of around ₹5 lakh.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who also holds Education portfolio had filed a defamation case against Tiwari and other BJP leaders for allegedly levelling charges against him on the issue.

He had claimed that all the allegations made by the BJP leaders jointly and individually were false, defamatory and derogatory with an intention to harm and damage his reputation and goodwill.

Long... Order likely to...

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The pulses plantation during kharif season also reported to have declined from 41.75 lakh hectare to 36.11 lakh hectare, a decline of 5.64 per cent this year. The shortfall in sowing is likely to lead to rise in prices of certain food items, experts said.

In States like West Bengal, cumulative rainfall between June 1 and July 8 was in deficit in 15 out of the 19 districts. In Odisha 16 of the 30 districts were in deficit. Other States in deficit were Jharkhand (23 of 24 districts), Bihar (30 of 38 districts) and UP (71 of 75 districts). The data showed that Bihar has 41 per cent rainfall deficiency; Jharkhand 50 per cent, Gangetic West Bengal 47 per cent and East UP 52 per cent. These States are known for paddy acreage and decline in sowing is a serious concern for common man as well as policy makers.

Usually, the North East and Eastern receives about 20-25 per cent of its annual rainfall in the pre-monsoon period. But this year, it was 62 per cent above average - the highest in the last 10 years, according to the India Meteorological Department.

However, the southward migration of monsoon trough in monsoon 2022 caused deficient rainfall across above 50 percent of districts of the North East and Eastern states. According to the IMD, much of the deficit was due to patchy rains in the early part of the monsoon season, and unless there is strong recovery in

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“A solution is expected next week,” sources said, adding a positive decision may also be reached on revoking suspension of Opposition members.

A day after the BJP confronted the Congress over its leader Chowdhury’s “Rashtapatni” remark against President Murmu, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha proceedings were again adjourned for the day on Friday amid protests and counter protests over the same issue.

The BJP again demanded apology from Congress president Sonia Gandhi for allegedly “sanctioning” humiliation of Murmu.

The lower House proceedings were first adjourned till 12 noon. Similar scenes were witnessed when the House re-assembled at 12 noon leading to adjournment for the day. Similar scenes prevailed in the Rajya Sabha, too.

In the lower House, Congress members were in the Well of the House raising slogans against the Government, while BJP members and Union Ministers, including Sarbananda Sonowal were on their feet demanding an apology from Sonia.

Chowdhury, who is the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said he never intended to disrespect the President and his “Rashtapatni” remark was a “slip of the tongue”.

As the uproar continued, BJP member Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the chair, allowed the laying of Parliamentary papers and adjourned the proceedings till Monday.

The Rajya Sabha proceedings too were adjourned for close to an hour after uproarious scenes by both opposition and Treasury benches over different issues.

While the Opposition parties pressed for a discussion on the hooch tragedy in Gujarat as well as the record rise in prices of essential commodities, BJP MPs were up on their feet shouting slogans seeking Sonia’s apology over her party leader’s remarks on the President.

Amid slogan shouting, Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourned the proceedings till 12 noon.

New Edu...

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“The policy has clearly stated that a robust public education system is foundation of a thriving democratic nation. Purpose of the NEP is to develop citizens who combine national pride with global good with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” he said.

The Home Minister also noted that the NEP is an antidote to Macaulay’s system of education designed to colonise our minds. Shah launched a slew of initiatives in the education and skill development sector to mark the completion of two years of the NEP.

The NEP approved by the Union Cabinet in 2020 replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and was aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to make India a global knowledge superpower. He further said that the NEP 2020 enrich-

NCRPULSE

ADHAAR AUTHENTICATION NOD FOR DSIIDC SERVICES

New Delhi: With Aadhaar-based authentication assented to, Delhiites will now be able to get a host of official work done in industrial areas without human intervention. Cutting red tapeism, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has given a nod to Aadhaar authentication for eight online services related to the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (DSIIDC).

‘MALBA SPOTTING WALK’ AROUND NAJAFGARH

New Delhi: Civic authorities have planned to hold a ‘Malba spotting walk’ in the Najafgarh zone of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on July 30-31, as part of which debris lying in the open would be collected by local vendors and dumped at a designated place, officials said on Friday.

AFGHAN NATIONAL AMONG 4 HELD WITH HEROIN

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Friday arrested four people, including an Afghan national, with over 21kg heroin worth ₹130 crore in their possession. The accused have been identified as Parvej Alam, Naseem Barkazy, Shami Kumar, and Rajat Gupta, they said.

HC QUASHES PLEA CHALLENGING NEET MIN PERCENTILE

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the regulation which prescribes a minimum 50th percentile in the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET) as a mandatory requirement for admission to post-graduate medical courses. The High Court said that there cannot be any compromise on the issue of quality of doctors as it involves a risk to human lives.

Man held with ‘Chinese Manjha’ in N-E Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi police arrested a 43-year old man resident of Jahangirpuri with over 200 cartons of banned ‘Chinese Manjha’ from northwest Delhi’s Mahendra Park area on Friday. The accused has been identified as Amarjeet, a resident of Ramgarh, Jahangirpuri.

According to police, a tip-off was received on Thursday that Amarjeet of Ramgarh, Mahendra Park had been stocking banned Chinese manjha and selling it to retailers through code words.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani said that to catch him in the act, Constable Uttam was made a decoy customer who finalised a deal with Amarjeet for delivery of cartons of manjha, after which both reached the godown in Ramgarh.

The DCP said that as he was handing the manjha cartons to the constable, the police raided the godown and seized 205 cartons of Chinese Manjha.

27, 2019.

The aerial battle took place a day after IAF bombed a terrorist facility in Pakistan’s Balakot.

It was also clarified that the retiring of the remaining squadrons was as per schedule and not linked to the MiG-21 crash on Thursday in which two IAF pilots were killed.

On the accident record of the MiG, sources said more of these jets were involved in accidents as compared to other fighter jets as they form the bulk of the IAF fighter fleet.

Incidentally, Russia and erstwhile Soviet Union stopped

flying the MiG-21s besides Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Faced with depleting fighter jet squadron fleet strength, the IAF now plans to manufacture multi-role aircraft with-in the country with foreign collaboration. At least 114 jets are planned to be manufactured here under the strategic partnership policy. The proposed cost of the deal is more than 15 billion dollars.

The US, Russia, France and Sweden are likely to pitch for the deal with their F-16 and F-18, MiG-25, Rafales and Gripen jets respectively.

IAF to phase...

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The squadron became a household name when one of its pilots wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhinandan Varthaman, who was awarded Vir Chakra, shot down a Pakistani F-16 during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) on February

Another...

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“Intelligence comes under the CM while Law and Order falls under the Home Minister. So, they are responsible for it and should resign,” he said.

Reacting to the charges, Bommai said 32 murders had taken place when he (Siddaramaiah) was the Chief Minister. “What did he do then? He only tries to bring politics into everything. His statement is of no importance. We know how to manage things,” he replied.

To a reporter’s query on the Opposition Congress’ accusation that the BJP was funding the Socialist Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and Popular Front of India (PFI), Bommai said this is the most ridiculous charge, which displays the “mental bankruptcy” of the Congress.

He also dismissed the Opposition’s demand for the Home Minister Araga Jnanendra’s resignation, saying no one will resign.

He said his Government was not treating Nettar’s murder case as an ordinary one. The State Government is going into the motive behind the crime.

“Wait for a few days, you will get to know various decisions taken by us,” he told the media.

Home Minister Jnanendra condemned the murder of the youth on Thursday and said those behind the incident will be brought to book. He also said he has given instructions to deploy additional forces to ensure law and order in Dakshina Kannada district. ADGP (Law and Order) Alok Kumar told reporters that the investigation into Fazil’s murder is on and the suspects will be arrested soon.

Kharge urges Naidu to...

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In his letter, Kharge said as per Parliamentary practices and conventions critical remarks should not be made on the other House or members of the other House. He also cited a ruling made by former RS Chairman R Venkataraman on April 15, 1987, wherein he observed that “no person who is not a member of this House can be referred to in the House in a derogatory manner or in any other way affecting his reputation”.

The senior Congress leader said even the question of privilege cannot be raised directly in one House against members of the other House. In this regard, he said, a procedure has been laid down based on a report of Joint Sitting of Committees of Privileges of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha which was presented to both Houses on August 23, 1954 and later adopted by the Houses in December, 1954.

“In view of my aforementioned submissions, I request you to kindly expunge the remarks made by Sitharaman and Goyal vis-a-vis Sonia in the House yesterday, 28 July, 2022. I also request that they tender their apology for their violation of sacrosanct conventions of the House,” Kharge said in his letter.

Congress MPs also staged a protest in front of the Gandhi statue in Parliament complex demanding an apology from the government for Irani’s confrontation with the Congress president on Thursday. They were joined by their colleagues from the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML).

Some Opposition leaders, including SP’s Ram Gopal Yadav and Jaya Bachchan also came out in support of Sonia over the behaviour meted out to her. Other Opposition MPs -- NCP’s Supriya Sule, TMC’s Mahua Moitra and Shiv Sena’s Priyanka Chaturvedi -- have already extended their support to Sonia.

Congress MPs met in the Parliament and decided on their strategy at a meeting of Congress Parliamentary Party chaired by Sonia, after which they caused disruption in both houses of Parliament with slogans against Irani and demanding her sacking as a Minister.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

यात्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)

निविदा संशोधन घोषणा-पत्र

क्र. 86/या.वि./2022

भोपाल, दिनांक 27.07.2022

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदायें निधारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

S. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money/Deposit (EMD) (in Rs)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs)	Period of Completion (in Months)	SOR
1	2022_UAD_207785_2	WIDENING OF ROAD FROM VIDYA SAGAR COLLEGE TO BDA COLONY AMRAVAT KHURD W-60 Z-14 SECOND CALL	305.35	152679	15000	12 months (including rainy season)	MPUADD ISSR 2021

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 28.07.2022 (date) to 17:30 P.M. (time) 26.08.2022 (date).

3. The bidders who bids in the tender will have to submit the document of participating firm. Document of other firm viz any other partnership firm/sister concern etc. will not be valid.

4. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website <https://mptenders.gov.in> only, and not in newspaper.

The Initial period of 5 (Five) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP).

In. Chief Engineer
Municipal Corporation Bhopal

नि.क्र. 439/022/023

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE

Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: eerwss_bls@nic.in, eerwssbls@gmail.com.

O-720

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering

Identification No. 17/2022-23 Dt. 25.07.2022

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the Odisha State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table to be eventually drawn up to P1 contract with design and kecution of the following Piped Water Supply Project.

1. Nos. of Woks : 20 Nos RPWS Schemes in Balasore district (Clubbed-up)

2. Estimated cost : Rs. 145.63 lakhs & Rs. 371.85 lakhs

3. Period of completion : 330 days

4. Availability of bid document un Portal : Dt. 02.08.2022 at 16.00 hours to 16.08.2022 up to 17.00 hours through online.

5. Seeking of Clarification : Dt. 04.08.2022 at 10.00 hours to Dt. 12.08.2022 up to 15.00 hours

6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 17.08.2022 at 11.00 hours in the O/O EE, RWSS Division, Balasore

7. Name and address of the Office Inviting Tender : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore

Bid Cost will be receipt through electronic payment by NEET / RTGS.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE

OIPR-25013/11/0011/2223

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohitak 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 (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sohan Bahadur Gurong/ Anita Gurong/ LBGUR00002882494/ LBGUR00002882474	Flat No 40/2, 1st Floor and Sf Block B, Pocket 6, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi 110029/ July 26, 2022	April 16, 2022 Rs. 27,18,778/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Anil Yadav/ Phool Chand Yadav/ LBGUR00004860986/ LBGUR00004782966	Plot No- H/574C, Block-H, Palam, Vihar, Gurgaon Haryana/ July 26, 2022	November 10, 2021 Rs. 1,03,85,875/-	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 : July 30, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work:-

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest Money	
Replacement of existing stone/Brick/Slab minor bridge No. 35A, 45, 47, 49, 52, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 61A, 65, 65A, 67B, 80A, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87A, (Total 21 Nos.) on DJK section under ADEN/PNP.	Approx. Cost: ₹3,39,65,037.89/- Earnest Money: ₹3,19,800/-
	Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter No. 2015/ CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016.
Completion Period	12 Months
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on 18.08.2022 opening of e-tender at 15:00 hrs. on 18.08.2022
Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
Similar nature of work	*Construction tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Note: All attachment must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIV is compulsorily

No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/22-23/W-I (NIT-15) Dated: 27.07.2022 1908/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Vital for Delhi that CM, L-G work together: Kejriwal

CM refuses to blame Centre for cancellation of Singapore visit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Relations between Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seem to be stabilising to some extent, with the Chief Minister attending the meeting called by the L-G on Friday and also refusing to blame the Centre for the Singapore visit cancellation.

The High Commissioner of Singapore Simon Wong had in June invited Kejriwal to the World Cities Summit 2022 to be held in the first week of August. According to officials, the file for the Chief Minister's Singapore visit was sent to the



L-G on June 7.

Kejriwal's visit to Singapore for the World Cities Summit was cancelled by the Singapore Government after the AAP convenor reportedly missed the deadline for accepting the invitation.

Reacting to the cancellation of his Singapore visit, Kejriwal said, "It would have been good if I could go and put forward my point and share with the world the work being done in India. .I am not blaming anyone for it." Saxena had last week rejected the AAP



Government's proposal for Kejriwal's Singapore visit to attend a summit on August 1, saying his attendance at the Mayors' conference will set a "bad precedent".

The Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said it had received a request last week for political clearance for Kejriwal's visit to Singapore but it is given to understand that the host government has shared certain updates and changes in its invitation with the Delhi Government. On Friday, Kejriwal attended the weekly

meeting held at Raj Niwas in the evening and after its conclusion he said, "The meeting took place in a very cordial atmosphere. It is important for Delhi that the CM and the L-G work together. There can be differences of opinion on various matters but there is no fallout between us."

Kejriwal said that many issues such as water, and sanitation were discussed in the meeting and asserted that both would keep working together.

Kejriwal had skipped the weekly meeting last Friday and also an event organised by the Delhi Government's forest department on Sunday.

On July 27, Saxena had asked the Delhi Assembly Speaker to make changes in rules for the conduct of business and procedure of the House according to the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2021, a move that is likely to be a new flashpoint between him and the AAP.

Govt to go back to old regime of retail liquor sale in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a controversy over the new excise policy, the Delhi Government has decided to go back to the old regime of retail liquor sale in the city. The Excise Policy 2021-22, which was extended twice after March 31 for a period of two months each, will come to an end on July 31.

According to officials, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the excise portfolio, directed the department on Thursday to "revert" to the old regime of the excise policy for a period of six months till a fresh policy is in place.

The Excise Department is still working on the Excise Policy 2022-23 that recommends, among other things, home delivery of liquor in Delhi. The draft policy is yet to be sent to Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena for his approval, officials said.

According to an official document, the finance depart-



ment has directed the Excise Commissioner to coordinate with the heads of four corporations of the Delhi Government for details of liquor vends operated by them before the new excise policy came into effect from November 17, 2021.

The four corporations — Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store

(DCCWS) and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) — were running majority of liquor stores in the city before the Excise Policy 2021-22 came into effect with the Delhi Government quitting retail sale of liquor.

Under the new policy, licences of 849 liquor vends were issued through open bidding to private firms. The city was divided into 32 zones with each having a maximum of 27 vends.

Instead of individual licences, bidding was done zone-wise and each bidder allowed to bid for a maximum of two zones. Earlier, the four Government corporations ran 475 liquor stores out of total 864 in Delhi. The private stores, licences held by individuals, numbered 389.

The finance department asked the Excise Department to provide details of old vends including their location, number of staff deployed, rented or Government premises, as "top-most priority" by Friday.

Delhi Police's EOW issues notice to Excise Commissioner

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has sought details of the new excise policy from the Excise Department. The Delhi Police's EOW issued a notice to Excise Commissioner on July 12, directing him to provide all the documents pertaining to issue of liquor licences under New Excise Policy 2021-22.

In a letter to Assistant Commissioner of Excise, the EOW has asked Excise Commissioner to provide "the application forms of all successful bidders (of all 32 zones) along with other relevant documents submitted for grant of liquor licence" under new policy along with DIN/TIN numbers of all successful applicants.

The EOW has sought details on date of formulation of New Excise Policy 2021-22; date of floating of tenders for grant of liquor licence under new policy.

PMLA Court has taken note of chargesheet against Jain: ED



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said a Special PMLA Court here has taken cognizance of the Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) filed on Wednesday by the agency against Delhi Minister Satyendar Kumar Jain, wife Poonam Jain and others on money laundering charges.

Ajit Prasad Jain, Sunil Kumar Jain, Vaibhav Jain, Ankush Jain and Satyendar Jain's companies Akinchan Developers Pvt. Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Mangalayatan Developers Pvt. Ltd and JJ Ideal Estate Pvt. Ltd.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR dated August 24, 2017 against Satyendar Kumar Jain and others under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The ED probe revealed that during 2015-16, when

Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the four companies (beneficially owned and controlled by him) received accommodation entries to the tune of Rs 4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through hawala route. These amounts were utilized for direct purchase of agricultural land or for the repayment of loans taken for purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi.

"The accused persons were therefore found to be involved in activity connected with "Proceeds of Crime" generated as a result of criminal activity related to scheduled offence and thereby have committed offences of Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)," the ED said in a statement.

On March 31 this year, the ED had provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to Akinchan Developers Pvt. Ltd., Indo Metalimpex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd., Mangalayatan Projects Pvt. Ltd., JJ Ideal Estate Pvt. Ltd., Swati Jain, wife of Vaibhav Jain, Sushila Jain, wife of Ajit Prasad Jain, Indu Jain, wife of Sunil Jain under PMLA.

