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AGNIPATH SCHEME IS
GOVT'S TRIAL BY FIRE

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UKRAINIANS CHEER NATION'S EU
CANDIDACY AMID WARTIME

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY GAIN FOR 2ND DAY
AMID FIRM GLOBAL TRENDS

CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹2

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4 WICKETS
12 SPORTLEGAL BATTLE AWAITS
CONFIDENT REBEL CAMPSena rebels to go to court if Dy
Speaker disqualifies 12 MLAsTN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

Having lobbed the ball into Maharashtra's Deputy Speaker Narhari Sitaram Zirwal's court in their own tactful ways, the rebel Eknath Shinde camp and the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents on Friday prepared themselves to play an active part in the procedural tangles that will unfold in the run-up to the confidence vote that the Uddhav dispensation may seek sometime next week.

Deputy Speaker Zhirwal, who has been acting as the Assembly Speaker since February 2021 in the absence of a full-fledged speaker, will have a tough task on hand in dealing with the claims and counter-claims to be made by the Shinde camp and the MVA Government.

Given the complex nature of the emerging situation and the ramifications of the anti-defection law that will come into play in the coming days, the matters relating to the possible disqualifications of MLAs may land in courts, leading to the delay in the resolution of the current political crisis in Maharashtra.

Taking the first step, Deputy Speaker Narhari recognised the decision taken by the parent Shiv Sena Legislature Party (SSLP) on June 21 sacking the rebel Sena leader and Minister Shinde as the Sena

group leader in the State Assembly and replacing him with its senior party functionary Ajay Choudhury.

The recognition of the parent Sena leadership's decision to appoint Choudhary as the new SSLP leader in place of Shinde means that the Deputy Speaker has a strong reason to believe that the parent has enough numbers to act in a manner it has done.

The chair's ruling allowing the appointment of Choudhary as the new SSLP leader has ticked off the rebel Shinde camp, which is preparing to challenge the deputy speaker's order in the Bombay High Court on Saturday morning.

On its part, the rebel Sena camp on Thursday submitted a fresh letter to the Deputy Speaker that 37 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs camping in Guwahati (which is more than the requisite two-third strength i.e., 36 MLAs out of total 55 Sena MLAs in the State Assembly) reaffirming that Shinde would continue as the Sena group leader in the State Assembly. Till Friday evening, the Deputy Speaker had not accepted the claim that the Shinde camp enjoyed the support of 37 Sena MLAs.

If the Deputy Speaker accepts the rebel Sena camp's claim that Shinde enjoys the support of 37 out of the total 55 Sena MLAs in the Assembly and declares him as the Sena legislature party leader, the



parent party will be as good as over. Because, the Shinde faction — if it has two-thirds of the parent party's strength in the Assembly — can merge with another party or become a separate group in the House without attracting penal provisions of the anti-defection law.

On the other hand, the parent Sena party is hoping against hope that the Deputy Speaker will disqualify 12 MLAs, including Eknath Shinde, for allegedly violating the party whip, based on a written request made to that effect by the parent Sena's new SSLP leader Ajay Choudhury on Thursday.

If the Deputy Speaker disqualifies 12 Sena rebel MLAs, including Shinde, the development will result in the rebel Sena camp — the strength of which will be reduced to 25 Sena MLAs against the earlier 37 MLAs — attracting action under the anti-defection law.

If such development takes place, the 12 disqualified Sena rebel MLAs will not be able to take part in the confidence vote to be sought by the Thackeray dispensation. It remains to be seen if the remaining 25 Sena rebel MLAs will vote against the confidence vote and if yes, whether they will face action under the anti-defection law.

Till the confidence vote is over, the Deputy Speaker will deal with all matters relating to the strength of the ruling MVA — comprising Shiv Sena (55) NCP (53), and Congress (44) — that had collective strength of 152 MLAs on paper till the Shinde-led rebellion rocked the Shiv Sena on June 21. However, after the confidence vote is decided, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari will take control of the situation.

Governor Koshyari, who was admitted to the Reliance Foundation Hospital on Wednesday after he tested pos-

itive for Covid-19, will remain in hospital for some more days.

It remains to be seen if Koshyari, despite being in hospital, will intervene in matters which come under the domain of the Deputy Speaker.

Meanwhile, all the three MVA constituents — Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — are rooting for Uddhav Thackeray seeking a confidence vote on the floor of the Assembly.

On Thursday, NCP chief Sharad Pawar — who is the architect of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government, said that the floor test was the only way to resolve the current political crisis. He expressed optimism that the MVA dispensation would survive the current crisis facing the Shiv Sena. "Let the MLAs come back from Guwahati. The situation will change drastically. The MVA Government will survive the floor test in the State Assembly," Pawar said.

J&K to host G-20 leaders;
diplomatic win post Art 370UT has set up
5-member high
level panel for
first ever G-20
meet in IndiaMOHIT KANDHARI ■
JAMMU

Come 2023, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will be extending a red carpet welcome to the G-20 leaders, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.

This major development is already seen as a major diplomatic victory for India especially after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

India has been a member of G-20 since its inception in 1999. New Delhi will be holding the G-20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 and will convene the G-20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

World leaders of G-20 member nations — the United States, Russia, China, Germany, France, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, and the United Kingdom — are expected to attend the meeting.

G-20 brings together 19 of



the world's leading economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the global population.

The UT administration is scheduled to host the world leaders in Kashmir valley. To facilitate the meeting, the UT administration has already constituted a five-member high level committee for overall coordination.

In September last year, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G-20. The Ministry of External Affairs had said that India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and will convene the G-20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.

According to an official

order issued here on Thursday, the Union Territory's housing and urban development department principal secretary will be the chairman of the committee which was formed in response to a June 4 communication from the Ministry of External Affairs. "Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a committee...for overall coordination of G-20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory of J&K," said the order issued by Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi. The members of the committee include Commissioner Secretary (Transport), Administrative Secretary (Tourism), Administrative Secretary (Hospitality and Protocol) and Administrative Secretary (Culture).

SC rejects Jafri's
plea against SIT's
clean chit to ModiPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Upholding the SIT's clean chit to Narendra Modi in Gujarat riots of 2002, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Zakia Jafri's petition alleging conspiracy at the highest level, observing that these are attempts to "keep the pot boiling" for years and abuse of process with ulterior design.

Bringing the curtains down on the bid to reopen the probe, a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said the material collected during the investigation did not "give rise to strong or grave suspicion regarding hatching of larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level" for causing mass violence against Muslims.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar termed the petition of Congress MP Ehsan Jafri's widow as "the devious stratagem to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design" and said all those involved in "such abuse of process need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law". The court said

the present proceedings (by Zakia Jafri) have been pursued for the last 16 years with the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary involved in the process.

The apex court also said that disgruntled officers of the Gujarat Government need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law for creating a sensation by making false revelations on the 2002 riots. The top court also said it finds force in the argument of the State that the testimony of Sanjiv Bhatt (then IPS officer and now in jail for custodial torture) and RB Sreekumar (now retired IPS officer) was only to sensationalise and politicise the matters in issue, "although, replete with falsehood".

"At the end of the day, it appears to us that a coalesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create a sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge. The falsity of their claims had been fully exposed by the SIT after a thorough investigation," said the apex court.

SC upholds
death to minor
divyang's rapistPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sent to gallows a man for kidnapping, raping, and killing a seven-and-half-year-old mentally and physically challenged girl in 2013, saying the crime was of the nature of "extreme depravity which shocks the conscience" and left "no other option but to confirm the death sentence".

The apex court upheld the death sentence given by the Rajasthan High Court to convict Manoj Pratap Singh

"We may sum up thus: In the case of the present nature, the crime had been of extreme depravity, which shocks the conscience, particularly looking to the target (a seven-and-a-half-year old mentally and physically challenged girl) and then, looking to the manner of committing murder, where the hapless victim's head was literally smashed, resulting in multiple injuries, including a fracture of frontal bone..." said a bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar.

Condemned convict Manoj Pratap Singh, then 28 years of age, had kidnapped the physically and mentally challenged minor girl in front of her parents from their fruit and vegetable vending cart on January 17, 2013, brutally raped her at a secluded place before killing her by smashing the head in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan.

The bench rejected the contention that in the case, hinging on circumstantial evidence, the death penalty should not be awarded saying that if the conviction can be sustained on such proof then the extreme penalty can also be imposed depending on the nature of the offence.

"In the present case, where all the elements surrounding the offence as also all the elements surrounding the offender cut across the balance sheet of aggravating and mitigating circumstances, we are clearly of the view that there is absolutely no reason to commute the sentence of death to any other sentence of lesser degree," Justice Maheshwari said.

Shinde's U-turn:
No national party
in touch with us

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after claiming that a "powerful national party" was supporting his group of MLAs in the ongoing political drama in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde on Friday said no national party is in contact with them.

Asked if BJP was backing his group, Shinde told a TV channel, "When I said a big power is backing us, I meant the power of Balasaheb Thackeray and (late Shiv Sena leader) Anand Dighe."

Responding to a query on when will the political crisis in Maharashtra end, Shinde, a minister in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Government in the state, said things will be clear after some time. "Out of 55 Shiv Sena MLAs, 40 have come with me to Guwahati. In a democracy, the majority and numbers count," he said.



NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu files her nomination papers for presidential election in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and BJP president JP Nadda at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

Daily Covid count shoots up
to 4-month high to over 17KPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India on Friday reported a single-day count of over 17,000 fresh Covid-19 cases after a gap of over four months (124 days), recording a 30 per cent jump in daily cases.

A total 17,336 coronavirus cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, taking the total infection tally to 4,33,62,294, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 5,24,954 with 13 new fatalities being reported, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The national Capital recorded 1,447 new Covid cases and one more death on

Friday, while the positivity rate dropped to 5.98 per cent. These fresh cases were recorded out of 24,203 tests conducted the previous day. The infection tally in Delhi has risen to 19,28,841 and the death toll stands at 26,243.

Delhi had recorded 1,934 Covid cases and zero death on Thursday, while the positivity rate had stood 8.10 per cent.

Fresh cases dropped slightly from 858 cases on Thursday to 816 cases on Friday in Karnataka. At the national level, the daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.32 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 3.07 per cent, according to the Health

Ministry.

The count of active cases has increased to 88,284, comprising 0.20 per cent of the

total infections, while Covid-19 recovery rate at the national level was recorded at 98.59 per cent, it said.



States can ban abortion, rules US SC

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Supreme Court has ended Constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday's outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the States.

The ruling is the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by 3 picks of former President Donald Trump.

It puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls. The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step. See P9



A celebration outside the US Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years

AP

PUNJAB BUDGET SESSION:Opposition parties target govt on law and order

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Pandemonium prevailed in Punjab Vidhan Sabha on the first day of the budget session with opposition parties targeting the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the issue of deteriorating law and order, especially the brutal broad daylight killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

The leaders of the main opposition party, Congress, were joined by leaders of other opposition parties in protesting against the treasury benches over the issues. Later, Congress and the BJP staged a walkout.

Categorically blaming the AAP Government for Moosewala's murder, the members of the Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal maintained that despite having intelligence inputs, singer's security was downgraded, and the same information was also made public, after which Moosewala was killed.

The pandemonium that ensued started at the onset of the Zero Hour when the Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan rejected the Congress' "adjournment motion" seeking a discussion on law and order, pointing that it could not be allowed as the matter was "subjudice".

Questioning the grounds on which the Congress' adjournment motion was rejected, the Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa asked the Speaker as to how

could the entire law and order be "subjudice" and demanded that the adjournment motion be allowed as the issue was of grave concern to the state.

"The Speaker has written to us that the adjournment motion is disallowed as the issue is subjudice. How can the entire law and order issue be sub-judice, one or two or few cases may be sub-judice," argued Bajwa. Citing Moosewala's killing to point out that there has been many incidents to show that the law and order situation is bad, Bajwa insisted the Speaker to fix time and allow a discussion on the adjournment motion.

Responding, the Speaker Sandhwan said that ample time will be given to the members during the budget session at an appropriate time.

Congress MLAs also staged a protest in the well of the House when they were not allowed to raise the "burning issues" during the Zero Hour. Congress MLAs were also joined by the BJP, Shiromani Akali Dal, and lone Bahujan Samaj Party members, and raised slogans against the Speaker. While the BJP joined Congress in the walkout, the SAD and BSP stayed back.

Later, Bajwa also sought a clarification from the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on his video statement that his life was in danger.

"Can there be anything more important if the head of a state says that his life is in danger. We are very concerned. I would not have sought this discussion on the law and

order situation had the Chief Minister not said in a video that his life was in danger. If the life of the state's Chief Minister is not safe, it says a lot about the state of affairs," said Bajwa.

He added that not only politicians, but traders and businessmen were also getting threat calls. "What kind of situation is this? Our former Deputy Chief Minister OP Soni has also received threat calls. It is a serious matter," Bajwa pointed out.

Amidst sloganeering, Bajwa demanded that Mann make a statement in the House on the issue.

Seconding Bajwa, Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira said that businessmen too were getting threat calls. "Bajwa's concerns are not unfounded...especially after the CM claimed his life was in danger," he said.

Later, the Speaker said that the Chief Minister will respond to this on Saturday.

Speaker also asked Bajwa, being a senior and experienced member, to ensure that all Congress leaders cooperate and ensure that the proceedings be held peacefully. Responding, Bajwa said: "What good will the experience be if I am shot in the evening...Everyone's life is important, we are concerned about the safety of all."

MLAs BLAME GOVT FOR MOOSEWALA KILLING

MLAs, cutting across party lines, blamed the AAP

Government for Moosewala's killing. Congress MLA and Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring pointed that the Intelligence Bureau (IB) alert came a year ago, where he was described having "highest threat", and the Congress Government had given him 10 commandos. "Then gangster Shahrulkh also said that he had gone to kill Moosewala, but returned after seeing the security. And when AAP Government came, his security was reduced from 10 to four commandos first, and then only two gunmen were left with them. And then, the same was made public for everyone to know," he added.

Partap Bajwa said that Delhi Police Special Cell had also alerted the Punjab Police that a conspiracy was being hatched to kill Moosewala, but his security was reduced. "This was a big mistake, and they must admit this. The outcome to make public the information regarding pruning Moosewala's security is his murder. Why his security was reduced?" he asked.

SAD MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali also blamed the government for Moosewala's murder, adding that singer's security was reduced and then it was made public.

AAP BLAMES PREVIOUS GOVTS TO PATRONISE GANGSTERS

Moving the motion of thanks and initiating discussion on the Governor's

Address, AAP senior leader Aman Arora took on the previous regimes for allegedly patronising the gangsters.

Referring to opposition having raked up the law and order issue, Arora said that it needs to be seen from a wider perspective. The three-month-old Bhagwant Mann-led Government was doing its best to set right the wrongs done in the past, he said.

Intervening in the discussion, Congress' Warring said that Moosewala and many others' security was curtailed and the details were made public. "This murder could have been prevented if the threat, which he was already facing, taken seriously by the government," he said.

"During the past 90 days, 70 lives have been lost, that is why we are saying detailed discussion on law and order is needed, he added.

Arora said that according to the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of heinous crimes in the state have come down this year. Taking part in the discussion on the Governor's Address, Bajwa said that Punjab has passed through difficult times in 1980s and 1990s. "We need to take law and order issue seriously," said Bajwa.

Referring to Punjab Police investigations in the Moosewala killing case, Bajwa questioned "how had (gangster) Lawrence Bishnoi (the alleged mastermind in the case) used mobile phone in the Tihar jail."

House paid tributes to Moosewala, others

Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Friday paid tributes to globally-renowned Punjabi singer-cum-politician Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popular as Sidhu Moosewala, who was shot dead in Mansa on May 29.The House observed a two-minute silence on the occasion.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led the Vidhan Sabha in paying tribute to eminent personalities, freedom fighters, political personalities and noted Punjab Singer.

The House, in its obituary references, also paid tributes to former ministers Hardeepinder Singh Badal and SAD leader Tota Singh. Others who were paid tributes included Arjuna a w a r d e e s Gurcharan Singh Bhangu and Hari Chand. The House remembered freedom fighters, including Tara Singh, Swaran Singh, Karora Singh and Sukhraj Singh Sandhawalia.

Tributes were also paid to former MLAs, including Sukhdev Singh Sukhladhi and Shingara Ram Sahungra.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Jaikishan Rori urged the Speaker to include the name of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) vice-president Surinder Singh in the obituary references. Congress member Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal suggested that farmers who committed suicides should also be paid tributes.

Sangrur bypoll sees lowest poll percentage in 3 decades

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency witnessed just 45.30 per cent voter turnout during bypoll on Thursday — lowest after three decades. Before this, Sangrur constituency had witnessed the lowest polling percentage of just 10.9 per cent in 1991 parliamentary polls when terrorism was at its peak in Punjab.

In rural areas, the authorities attributed low turnout to paddy transplantation; but they failed to give any specific reason for the same in urban areas. Till Thursday evening (5 pm), the figure stood at 36.04 per cent. The final figure of 45.30 per cent was released by the office of Punjab Chief Electoral Office (CEO) on Friday, which also claimed that no incidence of violence took place during the byelection.

Opponents have blamed the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for the low turnout accusing it of letting down the electorates by not fulfilling the big promises like providing Rs 1000 to all 18-plus women per month, free electricity, among others. On the other hand, AAP claimed that the poor turnout was because of heat and ongoing paddy transplantation season. Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said that the people are unhappy with the government, as those who voted for AAP, are now upset to see it not fulfilling its promises. Sharing the same views, Punjab BJP president Ashwani Kumar said that AAP failed to fulfill its election promises. "There was great enthusiasm among the people when they voted for AAP in

February. But now they are disappointed to see AAP government's performance and thus did not vote at all," he said.

The electorate of Sangrur have always voted enthusiastically in the past. However, the lowest polling percentage since 1991 has baffled many. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Sangrur recorded the voter turnout of 72.44 percent, while constituency's poll percentage was 77.21 percent in 2014 general elections. In 2009 polls, the polling percentage was 74.41 percent, 61.6 per cent in 2004, 56.1 per cent in 1999, 60.1 per cent in 1998 polls, and 62.2 per cent in 1996.

In fact, in the February 20 assembly polls, all nine segments under Sangrur Lok Sabha seat witnessed polling percentage of more than 70 percent.

Sangrur has been AAP's stronghold, especially that of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who won the seat for two consecutive terms — in 2014 and 2019. In fact, Dhuri assembly segment, from where Mann has been elected in elections about four months ago, also falls under Sangrur parliamentary seat. In its first assembly polls in Punjab in 2017, party could win only 20 seats in Punjab but five of these were from Sangrur — Dirba, Sunam, Barnala, Mehal Kalan, Bhadaur. In all, nine assembly seats come under Sangrur Lok Sabha seat — Lehragaga, Dirba, Sunam, Dhuri, Sangrur (in Sangrur district), Malerkotla (in Malerkotla district), Barnala, Bhadaur, and Mehal Kalan (in Barnala district). All were won by AAP in state assembly polls in February this year.

Centre assures Haryana to fulfill State's requirement of IAS officers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday met the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel and Public Grievances, Jitendra Singh, in New Delhi and discussed a wide range of issues, including the shortage of officers in the State. During the meeting, in-depth discussions were held regarding Haryana's present and future requirement of IAS officers. The Center has assured Haryana to fulfill the State's requirement of adequate number of

higher officers of the Indian Administrative Service and the relevant personnel requirements.

Khattar apprised the Union Minister of State about the requirements of adequate number of present and future IAS officers for the efficient working of various departments. Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, S Radha Chauhan and Additional Chief Secretary, Haryana Personnel and Training Department, Deepti Umashankar were present in the meeting.

Punjab to table white paper on state finances during ongoing session

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) – led Punjab Government is all set to table the white paper on the state's finances during the ongoing budget session of the Vidhan Sabha, which began on Friday. The State Council of Ministers, in its meeting on Friday, gave its nod for tabling the same.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who took to Twitter to announce the decision, said: "How Punjab's treasury was misused by previous governments...How Punjab became debt-ridden...White paper will be brought on the total account...We will also present it in the Vidhan Sabha...The decision has been approved today in the Cabinet meeting...Every penny of the Punjabis will be accounted for."

The government's spokesperson said that the 'White Paper' on the state's finances in an attempt to simplify the complex issues being faced by the Punjab Government and clearly apprising the common man of the present situation inherited by the incumbent Government.

The white paper primarily contains four chapters that bring out historic patterns and present status of financial indicators, debt position, and financial health of the state PSUs. It will also comment upon the possible way forward for the resurgence of the state's fiscal health.

Apart from the white paper, the Cabinet also cleared the tabling of the Budget estimates for the year 2022-23 in the ongoing budget session of the Vidhan Sabha. "The budget estimates have been prepared meticulously after due consultation with all the stakeholders including common citizens and others who gave their suggestions through emails, letters, and direct communication," said the government statement. It added that the Budget proposals have incorporated all relevant fiscal indicators such as Revenue Receipts, Capital Receipts, Revenue Expenditure, Capital Expenditure, Revenue Deficit, Fiscal Deficit, and Outstanding debt. The Cabinet also accorded a green signal for amending

■ The government's spokesperson said that the 'White Paper' on the state's finances in an attempt to simplify the complex issues being faced by the Punjab Government and clearly apprising the common man of the present situation inherited by the incumbent Government.

■ The white paper primarily contains four chapters that bring out historic patterns and present status of financial indicators, debt position, and financial health of the state PSUs.

Section 4 in sub-section 2 for clause (a) of the Punjab Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

The amendment will help in availing the benefit of Normal Net Borrowing ceiling of 3.5 percent of the projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), extra borrowing ceiling equivalent to contribution under National Pension Scheme (NPS), carrying forward its unutilized borrowing out of the borrowing ceiling allowed for the previous years, and availing 50-year interest-free loan under scheme for special assistance to states for Capital Investment for 2022-23 during the current fiscal. The Cabinet also cleared tabling CAG Audit Reports for the year 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21, Performance Audit of Efficacy of Implementation of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act 1992 (April 2015 - March 2020), Performance Audit of Direct Benefit Transfer (Cash Transfer) (April 2017 to July 2020), Annual Technical Inspection Report on Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies for period April 2016 to March 2019, Performance Audit of Outcomes of Higher Education in Punjab (April 2015 to March 2020) and Finance Accounts, Appropriation Accounts for year 2019-20 and 2020-21 of Punjab government before Punjab Vidhan Sabha in the current session.

RIGHT TO BUSINESS RULES AMENDED TO FACILITATE EXPANSION BY EXISTING INDUSTRIAL

UNITS

To give further fillip to industrial development in the state, the Cabinet gave nod for amending the Punjab Right to Business Rules-2020 to include expansion by existing units under the purview of the Punjab Right to Business Act, 2020.

Spokesperson said that the new amendment in the Act will provide an enabling ecosystem for self-declaration, exemptions; expedite approvals and inspections for existing MSMEs too, for expanding and operating in the state.