Congress, TMC, AAP 'Three Musketeers' of corruption: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lashing-out at the Congress, TMC and the AAP, the BJP on Friday alleged that AAP was one of "Three Musketeers of corruption" along with the TMC and the Congress.

The BJP questioned why Arvind Kejriwal was not dismissing Satyendar Jain from the Delhi Government while West Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee has been sacked.

A day after TMC removed Partha Chatterjee, who has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the school jobs scam case, as a Minister in-charge of several heavyweight portfolios including commerce and industry, the BJP raised the pitch of its attack against AAP over Jain, who is also in ED custody.

"Today, I want to tell you the story of the third musketeer of corruption, AAP. A few days ago the party leader came on TV and said that he has seen all the files of Jain and the Minister is staunchly honest.



Whereas the Delhi High Court has established that Jain is corrupt and has a criminal background," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said while addressing a press conference at his party headquarters.

Alleging that Congress was the "first and the oldest musketeer of corruption", Poonawalla said, "Its leaders remain silent in front of the ED but get violent on the roads."

He also accused the TMC of being the "second musketeer" of corruption and alleged that the TMC means "too much corruption," which is its model of governance in West Bengal.

ACB to look into collusion of RTO officials with auto financiers, unauthorised dealers and touts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the Delhi Government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to conduct a probe into graft and the collusion of Transport Department officials with auto financiers, unauthorised dealers and touts at the Burari Transport Authority. The direction comes in the wake of the Delhi High Court's order on a petition

filed by several autorickshaw unions of the national Capital who alleged large-scale corruption in the Road Transport Office (RTO) and the consequent harassment they face because of it. "The auto drivers had complained that the TSR permits were illegally being transferred, on default of payment of loan, in cahoots with the Motor Licensing Officer (MLO) and RTO officials.

While considering the Criminal Writ Petition, the High Court directed the Delhi Police, the Transport Department, GNCTD and the Directorate of Vigilance, Delhi Government to proceed with the investigation into the matter with the angles of crime as well as corruption, while treat-

ing this petition as a complaint," sources said. "The High Court also directed the Delhi Police to forward the petition/complaint to the Economic Offence Wing (EOW)/Serious Fraud Investigation Office, for necessary action," sources said. "The Directorate of Vigilance, in its report, observed that the said complaint was "serious" in nature and hence, proposed to refer the same to the ACB, which was further endorsed by the Chief Secretary.

The Vigilance Directorate noted that the Transport Department on August 8, 2012 made it a condition precedent that the financiers of autorickshaws will be non-financial banking companies (NBFS) but several proprietorship firms

were financing the purchase of TSRs and thereafter, filing court cases to recover the autorickshaws for default of loan payments," they said. The L-G has directed that the investigation be completed and a comprehensive report be submitted within one month, they added.

The Directorate of Vigilance had examined matter and observed that "petitioners have levelled serious allegations of large-scale corruption in RTO as well as misdeeds that are happening and impacting auto drivers", sources said. "It has been alleged that permits are being transferred in cahoots with MLO and the RTO officials," they said.

Students will defeat hate and spread the message of love in country, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the aim of their school education was to make students good human beings, hardcore patriots, and employable.

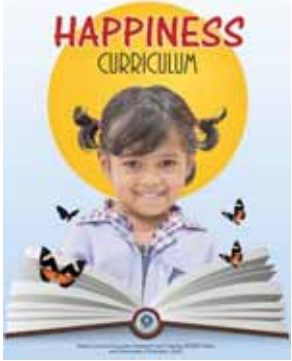
Speaking at the closing ceremony to mark four years of the introduction of the 'Happiness Curriculum' in schools, Kejriwal said that in the coming times these students will defeat "hate" and disseminate a "message of love" in the country.

He added that these children will lead the nation by becoming future Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers and top-notch doctors and engineers. They will give a positive and nourishing atmosphere to the society and will help make the country number one nation in the world, he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the 'Happiness Curriculum' is the foundation of making students happier and better human beings.

"We have introduced Happiness Classes in the curriculum as it aids in reducing academic pressure. These classes help in reducing mental stress in students and that's why thankfully there is no case of student suicide in Delhi," he said.

Kejriwal said students are able to recognise their underlying potential while attending Happiness and Entrepreneurship Classes. He added that meditation helps



Students will defeat hate and spread the message of love in country, says Kejriwal

them in alleviating stress and boosting their self-confidence. He further said that ₹90,000 crore that have been spent over the last seven years is an investment for the future and not an expense.

The closing ceremony held at the Thyagraj Stadium saw an exhilarating drum performance by students. Sisodia held an interactive session with students and teachers regarding their experience of the curriculum. He also sought feedbacks on the implementation of the program.

The ceremony was followed by a Rajyoga Meditation session by Sister BK Shivani. She said that this is the first time a Government is running a happiness curriculum and requested everyone to pledge to take this mission forward to the world.

"Even the wife of former US president Donald Trump had attended the Delhi Government's Happiness Classes and had left impressed," Delhi CM added.

Cook-turned-crook siphons off ₹100 cr via MLM scheme

Ex-BSF man cheated people through a multi-level marketing scheme in Rajasthan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man, who used to work as a cook in the Border Security Force (BSF), was arrested for allegedly cheating people to the tune of over Rs 100 crore through a multi-level marketing (MLM) scheme in Rajasthan, police said on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Ram Marwari (38), a resident of Jodhpur in Rajasthan, they said, adding that he was found involved in 59 criminal cases in Rajasthan.

According to police, Ram Marwari worked as a cook in the BSF from 2004 to 2006 and later, he started working in a MLM company as an agent.

In 2008, he established a new company Mitashi Trade Link and was the managing director of the organisation. One Vijendra Singh was the chairman, DC Yadav was the executive director and Madan Mohan Meena was the director of the company, a senior police officer said.

This company used to offer commission on the joining of new members. Each member had to deposit Rs 4,000 and had to get at least 10 more people to join to be eligible for com-

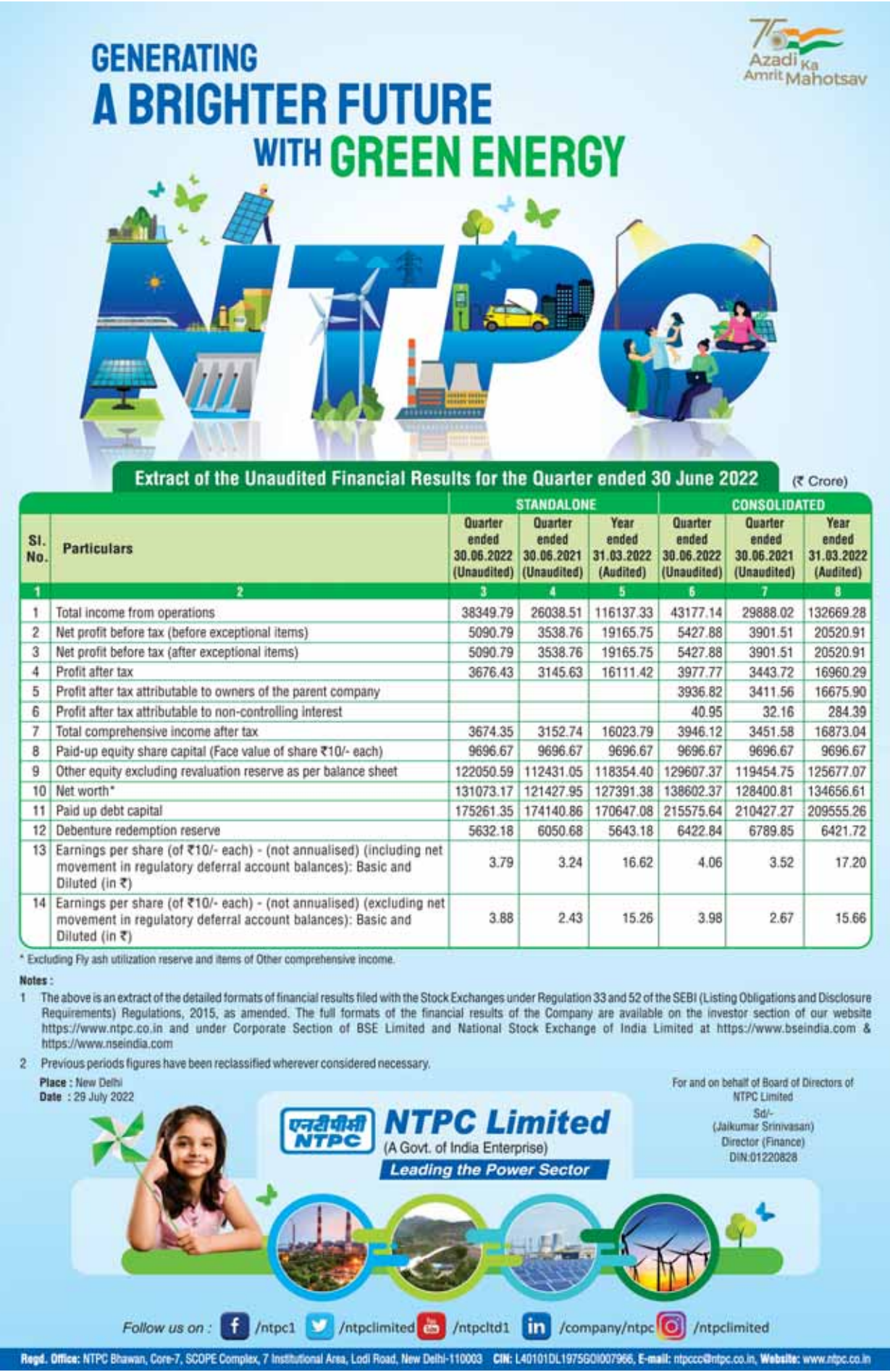
mission. On giving a business of Rs 2 lakh per month continuously for one year, the member used to get a bike from the company. In this manner, thousands of members joined and the firm cheated the public of over Rs 100 crore, the officer said. After some time, the company started defaulting in the payment of commissions and re-payment. In 2011, a large number of criminal cases were filed against it in Rajasthan and Ram Marwari absconded, police said.

In 2014, he came to Delhi and started dealing in properties. In 2018, he opened a grocery store in Najafgarh which went into loss and two years later, he was arrested in a rape case in Najafgarh.

Last year, Ram Marwari set up an e-commerce platform 'Apna Kart' and shifted his base to Indore. Going by his record, it appears that through this platform also, he might have wanted to make quick money by cheating people, police said.

The accused never used to make normal phone calls and always used social media applications to communicate with his family and other known people, they said.

During the investigation, his location was zeroed down in Rohini Sector-11 where he was expected to come to meet his contact. Police laid a trap and apprehended him on Thursday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Vichitra Veer said.



‘MiG pilots steered jet away from village’

Diverted ill-fated plane to sand dune saving life of villagers: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The two pilots of the ill-fated MiG-21 trainer aircraft, which crashed in Barmer on Thursday night, displayed exemplary presence of mind by steering the plane away from a village by two to three kms before it crashed into a sand dune, according to reports.

The two pilots were identified as Wing Commander M Rana and Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal, the IAF said on Friday. Rana hailed from Himachal Pradesh and Bal from Jammu. The two pilots



WG CDR M RANA, MANDI, HP



FLT LT ADVITIYA BAL, JAMMU

were killed when their twin-seater MiG-21 aircraft crashed during a training sortie. Reports suggest the two pilots saved scores of civilians of Bhimda village by diverting the aircraft from the populated area. They could have ejected from the plane and it would have crashed into the village with a population of more than 2,500. However, they showed exemplary

courage and presence of mind and diverted the plane away from the village, reports said. The IAF said the aircraft was on a sortie from the Utarlai air base and the accident occurred around 9.10 pm. The IAF has ordered a court of enquiry to ascertain the cause of the mishap. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to IAF chief V R Chaudhari and enquired about the MiG-

21 crash. He expressed condolences for the two Air Warriors who lost their lives in the accident. In a tweet message, Rajnath said he was "deeply anguished by the loss of two Air Warriors." Their service to the nation will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of sadness."

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said "Deeply saddened to know two IAF pilots have lost their lives in the line of duty when an IAF MiG 21 trainer aircraft met with an accident in Barmer.

My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families. May they remain strong to bear this loss. We stand with them and share their grief." "Very sad news! Mother India lost two of her brave soldiers. May god give peace to their souls and strength to the bereaved fam-

ilies in this time of grief," Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. Union Minister Piyush Goyal and the Congress party also tweeted their condolences to the families of the deceased.

Expressing shock over the mishap, BJP MP Varun Gandhi called the plane a "flying coffin" and asked when will the frequent crashing aircraft be removed from our fleet.

"The whole country is shocked and saddened by the incident in Barmer yesterday. For a few years now, the MiG-21 has been involved in frequent accidents. The aircraft alone has claimed the lives of about 200 pilots," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"When will this 'flying coffin' be removed from our fleet? Parliament of the country has to think, will we allow our children to fly this plane?" he said.

Court convicts former coal secy, 2 others in coal scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Special Court on Friday convicted former Coal Secretary HC Gupta and former Joint Secretary KS Kropha for criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating, and corruption in a coal scam case related to irregularities in allocation of a coal block in Maharashtra.

Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj also convicted Grace Industries Ltd (GIL) and its Director Mukesh Gupta for criminal conspiracy and cheating, and posted the matter for August 4, when the court will hear arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to the convicts.

The case relates to the allocation of the Lohara East coal block. This is the 11th conviction in coal scam cases secured by the prosecution. The convict persons face a maximum of seven-year jail term while the company faces the imposition of the fine.

Gupta was earlier convicted in three other coal scam cases and his appeal against those convictions is pending before Delhi High Court. He is currently on bail, along with other convict persons in the case.

In its judgment on Friday, the court formed to handle all coal scam related cases noted that Gupta made three misrepresentations in discussions



with Principal Secretary to the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In the first instance, he gave a false impression that Screening Committee's decision to allocate coal block among competing applicants was based on inter-se priority, the court said adding that again, he concealed information that GIL's application was not sent to the Ministry of Steel (MoS) for its mandatory comment.

He further made misrepresentations regarding recommendations for the company's power plant. Gupta, then Coal Secretary was the chairperson of the then Screening Committee to allot the coal blocks.

The court noted that the secretary had received a complaint letter making serious allegations against the accused company which were supported by documentary evidence. "In ordinary circumstances, it should have set alarm bells ringing. But nothing of the sort happened. The letter was given a quiet burial in MoC," the judge noted. The judge further

noted that excess coal allocation was made in favour of GIL in spite of the fact that the excess allocation was brought to the notice of Gupta and Kropha by one Murli Agro Products Limited. Regarding the company, the court observed that it made false claims before the Screening Committee about its net worth and the existing production capacity of its sponge iron plant.

"GIL, under signatures of Mukesh Gupta, had given false information to MoC as well as Screening Committee that it has installed infrastructure for five kilns and production is pending for want of coal/ it has got two kilns under production and three kilns under installation," the court said, adding that application of the GIL was incomplete in the absence of three years of audited annual accounts.

The trial of the case was conducted by Senior Advocate R S Cheema, Deputy Legal Advisor for CBI Sanjay Kumar, and senior public prosecutor A P Singh.

CBI also stated that the company, in its application, claimed its net worth as ₹120 crore whereas its networth was only ₹3.3 crore and that the company also falsified its existing capacity as 1,20,000 TPA against 30,000 TPA. The Supreme Court on September, 2014, cancelled the entire allocations of coal blocks.

IN SHORTS

SANDEEP ARYA APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM
New Delhi: Sandeep Arya, 1994 batch IFS, presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Vietnam while Pranay Kumar Verma, IFS of batch 1994, presently Ambassador to Vietnam, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

SC ASKS OPS, EPS TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed AIADMK rival factions, led by expelled leader O Panneerselvam (OPS) and Edappadi Palaniswamy (EPS), to maintain status quo with regard to the party's affairs and asked the Madras High Court to adjudicate upon the pleas of the OPS faction against the general council meeting in three weeks.

BE RESPONSIVE TO CITIZENS' NEEDS: MIN
New Delhi: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday asked young IAS officers to be proactive as well as responsive to the citizens' needs and aspirations. Interacting with Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the 2020 batch undergoing a three-month stint as Assistant Secretaries in the Central government, he said technology and innovation hold the key to addressing the gaps in delivery and implementation.

4 SUSPENDED MILITARY OFFICERS APPROACH SC
New Delhi: Four Military Intelligence officers suspended for allegedly being part of a WhatsApp group with a Pakistani agent as a member have approached the Supreme Court on Friday seeking review of its order dismissing a challenge to their suspension. The officers had approached the Supreme Court claiming that they were not given any hearing before being suspended pending the Court of Inquiry against them.

ALLOW 15 TO ADDITIONAL SESSION IN JEE MAINS: SC
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday directed National Testing Agency to permit 15 candidates, who faced technical glitches in the first session of JEE (Mains)-2022, to participate in additional session scheduled for tomorrow. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and J B Pardiwala asked the NTA to issue admit cards to the candidates.

SC SEEKS RESPONSE TO PLEA ON J&K BAR COUNCIL
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Centre and others on a plea seeking directions to establish the Bar Council in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and J B Pardiwala issued notices to the Ministry of Law and Justice, Bar Council of India and others on a plea filed by a lawyer.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Manoj Pandey will review the entire range of bilateral defence ties with his Bhutanese coun-

terpart during his two-day visit there starting Friday. The visit comes amidst reports of China enhancing infrastructure around Bhutanese territory in the Doklam plateau close to Sikkim.

Giving details of Pandey's visit, the army said here he is scheduled to meet King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the fourth king of Bhutan besides holding talks with his counterpart in the Royal Bhutan Army.

Pandey's visit to Bhutan

came days after new satellite images emerged showing China constructing a village East of the Doklam plateau on the Bhutanese side, a region that is considered important for India's strategic interest. After the images came out, the Ministry of External Affairs said India keeps a constant watch on all developments having bearing on national security and takes necessary measures to safeguard its interests.

In the backdrop, the overall situation in the Doklam plateau as well as Chinese activities in the region is likely to figure in Pandey's talks with his Bhutanese interlocutors.

"This visit will further enhance the unique and time-tested bilateral relationship, characterised by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual under-

standing," the Army said in a brief statement.

The Army said Pandey will commence his visit by paying homage at the National Memorial Chorten at Thimpu, built in the memory of the third King of Bhutan, Jigme Dorji Wangchuk. "The Chief of Army Staff is scheduled to have an audience with His Majesty the King and His Majesty the Fourth King," the Army said.

Pandey will also engage in extensive discussions with his counterpart in the Royal Bhutan Army to exchange views on taking forward the strong cultural and professional bonds between both the armies," it said.

The Doklam plateau is considered an important area for India's strategic interest. The Indian and Chinese armies

were locked in a 73-day stand-off at the Doklam tri-junction after China tried to extend a road in the area that Bhutan claimed belonged to it.

In October last year, Bhutan and China signed an agreement on a "three-step roadmap" to expedite negotiations to resolve their festering boundary dispute. Bhutan shares an over 400-km-long border with China and the two countries have held over 24 rounds of boundary talks in a bid to resolve the dispute.

The India-China stand-off in the Doklam plateau in 2017 started after India had strongly opposed the construction of the road at the Doklam tri-junction as it would have impacted its overall security interests. The India-China face-off was resolved following several rounds of talks.

Financial aid for ex-servicemen kids hiked from ₹1K to ₹3K/month

NEW DELHI: In an effort to provide succour to orphaned children of ex-servicemen, the Government on Friday enhanced the financial aid from ₹1,000 to ₹3,000 per month. It will enable them to lead a better life with respect and honour.

Giving details of the decision, officials said here in line with government's policy of ease of living and dignified life for all citizens and as a humanitarian gesture to Armed Services, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the enhancement of financial aid to the orphaned children.

Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) runs this scheme which is funded from Raksha Mantri Ex-Servicemen Welfare Fund (RMEWF). It is a subset of Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

The present scheme is meant for orphaned child who is a legitimate offspring aged below 21 years in case of son or unmarried daughter of any Ex-Serviceman. PMS

Suspended Delhi court judge Lakhanpal booked for bribery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked suspended Delhi court judge Rachna Lakhanpal and her husband, facing bribery charges, in a fresh case for alleged possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹2.99 crore.

Lakhanpal, then posted as senior civil judge at Tis Hazari court, and her advocate husband Alok, were arrested in 2016 for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹4 lakh to deliver a favourable decision in a pending matter. The CBI had filed a charge sheet in that case in 2018.

While investigating the bribery case, the CBI claimed to have unearthed alleged illicit assets amassed by the couple during 2006-16.

The FIR alleged that the couple had assets of ₹1.09 lakh at the start of the check period on July 27, 2006 when Rachna Lakhanpal joined judicial services which swelled to over ₹3.53 crore in 10 years on

September 28, 2016 when they were arrested. During the period, the couple had an income of ₹1.05 crore while their expenditure was ₹51.73 lakh, according to the FIR.

The couple, according to the CBI FIR, acquired assets worth ₹2.99 crore which are allegedly disproportionate to their known sources of income for which they could not provide satisfactory explanation.

"Further, it is relevant to mention that Ms Rachna Tiwari Lakhanpal has not intimidated to the department about the unaccounted cash of ₹94.09 lakh which was recovered from the house search and also concealed about the actual value of house No. R-546, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi amounting to ₹1.60 crore," the FIR alleged. It has alleged that unaccounted cash of ₹94.09 lakh was recovered during house search of Rachna and Alok Lakhanpal on the day of trap, which was kept in a briefcase in the almirah of their master bedroom.

"Investigation revealed that Rachna Tiwari intended to dispose off this amount along with the bribe money of ₹4 lakh by carrying the briefcase (containing ₹94,09,900) in one hand and orange colour packet (containing bribe money of ₹ four lakhs) in the other and made a quick way towards outside from the backyard of her house but failed in her efforts/ attempt due to the presence of CBI team in the premises," the FIR alleged.

The agency found CCTV footage which revealed them about the alleged attempts of Lakhanpal to dispose off the cash. The CBI alleged that while Rachna Lakhanpal was booked under fresh corruption charges for amassing the assets, her husband Alok was "actively involved" for acquisition of various assets in his name and in the joint name of his relatives and he is also liable for abetment to the offence under section 109 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the FIR alleged.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **“AS IS WHERE IS BASIS”** and **“AS IS WHAT IS BASIS”** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS RIZOO SOOD, CS (COMM) No. 798/2019	Vehicle No.- UP14ET9537, Make and Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT, Manu Year- 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS SOKIN KHAN, CS (COMM)1019/19	Vehicle No.- UP16ET6562, Make and Model- HONDA SIEL CARS INDIA LTD MOBILIO SMT-P, Manu Year- 2017
ICICI BANK LTD Vs. RANVIJAY SINGH, CS SCJ 2275/18	Vehicle No.- DL4SCQ5806, Make and Model-TVS MOTORS LTD JUPITER, Manu Year- 2017
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. SURENDER, CS (COMM) NO. 5448/21	Vehicle No.- HR26EK0380, Make and Model-MARUTI UDYOG LTD VITARA BREZZA VXI, Manu Year- 2020
STATE VS. UNKNOWN, NO. 0082/2019	Vehicle No.- UP14DV9028, Make and Model-MARUTI UDYOG LTD VITARA BREZZA ZXI+, Manu Year- 2018
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. Gulzar CS(COMM) 3338/21	Vehicle no- DL5CQ5177 Make and Model: Maruti Celerio XVI CNG Manu year-2019
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. Mohd Amjad Ali, CS No 280/2018	Vehicle no- DL9CT6524 Make and Model: Chevrolet Beat Manu year- 2014
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. Aashu Khan Saifi CS (COMM) No. 33/22	vehicle no DL8CAY6143 Make and Model: Mahindra XUV 300 Manu year- 2019

Auction Date: August 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec – 17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS BABAR, CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No.- UP14JT1939, Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD, AL GURU 1010 GURU 1010, Manu Year- 2019
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs Sonam Tomar and Anr. (Comm) No. 1829/2021	Vehicle No. UP14HT8563, Make and Model– Ashok Leyland Ltd Partner, Manu Yr. 2019

Auction Date: August 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD., PioManiyaari road, Opposite Kanya Gurukul school, Narela, New Delhi- 110040
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SANJEET, CS (COMM) No. 1270 OF 2021	Vehicle No.- HR38Y5915, Make and Model - EICHER MOTOR LTD, EICHER PRO 1110XP, Manu Year- 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS PASHMEEN KAUR, CS(COMM) No. 338/2018	Vehicle No.- DL1LK7564, Make and Model- FORCE MOTORS LTD, DELIVERY VAN LONG, Manu Year- 2017

Auction Date: August 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD., PioManiyaari road, Opposite Kanya Gurukul school, Narela, New Delhi- 110040
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LIMITED Vs. PRAMOD KUMAR GUPTA, CS SCJ 3548/17	Vehicle No.- DL8CAJ4214, Make and Model-MARUTI UDYOG LTD EECO/5 STAR AC CNG, Manu Year-2015, Reserve Price: Rs. 1,60,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs. 18,000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO of EMD amount alongwith his KYC at site of auction.
ICICI BANK LTD VS SOBHA RAM, CS No. 3168/19	Vehicle No.- UP14ET0758, Make and Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT BASE CRDI, Manu Year- 2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS JAGDISH KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1992/2021	Vehicle No.- UP16ET9417, Make and Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT, Manu Year- 2018 Reserve Price: Rs. 1,80,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs. 18,000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO of EMD amount alongwith his KYC at site of auction.

Auction Date: August 16, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec – 17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and EMD Amount (Wherein applicable) to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD (Wherein applicable) amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money	1. Loading leading, unloading of misc. P,way material in DUK section of ADEN/PNP & KUN under Sr.DEN-INDLS.
Tender Cost	Rs. 1,49,95,547.60
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,25,000
Completion Period	12 Months
	Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016.
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs. on 23.08.2022 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs. on 23.08.2022
Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
Similar nature of work	Any P.Way works on running line including the nature of tendered work
Note :- All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIV is compulsorily.	
No.-/ 128-W/280/Tender Notice/22-23/W-I(NIT-16) Dated : 28.07.2022 1923/22	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DELHI 4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001 SALE NOTICE			
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on “AS IS WHERE IS BASIS” and “AS IS WHAT IS BASIS” for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-			
Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
ICICI BANK LTD VS AVLESH KUMAR, OA No. 293/2021, IA No. 1837/2021	Vehicle No- HR26CG4646, Make & Model- BMW X1 SDRIVE 20D, Manu Year-2013	Rs. 7,02,000/-	Rs. 70200/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS Ankrit Bhadana, Case no QA/1140/2021	Vehicle No- HR87C2981, Make & Model- Maruti Swift VDI, Manu Year- 2018	Rs. 2,80,000/-	Rs. 28,000/-

Auction Date: August 16, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD., PioManiyaari road, Opposite Kanya Gurukul school, Narela, New Delhi- 110040
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
ICICI BANK LTD VS CHITRANSH EXPRESS CARGO PRIVATE LIMITED, OA 55/2020	Vehicle No- NL01AC0895, Make & Model- TATA ULTRA 1518, Manu Year- 2018	Rs. 6,75,000/-	Rs. 67,500/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY GIRI, OA 494/2019	Vehicle No- UP14GT8288, Make & Model- SWARAJ MAZDA LTD SAMRAT, Manu Year- 2017	Rs. 315000/-	Rs. 31,500/-

Auction Date: August 16, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD., PioManiyaari road, Opposite Kanya Gurukul school, Narela, New Delhi- 110040
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Note: EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi (Wherein applicable) to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount wherein applicable) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi- 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

Bombay HC orders demolition of floors of 48 buildings around airport

■ MUMBAI

Upbraiding the Mumbai suburban collector for not complying with the orders Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bombay High Court on Friday directed the city suburban district administration to take steps to demolish unauthorised floors and/or structures of 48 buildings around the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA).

Expressing its displeasure over the manner which the Mumbai suburban district collector had in the affidavit tried to shift the responsibility of demolition onto the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), a HC division of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik directed the collector to pull down the “unauthorised floors and structures” that are posing “obstacles” to the approach path to Mumbai airport.

While hearing a public-interest petition filed by advocate Yeshwanth Shenoy in 2019 stating that the structures around Mumbai airport posed a threat to the take-off and landing of flights, chief Justice Datta observed: “We are not at all impressed with this affidavit. We do not approve of the Collector passing off his

responsibility to the BMC. It has to comply with the orders of the DGCA as provided under the Aircraft Rules, 1994”.

“We direct the Collector, Mumbai Suburban District, to take steps to implement the final orders passed by the DGCA in respect of the 48 obstacles. By the next date (August 22), an affidavit should be filed stating the steps that would be taken to implement the orders,” the HC bench noted.

The HC bench directed the suburban district collector to file an affidavit by August 22 spelling out as to what steps it would take to comply with the DGCA’s order seeking demoli-

tion of the structures or portions of the structures which have flouted the height restrictions.

A majority of the structures that will come under the hammer are located at Vile Parle east and surrounding areas.

While directing the Mumbai suburban district collector to comply with the DGCA’s order, the HC bench noted that the Collector could seek assistance from BMC or any other planning authority like the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) etc. to carry out the demolition drive.

“They (BMC) have already filed an affidavit stating they are ready to help you in the demolition drive. So you can seek their help,” the judges said.

In his PIL, Advocate Yeshwant Shenoy had alleged flagrant violations by developers, who the plea claimed have been permitted to construct buildings around the airport area. He had contended that the developers had breached the No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) in matters relating to the heights of the buildings and constructed structures beyond the permissible height limit.

Earlier this month, the

Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) had informed the high court that it had identified reported the “obstacles” to the DGCA. It had also told the court that the DGCA, after hearing the buildings’ owners, had passed demolition orders and forwarded them to the collector.

Among other things, the MIAL had filed an affidavit had filed an affidavit on July 8 in the high court stating that as per surveys of 2010, it had reported 137 “obstacles” on the approach surfaces of the all runways of CSMIA to the DGCA. As many as 110 notices were issued under The Aircraft (Demolition of obstructions caused by Buildings and Trees

etc.) Rules 1994, the MIAL had stated.

The MIAL had told the court that in May and June 2017, final orders were passed on 63 structures, of which 49 obstacles were yet to be removed. Of the 49 structures, Vile Parle Mahila School had complied with the DGCA’s order, thus bringing down the number of unauthorised “obstacles” 48.

The HC bench noted that as per its previous orders, the collector and the BMC were to indicate steps for demolition as per rule 8 of the 1994 Rules and that the collector had to take measures for such a demolition.

Quoting an affidavit filed

by a tehsildar on July 27, Assistant government pleader Manish Pabale told the HC bench that the suburban district collector had convened a meeting with the corporation and said the BMC was authorised to carry out demolitions under the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act.

Pabale, appearing for the suburban district administration, that the Collector did not have the machinery for carrying out the demolition work.

However, the HC bench did not accept the district administrations contention and said that an “attempt” was being made to shift its responsibility to the BMC.

Bodies of 5 missing workers found in Arunachal forest

■ ITANAGAR

Bodies of five Assam labourers, who were among the 19 missing from a road construction site in Arunachal Pradesh’s Kurung Kumey district for a fortnight, were found in a dense forest, a senior district official said on Friday.

Rescue teams have found the five decomposed bodies in the dense forest between Huri and Tapa in the last couple of days, Kurung Kumey Deputy Commissioner Nighee Bengia said.

“The bodies were found in different locations and on different dates - one on July 25, three on July 26 and one on July 28,” Bengia said. With the recovery of the five bodies the number of deaths in the incident rose to six, he said.

“One Hikmat Ali was drowned in Furak river. With this, the total number of deaths increased to six,” Bengia said.

The five decomposed bodies could not, however, be brought back. The labourers, who were from Assam, had fled the remote road construction site at Damin circle, 200 kms from the district headquarters of Koloriang on the Indo-



China border, on July 5 after they were denied leave to go home during Eid. They then set out for their homes on foot in two groups of eight and 11 and have been missing since then.

So far ten labourers were rescued in disoriented condition and are recuperating in health facilities, Bengia said.

“The district commissioner said that he has directed the police, SDRF and local teams to continue the search operation till the remaining three missing labourers are found dead or alive.

The IAF chopper, which

undertook a search operation on July 23, suspended it due to inclement weather and is waiting for good weather to resume.

The DC said according to the rescued labourers the bodies were that of Forizul Haque, Moijal Haque, Sohar Ali and Abul Hussain. The fifth body is yet to be identified.

The rescued labourers are Khairul Islam (26), Majidul Ali (30), Monohar Hussain (18), Inamul Hussain (18), Jainal Ali (45), Hamidul Hussain, Abdul Amin, Ibrahim Ali, Kholebuddin Shiek (27) and Shamidul Sheik (19), he added.

ED trails Arpita’s bank accounts, finds ₹2.2 cr

Sacked Min Partha says he's a victim of conspiracy

■ KOLKATA

After recovering wads of currency notes worth ₹50 crore stashed away in two swanky apartments belonging to Arpita Mukherjee, the close aide of just-sacked Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, the Enforcement Directorate investigating the money trail behind the school level recruitment scam has stumbled upon three bank accounts of Mukherjee loaded with crores.

The ED has found ₹2.20 crore in three accounts, sources said adding all the three accounts have been frozen.

Besides, the ED is also looking for four swanky cars belonging to Mukherjee a part time model-cum-actress. The four cars, an Audi, a Mercedes Benz, and two Honda class cars have gone missing after the raid in the Diamond City apartment’ of Mukherjee, sources quoting the ED said adding the

officials fear the cars had been used to transfer money from the first apartment that yielded ₹22 crore in cash and another ₹2 crore worth foreign currency and jewellery.

The officials who were checking the CCTV camera footage are of the opinion that the missing cars could lead to some more people involved in the scam. Three plush bungalows belonging to Mukherjee and Chatterjee at Bolpur — a weekend tourist spot — behind Rabin Dranath Tagore’s Shantiniketan Vihva Bharati university are also under the ED scanner sources said.

About ₹50 crore in cash and jewellery worth more than ₹5 crore besides bank instrument and property deeds worth crores have been recovered from two of Mukherjee’s apartments in the past one week.

The officials have also come across documents showing Arpita’s repeated travels to some South-east Asian countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Bangladesh. The officials are of the view that these tours could be related to some kind of hawala transactions.

Meanwhile, a day after he was sacked from the Cabinet

and stripped of all the party posts Partha Chatterjee — now in ED custody — on Friday made a loaded statement before the media about the decisions taken by the Trinamool Congress regarding his suspension from the party.

When asked to comment on how he felt about the present situation when he had been removed from the ministry and stripped of all the party posts he said all the “decisions taken by Mamata Banerjee is correct.”

Subsequently when he was asked as to whether the party had taken the correct decision by removing him he said “only time will tell,” and added he was a victim of conspiracy.

The removal of Chatterjee, a founder member of the TMC is being seen in terms a vertical division in the Trinamool Congress — between the senior leaders showing allegiance to the Chief Minister and the newer generation loyal to her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

“Partha Chatterjee’s remarks says that the TMC is divided between two groups of thieves — the newer generation and the older generation,” said a senior Pradesh Congress leader.

IAF pilot’s last call was to mom

■ JAMMU

The 26 year old Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal, who lost his life in the MIG-21 crash in Rajasthan’s Barmer area late Thursday night, had a brief conversation with his mother back home in Jammu barely hours before he embarked on his last training sortie with Wing Commander M Rana from Himanchal Pradesh.

Both the pilots died in the crash. Meanwhile, loss of two precious lives has once again brought back the issue of decommissioning left over squadrons of the ageing fighter jets to the centre stage.