810 POSTS CREATED FOR SUBORDINATE COURTS


To help in setting up of new courts in the state thereby facilitating people by expeditiously disposing off pending court cases in the subordinate courts, the Cabinet accorded approval for creating 810 posts for subordinate courts of the state including posts of 25 Additional District and Sessions Judges, and 80 Civil Judges (Junior Division)-cum-Judicial Magistrates including posts of the supporting staff. The creation of these new posts will also create new employment opportunities for the youth besides strengthening the judiciary system in the state, added the spokesperson.

NOD TO AMEND PUNJAB AGRI PRODUCE MARKETS ACT

The Cabinet also accorded approval to amend Section 12 of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act-1961 for making provision to appoint administrators by superseding existing nominated Market Committees.

As per the decision, the State Government will appoint administrators in place of dissolved Market Committees, who shall exercise powers and perform duties of Market Committees for a period of one year or till the nomination of new Market Committees, whichever is earlier. At present, there are 156 Market Committees in the state with nominated Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members.





Punjab Government

led by

Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann


pays glowing tributes to the

Legendary Sikh General

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji

on his

306th Martyrdom Anniversary



Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Droupadi Murmu files nomination papers

PM along with top leadership of NDA hand over her papers to officer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Momentum for the July 18 Presidential election picked up on Friday as BJP-led NDA's nominee Droupadi Murmu filed her nomination papers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the set of papers to Returning Officer P C Mody. Murmu, 64, was also accompanied by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Piyush Goyal. BJP president J P Nadda and several chief ministers including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Manohar Lal Khattar, B S Bommai, Bhupendra Patel, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Pramod Sawant and N Biren Singh were also present..

Every set of presidential nominations has to have 50 proposers and 50 seconders among elected representatives. Besides the NDA leaders, YSR Congress V Vijaysai Reddy and BJD leader Sasmit Patra, who are not part of the alliance, were also in Parliament to support her nomination. AIADMK leader O Paneerselvam and M Thambidurai, JD-U's Rajiv Ranjan Singh were also present on the occasion.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), a tribal party, which until now is supporting the Joint-opposition-consensus candidate and former Minister in the Vajpayee gov-



ernment Yashwant Sinha, is also likely to "review" its stand and back the NDA's 'Santhanl' leader from Odisha, sources said. NDA's nomination of a tribal leader has put JMM in a spot.

Murmu, the former governor of Jharkhand, if elected, will be the first tribal president and the second woman in the post. She will also be the youngest president ever, second only to N Sanjeeva Reddy, who was a few days older to her when he became the President.

Pratibha Patil became the first woman president of India in 2007 under the Congress-led-UPA government. Meanwhile, Murmu on Friday called up key opposition leaders, including Congress chief Sonia Gandhi,

NCP's Sharad Pawar and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and sought their support for her candidature. All the three leaders expressed their best wishes to her, sources said. The counting of votes will take place on July 21.

Murmu, the NDA candidate is expected to clinch the post in her contest against Sinha with ease thanks to additional support from regional parties like BJD, JDU and YSR Congress.

The president is elected by members of electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of all states including national capital territory of Delhi and Union territory of Puducherry.

Energy security understood by all nations: Kwatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is procuring crude oil from Russia to ensure its national energy security and this position is well understood by many countries, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said here on Friday.

His assertion came days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelling to Germany to take part in the G-7 summit on June 26-27. The ongoing military action by Russia in Ukraine is likely to come up during the deliberations.

Many western nations have imposed sanctions against Russia. Kwatra justified India's position while replying to a question on what will be India's approach if New Delhi faces criticism during the upcoming



G-7 summit for its procurement of Russian crude oil. The Foreign Secretary said India's consideration for crude oil purchases has been very well understood by the global community. "India's consideration for crude oil purchases is very well understood. It is appreciated across the countries. I do not see that as any point of assuming any pressure," the Foreign Secretary

said. Kwatra also said "whatever are the trading arrangements that India puts in place with regard to the purchase of crude oil all over the world is determined purely by the consideration of energy security in India." Modi will visit the Alpine castle of Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 to attend the annual summit of G7 countries.

From Germany, Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates(UAE) on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation.

Giving details of the Prime Minister's schedule at a media briefing, Kwatra said India's regular participation at G-7 summits clearly points to increasing acceptance of the

country's role to find a solution to solve key global challenges. The Foreign Secretary said Russia-Ukraine situation has generated food security crisis over the world.

India has taken a proactive stance that food security of vulnerable countries is addressed and India's food security is also not impacted. There has been an appreciation of India's position.

On the Prime Minister's visit to the UAE on way back to India, Kwatra said India and UAE relations are dynamic, robust and widespread. "Energy security is an important pillar of our relations. People-to-people connect is another aspect.

Security, environment, education and investment are other areas of discussion between the two countries," he

said. The Foreign Secretary said Modi's visit to the UAE will focus on two main issues. Firstly to pay condolences on the passing away of former UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Secondly, to congratulate Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for becoming President of the UAE.

On the issue of controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammad leading to protests in many Gulf countries, Kwatra said almost all Middle East countries have an understanding of India's position.

"We have communicated our stand on various platforms. I do not think that will be taken forward anymore," he added. Modi is visiting the country for the first time after the controversy.

IAF starts recruitment process under Agnipath scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The IAF on Friday started the recruitment process under the recently announced Agnipath scheme. The Army had started the process earlier this week while the Navy will commence the recruitment this weekend.

"Registration window to apply for #Agniveervayu is operational from 10 am today," the IAF said on Twitter.

The candidates will have to register online and then clear an online examination. Those successful will then undergo physical fitness and medical tests for final selection. The Navy also follows same system. So far more than 4,000 aspirants had registered for the IAF

examination, sources said.

The Agnipath scheme to recruit jawans to be known as Agniveers on contractual basis was rolled out on June 14. It led to mass protests in many parts of the country.

The government, however, ruled out rolling it back and termed the scheme as "transformative" to ensure youthful profile and technology savvy armed forces to fight modern day war. Unveiling the Agnipath scheme, the government had said aspirants between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years will be inducted for a four-year tenure.

After completion of this stint, 25 per cent of them will be selected for regular service of 15 years or more with full pension benefits. Several parts of

the country witnessed violent protests against the scheme. A number of opposition parties and military experts had slammed the scheme, contending it will adversely impact the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

The government had on June 16 increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the scheme to 23 years from 21 for the year 2022 as a one time waiver. It said the decision was taken as recruitment was put on hold for the last two years due to the corona pandemic.

The Army has said the new scheme will ensure a youthful profile of the defence forces and result in reduction of the average age of soldiers from 32 to 26 years over a period of time.

Won't take coercive action against Karti, ED tells HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday orally assured the Delhi High Court that no coercive action will be taken against Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram till July 12, when his anticipatory bail plea in the alleged Chinese Visas scam will be taken up for hearing.

Justice Jasmeet Singh also asked the ED to file a status report on the matter before the next date of hearing.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the ED, orally assured the court that nothing will happen till July 12, next hearing.

"I will not make a statement but it is understood that nothing will happen till then.

My understanding is only till the 12th (of July)," he said, adding that there is no apprehension of the arrest. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Karti, urged the court to grant interim protection from arrest to Karti till the next date of hearing.

Karti had approached the High Court after his anticipatory bail plea and that of two others was dismissed by the trial court on June 3 on the ground that the offence was of a very serious nature.

Following CBI's FIR, the ED registered the money laundering case against Karti and others in the alleged scam pertaining to the issuance of a visa to 263 Chinese nationals in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Home Minister.

5 newly-elected MPs take oath in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday administered oath to five newly-elected MPs from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. The oath was administered in Rajya Sabha chamber in Parliament House.

Those who took oath are Niranjan Reddy Sirgapor and Ryaga Krishnaiah (both of YSRCP) from Andhra Pradesh, Damodar Rao Divakonda and B Parthasaradhi Reddy (both of TRS) from Telangana and Niranjan Bishi (of BJD) from Odisha.

While Krishnaiah, Divakonda and Reddy took oath in Telugu, Sirgapor did so in English. Bishi has been elected to Rajya Sabha in bypoll to fill casual vacancy caused in Rajya Sabha due to resignation of Subhash Chandra Singh. He took oath in Oriya. Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and External Affairs V Muralaeddharan, Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha P C Mody and other senior officers of Rajya Sabha Secretariat were present.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

SC upholds SIT clean chit on Guj riots: Thakur, other BJP leaders say 'Satyamev Jayate'

The BJP in unison chanted "Satyamev Jayate" after the Supreme Court on Friday upheld the Special investigation (SIT)'s clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the Gujarat riots of 2002, when he was the State's Chief Minister, and dismissed a plea by slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia alleging a larger conspiracy.

Welcoming the judgment, BJP leader and Union minister Anurag Thakur said, "Satyamev Jayate! Similar was the response of other party leaders who tweeted soon after the Supreme Court delivered the judgment.

"Satyamev Jayate," (Truth alone triumphs) was how another Union minister Smriti Irani also put it while party spokesperson Sambit Patra also tweeted the same expression. Describing the apex court's judgment as a "befitting reply to Modi haters", BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala also said "The



truth always prevails. The magistrate had accepted the SIT closure report, it was upheld by the Gujarat High Court and upheld by the Supreme Court as well.

There is a cottage industry of Modi haters. They went to the extent of defaming Gujarat, defaming India, and today these people have got a resounding and befitting reply from the Supreme Court."

Another BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "The honourable Supreme court has given a verdict of great importance to everyone. And it shows that though justice has been delayed, it has not been denied. We welcome the judgement."

Tapan Kumar Deka appointed IB Director

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday appointed Sri Lanka and Indo-China border expert Tapan Kumar Deka as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and granted yet another one-year extension to Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing Samant Kumar Goel.

Deka, who has extensively handled operations wing of the agency was put in charge of the counter-terror assaults during the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

Deka will have a tenure of two years, according to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry. He is a



1988-batch officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He takes over from Arvinda Kumar, who will demit his office on June 30 after exhausting his one-year extension last year. The fate of A S Rajan, a 1987 batch IPS officer, Special



Director in IB, whom Deka has superseded was not known yet. He is retiring in February next year. The other Special Director Swagat Das was shifted on Thursday and posted as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home

Ministry. The tenure of Samant Goel, who has been heading the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been extended by one more year, the ministry said in another order.

With this, Goel is the third R&AW chief who has got a tenure of more than three years. Earlier R N Kao, the founder chief of RAW served the agency for nine years followed by N F Suptnook who was at the helm of affairs for six years. Deka, considered to be an expert on the affairs of operations, especially in Kashmir as well as the Northeast, currently heads the operations wing of the IB, which he has

been serving for over two decades. He has a vast experience about terrorists and Islamic radicalisation in the country and had led the operations against the terror group Indian Mujahideen, which created mayhem through a series of bombings and other subversive activities across India in the 2000s.

Deka, who hails from Assam, was personally sent by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to his home State to handle the volatile situation that arose following the large-scale violence that rocked Assam after the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019.

Parameswaran Iyer picked as CEO of Niti Aayog

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday appointed former Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer, who spearheaded the Swachh Bharat Mission, as the CEO of Niti Aayog.

He will replace Amitabh Kant, who will demit office on June 30. Iyer has been appointed for two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, said an order of the Personnel ministry.

According to the order, Iyer's appointment has been

made on the same terms and conditions as were applicable for Kant.

A 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Iyer is a well-known sanitation specialist, and best known for spearheading Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government's flagship scheme Swachh Bharat Mission between 2016 and 2020.