Raising the demand before the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Bal’s uncle Karan Jeet Friday said, “how long the government will keep sacrificing the lives of young pilots. Stop using these jets”. Ground them to ensure the safety of our pilots”, Karan Jeet said while making a passionate appeal.

The young pilot from RS Pura area of Jammu belonged to the family of patriots. Apart from his father, Swarn Bal, an ex-serviceman, both his uncles had earned the distinction of serving the Indian armed forces. From his early childhood Advitiya was also chasing his dream of donning the uniform in the service of the Nation. He studied in the Sainik School, Nagrota and later joined the National Defence Academy in 2014. According to his uncle Karan Jeet, Bal got commissioned in the Indian Air Force in June 2018 and was serving his first posting in Uttarlai Air Force Station, Barmer. He was looking forward to a new posting soon.

In one of the recent conversations when he called to wish my son on his 11th birthday he told me, “Uncle I would be visiting home soon in the month of August. We will organise a family get together once I am home”. I had promised him to cook his favorite dishes during the get-together. Large number of people from the nearby villages along with senior govern-



ment/police officers were assembled there and paid condolences to the family.

Remembering his last call on Thursday afternoon, Karan Jeet told reporters at his Jinder Melu home in RS Pura, “The young pilot was very excited while chatting with his mother. He had gifted her a new phone and was speaking to her for the first time after she received the same”.

The phone call, however, turned out to be their last conversation. My Bhabhi reportedly said ‘Thank you’ to Advitiya while urging him to take a power nap ahead of the sortie. On Friday when she came to know about his sudden death in the air crash she could not bear the loss of her son. “I don’t want to live without my son,” she said, weeping inconsolably. The news came as a big shock for the whole family. “We had celebrated his 26th birthday on July 16 and were looking forward to meeting him soon”, a young cousin said remembering his elder brother.

Karan Jeet said, “my elder brother along with his younger son are currently visiting Jodhpur to complete the necessary formalities ahead of performing the last rites and shifting the mortal remains of Advitiya Bal.

Karan Jeet said, Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal was a very hardworking and religious minded youngster. He never shied away from taking up challenges. He always remained in the forefront and demonstrated leadership qualities.

He was courteous to the core and was feted by everyone in the village. He mingled with villagers and gave them respect. Many youngsters treated him as their role model and were following in his footsteps to join the Indian Armed Forces.

Kerala HC seeks report on Min’s 1990 evidence tampering case

■ KOCHI

Uncertainty has come haunting Antony Raju, Kerala Minister for Transport, in the form of charges of tampering evidence in a narcotics trafficking case that took place in 1990. Justice A A Ziad Rahman, of Kerala High Court while hearing a petition filed by one George of Thrissur, on Friday asked the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nedumangadu, to submit a status report of the evidence tampering case in which the Minister is an accused.

The case was in connection with the trial and conviction of an Australian citizen, Andrew Salvatore Cervelli, who was arrested at Thiruvananthapuram in 1990 while trafficking 61.5 gm hashish concealed in his underwear. Raju, a leader of one of the factions of Kerala Congress, was a junior lawyer and had represented the accused in the case. The underwear was treated as the prime evidence in the case and the trial court had ordered it to be kept separately.

Though the district court found Cervelli guilty of committing the crime and sentenced him to 10 years rigorous imprisonment, the Kerala High Court acquitted him of all charges as it found that the underwear was too small and could not have been worn by the accused at the time of his arrest. But K K Jayamohan, then investigating officer, had filed a petition before the High Court stating that the underwear was tampered with after it was deposited as evidence.

The High Court had ordered a Vigilance wing of the High Court to probe the matter. The investigation by the Vigilance found that the underwear had been tampered while in the court’s custody. The Forensic Sciences Laboratory

(FSL) Director had also reported that the underwear was cut and stitched to make it smaller. The court clerk had also deposed that he had given the underwear to one of Cervelli’s lawyers on August 9, 1990, and it was returned on December 5, the same year.

Cervelli who was set free in the drug trafficking case was arrested by the Victorian Police in Australia in 1996 in connection with the murder of Ismet Shyrgi Balla. While in custody at the Melbourne Remand Centre, Cerville allegedly told his co-accused, Wesley John Paul, that his family had travelled to India and bribed the court official to tamper with the evidence.

Detective Senior Constables, Green and Wolfe, who questioned Wesley at the Melbourne Remand Centre in 1996, forwarded the information to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) through Interpol. The CBI in turn sent the report to the State police.

The case against Raju was that he had conspired with a clerk of the property section of the Thiruvananthapuram court and replaced an undergarment, a material object in a drug trafficking case. Though he was charge sheeted in 2006, the trial began only in 2014. Meanwhile he had got elected to the assembly twice and was made a minister in 2021.

Petitioner George approached the High Court invoking its jurisdiction under Article 227 of the Constitution, seeking orders under Section 483 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for expediting the investigation and trial.

The petitioner sought a court-ordered enquiry into the undue delay in the trial, contending that the public has a right to know about any fraudulent activities a sitting Minister may have been part of.



A swollen Sarvari river following incessant monsoon rain in Kullu on Friday

PTI

SC to hear judicial officer’s plea challenging his suspension by Patna HC

■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear a judicial officer’s plea challenging his suspension by the Patna High Court, presumably for delivering a series of quick judgements, including in a POCSO case where he concluded the trial in a single day.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and S R Bhat issued notices, including to the State of Bihar, on the plea filed by Shashi Kant Rai, an additional district and sessions judge (ADJ) in Araria.

Rai has claimed in his plea that he “reasonably believes” there is an “institutional bias” against him as he concluded the trial in a POCSO (The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) case involving the rape of a six-year-old girl in a single day.

He has cited another judgement where he awarded capital punishment to an accused in four working days of trial, and claimed these verdicts were widely reported in the media and appreciated by the Government and public alike.

“Issue notice returnable in two weeks,” the bench ordered. “The response to the petition shall indicate the steps taken pursuant to the order of suspension which is presently under challenge and place all the



concerned documents on record,” the court said.

During the hearing, the bench observed there are several judgements of the apex court where it has said sentence should not be pronounced on the same day (after concluding the trial).

Justice Lalit recalled a judgement was rendered in a case where a person was given death sentence in a span of nine days and the top court set aside that order and sent the matter back to the sessions court for fresh trial.

“Because, according to us, this will be a travesty of justice that you are not even giving adequate notice, adequate opportunity to the person who is finally going to get death sentence,” the bench said, adding the judgement was delivered in 2019.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Rai, said the petitioner was also denied promotion.

Passengers’ safety is our top priority: Scindia after latest Indigo lapse

■ NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday stressed that the safety of the citizens has been top priority for the Government and there would be no compromise on it.

Speaking to reporters, Scindia said “decisive action has been taken in the last few weeks and months”. His comments come amid concerns over safety-linked incidents in the recent past, involving domestic carriers.

Earlier, an IndiGo flight 6E-757 from Jorhat in Assam to Kolkata skidded off the runway during take-off and a pair of its wheels got stuck in the muddy outfield.

According to the airline, the incident took place on Thursday when the aircraft was taxiing out for take off with 98 passengers on board and the flight was cancelled. This is the latest incident linked to a domestic flight that has sparked concerns. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has taken note of many such incidents in the recent past.



A local journalist had uploaded the picture on Twitter showing an aircraft, which apparently skidded off the runway and one pair of wheels got stuck in the soft grassy outfield. Tagging IndiGo, the scribe posted, “Guwahati Kolkata @indigo flight 6F 757 (6E757) slips from runway and stuck in muddy field in Jorhat airport in Assam. The flight was scheduled to depart at 2.20 pm but the flight delayed after the incident.” Replying to his post, IndiGo said, “Sir, we’re concerned to hear this and raising this right away with the concerned team. Please share the PNR via DM for the same. We hope you’re well and comfortably travelled to your destination.”

JD(U) raps RCP Singh loyalists for calling him future Chief Minister

Patna: The ruling JD(U) in Bihar on Friday expressed strong displeasure over slogans being raised by followers of former national president RCP Singh to project him as the future Chief Minister. JD(U) national general secretary and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s close aide Sanjay Jha warned that those raising such slogans would be deemed as outsiders.

“Nitish Kumar is the undisputed leader of the party. Those who raise such slogans will not be considered as members of the party,” Jha told reporters when asked about videos of such sloganeering which have gone viral on social media.

Singh, a former confidant of the CM, recently stepped down as Union minister after the party denied him another term in the Rajya Sabha.

The former IAS officer’s fall from grace is blamed on his acceptance of a cabinet berth without the consent of the chief minister who has been opposed to BJP’s offer of “token representation” to allies.

FIRST COLUMN

TOXIC AIR CAN BADLY AFFECT OUR HEALTH

Foul air makes people prone to heart ailments and other chronic diseases



ABHINAV GUPTA

Air pollution is a combination of air with substances that are detrimental to all living beings. Air can become polluted by various compounds that are either naturally occurring in the environment or are produced as by-product of anthropogenic activities.

Air pollution has been a growing matter of concern as it can contribute to many serious and life-altering illnesses. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), pollutants of major public health concern include particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulphur dioxide. Outdoor or ambient air and indoor air pollution alike have contributed to increased mortality and premature deaths worldwide.

Thresholds are put in place for various pollutants. Similarly, a threshold had been set by the WHO, affirming that particulate pollutants should not exceed a certain amount in a day or it can prove severely detrimental to health. Still, 99 per cent of the world's population breathes air that cannot comply with the WHO's thresholds. Indian pollutants' thresholds are benign, being 2-3x more lenient than the WHO's old thresholds.

With the new thresholds being put in place, Indian standards stand 4 to 8 times more lenient than what they were in the past. Despite these lenient thresholds, air quality comes within the specified parameters barely in a few Indian districts. This is because these thresholds are not required to be upheld by law.

Hence on an average, based on an analysis by Richard Muller and Elizabeth Muller of Berkley Earth, an Indian is smoking at best one cigarette a day and on bad days they could be smoking three packs in a day.



Air pollution can have acute and chronic effects on cardiovascular health. As per the WHO's estimates, at least 7 million premature deaths per year happen due to both outdoor (ambient) and indoor air pollution. Almost 94 per cent of deaths worldwide are due to non-communicable diseases in adults, out of which cardiovascular diseases make up for most of them.

While many lifestyle issues can also lead to someone developing cardiovascular diseases, a study published in The Lancet found that long-term exposure to particulate matter and noxious oxides can prematurely age blood vessels and can lead to an accelerated buildup of calcium in the coronary artery. This calcification of arteries can cause restricted blood flow to the heart and other blood vessels, leading to increased risks of cardiovascular events like strokes and heart attacks.

India has incidences of both ambient and indoor air pollution. On an average, people spend 90 per cent of their lifetime within enclosed spaces-schools, universities, offices, malls, shops, and most importantly at home. While knowing that indoor air quality tends to get much worse than outdoor air quality due to poor ventilation and accumulation of pollutants can be a deterrent to many, a regular air quality assessment can help overcome such woes.

Indoor air quality assessments are a quick diagnostic test for your indoor environments which can track all the major pollutants that are hampering the indoor air quality or IAQ. When these pollutants are detected in a timely manner, palliative solutions can be implemented to ensure that safe limits of pollutants are maintained, which in turn help mitigate the risks of cardiovascular events like heart attacks and strokes.

(The author is Founder and CEO of Active Buildings)

NEP 2020: execution is key to its success

New Education Policy 2020, if implemented in true spirit, could help transform education for skill-based society



ANNPURNA NAUTIYAL

The three-day-long Akhil Bartiya Sikhsha Samagam, organised very thoughtfully at Varanasi, the city of culture, traditional practices and knowledge, culminated in a commitment to work rigorously for implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 by understanding and executing all the fine points.

It was actually a highest level of workshop for educationists of different walks to not only move forward towards the goal of integration of education from primary to higher education, while maintaining diversity of culture, tradition, languages and curriculum, but also to expose them to different ideas about the changing educational climate and its universalization by following global parameters and ranking framework.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address after the inauguration, set the tone of this Samagam, as he explained the objectives and concept of access, equity, inclusivity, affordability, capacity building of the students for critical and creative thinking as per the requirement of the NEP 2020. He clearly emphasized the need of improvement and progress in every sector of education through steps like multiple entry and exit, multidisciplinary and multilingual education, academic bank of credit, digital education, collaborations and connecting with national and international institutions.

This way all educational institutions could come out of their silos and provide the much needed educational diversity to the students by bringing changes into the monolithic educational system. For achieving these targets, he clearly put the onus on the educators and their vision for making an atmosphere for implementing NEP in their individual institutions by becoming the agents of change.

The PM highlighted the need to work towards providing a holistic education which will lead the educational institutions towards 'Shiksha say Shodhtak, Vidya say Bodh Tak and Parinam say PramanTak'. For a positive entry and registering India's presence in the global educational arena he emphasized to go forward through the motto of 'Ateet say Adhunika key Aoor'.

The message was loud and clear that if our educational institutions fail to come up to the expectations of the different stakeholders or change their obsolete mindset or make the young generation skillful to face the challenges of the present era, the goals of NEP 2020 will remain unfulfilled. For this education should necessarily aim to translate into research, innovation and innovative practices in teaching and learning which will not only bring good results but also provide certification for the usefulness of that research for human welfare. The national research foundation as per the mandate of NEP 2020 is aimed at promoting good quality research in all subjects and more so in humanities and social sciences as these are the backbone of any civilized society.



THE TEACHERS HAVE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REAPING THE BENEFITS OF THIS DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND BY NURTURING, MONITORING, MENTORING AND MOTIVATING THE YOUTH TO STEP IN THIS KNOWLEDGE ERA BY CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE STUDENTS THROUGH SKILL-ORIENTED EDUCATION.

(The author is Vice Chancellor, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal, Uttarakhand)



If the research is not human centric, the purpose of education will also be defeated as NEP also aims to bring quality changes in the whole ecosystem of education, wherein human resource development through good research is an essential requirement.

The Prime Minister's advice that in this age of knowledge and technology the universities should also try to fill up the gap of digital divide by providing the right platforms to the young minds to address the need for more knowledge through various digital platforms, internet, etc.

Here also the onus falls on the shoulders of the educationists to provide such knowledge which is new and imparted through innovative methods to the students so that they can learn it joyfully and not as a burden. Such an attitude has a capacity to change the whole ecosystem of education which the NEP strongly advocates.

The Prime Minister's focus on producing a big pool of employment generators not employment seekers also indicated the importance of skill-based knowledge and learning practices which is not based on mugging up the syllabus just before the start of examinations but on practical and hands-on training and education. Actually to produce the youth full of skills in different areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital communication, multilingual communications, agro-ecological products, organic farming, disaster management, climate change mitigation, Indian knowledge system and many

other such areas are the demand of the day for which the curriculum of every institution needs to be revised accordingly.

Collaboration with national and international institutions will provide every educational institution an opportunity for exposure and to imbibe their strong points. The Prime Minister also cautioned that the demographic dividend will not always remain favourable. Therefore, the present time is most opportune to reap the benefits of this advantage, added the Prime Minister.

The teachers have to play an important role in reaping the benefits of this demographic dividend by nurturing, monitoring, mentoring and motivating the youth to step in this knowledge era by capacity building of the students through skill-oriented education. The competitive national and international environment also needs such mentoring, meaningful and purposeful exchanges through collaborations and developing connections between institutions.

The sharing of best practices by all institutions is also important in this direction. The call for producing and preparing many 'Eklavys' by the Union Minister of Education DharmendraPradhan is also very meaningful and important in this light as when the educational institutions would be led by such capable and knowledgeable Gurus/educators it is not difficult to produce disciples like Eklavya in a large number. Such force of modern day Eklavyas will prepare India to face the challenges of new education

policy and intense competition in this field.

For the Indian education system, the NEP 2020 is a revolutionary document which not only seeks integration and inclusiveness despite the difference of caste, creed, religion, language and regions but also goal-oriented and focused.

Everything which was said and discussed about the fine points of NEP in Varanasi clearly exhibits the need for its implementation in its true spirit. The CUET (Common University Entrance Test) for under graduate and post graduate courses has been adopted by all central and some state universities for admissions which is a good beginning to achieve the aim of access, equity, affordability and inclusiveness.

But bringing the diverse ecosystem of the educational institutions into the same platform could be a huge challenge for the real implementation of NEP 2020. Another important challenge could be the preparation of quality course books in Hindi or mother tongue in a fast paced manner so that the goal of teaching in the mother tongue of the NEP could be achieved. For this inspiration from European or Asian Universities will have to be taken where teaching mode is always their mother tongue.

Lack of visionary leaders and educationists can also be a hampering factor for the action and performance-oriented NEP. Not the words, but the deeds will speak more about its real effects, which will only unfold in the near future.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I AM BEING FRAMED. I AM A VICTIM OF CONSPIRACY HATCHED AGAINST ME.
—EX-WEST BENGAL MINISTER
PARTHA CHATTERJEE



PARTHA CHATTERJEE HAS A SUPER LUXURY FLAT WHERE HE KEEPS ONLY HIS PET DOGS.
—BJP MP
MEENAKSHI LEKHI

Tackling income disparity with expenditure tax

The income disparity is only deepening, and expenditure tax may help India in reducing poverty quickly

Seventy five years have gone by since Independence and various plans were made by the Planning Commission to deal with poverty in the country. Smaller Nations in South East Asia-Taiwan, Malaysia, and Indonesia-have ended poverty.

The Communist China has come close to the world's richest economy, the United States. Japan is also closing the gap with the world's largest economy.

China was far behind India in 1978. India's per capita income in 1978 was \$205.7 against China's \$166.4. China jumped in 2021 to \$12,256 against India's bare \$1,933. It shows their determination to act strongly after taking a decision.



LN JHUNJUNWALA

(The author is Emeritus Chairman, LNJ Bhilwara Group)

We have been talking about prosperity percolating at lower levels. Planners like Montek Singh Ahluwalia have been talking about percolation, but it does not work. Rich continues to get richer. They have seen the Congress regime in India, an absolutely financially clean Manmohan Singh brought no relief to the poor. The Modi regime is the strongest and most effective since independence. But the poor have not been benefited as yet.

One sees children, ladies, maimed male still begging at every car stop. Prime Minister V.P. Singh was close to me. He pledged for a ceiling on income at the level of ten to fifteen times of India's gross national individual income. I argued with him and told

him that the private sector, though oblivious of the conditions of his poor Indian brethren, is at least more efficient than the public sector. If his expenditure could be controlled and inequality in expenditure is brought down to one vis-à-vis 20 against the present level of one to one thousand or so, possibly it may work.

The third generation of the rich, who have inherited wealth without undergoing the hard work done by their ancestors, have grown lazy, inefficient, and luxurious. Prime Minister V.P. Singh used to welcome all at his house in the morning to hear grievances. My son, who had taken charge of business, was telling me that his graphite electrodes exports suffer due

to delays in bureaucracy. I took him to V.P. Singh, and stood in a queue.

V.P. Singh asked me and my son to meet him at 3 pm in his office. We met him in the office, and he called his concerned bureaucrat to see that my problem was solved immediately. Next day morning, I got a telephone call from my factory at Bhopal that the Excise Deputy Commissioner had come himself and cleared all the goods.

I went to V P Singh to thank him and he called me again at his house. I told him that most of a businessman's time is spent in finding ways to evade taxes and finding ways to plough back tax evaded wealth in business. The businessman should be allowed to amass wealth for

expansion of his business and industry but there should be a strong expenditure tax administered strongly, not like the income tax which is more known for evasion.

Eighty per cent of the business houses with some exceptions like Tata and Infosys evade taxes. Businessmen by and large do not mind a simple life provided nobody is allowed to evade taxes and use the evaded wealth in his personal consumption.

V P Singh called me in the office and invited his Secretary Shree Jalan - a Marwari known for his integrity and honesty. He told him about my suggestion. Jalan told him that he was taking me into his office and discussing the issue in detail. He

told me about the financial losses caused by withdrawal of income tax. I clarified that I was not suggesting withdrawal of income tax by substituting expenditure tax. I am suggesting it in addition to income tax. He told me that evasion of taxes has become rampant.

Rich people like you have corrupted the bureaucracy. Even expenditure tax would be evaded. I agreed that expenditure of the rich is mostly done on luxurious houses - fleet of cars, private planes, an army of servants, holidays in luxurious hotels abroad. They are not easy to hide.

V.P. Singh's ministry was toppled. Nothing happened, the poverty level is slightly lower than V.P. Singh's time

but it continues to be pathetic. If we can't remove poverty at least we could make efforts to reduce the disparity between the rich and the poor.

Pt. Nehru was worried about the income disparity in India. He invited a famous economist, Kaldor, who suggested an expenditure tax. It was never tried by Nehru. P Chidambaram was practical and reduced income tax. The result was no loss for the exchequer.

The idea is to make the rich aware about the amount of money spent on themselves. In the Modi regime, the rich have become richer. If the Indian masses rise from 'Tamas' to even lower levels of 'Rajas', the situation may become explosive.

Russia backs China on Taiwan, warns US



AP ■ MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Friday offered strong support to China amid the tensions over Taiwan, warning the United States against any “provocative” moves that could exacerbate the situation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned against meddling in China’s dealings with Taiwan during a phone call Thursday with U.S. President Joe Biden.

Speaking in a call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russia staunchly supports China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“We believe that no other country has the right to call (that) into doubt or take any provocative steps,” Peskov said.

He warned the U.S. Against “destructive” moves, adding that “such behavior on the international arena could only exacerbate tensions as the world is already overloaded with regional and global problems.”

The tough statement reflects close ties between Moscow and Beijing, which have grown stronger since Russia sent its troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. China has refused to criticize Russia’s action, blaming the U.S. And NATO for provoking Moscow, and has

blasted punishing sanctions imposed on Moscow.

The Chinese government gave no indication Xi and Biden discussed possible plans by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to visit Taiwan, which the ruling Communist Party says has no right to conduct foreign relations. But Xi rejected “interference by external forces” that might encourage Taiwan to try to make its decades-old de facto independence permanent.

“Resolutely safeguarding China’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity is the firm will of the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people,” foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Friday. “Those who play with fire will perish by it.”

The tough language from Xi, who usually tries to appear to be above political disputes and makes blandly positive public comments, suggested Chinese leaders might believe Washington didn’t understand the seriousness of previous warnings about Taiwan.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 following a civil war that ended with a communist victory on the mainland. They have no official relations but are linked by billions of dollars of trade and investment. Both sides say they are one country but disagree over which government is entitled to national leadership.

For Taiwan, Pelosi visit is about US, China controlling risk

AP ■ TAIPEI

The crisis sparked by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s potential visit to Taiwan misses a key point, experts say: that the real focus should be on how the United States and China manage their differences so the risks of confrontation don’t spiral out of control.

News of a possible visit by Pelosi has set off intense speculation about China’s potential diplomatic and military responses. But for Taiwan, the visit — if it occurs — would be merely the latest point of strife in an already tense situation that has shadowed the island democracy for decades.

“The main point is not in Pelosi coming to Taiwan, but it’s to look at how the U.S. And China effectively control the risks that may arise,” said Arthur Zhin-Sheng Wang, a defense studies expert at Taiwan’s Central Police University. Wang said that Thursday’s call between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping was an example of how the two sides can manage their differences through dialogue. The fact that it occurred amid the debate over Pelosi visiting Taiwan was a sign of at least a “basic level of mutual understanding,” he said.

Taiwan, meanwhile, has continued to strike a balance between the two superpowers mainly by keeping quiet, even as tensions have risen.

Taiwan’s President Tsai Ingwen “has done everything possible to avoid unnecessary provocations while maintaining the integrity of Taiwan’s democracy,” said Vincent Chao, a former director of the political division of Taiwan’s representative office in Washington, DC.

Finalists Sunak, Liz grilled at 1st hustings

UK PM race

PTI ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss, the two finalists in the race to succeed Boris Johnson as the Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, were grilled on their policies in the first hustings directly addressing Tory party members who will be voting in the election.

While the economy and cost-of-living crises were the focal point as in earlier television debates, there were wider questions at the hustings in Leeds in Yorkshire, northern England, on Thursday night from the membership reflecting their loyalty to Johnson.

In a dramatic moment, a Tory member questioned Sunak’s decision to quit as Chancellor earlier this month



and accused the former minister of back-stabbing his former boss. “You’re a good salesman and you have many strong attributes, but many people continue to support Johnson who has delivered consistently through treacherous waters,” one Tory audience member from West Yorkshire said to Sunak.

“Many people unfortunately see that you’ve stabbed

him in the back. He is the man who made you a senior politician. And some people don’t want to see that in No. 10,” he said. Sunak responded by saying he was left with no choice after it had become clear that there was “a significant difference of opinion” between the pair on the economic direction of the country.

“There is no way that the Prime Minister and Chancellor

cannot be joined at the hip with regard to economic policy, particularly at a time when the economy faces real challenges. So, I was left with no choice,” he said.

The British Indian Tory MP for Richmond, North Yorkshire, went on to insist that he was “well placed to bring the party back together, because I’ve already drawn support from across the party”.

He sought to strike a chord, dubbing his northern England connection as a North Yorkshire MP as “the greatest honour of my life”, as did his opponent who grew up in the region.

Sunak, who is trailing behind Foreign Secretary Truss in polling of Conservative Party members, pitched himself as the underdog who “hasn’t taken the easy road” with his plans to hold off on large tax cuts.

EU rights must be defended at Greek border: German envoy



AP ■ ATHENS

Germany’s top diplomat visited refugees at a camp in Greece on Thursday after stressing that European Union countries should do more to safeguard people seeking refuge from war and hardship.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visited a Holocaust memorial in Athens before sitting down with refugees at a camp west of the

city. She used the visit to promote what she called “a common European sea rescue policy” and to oppose summary deportations of asylum-seekers and migrants.

“Our European values also apply at the European external border. If we don’t defend them there, they will perish,” Baerbock said in an interview with the Athens daily newspaper Ta Nea published on Thursday.

Greece intercepts boats transporting migrants and asylum-seekers heading to its eastern islands from the nearby coast of Turkey. Human rights organisations allege the country carries out summary deportations, known as pushbacks, which the Greek government denies.

Push to tighten abortion ban bill fails in Indiana Senate



AP ■ INDIANAPOLIS

Indiana’s Republican-dominated Senate rejected a push by conservative lawmakers on Thursday night to strip exceptions for rape and incest victims in a proposal that would ban most abortions in the state.

The Senate vote 28-18 against the amendment following a debate that was delayed for five hours as GOP senators met privately amid days of public division over how strict such exceptions should be limited — and intense objections to those exceptions from anti-abortion activists.

Republican Sen. Mike Young of Indianapolis called for removing the rape and incest exceptions, a move that would have left the bill only allowing abortions deemed necessary to save the pregnant woman’s life.

“Exceptions equal death for unborn innocent children,” Young said.

The Indiana proposal followed the political firestorm over a 10-year-old rape victim who travelled to the state from neighbouring Ohio to end her pregnancy.

The case of the Ohio girl gained wide attention when an Indianapolis doctor said the child had to go to Indiana because Ohio banned abortions at the first detectable “fetal heartbeat” after the US Supreme Court’s decision last month overturning Roe v. Wade.

Republican Sen. Sue Glick of LaGrange, the abortion bill’s sponsor, urged senators to protect rape and incest victims who’ve been subjected to violence.

“Give them that choice,” Glick said.

“Don’t foster that evil on them after the evil they’ve already suffered.”

Eighteen Republicans joined 10 Democrats in voting to keep the rape and incest exceptions in the proposal. But the votes of many of the 18 Republicans who want to strip out those exceptions will be needed for the bill to advance from the Senate for consideration.

“I think they’re having problems,” Taylor said. “I can’t speak to whether or not anything’s gonna pass.”

Glick, the abortion bill’s sponsor, said she was “not exactly” happy with the proposal after the committee adding provisions under which doctors could face felony criminal charges for performing an illegal abortion, along with limiting the time period allowing abortions in cases of rape and incest to eight weeks of pregnancy for women ages 16 or older and 12 weeks for those younger than 16.

Pak to pay USD 11.6 mn in compensation to 36 Chinese victims of hydropower project terror attack

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has decided to pay over USD 11.5 million in compensation to 36 Chinese nationals working on a major hydropower project who either died or were injured in a terrorist attack in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province last year.

The decision on the quan-



over by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail.

The committee approved tenders for 200,000 tonnes of wheat at about USD 408 a tonne and allowed USD 11.6 million goodwill compensation for the Chinese casualties at the Dasu hydropower project in July last year, the Dawn newspaper reported on Friday.

On July 13 last year, 10 Chinese nationals, mostly engineers, were killed and 26 others were seriously injured after a suicide attack on a bus that was ferrying them to the work site of the Dasu Hydropower Project in Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The 4,320-MW Dasu Hydropower Project is being constructed by China Gezhouba company with funding from the World Bank and is not part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the multi-billion-dollar scheme launched in 2015.

The Chinese were livid after the attack. They suspended construction work and also postponed a key meeting on the CPEC, demanding foolproof security and compensation for the victims.

tum of compensation to be paid was taken on Thursday at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet presided

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-Tender Call Notice

Name of the Work: "Raising of Boundary Wall along with providing Concertina Coil Fencing to Filter House units at Bajahara Water Works, Paradip Port". Estimated cost: Rs.1,41,57,881/-.

Last date & time of submission: 04.08.2022 up to 17:00 hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

E.E. PHD(M)
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/17/22-23 dtd.29.07.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that Sh. Rohit S/o Sh. Dharmendra is owner of Property comprising of land whose Khaseera No. is 380 mm, admeasuring area is 50 Sq. yards or 41.80 Sq. meters, situated at Ginni New Mullan Nagar, Pargana, Tehsil and District Meerut, U.P. hereinafter referred as the "said property, vide registered sale deed dated 21.08.2017 with Sub-Registrar MEERUT. All persons are hereby informed that Sh. Rohit S/o Sh. Dharmendra has approached INDIA SHELTER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD to take a Loan and they have lost Registered Sale deed dated 28.03.2012. Doc. No. 4650. Book No. 01. Volume No. 7643. Page No. 17-34, on dated 28.03.2012-SRO-Meerut. In favor of Smt. Manju W/o Sh. Anil Kumar duly regd at SRO MEERUT, and Registered Sale deed dated 15.04.2014 Doc. No. 4159, Book No. 01. Volume No. 5951. Page No. 121-136, on dated 15.04.2014. SRO Meerut in favor of Smt. Poonam W/o Sh. Sunil Kumar, Sh. Rohit S/o Sh. Dharmendra has informed the Police Station Brahampuri, Meerut (UP Police) about the loss of the above mentioned sale deed. Vide GO No. 33/2022 dated 07.07.2022 Police Station Brahampuri, Meerut. If anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoona Lata, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78,
Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1. Name of work	Repair and maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings etc. and Improvement to Drainage in DSF yard, DLT complex, Rajdhani complex and NDLS yard in the section of SSE/W/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS.
2. Approx cost of work	Rs. 1,16,87,526.45 (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lacs Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six and Forty Five Paise Only)
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 2,08,400/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	26.08.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.

• For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

• No Manual offers are acceptable.

• Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NT/30/2022-23/W-3 Dated:- 28.07.2022 1926/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Purnima Sharma, w/o Sh. Anil Kumar, R/o-H.No. RZ-50, Shyam Vihar, near Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Purnima in my minor son's Aadradhaya Naithani, aged 13 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is Purnima Sharma, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients, Smt. Urmila Shukla R/o H.No. 32/222, Trilok Puri, Chilla, Delhi-110091 have disowned and debarred their son Rishi Kumar from all their movable and immovable assets. Any person dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my clients shall have no responsibility or liability of any kind whatsoever arising out of act(s) and/or omission(s) of Rishi Kumar.

Kushagra Azad (Advocate)
Enrolment No: D/1894/2020
Chamber no. D-218, Karkardooma Court Complex, Delhi- 110032

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE

Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 298th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 12th August, 2022 at 2.30 PM at Corporate Office : 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi- 110 025 to inter-alia approve the following:

- Un-Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for the period ended on June 30, 2022.
- To fix the Date, Time and Venue for convening the 49th Annual General Meeting
- To consider and approve Directors Report, Corporate Governance Report, Management Discussion Analysis Report and Secretarial Audit Report for the financial year 2021-22.

For Modi Rubber Limited
Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)
Place : New Delhi
Date : July 29, 2022
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 196-S/71/2021-22/TENDER NOTICE-TSO-III/TWS Dated: 27.07.2022

E-Tender for and on behalf of the President of India, Pr. CE, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 invites the following tenders through E-Procurement System:

Tender No. 2112689A202224NR	Due on 25.08.2022
Description of Item	Manufacturing & Supply of : 10125mm Curved Switches with ZU-1-60 thick web Grade 880 Class A tongue rails and UIC 60kg/m Grade-880, Class A/Class B Prime quality stock rails with elastic fasteners and spring operated setting device (RDSO-T-6216 read along with latest alterations), complete (with check rail) with all fittings for 1 in 12 BG 50kg turnout for fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers (i.e. all fittings for switch portion as per sub assembly No. T-6155 read along with latest alteration) in accordance with RDSO's standard drawing No. T-6154 (read along with latest alteration) excluding standard Fish Plates, Fish Bolts and Nuts, ER Clips, Insulating Liners.
Tender Value	Rs. 456,53,71,844.02
Tender Document Cost	Rs. Nil
Earnest Money	Rs. 50 lakh
Completion Period	24 Months
Time of Submission of Tender	Up 25.08.2022 at 14.30 IST
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	On 25.08.2022 at 14.30 IST
Validity of Offer	180 days

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in.

1906/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

94 migrants escape suffocation in truck in Mexico



AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Authorities in Mexico said Thursday that at least 94 migrants had to bash their way out of a suffocating freight trailer abandoned on a highway in the steamy Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

Carlos Enrique Escalante, the head of the state migrant attention office, said migrants had to break holes in the freight container to get out, some apparently through the roof.

Some were injured when they leapt from the roof of the trailer, but their injuries did not include any broken bones and were not considered life-threatening.

Escalante said local residents near the town of Acayucan heard the noise, and helped open the freight container. A much larger number of migrants were believed to have been aboard and fled after escaping.

But the 94 migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador were turned over to immigration authorities.

Some were injured when they leapt from the roof of the trailer, but their injuries did not include any broken bones and were not considered life-threatening.

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But the 94 migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador were turned over to immigration authorities.

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for deadly attack on POW prison



AP ■ KYIV

Russia and Ukraine accused each other Friday of shelling a prison in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine, an attack that reportedly killed dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war who were captured after the fall of a key southern city in May. Both sides said the assault was premeditated with the aim of covering up atrocities.

Russia claimed that Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied multiple rocket launchers to strike the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic.

Separatist authorities and Russian officials said the attack killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75. Moscow opened a probe into the attack, sending a team to the site from Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's main criminal investigation agency.

The state RIA Novosti agency reported that fragments of U.S.-supplied precision High Mobility Artillery Rocket System rockets were found at the site. The Ukrainian military denied making any rocket or artillery strikes in Olenivka, and accused the Russians of

shelling the prison to cover up the alleged torture and execution of Ukrainians there. An adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the shelling as a "a deliberate, cynical, calculated mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners."

Neither claim could be independently verified. Denis Pushilin, the leader of the internationally unrecognized Donetsk republic, said the prison held 193 inmates. He didn't specify how many were Ukrainian POWs.