Iyer had taken voluntary retirement from the Indian Administrative Service in 2009. He had also worked as a senior rural water sanitation specialist at the United

Nations. Outgoing Niti Aayog CEO Kant played a key role in Niti Aayog's policy making, with a focus on digital India, asset monetisation, disinvestment, aspirational districts programme and electric vehicles, among others.

He was appointed as the CEO of Niti Aayog on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. Kant was later given an extension till June 30, 2019. His term was further extended for two years till June 2021, and then another one-year extension was given till June 30 this year

India assures support to Afghans amid crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday assured Afghanistan that it stood in solidarity with the Afghan people in the aftermath of the recent earthquake there, which killed more than 1,000 people. This message was conveyed after New Delhi sent 27 tons of relief material on Thursday and Friday to Kabul as a "first true responder."

India also sent a technical team to Kabul on Thursday to oversee humanitarian assistance to the strife torn country. The team is stationed at the Indian embassy there signalling that it may start functioning soon. The embassy was closed in August last year after the Taliban took control

of the country. The Taliban regime on Friday welcomed the move to station an Indian team in its embassy and said it "shows that a safe environment has been created in Afghanistan and all political and diplomatic rights are respected"

Abdul Qahar Balkhi, Taliban spokesperson, in tweets said: "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan welcomes India's decision to once again send a delegation of diplomats and a working team to its embassy in Kabul and wishes to continue its engagement and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people."

"The arrival of Indian diplomats in Afghanistan and the reactivation of the embassy shows that a safe environment

has been created in Afghanistan and all political and diplomatic rights are respected," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan assures all existing embassies that the security of their embassies will be taken care of in accordance with international diplomatic principles," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate also calls on other countries to visit their diplomatic missions in Afghanistan and open their embassies," he said. An Indian team led by J P Singh, Joint Secretary (incharge Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran division), ministry of external affairs, had recently visited Afghanistan and met Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Military strategists must not lose sight of primary objective of war-fighting, says IAF chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has to constantly update its national security strategy as the global order is being increasingly challenged with little or no regard to rules, IAF chief V R Chaudhari said here on Friday.

Making this point, he also said India must reassess its strategic priorities and realign its actions to ensure that it is not left behind adding that the military strategists must not lose sight of the primary objective of "war-fighting." His observations in a seminar came in the backdrop of India's lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh, the situation in Afghanistan and the geopolitical upheavals triggered by the crisis in Ukraine.

Refraining from naming any country, the IAF chief said "coercion" is the new strategy with cyber, information and space domains becoming the "new battlefield".

"Today, we are witnessing a rapidly evolving international order that is increasingly being challenged by a complex multipolar world with little or no regard to rules or to the traditional processes of geopolitical interplays," he said. Chaudhari said diplomacy, economy and information are becoming the "primary tools" of engagement with the military instrument being used as a deterrent."Coercion is the new strategy with cyber, infor-



mation and space domains becoming the new battlefield. Therefore, we must reassess our strategic priorities and realign our actions to ensure we do not get left behind," he said.

The seminar marked the culmination of the first 'Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Programme' (WASP) was conducted by the Indian Air Force.

The WASP was rolled out with an aim to generate strategic thought and understanding amongst mid-career air power practitioners. Chaudhari hoped that the programme will enable the officers to understand the whole-of-government approach and generate independent opinions in dealing with national security issues.

"We believe that such cross-pollination of ideas from multiple disciplines can lead to critical thinking which allows a person to formulate solutions as well as take more rational and effective decisions," he said. "At the same time, a military strategist must not lose sight of the primary objective and that is war fighting.

Address livelihood woes of people near ESZs: Rahul to PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to help address the concerns of those affected by the Supreme Court order on maintenance of Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Sharing his letter to the prime minister in a Facebook post, Rahul said he has drawn his attention to the plight of the local communities of Kerala's Wayanad whose livelihoods will be adversely affected by the recent Supreme Court order.

"The state and the union governments can help by requesting dilution of a minimum width of an ESZ to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The Supreme Court judgment considers rec-

ommendations made by the CEC and the MoEF&CC," the Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad in Kerala said in his Facebook post.


In his letter to the prime minister, Rahul Gandhi said he has also sent a missive to the Kerala chief minister on the issue. "I request the Union government to address these concerns in the larger public interest and reiterate our shared commitment to balancing conservation goals with our people's legitimate developmental needs," he said in the letter to Modi.

Recalling the recent judgement of the Supreme Court in the T N Godavarmam Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others case, Gandhi said it mandates maintenance of an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of one km around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which has led to widespread protests around Wayanad parliamentary con-

stituency. "Local communities, still reeling under the impact of the Covid pandemic, have expressed grave concerns regarding the implications of this judgment on their lives and livelihoods.

The Guidelines for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries dated February 9, 2011, as well as the above mentioned judgement prohibit certain activities in the ESZ. The ESZ Guidelines also regulate several activities, including, the change of agriculture systems, protection of hill slopes, and erection of electrical cables," he said.

The judgement, he noted, states that no permanent structure shall be permitted to come up for whatsoever purpose within the ESZ. "As one of the most densely populated regions in Western Ghats, such restrictions hamper the ability of local communities to improve their standard of living.



STATE BANK OF INDIA
SIRHIND CITY BRANCH, DISTRICT FATEHGARH SAHIB
Ph. No. 01763-500005, 503316-19, Email id: sbi.50129@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of the **State Bank of India, Sirhind City Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to borrower on the date mentioned hereunder; calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **physical possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 the date mentioned against the account.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property(ies) will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India, Sirhind City Branch** for an amount mentioned herein below.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower & Guarantor	Description of the Immoveable property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of possession	Amount as per demand notice
Sh. Gurjant Singh S/o Sh. Nachhattar Singh and Smt. Jasvir Kaur W/o Sh. Gurjant Singh both are R/o Ward No. 10, Street No. 5, Mohalla Todar Mail Nagar, near Punjab Agro Office, Fatehgarh Sahib, 2nd Address: R/o V.P.O. Chalela, Tehsil & District Patiala & Guarantor Sh. Nirmal Singh S/o Sh. Joginder Singh, House No. 135, Part-I, Village Chalela Tehsil & Distt. Patiala.	House measuring 0 Kanal-10 Marla being 1/2 share out of total property measuring 1 Kanal, comprising in Khewat/ Khatauni No. 122 now 127/157 now 163 Kharsa No. 40/16(2/1-0), as per jamabandi for the year 2001-2002 and 2011-2012, situated in the revenue estate of Sirhind, Hadbast No. 125, Ward No. 10, Street No. 5, Mohalla Todar Mail Nagar, near Punjab Agro Office, Fatehgarh Sahib, Tehsil & District Fatehgarh Sahib and bounded as under: East: Street 90'-0", West: Nirmal Singh 90'-0", North: Open Plot 30'-0", South: Street 30'-0", as per sale deed wasika no. 80 dated 15.04.2004, standing in the name of Sh. Gurjant Singh S/o Sh. Nachhattar Singh.	22.05.2017	22.06.2022	Rs. 31,24,288/- as on 21.05.2017 with future interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 27.02.2019 and interest thereon

Date: 25.06.2022 Place: Sirhind Authorized Officer

H. P. P. W. D. TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on the form 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer Dehra Division HPPWD, Dehra on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors (C&D Class) enlisted in HPPWD.

TENDER SCHEULE:

1. Date and time of receipt of application for tender form:	14.07.2022 upto 4.00 PM
2. Date and time of issue of tender form:	16.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM
3. Date and time of receipt of tenders:	18.07.2022 upto 11.00 AM
4. Date and time of opening of tenders:	18.07.2022 at 11.30 AM

The tender forms will be issued against cash payment (non refundable). The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FDR/Deposit of any of Post Office/Bank in H.P duly pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer, Dehra Division HPPWD Dehra must accompany with each tender.

Job No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit	Cost of form
1	C/o Administrative Academic Block in Govt. Degree College Dhallara Tehsil Dehra District Kangra (SH.-C/o R/wall RHS to LHS at RD 0/0 to 0/028)	Rs. 4,85,278.00	Rs. 10000/-	Two month	Rs.350/-
2	C/o Administrative Academic Block in Govt. Degree College Dhallara Tehsil Dehra District Kangra (SH.-C/o R/wall RHS to LHS at RD 0/029 to 0/058)	Rs. 4,93,131.00	Rs. 10000/-	Two month	Rs.350/-
3	C/o Administrative Academic Block in Govt. Degree College Dhallara Tehsil Dehra District Kangra (SH.-C/o R/wall RHS to LHS at RD 0/058 to 0/088)	Rs. 4,93,131.00	Rs. 10000/-	Two month	Rs.350/-
4	C/o Administrative Academic Block in Govt. Degree College Dhallara Tehsil Dehra District Kangra (SH.-C/o R/wall RHS to LHS at RD 0/090 to 0/110)	Rs. 3,44,050.00	Rs. 7000/-	Two month	Rs.350/-
5	C/o Link road to Village Garml Kani. 0/0 to 2/00 (SH.-C/o 6.00mtr slab culvert at Rd.0/180)	Rs. 3,68,826.00	Rs. 8000/-	Two month	Rs.350/-
6	C/o Rain Shelter at Baungta (Sehra) on J/Mukhi Dehra Jawali Road at Rd 19/215 (SH.-C/o Rain shelter at Baungta (Sehra))	Rs. 1,55,000.00	Rs. 3000/-	Two month	Rs.350/-

1. The contractors/firms should possess the following documents (Photocopy to be attached with the application):
(i) Copy of Registration/ Latest renewal of enlistment.
(ii) PAN (Permanent Account No.)
(iii) Registration under GST No.
(iv) EPF (Employee Provident Fund Account No.)
(v) The proof ownership/hire/lease, buying of required machinery for micro surfacing works.


2. Ambiguous/telegraphic/conditional tenders or tender by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained /considered in any case.

3. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s).

4. The offer of the tender shall remain valid upto 30 days after the opening.

Executive Engineer
HPPWD Division Dehra Distt Kangra H.P
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
HIM LOK SAMPARK

RO NO. 1971/22-23 Dt. 24-06-2022



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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s French Arabian Aroma/ Neeta Bedi D/o Pratap Singh/ Subir Bedi S/o Bimal Bedi/ M/s Etosha Pan /A/c No. 08155500664/ 081555000002	Plot No 40, Sector 53, HSIIDC Industrial Estate Kondali Sonapat Haryana / June 23, 2022	March 07, 2022/ Rs. 2,40,27,142.34/-	Sonapat

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 : June 24, 2022
Place: Sonapat

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013

(Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before expiry of the thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CANCER), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8 Sector-5, IIT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050 that NEV SEEDS LLP (LLPIN: AAW-0480) a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company as follows:
To carry on in business the production of certified seeds of all the kinds and varieties and quality seeds of other kinds or varieties, processing, drying, storing and distribution of the same on commercial lines and to enter into contract with Government agencies and others and in the growing, processing, drying, storing, distributing, buying and selling of agricultural seeds.

3. A copy of the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed company may be inspected at the registered office at 32, 1st Floor, New Grain Market, Hisar, Haryana-126001.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CANCER), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8 Sector-5, IIT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company at its registered office.

NAME OF APPLICANTS
Sd/-
1. NARESH KUMAR GARG (Designated Partner) 2. ASHWANI KUMAR GARG (Designated Partner) 3. ANKIT GARG (Partner) 4. PRADEEP GARG (Partner) 5. CHIRAG GARG (Partner) 6. RAJAT GARG (Partner)

Date: 24.06.2022 Place: Hisar, Haryana

Public Notice

It is notified for the general public that I Satinderjit Kaur w/o Harjinder Singh Mangat R/O # VPO Marauli Kalan, Tehsil Morinda Distt. Ropar (Pb.) have lost Sale Deed No 195 dated 27-04-2011, in the name of Mrs Gian Kaur w/o Sajjan Singh registered in the office of Sub Registrar Morinda, Distt Ropar in respect of Plot No. 16- Darpan Enclave, Morinda – Distt Ropar (FIR lodged NO. 20 Dated 26/5/2022).