The deputy commander of the Donetsk separatist forces, Eduard Basurin, suggested that

Ukraine decided to strike the prison to prevent captives from revealing key military information. Ukraine "knew exactly where they were being held and in what place," he said. "After the Ukrainian prisoners of war began to talk about the crimes they committed, and orders they received from Kyiv, a decision was made by the political leadership of Ukraine: carry out a strike here."

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak called for a "strict investigation" into the deadly attack and urged the United Nations and other international organizations to condemn it. He said the

Russians had transferred some Ukrainian prisoners to the barack that was hit just a few days before the strike, suggesting that it was planned.

"The purpose — to discredit Ukraine in front of our partners and disrupt weapons supply," he tweeted.

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesperson, Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, described the strike as a "bloody provocation" aimed at discouraging Ukrainian soldiers from surrendering. He too claimed that U.S.-supplied HIMARS rockets were used, and said eight guards were among the wounded.



Ukrainian court lowers Russian soldier's war crimes sentence

AP ■ KYIV

An appeals court in Kyiv on Friday reduced to 15 years the life sentence of a Russian soldier convicted in the first war crimes trial since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

The trial has been closely watched as an early test of whether it's possible to conduct fair trials during the ongoing conflict and of how well Ukraine's beleaguered justice system will stand up to the enormous task of prosecuting thousands of complex war crimes cases. Critics said the sentencing of Vadim Shishmarin, a 21-year-old contract soldier who pleaded guilty to killing a civilian and was convicted in May, was unduly harsh, given that he confessed to the crime, said he was following orders and expressed remorse.

Isolation complication? US finds it's hard to shun Russia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration likes to say Russia has become isolated internationally because of its invasion of Ukraine. Yet Moscow's top officials have hardly been cloistered in the Kremlin. And now, even the US wants to talk.

President Vladimir Putin has been meeting with world leaders, including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose country is a NATO member.

Meanwhile, his top diplomat, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, is jetting around the world, smiling, shaking hands and posing for photos with foreign leaders — including some friends of the US.

And on Wednesday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he wants to end months of top-level US diplomatic estrangement with Lavrov to discuss the release of American detainees as well as issues related to Ukraine. The call has not been scheduled but is expected in coming days.

The handshakes and phone calls cast doubt on a core part of the US strategy aimed at ending the Ukraine war: that diplomatic and economic isolation, along with battlefield setbacks, would ultimately



force Russia to send its troops home.

Even as he announced plans for the call, Blinken continued to insist Russia is indeed isolated. He argued the travel of its top officials is purely damage control and a reaction to international criticism Moscow is facing for the Ukraine war.

US officials say Russia is trying to shore up the few alliances it has left — some of which are American adversaries like Iran. But countries that are ostensibly US partners, like Egypt and Uganda, are also warmly welcoming top Russians.

And after making the case since February that there's no point in talking to Russia because Russia is not serious about diplomacy and cannot be trusted, the US has conceded it needs to engage with Moscow as well.

Zelenskyy visits port as Ukraine prepares to ship out grain

AP ■ ODESA

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited a Black Sea port Friday as crews prepared terminals to export grain trapped by Russia's five-month-old war, work that was inching forward a week after a deal was struck to allow critical food supplies to flow to millions of impoverished people facing hunger worldwide.

"The first vessel, the first ship is being loaded since the beginning of the war," Zelenskyy said at a port in the Odesa region.

He said, however, that the departure of wheat and other grain will begin with several ships that were already loaded but could not leave Ukrainian ports after Russia invaded in late February. Ukraine is a key global exporter of wheat, barley, corn and sunflower oil, and the loss of those supplies has raised global food prices, threatened political insecurity and helped push more people into poverty and hunger in already vulnerable countries.

Ukraine's military is committed to the safety of ships, Zelenskyy said, adding that "it is important for us that Ukraine remains the guarantor of global food security."

Ranil initiates talks with Opp for forming all-party Govt in Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has initiated negotiations with the Opposition parties to persuade them to join an all-party government led by him as part of his efforts to establish trust in his administration and help the bankrupt country to recover from the worst economic crisis, according to media reports on Friday.

Talks are expected to be completed in one week, the Daily Mirror newspaper quoted sources as saying.

Wickremesinghe on Thursday held talks with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former president Maithripala Sirisena. The main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party, however, will not join the government, the newspaper reported.

Instead, some of its MPs are contemplating joining the ruling side individually, the report said.

Meanwhile, the National Freedom Front (NFF) led by MP Wimal Weerawansa pledged support to



Wickremesinghe.

Weerawansa said there were two options before the country today - to lead it down the path of an anarchical situation as in Haiti or to salvage it from the current mess at least at the last moment through consensus.

He said President Wickremesinghe had taken genuine steps to resurrect the country from the

present abyss and therefore his party was ready to guide that exercise regardless of past political differences or enmity.

The NFF had supported Dullas Alahapperuma in the race for the election of the president on July 20 to succeed Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who resigned after fleeing the country amidst massive anti-Government protests. Minister of Justice Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe on Thursday said that all parties have been invited to form an all-party Government.

The minister said that the government will wait for a limited period of time to see whether the other parties would come forward to join it.

The government seeks to reestablish a sense of trust within the democracy and to resolve the socio-political crises within Sri Lanka with this move, Rajapakshe said.

The minister said that rather than a conflict-ridden Parliament, they expect to establish a peaceful Parliament which does not cause rifts on the problems faced by the people.

Sri Lankan MPs on July 20 elected Wickremesinghe as the country's new president, with the majority of the vote coming from lawmakers representing ousted President Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party.

There were only two non-SLPP lawmakers in the Cabinet appointed on Friday. Constitutionally, the Cabinet can be extended up to 30 members. The 73-year-old President was appointed for the rest of the term of Gotabaya Rajapaksa who initially fled to the Maldives and then to Singapore.

Sri Lanka has seen months of mass unrest over the worst economic crisis, with the government declaring bankruptcy in mid-April by refusing to honour its international debt.

Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said his government's main priorities are to fix the country's ailing economy and end the severe fuel shortage that has exacerbated after the last shipment under the Indian credit line arrived in the country in June.

Ranil Govt widens crackdown on activists, anti-Govt parties



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police carried out searches at the office of the Frontline Socialist Party here on Friday as the new government led by President Ranil Wickremesinghe widens its crackdown on anti-government parties and activists.

The new Sri Lankan government's clampdown has also included arrests of some leading activists accused of creating unrest in the country which is grappling with the worst economic crisis.

"A group of people in civilian clothes walked into our office and searched all over our premises. They didn't have a search warrant and only one of them was wearing a police uniform," said Duminda Nagamvura, the party spokesman.

Later, another police team arrived to do another search, he said, terming it "clear state repression".

The Frontline Socialist Party (FSP) is a communist party in Sri Lanka. It was launched in April 2012 by dissident members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna.

The FSP activists were blamed by the ruling party politicians for being behind the arson attacks on their properties.

They were also accused of



Trade union leader arrested in Lanka for desecrating Presidential Flag

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan trade union leader was arrested on Friday for unlawfully entering the President's Office and desecrating the Presidential Flag by using it as a bedsheet, nearly three weeks after the mass uprising against the government led by former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The 54-year-old man has been identified as Udeni Kalutantri, also a port security officer. He was arrested after he surrendered to the Dam Street Police in the capital Colombo, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported. He had posted a video on social media using the President's official flag as a bedspread, the Colombo Page news portal reported.

Investigations revealed that the arrested person is the former vice president of the Samagi Sevaka Sangamaya, the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya party's trade union, the newspaper reported.

Sri Lanka Police said that he was arrested for unlawfully entering the President's Office and for desecration of the President's Flag.

The Police Media Spokesman said the individual would be questioned over the incident legal action will be initiated against him.

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No.96461-22185)
Tender Enquiry No.260/SS-II(D) Dated: 29-07-2022
SE/ Sub-Station (Design)/ TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender for Manufacturer, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 250 Nos. 11kV Residual Voltage Transformers (11kV RVTs). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, Please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 01-08-2022 (09:00 AM onwards).
Note:- Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.
76155/12/1023/2021/16042 C-295/22

INDIAN RAILWAYS
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"
Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volts 50 Hz, AC overhead traction wires has been energized on and after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the over head traction lines shall be treated as live at all time and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said over head line.

Section	Date
Energization of 25kV Single phase AC newly electrified Railway Station at Dobh-Bahali & modification of DOBH Yard between Loc. No. 5/3N (Ch: 5/143) to Loc. No. 7/13A (Ch: 7/721.50) including enroute Dobh yard associated Turn outs and x-overs, modification in existing single line on Rohtak-Bhiwani single line section	31.07.2022

INDIAN RAILWAY
INTRODUCTION OF 25 KV AC TRACTION
"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"
It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25kV AC electric traction over the section "Energization of 25kV Single phase AC newly electrified Railway Station at Dobh-Bahali & modification of DOBH Yard between Loc No. 5/3N (Ch: 5/143) to Loc No. 7/13A (Ch: 7/721.50) including enroute Dobh yard associated Turn outs and x-overs, modification in existing single line on Rohtak-Bhiwani single line section" of the Northern Railway is being energized on and after the date specified against the section i.e. 31.07.2022. On and from the same date, the over head traction lines shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said over head lines.
Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the load carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.
The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:-
i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.
ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself
iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.
No: 305/Dy.CEE/C/NDLS/2019-20(R-3) Dated: 26.07.2022
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const
1904/22 Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Aro granite industries ltd.
(100% Export Oriented Unit)
CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510
Regd. Office : 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025
Ph.: 011-41686169, Fax : 011-26941984, Email : investor@arotile.com Website : www.arotile.com
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022
(Rs. in lacs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended
		30.06.2022	31.03.2022	30.06.2021
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	4,490.96	22,610.13	5,429.08
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	41.40	1,077.57	314.75
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	41.40	1,077.57	314.75
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	17.93	890.59	296.65
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	9.25	901.61	299.29
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,530.00	1,530.00	1,530.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year		18,112.19	
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-			
1 Basic:		0.06	5.89	1.96
2 Diluted:		0.06	5.89	1.96

Note:-
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s), www.bseindia.com, and www.nseindia.com and the Company's website www.arotile.com.

For & on behalf of the Board
-Sd-
Sunil Kumar Arora
Managing Director
DIN: 00150668

Place : HOSUR
Date : 29.07.2022

FEEDBACK INFRA PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN-U74899DL1990PTC040630
Registered Office: 311, 3rd Floor, Vardhaman Plaza, Pocket 7, Plot No. 6, Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078, India
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, Plot No. 77A East Tower, Iffco Road, Sector-18, Gurugram - 122015, Haryana, India
Telephone: Board: +91 124 4169100 || Fax: +91 124 4169155
E-mail: feedback.legal@feedbackinfra.com || **Website:** www.feedbackinfra.com
STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021
(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl No.	Particulars	For the Quarter Ended December 31, 2021	Previous Year Ended March 31, 2021
		Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	5,034	20,759
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2,867)	-7,197
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(3,071)	(26,611)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2,297)	(19,914)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(2,297)	(19,939)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10 per share)	1,636	1,636
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-2,297	2,171
8	Securities Premium Account	1,739	1,739
9	Net Worth	-2,621	5,546
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	52,328	52,406
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio*	-20.69	5.35
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)		
	Basic	-14.03	(121.71)
	Diluted	-14.03	(121.71)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	1,210	1,210
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR)*	0.19	0.19
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR)*		0.19

*** Note 1: Adopted definitions for Ratios Ratios have been computed as follows**
a) Debt Equity Ratio = Total Debt / Total Equity
b) Total Debt = Non-Current Borrowings + Current Maturities of Non-Current Borrowings
c) Total Equity = Equity Share Capital + Other Equity + Compulsory Convertible Instruments to Equity
d) Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR) = (EBDIT - Current Tax - Exceptional Items) / Gross Interest
e) Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) = (EBDIT - Current Tax - Exceptional Items) / (Gross Interest + Principal Repayment of Long Term Debts excluding repayment from refinancing of Debt)

Note - 2
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of annual financial results required to be filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended). The full format of the annual financial results is available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www.feedbackinfra.com
b) For the items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made available to the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www.feedbackinfra.com
c) The above financial results as at and for the quarter ended December 31, 2021 have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on July 28, 2022
d) The Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards ("Ind AS") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and in terms of Regulation 52(2) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended) and SEBI's circular no. SEBI/HO/DDHS/CIR/2021/0000000637 dated October 5, 2021.
e) The Company is primarily in the business of consultancy. The Board of Directors of the Company, which has been identified as being the Chief Operating Decision Maker (CODM), evaluates the Company's performance and allocates resources based on the analysis of the various performance indicators of the Company as a single unit. Therefore, the Company's business activity falls within a single business segment in terms of Ind AS 108.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
Jayashri Swaminathan
Director
DIN.: 09229930

Place : Gurugram
Date : July 28, 2022

5G SPECTRUM AUCTION

Bids worth ₹1.49 L cr received so far



New Delhi: The auction of 5G spectrum for ultra-high-speed internet services entered day four on Friday after garnering bids worth ₹1,49,623 crore in 16 rounds of bidding conducted so far.

The high interest for spectrum in the 1800 MHz band in Uttar Pradesh East circle saw Jio and Airtel locked in intense bidding on Wednesday and Thursday, sustaining the tempo and stretching the auction timelines beyond initial expectations. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel,

Vodafone Idea and a unit of billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises are in the race to bid for a 5G spectrum that offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time.

After a flying start on Tuesday that saw players pouring in ₹1.45 lakh crore on day one, the numbers inched up incrementally over Wednesday and Thursday. Bidding activities resumed on Friday with the 17th round.

Bids worth ₹1,49,623 crore were received in 16 rounds of bidding till Thursday.

A total of 72 GHz (gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least ₹4.3 lakh crore is on the block.

The auction is being held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

In addition to powering ultra-low latency connections, which allow downloading full-length high-quality video or movie to a mobile device in a matter of seconds (even in crowded areas), Fifth Generation or 5G would enable solutions such as e-health, connected vehicles, more-immersive augmented reality and meta-verse experiences, life-saving use cases, and advanced mobile cloud gaming, among others. **PTI**

Core sector output expands by 12.7% in June



New Delhi: The output of eight core infrastructure sectors expanded by 12.7 per cent in June against 9.4 per cent in the year-ago period, according to official data released on Friday.

The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas,

refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 19.3 per cent in May 2022, the data showed.

In June, the output of coal, refinery products, fertiliser, cement and electricity rose by 31.1 per cent, 15.1 per cent, 8.2 per cent, 19.4 per cent, and 15.5 per cent, respectively. **PTI**

Inflation hits record 8.9% in 19 countries using the euro

Brussels: Inflation in the European countries using the euro currency shot up to another record in July, pushed by higher energy prices driven partly by Russia's war in Ukraine, but the economy still managed some meager growth.

Annual inflation in the eurozone's 19 countries rose to 8.9% in July, an increase from 8.6% in June, according to the latest numbers published Friday by the European Union statistics agency. Inflation has been running at its highest level since 1997, when record-keeping for the euro began.

Energy prices surged by 39.7%, slightly lower than the previous month, while prices for food, alcohol and tobacco rose by 9.8%, faster than the increase posted last month.

The eurozone's economy, meanwhile, grew from April through June, expanding by 0.7% compared with the previous quarter and up 4% over the same period in 2021.

That contrasts with the United States raising fears of a recession with inflation at 40-year highs. But the job market is even stronger than before the Covid-19 pandemic, and most economists, including Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, have said they don't think the economy is in recession.

Many, however, increasingly expect an economic downturn in the U.S. To begin later this year or next, much like in Europe. Europe's proximity to the war in Ukraine and its reliance on Russian energy mean it's at risk of recession as

Moscow throttles down flows of natural gas that power factories, generate electricity and heat homes in the winter.

More reductions this week through a major pipeline to Germany, Nord Stream 1, have heightened fears that the Kremlin may cut off supplies completely. That would force rationing for energy-intensive industries and spike already record-high levels of inflation driven by soaring energy prices, threatening to plunge the 27-nation bloc into recession.

While European Union governments approved a measure this week to reduce gas use by 15% and have passed tax cuts and subsidies to ease a cost-of-living crisis, Europe is at the mercy of Russia and the weather. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty spurt over 1%, extend rally to 3rd straight day

Mumbai: Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty spurted over 1 per cent to extend their winning run to a third day on Friday following buying in index majors Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC twins.

A largely buoyant global trends also helped indices continue their gaining streak.

The 30-share BSE barometer jumped 712.46 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 57,570.25. During the day, it rallied 761.48 points or 1.33 per



cent to 57,619.27.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 228.65 points or 1.35 per cent to 17,158.25.

Among Sensex constituents, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv,

IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Infosys, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance, Wipro and HDFC were the biggest gainers.

Dr Reddy's, Kotak Mahindra Bank, State Bank of India, ITC and Axis Bank were

the laggards.

"In India, the big positive for the market is FIIs reducing their selling substantially and even turning buyers for 8 days this month. The expected out-performance of financials has played out well. Q1 results indicate improving prospects for this segment," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

In Asia, markets in Seoul ended higher, while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong set-

tled lower.

Markets in Europe were trading in the green during mid-session deals. The US markets had ended higher on Thursday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.92 per cent to USD 109.2 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors became net buyers in the capital markets as they bought shares worth ₹1,637.69 crore on Thursday, as per exchange data. **PTI**

IOC posts ₹1,992.53 cr net loss in Q1 on petrol, diesel price freeze

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Friday reported a net loss of ₹1,992.53 crore for the June quarter because of a freeze on petrol, diesel and LPG prices despite rising input costs.

Net loss of ₹1,992.53 crore in April-June compared to ₹5,941.37 crore of net profit in the same period a year back, the company said in a stock exchange filing.

This is this quarterly loss in over two years. The company had in January-March 2020 reported a net loss because of inventory losses.