Finder's person contact at aforesaid address/98722-06170

HOUSING BOARD HARYANA PANCHKULA PUBLIC NOTICE

No.HB/HM/EM/PKL/22/2182 DATE-24/06/2022
Sdr:- Transfer of Flat no. 427, Type-A, GHS-2, Sector-31, Panchkula in the name of Sh. Rajiv Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Bhim Raj Goyal on the basis of general/ friendly transfer current owner of this flat is Sh. Sri Ram Makkar S/o Sh. Hari Chand. It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No. Flat no. 427, Type-A, GHS-2, Sector-31, Panchkula, which stands in the name of Sh. Sri Ram Makkar S/o Sh. Hari Chand as per record of this office.

It has been reported by the applicant (s) that Sh. Sri Ram Makkar S/o Sh. Hari Chand who is the owner of this property applied for General Transfer on 22.06.2022 in name of Sh. Rajiv Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Bhim Raj Goyal on the basis of documents of General Transfer Policy.

If anybody have any objection for the General transfer of the said property in favour of the applicant Sh. Rajiv Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Bhim Raj Goyal, they may furnish their objection in writing in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, this property shall be transferred accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained hereafter.

Estate Manager,
Housing Board Haryana, Panchkula



CORREGENDUM
SANSKAR BHARTI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DADARI ROAD PALI MAHENDERGARH
Approved by NCTE Jaipur & Affiliated to IGU Meerpur Rewari (To Propose)

Teaching and Non-Teaching staff for B.Ed.

(A) Teaching Staff- Principal-01
(B) Non-Teaching staff - Head Clerk/Office Manager-01, Office-Cum-Account Assistant-01, Helper-01, Sweeper-01, Mali-01.

Qualifications and pay scale as per the NCTE/IGU Rewari/Haryana State Govt. Norms.

Apply/Mail your resume (download application from website/ collect from college office) with attested photocopies of all the documents within 7 days from the date of the advertisement to the principal, Sanskar Bharti College of Education, Pali Mahendergarh pin code-123029 and copy to the Dean of Colleges (for B.Ed only), I.G. University, Meerpur Rewari by registered post or by hand against proper receipt along with processing fee rupees 1000/- (one thousand) only.


The candidates which applied earlier have not to make to apply again

E-Mail: sbdcpali@gmail.com 9416330529, 8607575478 CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC NOTICE
BRANCH OFFICE SHIFTING
Bajaj Finance Limited having its Registered Office, Mumbai- Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411035 and Corporate office on 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv House, Viman Nagar, Off Pune - Ahmednagar Road, Pune, Maharashtra 411014 hereby inform to its customers and concerned that its office located at Bajaj Finance Ltd. 3rd Floor, Triveni Building, Lower Khallini Chowk, Shimla-171002 will be closing with effect from 03rd October 2022. For better customer facility all the existing services shall continue to be available at new branch shifting to Bajaj Finance Limited, Hill View Complex, 1st Floor, Circular Road, Tara Hall, Near Victory Tunnel, Shimla-171003. All customers and concerned are requested to take note of change of address and requested to contact our office at Bajaj Finance Limited, Hill View Complex, 1st Floor, Circular Road, Tara Hall, Near Victory Tunnel, Shimla-171003 thereafter.

Bajaj Finance Limited
4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv House,
Viman Nagar, Off Pune - Ahmednagar Road,
Pune - 411114 Maharashtra
Tel - 020 - 71505050

Date:- 25-06-2022



HDFC BANK
We understand your world

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(AS PER APPENDIX IV READ WITH RULE 8(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT RULES, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **HDFC Bank Ltd.**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 13.04.2022** calling upon the borrower **M/s Jaina And Company through its Proprietor Smt. Priyanka Jain** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 533.12 Lakhs (Rupees Five Crore Thirty Three Lakhs Twelve Thousand only) together with future interest @ 18% per annum thereon** within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd.**, has taken **symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said Rules on this **23rd day of June 2022**.

The borrower, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **HDFC Bank Ltd.**, for an amount of **Rs. 533.12 Lakhs (Rupees Five Crore Thirty Three Lakhs Twelve Thousand only) together with interest @ 18% from the Date of Demand Notice** thereon as aforesaid.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Property being measuring 15 Kanal 4 Marla comprising in Khewat/ Khatoni No. 194/194 under Kharsa No. 217/194 situated at Mauka Musewal, Hadbast No. 126, Tehsil Nalagarh, District Solan Himachal Pradesh and owned by Mrs. Priyanka Jain W/o Lt. Sulesh Jain, Mrs. Sarita Jain W/o Lt. Amrit Lal Jain, Mr. Uday Jain S/o Lt. Sh. Sulesh Jain, Manushi Kumar D/o Lt. Sh. Sulesh Jain and Tanushri Jain D/o Lt. Sh. Sulesh Jain and bounded as under : East : Tyre-Re Traders, West : Private Building, North : State Highway-16 (Nalagarh-Una), South : Link Road.

Note: The above notice be also considered as 30 day's notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9 of the Act.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

DATE : 23.06.2022 PLACE : NALAGARH AUTHORISED OFFICER



केनरा बैंक CANARA BANK

DEMAND NOTICE
NANGALI, AMRITSAR

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

A notice is hereby given that the following borrower(s) have defaulted in the repayment of Principal and payment of interest of credit facilities obtained by them from the bank and said facilities have turned Non Performing Assets. The notice under Section 13(2) of Securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 were issued to Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) on their last known addresses by registered post. However the notices have been returned un-served and the Authorised Officer has reasons to believe that the borrower(s) / guarantor(s) are avoiding the service of notice, as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of NPA Account / Borrower	Date of the Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding
M/s Ganpati Traders, 88 ft Road, Aman Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar Punjab 143001 through its Prop. Mrs. Roshni Dhawan W/o Sh. Rishap Dhawan R/o 96 Sec 2, Phase 2, Chand Avenue, Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar Punjab 143001 and Guarantor: (i) Sh. Rishap Dhawan S/o Sh. Pawan Dhawan R/o 96 Sec- 2, Phase 2, Chand Avenue, Fatehgarh Churian Road, Amritsar 143001	07-06-2022	Rs. 14,86,729/45 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected

Brief Details of the Security : Residential Plot no. 3, area measuring 221.11 sq. Yards, situated at Village Muradpura, Near Radha Swami Satsang Bhawan, Amritsar, standing in the name of Sh. Rishap Dhawan S/o Sh. Pawan Kumar

The above borrower / guarantor are advised to pay the amount mentioned in notice within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. Moreover the borrower(s) / guarantor(s) are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the above secured asset mentioned above in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Date : 25-06-2022 Place : Amritsar Sd/- Authorised Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ram Karan S/o Late Sh. Maaji Ram, R/o 4 No. 965, Sector - 15, Sonapat 131001 Haryana, declare that, Allotment letter No. 305, dated 01/06/1985 issued by HUDA of Plot No. 965, Sector-15, Sonapat-131001, Haryana, has been misplaced at Sector 15 Market Sonapat dated 30/05/2022. Lost property report has been made to Haryana Police dated 21/06/2022 vide application number 12329071220121282. Founder may contact at 9911441752

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Parshotam Singla alias Parsotam Aggarwal s/o Panna Lal s/o Pamanand r/o House No. 378, Sector 3-C, Ram Nagar, Mandi Gobindgarh, Tehsil Amloh District Fatehgarh Sahib declared i purchased a property tadedi 1 bigha 10 biswa Kharsa No.440/25(1-10), Tadadi 1 Bigha 10 Biswa, Waka Area Village Ajnali, Tehsil Amloh, through Various Registries. The original Registries of said place Vasika No: 359 dated 08.05.1995 Vasika No: 1375 dated 06.07.1995 Vasika No: 433 dated 11.05.1995 are missing. I will not misuse the original registries of the said resident if they are not deposited with any bank, financial institution, corporation or any other basis. GD No. 029 dated 24.06.2022 has been registered at Mandi Gobindgarh police station

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, USHA KUMARI W/O OF SURINDER KUMAR residing at ward no. 05, JAN MANDIR STREET, BHIKHU 151504 Mansa Distt. Mansa had approached Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited having its Branch Office at Mansa, for availing loan against the mortgage of the below mentioned immovable property purchased by me vide Sale Deed dated 24/03/2022 registered as Doc. No. 1340 on the file of the Sub-Registrar,Bhikhri Anybody having any claim over the said property or objection in my creating mortgage over the said property in favour of the above Bank shall do so within seven days of this publication failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objection in my respect of the said property and shall proceed further in availing the loan by the mortgage of the said property from the said Bank. Further, any objection or claim made by anybody after the expiry of the said period shall not bind me or the Bank.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Departmental Inquiry was ordered against Sh. Amrit Lal S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar PF-Code A-24618, Officer, Punjab and Sind Bank, SME Branch R/o C/O Raju Mahato, near Shivajai, Village Panchi, P.O. Panhesa, P.S. Sheikhpura Sarai, District: Sheikhpura, Bihar, Pin Code: 811103. Also at: C/o S.N. Dubey, Savitri Niwas, Shiv Nagar, Opp. Road No. 4, East of Middle School, Khermunkind, Patna, Bihar. Pin Code: 800027 vide memorandum dated 14.03.2022 issued by disciplinary authority Zonal Manager, Jalandhar in the matter of disciplinary proceedings initiated against him vide charge sheet dated 22.12.2021 for unauthorized absence from duties since 15.05.2021 at B.O. SME Jalandhar and for not submitting his Asset-Liability Statement for the year 2020-21.

Now, keeping in view the principal of natural justice, it has been decided to give him a last opportunity through this public notice to appear before the undersigned on 11th July 2022 (Monday) either in person at B.O. Renu, Pathankot Road, Jalandhar or via video conference on WhatsApp Messenger, Mobile No. 8289565252 on 16.04.2022, 22.04.2022, 04.05.2022 and 23.05.2022 respectively to defend his case but he did not appear before the undersigned (Inquiring Authority) on the said hearing dates.

Now, keeping in view the principal of natural justice, it has been decided to give him a last opportunity through this public notice to appear before the undersigned on 11th July 2022 (Monday) either in person at B.O. Renu, Pathankot Road, Jalandhar or via video conference on WhatsApp Messenger, Mobile No. 8289565252 failing which the disciplinary proceedings will proceed Ex-Parte.

Inquiring Authority
Rakesh Krishan, Sr. Manager, R-12943
B.O. Renu, Jalandhar, R-0211

नगर निगम रोहतक

सर्व सभाजन को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम रोहतक की कर शखा के सम्पत्तिक के रिकार्ड में प्रोपर्टी आई.डी. 127C32310425 वार्ड नंबर 11 श्री/श्रीमती सूर्यम पुत्र दत्तसिंह सैत (राजेश्वरी) अक्सर उदय सिंह व सूर्यम दो मलिक है) के नाम से दर्ज है, अब नगर निगम के रिकार्ड में इस आई.डी. नंबर में पायी किसी नाम श्री/श्रीमती राखवाल, हरेश, ईश्वर, अशोक, योगेश, मोहरी, सूर्यम अपने नाम तब्दील करना चाहते हैं, यदि किसी भी जनसभाजन को इनके नाम तब्दील करने में कोई भी आपत्ति है तो 30 दिन के अंदर-अंदर नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज कराये, अन्यथा यह मसूबत उनके नाम तब्दील कर दी जायेगी। बिनाके लिए नगर निगम रोहतक कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

क्रमिक: MCR/270/2022/858
23/06/22

कार्यालय तहसीलदार, अम्बाला शहर
तहसीलदार, अम्बाला शहर

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व सभाजन को सूचित किया जाता है कि 1. शिव पुराबद Sharma 2. Pardeep Kumar Sharma 3. Sanjeev Kumar 4. Suniti Kumar 5. Sushma ने जख्दद नं. 751/9/कक्षा 107. Sa यार्ड) Sikkigar Mohalla अम्बाला छात्रनी जी की Bimla Devi कुमारी (Occupancy right) के बसिये में गृह निर्माण रें वर है, अब खलीफादुल अम्बाला घर/ शाय फर के आगार घर अपने नाम करवाने की नगर निगम, अम्बाला, सरर नगर में अपेशन किया है अगर किसी भी व्यक्ति को यह नाम तब्दील करे किसी भी तरह का पुरावा हो तो 15 दिन के भीतर लिखत बिलीट इस कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिनांक में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। अन्वय विनियमन / Occupancy Rights के कालम में नाम तब्दील किया जायेगा।

सचिव नगर परिषद अम्बाला

Public Notice

It is notified for the general public that I Satinderjit Kaur w/o Harjinder Singh Mangat R/O # VPO Marauli Kalan, Tehsil Morinda Distt. Ropar (Pb.) have lost Sale Deed No 195 dated 27-04-2011, in the name of Mrs Gian Kaur w/o Sajjan Singh registered in the office of Sub Registrar Morinda, Distt Ropar in respect of Plot No. 16- Darpan Enclave, Morinda – Distt Ropar (FIR lodged NO. 20 Dated 26/5/2022).

Finder's person contact at aforesaid address/98722-06170


HOUSING BOARD HARYANA PANCHKULA PUBLIC NOTICE

No.HB/HM/EM/PKL/22/2182 DATE-24/06/2022
Sdr:- Transfer of Flat no. 427, Type-A, GHS-2, Sector-31, Panchkula in the name of Sh. Rajiv Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Bhim Raj Goyal on the basis of general/ friendly transfer current owner of this flat is Sh. Sri Ram Makkar S/o Sh. Hari Chand. It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No. Flat no. 427, Type-A, GHS-2, Sector-31, Panchkula, which stands in the name of Sh. Sri Ram Makkar S/o Sh. Hari Chand as per record of this office.

It has been reported by the applicant (s) that Sh. Sri Ram Makkar S/o Sh. Hari Chand who is the owner of this property applied for General Transfer on 22.06.2022 in name of Sh. Rajiv Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Bhim Raj Goyal on the basis of documents of General Transfer Policy.

If anybody have any objection for the General transfer of the said property in favour of the applicant Sh. Rajiv Kumar Goyal S/o Sh. Bhim Raj Goyal, they may furnish their objection in writing in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, this property shall be transferred accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained hereafter.

Estate Manager,
Housing Board Haryana, Panchkula



SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: 1st Floor, No.159/20, Sudha Complex, Atlas Road, Near Subhash Chowk, Sonpat - 131001

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company 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 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 Home Finance Company Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunder Lal Saini (Borrower), Saroj. (Co-Borrower), NHJHJ00001296586	Property ID 816 Shop No. 267 Anear Old Bus Stand Jhjar- 124103 Jhajar-124103. Bounded By- North: P/o Jagdish Chander S/o Mohan Lal Now P/o SBI, South: Bus Stand Road 14 Ft 8 Inches, East: S/o Basesar Hamsaya10 Ft, West: P/o Jagdish Chander S/o Mohan Lal Now P/o SBI. Date of Possession- 22-Jun-22	20-10-2021 Rs. 21,02,934/-	Sonapat-B

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 : June 25, 2022
Place : Jhajjar

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, H.P.P.W.D. Bhabanagar District Kinnaur Pin-172115 invite Item rate tenders in sealed cover on the prescribed forms from the eligible Contractors on 03.02.2020 and shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 Hrs. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives who wish to be present at the time.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Cost of form
1	Improvement/ Widening of Old Hindustan Tibet road from Tapri to Kanam Km 0/0 to 24/0 (SH.- C/o ROFD from Runang to Yushudhar Km 22/900 to 24/00) TASP	Rs. 3,54,385/-	Rs. 7,100/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-
2	Construction of Jeepable road from Urni Bus Stand to village Urni Km 0/0 to 0/725 (SH.- C/o R/wall at RD 0/270 to 0/285) TASP	Rs. 1,86,797/-	Rs. 3,800/-	One month	Rs. 350/-
3	C/o link road from Nanspo to upper Tranda Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH.- C/o R/wall at RD 3/180 to 3/230) Under TASP	Rs. 3,30,445/-	Rs. 6,600/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-
4	Construction of Kitchen and toilet at Bodh Sarai Bhawan Nathpa Tehsil Nichar Distt. Kinnaur HP (SH.- C/o Septic tank and Toilet for Gents and Ladies) TASP	Rs. 1,51,245/-	Rs. 3,100/-	None month	Rs. 350/-
5	C/o link road from NH-05 Chaura to Forest rest House at Chaura Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH.- F/c 3/5 mtr wide road at RD 0/0 to 0/135) Under TASP	Rs. 1,41,234/-	Rs. 2,900/-	One months	Rs. 350/-
6	Construction of Karchham Sangla Chhitkul road Km 0/0 to 41/500 under SCA to TSP (SH.- Providing and fixing double "W" metal Beam Crash Barriers at Km 8/660 to 8/722 near Temple (Repair of railing)	Rs. 2,13,900/-	Rs. 4,300/-	one months	Rs. 350/-
7	Improvement of Kuppa to Kamroo road Km 0/0 to 1/00 (SH.- C/o R/wall at RD 0/160 to 0/190, C.Conc. Toe wall & wire Crate) under Rurban Mission	Rs. 3,17,121/-	Rs. 6,400/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-
8	Construction of Rain Shelter in all Panchayat (SH.- Construction of rain Shelter at Themgarang in Distt. Kinnaur) Under Rurban Mission	Rs. 2,39,534/-	Rs. 4,800/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-
9	A/R & M/O Rest House Chhitkul (SH.- C/o Boundary wall and Gate for Compound of rest House Chhitkul)	Rs. 2,68,849/-	Rs. 5,400/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-
10	Construction of Jeepable link road from Katgaon to Katgaon Kanda Km 0/00 to 5/500 (Formation Cutting 3/ 5 mtr wide road at Km 0/0 to 1/00)	Rs. 3,23,001/-	Rs. 6,500/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-
11	Construction of Jeepable link road from Katgaon to Katgaon Kanda Km 0/00 to 5/500 (SH.- Construction of R/wall at RD 0/645 to 0/660, 0/750 to 0/765 and 0/810 to 0/825)	Rs. 2,72,441/-	Rs. 5,500/-	One months	Rs. 350/-
12	Providing and fixing "W" metal Beam Crash Barriers under Karchham Division. (SH.- Providing and fixing "W" metal Beam Crash Barrier railing on link road Kimo Khale to Old Panchayat Ghar Sangla Km 0/0 to 0/130) Under BADP	Rs. 4,76,289/-	Rs. 9,600/-	Two months	Rs. 350/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-
The Earnest Money shown against each work must accompany with each tender in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time Deposit Account/Post Office Saving Bank Account of any of the Post Offices duly pledged in the name of undersigned. The application of each tender alongwith following documents must reach in this office on 31.01.2020 upto 12:00 PM and issued on same day.
(i) Each application alongwith attested copy of the proof of enlistment in the appropriate Class and its renewal.
(ii) Permanent Account Number (PAN)
(iii) EPF No. and GST.
(iv) Exemption Letter for payment of earnest money from competent authority if any.

The contractor enlisted in a particulars class shall be eligible to tender for his own class and one step below. The tender rates must be quoted in words and figures by the tenderer. The conditional tenders or the tenders without earnest money shall be rejected. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. In case there happens to be a holiday on the date of opening of the tenders the same shall be opened on the next working day. The offer of the tender shall remain valid upto 90days from the opening of the tenders.

Executive Engineer,
Karchham Division,
HP-PWD Bhabanagar

RO NO. 1968/22-23 Dt. 24-06-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kuldeep Kaur W/o Jagtar Singh R/O Village Chand Samand, Tehsil Indri, Karnal



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Time to exit BRICS?

India's continuation in the grouping lends legitimacy to the regimes of Xi and Putin

Chinese President Xi Jinping's concern over "expanding" military ties is not the worry of a statesman who is committed to global peace and rules-based international order; it is the fear of a tyrant who is the lord and master of the world's most powerful and dangerous rogue State. Addressing the virtual annual BRICS Business Forum from Beijing, he denounced the US' alliance-building in Asia (read Quad) and the West's sweeping sanctions against Russia. "In the past century, humanity has gone through the scourge of two World Wars and the dark shadow of the Cold War. The tragedies of the past tell us that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontation bring no peace or security; they only lead to wars and conflicts," Xi said at the event in which there were representatives and business groups from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. If there is one country that must learn from the tragedies of the past, it is China; it is also the country that needs to realise that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontation bring no peace or security. Not just realise but also act on this realisation and stop propping up other rogue States like Pakistan and North Korea. But this will not happen because what Xi wants is hegemony not peace, confrontation not dialogue. Similarly, he uses the Ukraine crisis, which he calls a "wake-up call for all in the world", to rant against the expansion of "military alliances".



The BRICS meet not only allows the Chinese President to spread his lies but also gives an opportunity to Russian President Vladimir Putin to partially regain some respectability that he lost after he launched an unprovoked attack on Ukraine. In his video address, Putin said that his country was "redirecting" its trade flows to BRICS nations and other "reliable international partners". Unsurprisingly, he slammed the debilitating sanctions that the western nations had imposed on Russia, calling them "politically motivated" and "contrary to common sense and basic economic logic". The entire exercise of BRICS meet was galling from the Indian perspective, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended it. The head of the Government of the world's largest democracy sharing platform (though virtual) with the two most dangerous dictators was not something many Indians would cherish. In fact, the mere presence of the Indian Prime Minister lends a great deal of legitimacy and even respectability to the two tyrants; just like guilt by association, there is also legitimacy by association. Consider the contrast between India on the one hand and China and Russia on the other. In recent times, India has extended everything it could — PPE kits and vaccines to dozens of countries, aid to crisis-hit Sri Lanka. On the other hand, China exported the deadly virus that killed millions of people and Russia attacked a neighbour for no reason. Frankly, India should get out of BRICS which anyway lacks the *raison d'être*. Just like the Non-Aligned Movement.

PICTALK



Crowds walk along on the 12th hole at the Travellers Championship tournament, at TPC River Highlands

AP

For progress?

A BJP MLA's proclamation on 50 States after the LS poll must be for the right reasons

Stoking a political controversy, BJP's Karnataka leader Umesh Vishwanath Katti has stated that once PM Narendra Modi returns to power after the 2024 elections, the nation will have 50 States. He even elaborated the Union Government's purported plans to, at the local level, have North Karnataka as a separate State, and, at the national level, to split Maharashtra into three states and Uttar Pradesh into four. The six-term member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, who currently holds the portfolio in the Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, is a vocal proponent of separate statehood for north Karnataka. A video of him making the statement, which took place at a Belagavi Bar Association event, has since gone viral. Ostensibly, the blueprint primarily takes into account the population numbers of bigger States; such States would be suitably bifurcated for the ease of governance and altogether 50 States would come into existence after the 2024 Lok Sabha election, as per the so-claimed initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It actually is high time that IT companies, who have Bengaluru their home, looked out outside the metropolis, especially since north Karnataka has huge potential.