State-owned fuel retailers - IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) - did

not change the prices of petrol and diesel during the quarter despite rates of crude oil (raw material for making fuel) climbing above USD 100 per barrel. These losses negated record refining margins. IOC earned USD 31.81 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel at the refinery gate as opposed to a gross refining margin (GRM) of USD 6.58 per barrel in April-June 2021.

The core margin, after off-setting inventory losses, was USD 25.34 per barrel.

"However, the suppressed marketing margins of certain petroleum products have offset the benefit of an increase in GRM," the company said in notes to its accounts. **PTI**

NTPC Q1 net profit rises 15% to ₹3,978 cr

New Delhi: State-owned NTPC on Friday posted a more than 15 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹3,977.77 crore in the June quarter on the back of higher income. The consolidated net profit of the company in the quarter ended on June 30, 2021 was at ₹3,443.72 crore, according to a filing to BSE.

Its total income rose to ₹43,560.72 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal from ₹30,390.60 crore in the same period of the last year. The expenses stood at ₹38,399.33 crore in the latest June quarter compared to ₹26,691.49 crore in the year-ago period. **PTI**

Rupee rises 45 paise to close at 79.24 against US dollar



Mumbai: The rupee gained 45 paise to close at 79.24 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday as heavy buying in domestic equities and weakness in the greenback bolstered investor sentiment.

Besides, fresh foreign capital inflows also supported the domestic unit, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened strong at 79.55 per dollar. It hovered in a range of 79.56 to 79.17 during the session.

The domestic unit finally settled at 79.24 against the greenback, a gain of 45 paise

over its last close.

In the previous session, the rupee appreciated 22 paise to close at 79.69 against the US dollar.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 712.46 points or 1.25 per cent higher at 57,570.25, while the broader NSE Nifty rose 228.65 points or 1.35 per cent to 17,158.25.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.21 per cent to 106.13.

Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers in the capital markets as they picked up shares worth Rs 1,637.69 crore on Thursday, as per exchange data.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 2.28 per cent to USD 109.58 per barrel. **PTI**

Gold gains ₹255; silver zooms ₹1,610



New Delhi: Gold prices rose by ₹255 to ₹51,783 per 10 grams in the national capital in line with strong global cues, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹51,528 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also surged by ₹1,610 to ₹58,387 per kg from ₹56,777 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,762 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 20.10 per ounce. "Gold prices rallied on safe haven buying after US economy technically slipped into recession with GDP contracting for the second month," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. **PTI**

Forex reserves fall USD 1.15 bln to USD 571.56 bln

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves declined USD 1.152 billion to USD 571.56 billion for the week ended July 22, according to RBI data. The reserves have been declining amid continuing volatility in the rupee which has also significantly depreciated against the US dollar.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined by USD 7.541 billion to USD 572.712 billion.

Defending the rupee amid pressures due to

rising interest rates in the developed world, high commodity prices and foreign portfolio investment outflows has resulted in heavy decline in the forex assets, which had touched an all-time high of USD 642 billion in September 2021.

For the reporting week ended July 22, the foreign currency assets declined USD 1.426 billion to USD 510.136 billion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its weekly report released on Friday. **PTI**

Cipla Q1 net profit dips marginally to ₹706 crore

New Delhi: Drug major Cipla on Friday posted a marginal decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹706 crore for the first quarter ended on June 30, 2022.

The Mumbai-based company had reported a net profit of ₹710 crore in the April-June quarter of the last fiscal.

Total revenue from operations declined to ₹5,375 crore in the June quarter as compared with ₹5,504 crore in the year-ago period, Cipla said in a regulatory filing.

Shares of the company ended 1.08 per cent up at ₹978.15 apiece on the BSE. **PTI**

Sebi penalises NIAO, its proprietor for unregistered advisory services

New Delhi: Regulator Sebi has levied fines totalling ₹6 lakh on the National Investment Adviser Organisation (NIAO) and its proprietor Nitin Sharma for providing unauthorised investment advisory services.

In addition, the two have been restrained from the securities market for six months.

The order came after Sebi received a complaint alleging that an unknown entity had launched a fake website which was similar to its website and was promoting stock trading tips mostly in penny stocks.

Pursuant to the receipt of the complaint, the regulator examined the matter and found that the NIAO and Sharma had carried out investment advisory activities without obtaining registration from Sebi in vio-



lation of IA (Investment Advisers) regulations.

The amount of money prima facie observed to have been collected by the NIAO and Sharma was Rs 5.54 lakh during the period November 2015 to September 2016, Sebi said in its order on Thursday.

Therefore, the regulator has imposed a combined fine

of Rs 6 lakh on the NIAO and Sharma for violating the provisions of IA norms and PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules, it added.

NIAO and Sharma are collectively referred to as noticees. In its order, Sebi directed the noticees to refund within three months the money received from the investors as fees in respect of their unregistered advisory activities.

They have also been restrained from accessing as well as dealing in securities markets directly or indirectly in any manner for six months from the date of this order or till the expiry of six months from the date of completion of refund to investors, whichever is later.

India needs to set up 46,000 EV charging stations by 2030 to match global benchmark

New Delhi: India needs to set up 46,000 electric vehicle charging stations by 2030 to reach global benchmark, suggests a white paper released on Friday.

EV charger ratio is 6 both for China and the Netherlands, 19 for the US while it stands 135 for India. That means there is one charger per 135 EVs in India compared to 6 in China, the white paper by Alvarez and Marsal, a global professional services firm, stated.

The paper was launched at an electric vehicle conference, The EVConIndia 2022, here.

The paper highlighted some key challenges affecting EV adoption and talked about six key issues of affordability, range anxiety, supply chain,

product safety & quality, and inadequate access to financing.

With a large automotive industry and pollution issues, India is ripe for innovation and rapid adoption of EVs in times to come, it said.

Sub-segments of the industry can grow at a compounded average growth rate of 50-100 per cent over the next five years if supply chain, product safety, product and battery innovation, charging infrastructure, and financing obstacles are removed, the paper suggested.

"We believe that if these issues can be addressed by a concerted effort by the industry along with the government support, India can potentially become one of the leading markets and manufacturing

hubs globally for the EV segment," Manish Saigal, Managing Director, Alvarez & Marsal India.

Speaking at the conference, Niti Aayog Adviser (Infrastructure Connectivity & Electric Mobility) Sudhendu J Sinha said, "We want to use these disruptive times to become the manufacturing hub of the world. We want to be leading exporter (nation) for EV components and batteries".

Sinha further explained that to achieve that aspiration, "it is vital that the quality standards are top-notch, the businesses must have better control over the supply chain, and ethics should be the unshakable backbone of the industry". **PTI**

Crude oil futures gain on spot demand

New Delhi: Crude oil prices on Friday rose by ₹99 to ₹7,815 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for August delivery traded higher by ₹99 or 1.28 per cent at ₹7,815 per barrel in 3,424 lots.

Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up



1.96 per cent at USD 98.31 per barrel, and Brent crude traded 1.60 per cent higher at USD 108.85 per barrel in New York. **PTI**

PNB Housing Fin's ₹2,500 cr rights issue expected to be complete by December: Official

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab National Bank on Friday said the ₹2,500 crore-rights issue of its subsidiary PNB Housing Finance is expected to conclude earliest by December.

Following the rights issue, the shareholding of Punjab National Bank (PNB) as a promoter of the company would come down from the current level of 32.57 per cent to below 30 per cent.

"RBI has given approval for infusion of ₹500 crore in PNB Housing Finance. Post rights issue, the holding of the

bank would come down below 30 per cent but would be higher than 26 per cent so that bank retains promoter status," PNB Managing Director A K Goel said.

PNB will not be subscribing to the rights issue proportionate to its current holding in the company as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the bank to invest only up to ₹500 crore in the rights issue. Consequently, the lender's stake in the mortgage firm will come down below 30 per cent from the current level.

Goel said the rights issue

process is expected to conclude by December or latest in the March quarter.

The housing finance company was looking to raise equity capital worth ₹4,000 crore and had entered into a deal with joint venture partner Carlyle Group, among other investors, in May last year.

However, in October 2021, the mortgage lender decided to terminate the ₹4,000 crore stake sale citing delays due to pending legal proceedings.

About the financial performance of PNB, Goel said the bank intends to bring down the

gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to single digit and net NPA to 3.5 per cent by the end of March 2023.

The gross NPAs of the bank stood at 11.2 per cent while net NPA at 4.26 per cent of the total advances as on June 30, 2022. He said the bank aims to increase its credit growth to 11-12 per cent during the current fiscal. Retail, agriculture and MSME percentage in overall loan book would increase to 54 per cent from current 52.6 per cent by the end of FY23, he said.

The bank is comfortable as



far as capital adequacy ratio is concerned to take care of 12 per cent loan growth, he said. Still, the bank proposes to raise ₹12,000 crore from Tier I and Tier II bonds, he noted. **PTI**

MRPL net zooms to ₹2,707 crore in Q1 bumper refining margins



New Delhi: Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) net profit zoomed to ₹2,707 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal on the back of record refining margins.

Net profit of ₹2,707 crore in April-June compared with a loss of ₹230 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement.

The company, which is a subsidiary of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), earned USD 24.45 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in the quarter as opposed to a gross refining margin of USD 4.94 per barrel in the year-ago period.

With international oil prices surging, PL's turnover more than doubled to ₹35,915 crore from ₹15,069 crore in April-June 2021.

PL said it recorded the highest ever Q1 net throughput of 4.29 million tonnes with a capacity utilisation of 114.34 per cent.

The previous best of 3.98 million tonnes (capacity utilisation of 106.13 per cent) was achieved in Q1 of the 2017-18 fiscal. The refinery also achieved the highest-ever diesel dispatch of 737,000 tonnes in May. **PTI**

2022 CWG STARTS IN BIRMINGHAM

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The region's rich musical heritage and inclusivity were at the heart of the 22nd Birmingham Commonwealth Games opening ceremony here as a joyful evening offered a stupendous cornucopia of colour, light and dance.

Drummer-percussionist Abraham Paddy Tetteh started things off at the Alexander Stadium that was packed to the rafters, and then, Indian classical vocalist and composer Ranjana Ghatak took the lead, the section intended to showcase the diversity of the city.

It was refreshing as the Birmingham Games is the first multi-discipline event since the start of the pandemic to be held without major COVID-19 restrictions.

Meanwhile, as many as 70 cars in red, white and blue got together to form a Union Jack, even as Prince Charles, representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, arrived in his Aston Martin car along with the Duchess of Cornwall. The formation of cars was a tribute to the city's incredible motor industry history.

Just before that, the city paid a tribute to the Queen, even as a montage featuring her stretched back to the black and white era.

After a spectacular demonstration of Birmingham's culture and diversity, the evening paid a tribute to Charlie Chaplin, with the legendary comedian being hailed as one of the city's heroes. Between London and Birmingham, his place of birth, in fact, has been subject of much debate.

There was an honorary mention of William Shakespeare too, as the broadcasters spoke about the Shakespeare First Folio which is in the new Library of Birmingham -- the largest public library in the UK.

Through its printing press, the place's history was shown in all its glory.

Then there was a gargantuan bull



in the stadium, pulled along by overworked, underpaid female chain makers of the Industrial Revolution. Till the time the raging bull was there going on a rampage, it was the cynosure of all eyes at the glittering ceremony.

Perry the Bull, the Games mascot, got its name because of the city's iconic Bull Ring market, which has been around for hundreds of years.

"Our 72 nations and territories are all here - and Birmingham looks magnificent," Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) president Louise Martin said.

"I believe this event will be one of the greatest and most important editions of the Commonwealth Games in our 92-year history," she

added.

Then began the Parade of Nations.

As per CWG tradition, Australia, being the host of the last Games, entered first during the Parade, followed by the rest of the Oceania region.

Then, other countries made their way into the arena in alphabetical order from their respective regions.

The countries from Africa, America, Asia, the Caribbean followed, and then came the turn of 2010 Games host India, with double Olympics medallist badminton ace PV Sindhu and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh leading the contingent out amid loud cheers

from the stands.

Again, as is the norm, hosts England entered last with "We will, we will rock you" playing in the background.

Birmingham got into the spirit of the Mexican Wave right at the start of the ceremony showcasing grandeur, rich culture, diversity and heritage.

The ceremonial Commonwealth Games flag was brought out and hoisted after which CGF president Martin walked out to give a speech, at the end of which the Prince of Wales read out the Queen's message to declare the Games open.

LGBTQ+ activist and British Olympic champion Tom Daley, a winner of four Commonwealth golds



in the pool, brought the Queen's Baton into the Alexander Stadium accompanied by a entourage of LGBTQ+ flag-bearers.

One of the highlights of the two-and-half-hour long ceremony was a local favourite chart-topping band Duran Duran who delivered the finale to the stunning night in the city where their career began 44 years ago.

Renowned musician Tony Iommi of Black Sabbath and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra also performed, while talented young singer from the Ribble Valley, Samantha Oxborough, sung the British National Anthem 'God Save the Queen'.

A massed choir of over 700 voices,

comprising 15 choirs from across the West Midlands reverberated the arena, led by Carol Pemberton and Black Voices, one of Europe's leading female Acapella groups.

The Royal Marines dished out a rousing trumpet fanfare, while Grammy-winning guitarist Iommi and saxophonist Soweto Kinch led a dream sequence entitled Hear my Voice, based on the title track from 2020 film Trial of the Chicago Seven, re-imagined by Birmingham-born R&B vocalists Indigo Marshall and Gambini.

Creator of acclaimed British crime drama 'Peaky Blinders', Steven Knight was the creative mastermind behind the ceremony that had more than 2,000 performers tracing

the story of the city's glorious past and present, while also reflecting the links between the 72 countries and territories in the Commonwealth Games.

The Games, set to be the biggest and most expensive sporting event in the UK since the 2012 London Olympics, have had to deal with the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It comes almost 10 years to the day since the much-acclaimed opening ceremony of the London Games.

The opening act marked the beginning of 11 days of sporting action in the city. More than 5000 athletes from 72 countries will compete in 280 events across 19 sports in 15 venues.

Lovlina stranded after leaving ceremony midway

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Olympic bronze medallist Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain was left stranded for close to an hour after deciding to leave the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony midway.

The ceremony on Thursday night went on for about two hours and Lovlina, along with another member of the Indian boxing contingent, Muhammad Hussamuddin, decided to leave early for the Games Village from the Alexander Stadium, a 30 minute drive.

"We want to train in the morning as we have a bout day after. The ceremony will go on for a while so we thought of leaving. We asked for a taxi but we were told that was not available," said Lovlina when PTI asked her why she was leaving midway.

With the ceremony still on and the duo unable to book a taxi on its own, Lovlina and Hussamuddin were left clueless on how to ride back to their accommodation.

They eventually took the first bus bound for the Village near the National Exhibition Centre.

The Indian delegation has been provided three cars by the organisers but their drivers were done for the day as the athletes and officials arrived for the opening ceremony on buses.

India's Chef de Mission Rajesh Bhandari, who happens to be the vice president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), was not pleased with the development.

"We were in the middle of the ceremony and I got to know later that she and another boxer left early. We all came in buses and taxi option was not available at that time. They shouldn't have come if they wanted to leave early.

"There were so many athletes who decided not to come as they had training or competition in the morning, which we completely understand. I will be speaking to the boxing team on this matter," said Bhandari.

A total 164 athletes and officials took part in the ceremony, which is half the Indian contingent's size. The women's cricket team members too decided to stay back in the hotel due to their opening game the following morning.

Renuka's dream spell goes in vain as India lose

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India pacer Renuka Singh's dream spell did not prove to be good enough as Australia came back from the brink to pull off a three-wicket win in the Commonwealth Games group A opener here on Friday.

The target of 155 should have been a straightforward chase but Renuka, playing only her seventh T20, broke the backbone of Australian batting with figures of four for 18 in four overs.

With Australia on the mat at 49 for 5, India should have completed the job but allowed Ashleigh Gardner (52 not out off 35 balls) to change the game in two game-changing stands of 51 and 47 with Grace Harris (37) and Alana King (18 not out) respectively.

In the end, Australia overcame the target comfortably, showing the reigning T20 and ODI world champions can win from any situation.

Gardner's countering attack innings was the one to remember as she played with the tail to knock off the runs.

The Powerplay overs belonged to Renuka who produced a brilliant



spell of fast bowling. She removed the dangerous Alyssa Healy in the first over to make the game interesting before getting rid of Beth Mooney and Australian skipper Meg Lanning.

A sharp inswinger led to the downfall of the aggressive Tahlia

McGrath, making it 34 for four with India all over their fancied opponents.

However India lost the momentum as their premier weapons -- left-arm spin twins Radha Yadav (0/42 in 4 overs) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (0/24 in 2 overs) gave

Srihari moves to semis, Sajjan & Kushagra out

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj clocked 54.68s to qualify for the semifinals of the men's 100m backstroke event of the Commonwealth Games here on Friday.

The 21-year-old from Bengaluru was the third fastest swimmer in his heat and fifth fastest overall.

If he had clocked his personal best of 53.77s he would have topped the heats. The fastest swimmer in the field was South Africa's Pieter Coetzee who clocked 53.91.

However, seasoned Sajjan Prakash and debutant Kushagra

Rawat failed to advance to the semifinal of their events respectively.

Prakash finished eighth in the heats with a timing of 25.01 men's 50m butterfly event. The best 16 athletes progressed to the semis.

Kushagra too finished last in the men's 400m freestyle event as he stopped the clock at 3:57.45s.

Both Prakash and Kushagra are still alive in the competition as they will compete in other events.

While Prakash will present his challenge in men's 100m and 200m butterfly, Kushagra will compete in men's 1500m freestyle and 200m freestyle.

Earlier, Shafali Verma (48 off 33) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's (52 off 34) stroked filled innings entertained the Edgbaston crowd but the other batters disappointed.