Though Katti admitted that it's not his party's official stand, he exhorted the people of north Karnataka to "make it happen". He may have a point, though. Bengaluru is bursting at seams with its burgeoning population; it lacks water supply for citizens, who have to spend hours in traffic jams. The statements by Katti, who represents the Hukkeri Assembly constituency, have reignited the regional divide debate in Karnataka in which most of the population and leaders from the northern parts of the State have been demanding statehood to get better amenities and development for the region. But this scheme by the ruling dispensation is quite understandable provided it's aimed squarely at providing better governance to the grassroots, bring development to the remotest regions and benefit the last man standing at the end of the spectrum. However, if the end aim is to reap narrow dividends for a particular party, the planned move can't be condoned. However, as we all know, there's a lot more to be read between the lines in politics than in their actual content, so there's only hoping that there's no mala fide intention behind the purported move.

Agnipath scheme Govt's trial by fire

The Govt faces an uphill task in meeting expectations of the nation's youth when economy is experiencing severe recession and job market is unstable

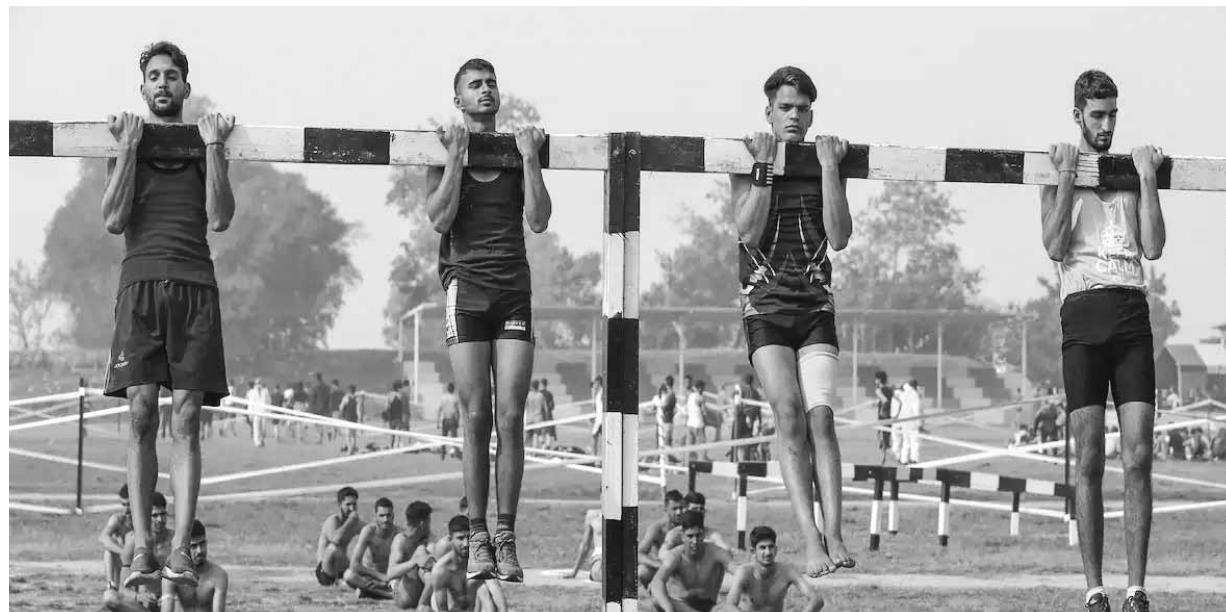


BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

Much water has flown down the Ganges since unveiling of the new human resource policy by the Defence Ministry for recruiting soldiers, sailors and airmen. The country witnessed widespread protests, rioting and violence by youth in many States causing irreparable damage to public property. This abrupt change has not gone well with the youth aspiring to join the armed forces lured by the earlier system of joining service for 17 years and enjoying pension benefits. Taking note of the resentment among the youth and the Opposition encashing upon the unrest, the Government went into damage control and the age limit was enhanced from 21 years to 23 years. Home and Defence Ministries announced 10 per cent reservation to reinstate the retired troops in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) forces, defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other jobs. Some States also assured job security to Agniveers after their retirement. Indian business magnates justified the Agnipath scheme, claiming that it has large potential for employment.

Senior armed forces officers also sought to clear the doubts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself said that some reforms "may look unfair" at first, but will help in nation-building later. He met the three service chiefs to discuss the Agnipath scheme. The Army and the Air Force have since issued recruitment notifications. All these developments indicate that the Government failed to do proper homework before introducing the scheme and is now acting in haste to control the situation.

The scheme has received mixed response from the veterans and public — those in service have supported the decision whereas most retired officers have criticised the move. They have raised apprehensions on various counts like the training duration for Agniveers, whether their motivation level will be as high as that of regular soldiers and the rehabilitation of retired troops. They have also criticised the hasty manner in which



the scheme was implemented without putting the scheme to test through a pilot project. To meet the cumulative threat from China and Pakistan, the Indian forces require young, highly trained and motivated soldiers. The pertinent questions are whether the new breed of Agniveers will be able to meet this challenge?

What benefits would the retired Agniveers get? How would the defence forces gain out of this scheme? Critics feel that the first casualty would be the quality of human resources. Any eligible person will first compete for jobs in civilian Government, police and Central forces where she enjoys assured service till the age of 60 years and pension benefits, before opting for the four-year unsecured stint in the armed forces. The second casualty would be training — an Agniveer's six-month stint will be able to gain him neither any worthwhile expertise in handling expensive military equipment nor understand the nuances of a modern battlefield of artificial intelligence, cyber warfare etc. Poor-quality human resources, inadequately trained and poorly paid Agniveers, lacking any motivation with a broken regi-



POOR-QUALITY HUMAN RESOURCES, INADEQUATELY TRAINED AND POORLY PAID AGNIVEERS, LACKING ANY MOTIVATION WITH A BROKEN REGIMENTAL SYSTEM, WILL BE A DISASTER IN THE MAKING FOR OUR VALOROUS ARMED FORCES

mental system, will be a disaster in the making for our armed forces.

The scheme's supporters hailed it as a path-breaking initiative that would replace an aging Army, in which more than 60 per cent men are above 30 years of age and would pave the way for regular intake and availability of young, fit and motivated youth who wish to don the uniform and serve the nation for short periods. The scheme is expected to open up new opportunities for our youth, boost civil-military fusion and pave the way for becoming worthy representatives of the best regimental traditions of the armed forces. One of the biggest challenges facing the armed forces is the budgetary constraints. Ballooning salary and pension bills have placed enormous stress on the availability of funds for military modernisation. The emphasis of the new scheme is on ensuring a youthful and tech-savvy profile of the armed forces while reducing the overall burden on pension and gratuities. Another logic given in favour of this scheme is that several foreign models were studied before its implementation. The service period ranges from two to eight

years with options for active and reservist service in many modern armed forces of the world, such as the US, UK and France. The Israeli army, which is considered to be one of the best in the world, has service of 30 and 20 months, respectively, for men and women.

The Government faces an uphill task of tackling this peculiar situation of meeting expectations of the frustrated youth at a time when the economy is experiencing severe recession and job market is unstable. Unfortunately, the 1.4 million-strong Army has faced neglect by all Governments, defence expenditure being relegated to the "non-plan" category and Finance Ministry, instead of finding ways and means of raising essential, additional funds for national defence, has passed the buck to the armed forces and demanded that they evolve measures for reducing the pension bill. All these lacunae need to be taken care of before it is too late.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, the Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUR SOLDIERS LEARNING MANDARIN

Sir — At a time when modern communication techniques are transforming the landscape of military warfare, the prospects of countries are likely to depend on how soldiers conduct themselves when they face their enemy soldiers at an unarmed border. In this respect, basic conversation in enemy language is of utmost importance. The Government's initiative to train them in the Chinese language is aimed at easing tensions emanating from a lack of proper language communication between the border patrols. Several transgressions like border standoffs, first in Doklam and now in Ladakh, take place every year and such incidents highlight the increasing gravity of the situation.

To combat such unforeseen circumstances, over 60,000 Himveers and Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel have already completed their training in Mandarin in order to communicate fluently with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers during patrols. Acquiring the Chinese language skills could help reduce misunderstandings along the border at a time when relations between the two countries are still incendiary. Proficiency in enemy language can help on-the-spot negotiation and contact procedure. This concept needs to be replicated in other northeastern States bordering other countries, which can help in better communication and can even enhance cultural ties.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

WHO IS BEHIND THE MAHARASHTRA CRISIS?

Sir — We have heard it straight from the horse's mouth. Eknath Shinde has revealed that the entire operation of splitting the Shiv Sena was supported by a 'national party'. There are no prizes for guessing which party it is. He gave the clue, of course to whom it was needed, that it was the party, a 'superpower' that taught Pakistan a lesson. The strength and confidence of Shinde appears to be emanating more from BJP's support than the number of MLAs owing allegiance to him. It falls on the BJP

PM package employees' woes



Since after the barbaric and gruesome killing of Rahul Bhat (a PM Package employee) by terrorists in the Kashmir Valley, which was followed by a series of such dastardly acts by militants in the region, all Kashmiri Pandit package employees went on the streets and are protesting for their one-point demand of being relocated outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir. These package employees are peacefully agitating since the last 45 days in Jammu as well as in Kashmir. Due to the recent spike in the targeted killings in Kashmir, the PM package employees are

feeling insecure, threatened and totally unsafe. Many Hindu minority employees were massacred at their workplaces and this is indeed a very grave concern.

Thus, rightly, these hapless and unfortunate employees are only demanding their relocation outside Kashmir, at least as a temporary measure, as there is fear psychosis among them. These Kashmiri Pandit employees have become soft targets in Kashmir. Therefore, relocation outside Kashmir is the only viable solution at this juncture to stop further bloodshed. India is currently under the strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi and thus all PM package Kashmiri Pandit employees have full trust in his Government. It is now hoped that the Centre will pay immediate heed to the protesting Kashmiri Pandit employees and order their temporary adjustments outside Kashmir in order to save their lives.

ON Koul | New Delhi

to convincingly rebut the charge that the threat of using Central agencies has facilitated the revolt against the MVA Government.

Shinde says that his sole demand is that the Sena snap ties with Congress and NCP and join hands with the BJP, its 'natural ally'. The dilution of Hindutva under Uddhav Thackeray's leadership because of the ties with the Congress and the NCP cited for the revolt is only a fig leaf. The BJP's role in triggering the political crisis might not have been as explicit as in Karnataka or Madhya Pradesh but the party has lost its moral compass and become accustomed to toppling non-BJP State Governments.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

MODI NOT TO BLAME FOR GODHRA

Sir — The Supreme Court has upheld the clean chit given to former Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the Gujarat riots, triggered by the burning of a railway coach in which *kar sevaks* were burnt alive. The Godhra carnage was a

spontaneous public reaction to the killing of innocent *kar sevaks*, like the Sikh massacre. It is easy, and right too, to say two wrongs cannot make one right. But mob frenzy on an unprecedented scale would cause immense damage before the situation is brought under control. This is what happened both in the Indira Gandhi assassination case and the *kar sevaks* burning case.

The SIT closure report giving clean chit to Modi and others was challenged by Zakia Jafri, the widow of slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri. Zakia has fought a relentless legal battle to get "justice" for the death of her husband. But she must concede that Modi had not engineered the Godhra incident. Zakia should come to terms with the reality surfacing now. Just as she is bereaved, the families of *kar sevaks* are also bereaved by their death. Godhra was an offshoot of *kar sevaks* killings that spread across the State.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Why are you (BJP) disturbing the Assam Govt when they are facing floods?