Indian team thrash Pakistan 5-0 in badminton opener

BIRMINGHAM: India's fancied shuttlers didn't break a sweat on way to completing a 3-0 sweep of Pakistan in their badminton campaign opener at the 22nd Commonwealth Games here on Friday.

The duo of B Sumeeth Reddy and Machimanda Ponnappa started the proceedings with a comfortable 21-9, 21-12 win over Muhammad Irfan Saeed Bhatti and Ghazala Siddique in their mixed doubles clash at the National Exhibition Centre.

Then Kidambi Srikanth picked up from where his mixed doubles colleagues left, easily getting the better of Murad Ali 21-7, 21-6 in the men's singles match.

Then, it was the turn of double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu to grab a dominant win over Mahoor Shahzad in women's singles. The champion Indian shuttler won 21-7, 21-6. In the fourth match, which was the men's doubles contest, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty got the better of Murad Ali and Muhammad Irfan Saeed Bhatti. They won 21-12, 21-9. In the concluding women's double match, India's Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand crushed Mahoor Shahzad and Ghazala Siddique 21-4, 21-5 to complete the rout on a dominant note. **PTI**

India beat Ghana 5-0 in women's hockey 1st match

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian women's hockey team defeated a lowly Ghana 5-0 to start its Commonwealth Games campaign on a winning note here on Friday.

The Savita Punia-led team was, however, far from impressive in its first Pool A game.

Gurjit Kaur (3rd, 39th minutes) scored a brace, while Neha Goyal (28th), Sangita Kumari (36th) and Salima Tete (56th) struck a field goal each for India. Even though India dominat-



ed the match in all departments, it was a lacklustre performance from them in the first two quarters as Ghana's defence produced a resolute show to frustrate their fancied opponents.

What was frustrating for India was the weak link-up between the midfield and the forwardline.

Penalty corner conversion also continued to haunt India as they made use of just one out of 10 chances.

India will next take on Wales in their second pool match on Saturday.

TT: Indian men blank Barbados, women crush SA

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India's men and women table tennis teams had easy starts to their respective campaigns with identical 3-0 victories over Barbados and South Africa in the CWG.

In a group 3 encounter against minnows Barbados, the pair of Harmeet Desai and G Sathiyam steamrolled Kevin Farley and Tyrese Knight 11-9, 11-9, 11-4 while veteran Sharath Kamal made short work of Ramon Maxwell 11-5, 11-3, 11-3 in less than 15 minutes.

Sathiyam then hardly broke a sweat before disposing off Tyrese Knight 11-4,



11-4, 11-5 to seal the tie.

In the women's event, the first on court was the doubles duo of Sreeja Akula and Reeth Tennison, who

combined well to beat the South African pair of Lailaa Edwards and Danisha Patel 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 to hand India the lead.

Indian cyclists fail to qualify for finals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian cycling's Commonwealth Games campaign began on a disappointing note with all the three teams failing to make the finals here on Friday.

The Indian men's sprint team of Ronaldo Laitonjam, Y Rojit Singh, David Beckham Elkatochoongo could not make it to the medal round, finishing sixth in the qualification with a total time of 44.702 seconds at the Lee Valley VeloPark.

The women's sprint team also did not do better than the men's side as it ended at seventh in the qualifying round with a total time of 51.433.

Then, the Indian men's 4000m pursuit team finished sixth and last in the qualification with a total time of 4:12.865 which was 23.044 second more than the leader New Zealand.



Shiva outclasses Pakistani opponent

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Ace Indian boxer Shiva Thapa outclassed Pakistan's Suleman Baloch in the first round of the 63.5kg category bout to begin his Commonwealth Games campaign on a rousing note here on Friday.

Having lived with the disappointment of not making his second successive Olympics in Tokyo last year, the former Asian champion was far superior than his taller and aggressive rival to emerge 5-0 winner in his light welter weight category.

The decision from the judges was unanimous at the NEC Arena.

The 28-year-old, who was eliminated in the pre-quarters of Glasgow 2014 in his only CWG appearance prior to these Games, will next face Reese Lynch of Scotland in the round of 16 on Sunday.

India would look to eclipse their Gold Coast's record tally of three gold, three silver and three bronze medals.

"Definitely it -- a CWG medal -- motivates me a lot. It's a very individual thing, sometimes pressure works and then you have the responsibility," Thapa said after his win.

"We are all elite athletes here, representing our country. Everyone is hoping to win a gold medal here," the five-time Asian Championships medallist added.

INDIA GO 1-0 UP IN T20I SERIES

Skipper Rohit, Dinesh Karthik and bowlers shine as Men in Blue win 1st T20I by 68 runs

PTI ■ TAROUBA

Skipper Rohit Sharma was in his element while Dinesh Karthik provided the final flourish as India scored a competitive 190 for six against the West Indies in the first T20 International here on Friday and then the bowlers produced a combined performance to restrict the hosts to 122 for 8 in their 20 overs. With an outstanding all-round show, Men in Blue won the first match by 68 runs to go 1-0 up in the five-match series.

The Indian captain who endured a barren spell in the shortest format since the IPL, has changed his game since the England T20s, and provided glimpses of his vintage self with some breathtaking shots on way to a 64 off 44 balls.

Karthik, the team's designated finisher, justified his billing with a blazing, unbeaten 19-ball 41 cameo, as 52 runs came off the last four overs in a seventh-wicket stand with Ravichandran Ashwin (13 not out).

On a track where there was slow spongy bounce, most of the top-order batters were dismissed playing poor shots, even as the skipper carried on at the other end for his 27th half-century in this format.

In the process, he reclaimed his position as the highest run-getter (3443 runs) in T20Is from Martin Gupthill (3399 runs).

His innings had seven fours and two sixes --- a lofted shot dancing down the track off Jason Holder and a short-arm pull off Alazarri Joseph.

There were some delectable boundaries too -- a back-cut, a cover drive and a deliberate glide over short third-man to enthrall a sizeable Indian crowd present at the Brian Lara Stadium.

After being put into bat, Suryakumar Yadav's elevation at the top of the order showed that coach Rahul Dravid is still looking at other options as Rohit's opening partner, despite Rishabh Pant looking comfortable as an opener.

To be fair, Surya didn't do all



that badly and he showed intent during his 16-ball 24, which included a breathtaking six -- a swivel of hips to send a rising delivery behind the square -- besides three boundaries.

But, while trying to whip left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein through mid-wicket, all Surya managed was a thick outside edge to short third man.

A lot of credit should go to Hosein, who was brought well inside the powerplay and did a bril-

liant job with figures of 1 for 14, including 14 dot balls.

It was Hosein, who didn't let Rohit tee off during that phase while Shreyas Iyer (0), Pant (14 off 12 balls) and Hardik Pandya (1) didn't get too many at the other end.

It was left to Karthik, the eternal "20-ball man", who smashed four fours and two sixes in a 360-degree display of shot-making.

WE'RE NEVER

CONSERVATIVE: ROHIT

Captain Rohit Sharma believes the new fearless approach adopted by India in the shortest format will result in occasional failures but disagrees that they were playing "conservative" cricket during last year's T20 World Cup in UAE.

Rohit said the new approach provides more freedom to players, which has yielded success after the disappointing World Cup campaign, where India were eliminat-

ed in the league stage.

"We didn't get the result from the last World Cup but that doesn't mean we played bad cricket all these years and I don't agree we were playing conservative cricket," Rohit said ahead of the five-match T20 series.

"If you lose one or two matches in the World Cup, it feels like we were doing this and that, we were not taking our chances. It's not like that. If you look at the overall games that we have played

leading into the World Cup, we won 80 per cent of our games.

"If we were conservative, how can we win so many matches? That's fine that we lost in the World Cup, didn't qualify but that happens. That doesn't mean we are playing with fear, not playing openly.

"Lately, we haven't made any changes, we are doing the same things but the players have been given some freedom to go out and play their own game. Play openly, no need to take any undue pressure, if you play freely, performances will show."

Rohit said change is the only constant and the Indian team and its fans too have to move on with time.

"There are bound to be occasional failures in the way we are playing cricket now, results will not be in our favour but there is no problem in it because we are trying to learn something and trying something different.

"So, there are scope for mistakes but that doesn't mean the boys are bad, the team is bad. It's just that we are trying to do something new. Everyone has to change with time, we are changing so I think people sitting outside also need to change their thinking."

The India skipper said the team for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia is more or less settled with only a few spots up for grabs.

"There are a few spots in the team which we need to fill and we know what we need to do fill those spots. We are trying to address these things in all these matches we are playing now."

"Every series that you play is crucial. Of course there are World Cups to look after but every series you play for India is crucial because there is something to look forward to all the time. What we achieved in England was special but that's done and we just want to look forward now."



Samson replaces KL Rahul in T20I squad

PTI ■ TAROUBA

Wicket-keeper batter Sanju Samson on Friday replaced an indisposed KL Rahul in India's T20I squad for the ongoing series against the West Indies, the BCCI said.

"KL Rahul was earlier named in the squad and his participation in the T20I series was subject to fitness. The batter tested positive for COVID-19 last week and has been advised rest by the BCCI medical team," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Sanju Samson was part of the squad in the recently concluded ODI series that the team won 3-0 and scored a half-century in the second game.

India's squad for 5 T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, R Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh.

Ponting backs struggling Smith to come out of 'indifferent' form

PTI ■ DUBAI

Two-time World Cup-winning captain Ricky Ponting has backed Steve Smith to come out of his "indifferent" form as Australia gears up for the much-anticipated tour of India early next year, saying there is nothing wrong with the star batter's technique.

Ponting reckons the opposition teams may have found ways to put brakes on Smith's free-flowing batting.

"The best way to describe it is, it (Smith's form) has been indifferent. For four or five years, he has been so incredibly consistent, making consistently high scores, making four, five or six hundreds in a Test match calendar year and he hasn't been able to do that in the last couple of years," Ponting said on 'The ICC Review'.



"I have watched him quite closely, and I don't think there is anything technically there that has changed too much."

"Opposition teams maybe have finally started to work out the way they can slow him down from scoring quickly or have found some ways to attack him and get him out," he added.

Australia will tour India in February-March next year for a five-Test series, which is part of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2021-23 cycle.

Prior to the Test matches, Australia's white-ball team will travel to India for a three-match T20I series.

And going into the tour Smith's form will be vital for Australia, who are seeking to qualify for their maiden WTC final.

While Smith has 28 Test centuries to his name, only two of those have come since the Ashes series in England in 2019 and his unbeaten 145 against Sri Lanka earlier this month was the first time he had reached triple figures since his brilliant ton against India at the start of 2021.

Smith has scored seven fifties during that span and

Ponting has backed the former skipper to get his mojo back soon.

"But knowing Steve and how well he prepares himself and how deeply he thinks about his game, I don't think it's going to be too long before you see him back there scoring heavily again."

Both India and Australia can finish among the top two in the WTC standings and reach the final.

"I think Australia's chances really hinge on the upcoming Indian tour, to be honest and India's chances are a little bit the same," Ponting said.

"It is always a much-anticipated series - Australia and India, whether it be in Australia or in India - it's much hyped up and talked about, the rivalry between the two countries is just growing year on year."

Chess Olympiad: Indian teams off to winning start

PTI ■ MAMALLAPURAM

Indian teams made winning starts in the Open and women's sections of the 44th Chess Olympiad here on Friday.

Top-seeded Indian women's A team beat Tajikistan while the B side got the better of Wales.

Both the Indian teams have taken unassailable 3-0 leads over their respective opponents.

India's star player Koneru Humpy, playing on the top board, R Vaishali and Bhakti Kulkarni secured victories to ensure a winning start.

The Indian C team too began with a win.

The three Indian teams in the men's event posted wins in the first round matches over Zimbabwe, UAE and South Sudan respectively.

The opening round of the historic Chess Olympiad was inaugurated by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur by making the first move on Indian player Vidit Gujrathi's board.



PUBLISH PHOTOS OF PRESIDENT, PM IN ADS: MADRAS HC TO TN GOVT

The Madurai bench of Madras High Court has ordered the Tamil Nadu government to ensure that photos of both President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi appear in all advertisements related to the 44th Chess Olympiad 2022, which is being organised in the

state from July 28 to August 10.

The court also called for strict action to be taken against those involved in the tampering of ads with photos of the President and Prime Minister.

The order of the High Court came after Rajesh Kumar, a resident of Sivagangai, filed a petition in the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court.

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court also said

the Prime Minister's photo should have been shown in the advertisements for the 44th Chess Olympiad being held in Tamil Nadu even if he was not in a position to attend.

In his petition, Kumar said the 44th Chess Olympiad is going to start on Thursday at Chennai's Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister is going to inaugurate this competition. The petition said the tournament, which is scheduled to run from July 28 to August 10, has been funded largely by public tax.

"This is an event that can bring pride to a country of international importance but the ruling party (in Tamil Nadu) used it as an event for their political gain. Apart from the photographs of the President of India and the Prime Minister not placed, only the photograph of Chief Minister Stalin has been placed in these advertisements," the plea said.



Rossouw & Shamsi star as SA level T20I series

AP ■ CARDIFF

Rilee Rossouw's unbeaten 96 laid the foundation for South Africa's commanding 58-run win in the second T20I against England in Cardiff on Thursday as the Proteas bounced back to level a three-match series at 1-1.

Rossouw's innings was the cornerstone of a total of 207-3, with Reeza Hendricks making 53 -- the opener's second fifty in as many days.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi then took 3-27 and all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo 3-39 and pacer Lungi Ngidi 2-11 as England, chasing 208 to win, were dismissed for 149 in the

17th over.

South Africa also held several fine catches in a vastly-improved fielding effort following a shoddy display during a 41-run defeat in Wednesday's series opener at Bristol where England posted an imposing 234-6.

"It's a great turn around from last night," said South Africa captain David Miller. "We had a few meetings this morning to clear up a few things."

England captain Jos Buttler was left to rue the fact that none of his batsmen made more than Jonny Bairstow's 30.

"A few guys got starts but didn't play that match-defining innings that Rilee did," he said.

Coach Silverwood warns Sri Lanka 'have a lot to learn'

AP ■ GALLE

Coach Chris Silverwood warned Sri Lanka that they still have "a lot to learn" and must be more ruthless despite thrashing Pakistan in the second Test in Galle.

Test revelation Prabath Jayasuriya took five wickets with his left-arm spin as the hosts thumped Pakistan by 246 runs on Thursday to level the two-match series 1-1.

Sri Lanka were a mixed bag through a month of Tests at Galle, where they also hosted top-ranked Australia and again drew the series 1-1. Silverwood, appointed in April to lead Sri Lanka having overseen England's Ashes humiliation in Australia, cautioned that his new side were "nowhere near a complete team yet."

"We still have a lot of lessons to learn and we are developing and a work in progress," the 47-year-old Englishman said.

"We have been creating opportunities, which is good, but we need to obviously seize them."

The 30-year-old newcomer



Jayasuriya was the pick of the Sri Lanka bowlers, taking his fourth five-wicket haul in just his third match, and was ably supported by fellow spinner Ramesh Mendis.

But Silverwood said he wants more from all his bowlers, and not just on turning sub-continent tracks.

"Consistency within the bowling attack, I don't want it to come in from one or two places, I want it to come from all the bowlers on a consistent basis," Silverwood said.

"I want to step up pressure on opposition teams around the world, not just on turning

tracks here, so the seamers will have their opportunity at some point to show that they can create pressure."

Jayasuriya, who only made his Test debut earlier this month, emerged as an unlikely hero for Sri Lanka with his ability to dry up the flow of runs and pick wickets at crucial junctures.

Silverwood admitted he did not know much about Jayasuriya until he made the team in the second Australia Test, following a Covid outbreak in the home camp. Sri Lanka next play a red-ball series in March when they travel to New Zealand for two Tests.

World No.5 Alcaraz racks up 40th win of the year

AP ■ UMG

Carlos Alcaraz racked up his 40th win of the year on Thursday when he defeated Norbert Gombos of Slovakia 6-2, 6-3 to begin his Umag title defence in style.

The Spaniard won his maiden title at the Croatian clay court tournament in 2021 and has returned this year as the youngest man to make the top five in the world since Rafael Nadal in 2005.

"It was a really tough match. It wasn't as easy as the result seems," said Alcaraz, who fended off seven break points against the lucky loser.

"Norbert played a really good game and the first round of every tournament is never easy, so I had to get used to the conditions. It was tough for me, but at the end I found a way to play better and get the win."

Alcaraz, who is now 25-3 on clay this season, will face Argentina's Facundo Bagnis on Friday for a place in the semi-finals.

Sriram leaves Oz coaching job to focus on RCB role



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former India all-rounder Sridharan Sriram has decided to end his tenure as Australia's spin bowling coach to focus on his role with IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The development comes ahead of Australia's tour of India next year.

Sriram, who played eight ODIs between 2000 and 2004, has been part of the Australian coaching set up since 2015.

He was a part of the Australia A program on an Indian tour before being appointed as spin bowling coach under the then head coach Darren Lehmann in 2016.

"After being on the road for

six years it's with a heavy heart I have decided to move on from my current role as an assistant coach of the Australian men's team," Sriram said in a statement.

"I feel this is an opportune moment keeping in mind the team, giving them enough time to prepare for two World Cups and the World Test Championship. It has been a great experience for me working across formats, World Cups and Ashes and I have come out incredibly richer in knowledge."

But cricket.Com.Au reported that Sriram left the job to focus on his IPL job.

"The 46-year-old Sriram has elected to focus on his coaching with the Royal Challengers Bangalore and spending more time with family at home in Chennai where he is based," cricket.Com.Au said.

During his time with the Australian team, Sriram has closely worked with the likes of Nathan Lyon, Adam Zampa, Mitchell Swepson, Glenn Maxwell.

He had famously helped Steve O'Keefe return with extraordinary figures of 12/70 in the 2017 Pune Test.