West Bengal CM —Mamata Banerjee



Chinese President —Xi Jinping

Three films from down south did really well. Films in Hindi have also done well.



Actor —R Madhavan



Indian cyclist —L Ronaldo Singh

This (₹60,000 crore) is one of the largest transfers to a foundation in Indian corporate history.



Asia's richest person —Gautam Adani

FIRST COLUMN

CUSTOMS DUTY IS MUST ON E-TRANSMISSIONS

It will provide a level playing field to the domestic industry



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions has got another lease of life at the World Trade Organisation's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12). Some say this has happened due to pressure exerted by the United States, others think that India has bargained this for other gains.

It's noteworthy that India had pronounced that it would oppose this moratorium, as it causes a huge loss of revenue, apart from hurting our digital development, as domestic players face intense competition from global tech companies.

Significantly, at the time of the start of the WTO, trade in electronic products was very limited. In such a situation, the tariff on the trade of electronic products was temporarily suspended and it was decided in the Second Ministerial Conference of the WTO in 1998 to study the issues related to the global electronic trade with reference to the development needs of the developing countries. It was proposed that tariffs on electronic products be postponed till the next ministerial conference.

It is unfortunate that the developed countries kept suspending the decision on imposing tariffs on the import of electronic products, on several pretexts. Today the situation is that more than \$30 billion of electronic products are being imported into India alone. That is, even if 10 per cent tariff is imposed, the government will get revenue of more than \$3 billion.



According to a recent study, developing countries could have generated \$56 billion from imports of just 49 digitalised products in the period 2017-19. Least developed countries could have generated \$8 billion in this period, which is double the amount they need for giving double dose of Covid vaccine to their populations.

The issue here is not only about loss of revenue, it's a much larger issue for a country like India, where our start-ups and software companies are able to make a variety of electronic products, where we can make movies and other entertainment products in our own country, but when all such products are imported undeterred, without tariff, there is little incentive to produce them indigenously.

Tariff moratorium on e-products is actually killing our efforts of Atmanirbhar Bharat, benefitting the US, European countries, and China.

At the beginning of MC12, India started with a bold stance and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said: "I think this moratorium, which has been continuing for 24 years, must be reviewed and re-looked at."

However, the decision on moratorium in MC12, is read as follows: "We agree to maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until MC 13, which should ordinarily be held by 31 December 2023. Should MC 13 be delayed beyond 31 March 2024, the moratorium will expire on the date unless Ministers or the General Council take a decision to extend."

In the earlier Ministerial Conferences of WTO, in the last 24 years, the developed world had been easily getting the moratorium. MC12, was the first such conference where they faced some resistance from the developing countries. With this, a hope had arisen that the moratorium would end ultimately. But this battle was also lost.

Since 1998, the digital revolution has changed a lot in the world. There are digital products which are fast replacing physical products. Many of the digital products in health, fintech, public services, etc., incorporate artificial intelligence and 3D printing. Failure to tax them in innovative ways is likely to impact the government finances adversely.

We have started developing our own digital products; the production linked incentives (PLIs) scheme has been designed to nurture our infant digital products industries. Imposition of custom duties can help them by providing a level-playing field.

Though MC12 is over, India should leave no stone unturned to end this moratorium.

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

Despite its low share price, LIC is valuable

NIRJHAR MAJUMDAR

The IPO was a failure but LIC policyholders and investors will get their money's worth in course of time

The insurance industry is now at a crossroads. The regulator is busy changing the rules of the game. Insurers are changing business models, disrupting the traditional value chain. Foreign insurers and reinsurers are taking more interest in the business, as the insurance market is growing, following the rising prosperity of people despite a recessionary situation. Yet, insurers are still at their wits' end as to how to take insurance penetration to the next level.

Amidst this scenario, LIC launched its IPO by offering 3.5 per cent of its shares to retail and institutional investors. This has enabled the government to mop up about Rs 21,000 crore from the market. As much as 10 per cent of the offloaded LIC shares have been allotted to policyholders and 5 per cent to employees. In fact, this was the biggest IPO in India's corporate history.

About a month has elapsed since the listing of LIC's shares in stock exchanges. At the moment, LIC shares are traded about 30 per cent below the issue price. Some doomsayer analysts have already started fear-mongering in the market, proclaiming this as a bad omen for the market leader. In this article, I would try to dispel this notion.

Certain facts merit special attention of those who have invested money in LIC's IPO. This article is all about instilling confidence in LIC policyholders and shareholders by reassuring that they will get their money's worth in the days to come.

Let us see how LIC is placed in the market vis-à-vis its competitors. It has customers all over the country and across all sections of society. It has 30 crore in-force policies in its books as on date. On the other hand, none of the private insurers has a strong presence in rural India, as most of them are engaged in picking up low-hanging fruits of the metro and Tier-I cities. None of the private life insurers has even 1 crore of in-force policies. Most Indians living outside metros and Tier-I cities have not even heard the names of leading private insurers. For them, life insurance means LIC.

Besides, LIC is insuring the lives of crores of poorer citizens through low-cost group insurance schemes. Some financial analysts go to the extent of saying that LIC's products are not innovative enough. The fact is all insurers have innovative products. It is more important to check whether the insurers are able to sell those products in the market. Even on this count, LIC is much ahead of the competition. LIC sells all types of insurance products in large numbers—endowment, term, whole life, or even annuities. On the other hand, private insurers as a whole earn 40 per cent of the premium income by selling Ulips only.

While Ulips are not necessarily unde-



THE LIC HAS CUSTOMERS AND 30 CRORE IN-FORCE POLICIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND ACROSS ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY. ON THE OTHER HAND, NONE OF THE PRIVATE LIFE INSURERS HAS EVEN 1 CRORE OF IN-FORCE POLICIES

(The author is an insurance industry analyst)



sirable products, they are more investment-oriented than insurance. Indians need more protection, savings, and annuity products than investment products with some element of insurance. And LIC has been selling more protection/savings products, to take the benefits of insurance to the remotest corners of the country.

Let's talk a little bit about the technicality of this business. Embedded value (EV) is defined as the present value of future profits plus adjusted net asset value. EV of LIC was calculated to be Rs 5.4 lakh crore before the launch of IPO. This was arrived at, on the basis of realistic assumptions on future mortality, expenses and interest rates. Insurers and their consultants made pretty conservative assumptions on these parameters. All these bases of valuation are, however, more or less the same for all the insurers (except to some extent the expenses).

What then can make the difference? I would say persistency ratios of insurers (especially 61-month persistency) can determine EV of the insurers a lot. For LIC, this ratio is 48 per cent in terms of policies (the industry average being 33 per cent and 59 per cent in terms of premiums). This is very close to the global standard. A satisfactory persistency ratio of LIC means there will be a satisfactory flow of premium income in future, resulting in better surpluses. If there are better surpluses, there will be higher dividends and also higher share price.

Nobody can belittle the contribution of private insurers. But people need to know certain facts

which prove LIC's dominance in the industry across the country. LIC is respected not just for its holding 66 per cent market share but also for its omnipresence in the country, making it convenient for ordinary people to visit the insurer's offices. The hallmark of its operations is the honesty and integrity with which the employees have been discharging their duties and clean image that the organisation has been able to maintain in the midst of corporations getting entangled in recurring financial scams. LIC is one organisation which has worked from their brick-and-mortar offices even during the worst of pandemic times, keeping the interests of crores of its customers and one million plus intermediaries in sight.

Now, let's talk about the movement of share price of LIC. As have already been mentioned, only 10 per cent shares have been sold to policyholders and 5 per cent to employees. A bulk was sold to anchor investors. Hence, the people reposing faith in LIC as policyholders and the people investing in IPO are completely different.

A section of investors is being made to believe that the IPO was overpriced and that the price would slide even further as the fundamentals of the organisation were below par. They were also fed on the rumour that anchor investors would offload their shares immediately after lock-in period. All such negative publicity contributed to the fall in share price so rapidly. But there is a limit to such fall as regards the share price of an organisation as financially sound as LIC.

Let's remember some basics of the investment game. Once Warren Buffet said, "In the short run, stocks behave like a slot machine, but in the long run, they behave like a weighing machine." Now the share price of LIC is moving randomly and is getting determined purely by forces of demand and supply. These random movements cannot be used to predict the long-term value of the stock.

In the long run, the intrinsic value of a company remains constant, irrespective of what the traders of stocks do every day in the market. In the long run, the share price will be equal to the intrinsic value of a company. This is true for all the markets and for all the stocks. The annual report of LIC is in the public domain and investors can access that. All successful investors of the world muster the skill of making sense out of financial and industry data, and wait patiently for the fair value of a company to emerge.

Every Indian knows what LIC stands for. The organisation has weathered many storms in its 66-year journey since 1956. Yes, there is a need for the business model of the organisation to undergo change; it is already working towards that.

Finally, we must remember that not all analysts are in the business of misguiding investors. JP Morgan said in its recently released report on LIC that the market failed to understand the strength of LIC. The price to embedded value ratio (P/EV) is unrealistically low. This means that both the LIC policyholders and investors will get their money's worth in course of time.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

BRICS CAN BOLSTER GLOBAL POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY... MUTUAL COOPERATION HAS BENEFITED THE LIVES OF ALL CITIZENS. —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



THE WEST IS FOMENTING CRISIS. THE STATE OF GLOBAL ECONOMY IS DUE TO THE SELFISH ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES. —RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN



US-Pakistan partnership: Always at India's cost

Pakistan, which played an important role in containing the spread of communism, continues to be of help to the US

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price recently commented in favour of advancing the "US-Pakistan partnership" in a manner that serves their "mutual interests." Elsewhere, at the CNN News18 Town Hall, S. Jaishankar stated that a "lot of India's problems with Pakistan are directly attributable to the support that the United States gave to Pakistan." The link between the US support to Pakistan and India's problems needs to be revisited.

Theoretically, the power of the weak states to attract the great powers has been well established. Weak states cannot defend themselves. Consequently, they seek financial and military aid in exchange for their strategic autonomy and the geostrategic location. Pakistan is



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

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one such state.

Soviet Union leader Stalin first extended an invitation to Pakistan PM Liaquat Ali Khan in 1949 to visit Moscow. The fundamental differences between an Islamist state and a communist Soviet prevented that entente; hence, Pakistan sided with the US and played an important role in containing the spread of communism.

By 1955, Pakistan had joined two regional defence pacts, the South East Asia Treaty Organization and the Central Treaty Organization (Baghdad Pact). A little before 1955, in 1953, when Ayub Khan visited Turkey, he reiterated Dulles's 'northern tier defence pact' in which the two countries would occupy a prominent position. Later in 1954, the Turko-Iraqi agreement (Baghdad Pact)

superseded the Turko-Pak plan. Consequently, from 1953 to 1961, Islamabad received nearly \$2 billion in US assistance, one-quarter of this in military aid. Apart from this data, information retrieved from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicates that from 1955 to 1959, US arms exports amounted to \$1.02 billion. When correlated with Pakistan's then financial situation, strong indications of a vicious cycle of US aid and US arms exports emerge. In the budding relationship between the two, the core security concerns of India, a democratic nonaligned country, were sidelined.

Upon India's vehement protests, oral assurances were given by Eisenhower to Nehru that the US would take care of

the situation in a case of Pakistan's aggression against India. Thus, while India was idealistically following a nonaligned policy, Pakistan was hard bargaining its geostrategic location in lieu of military aid. According to the strategic experts, nearly four-fifths of all the foreign aid Pakistan received during 1951-60 came from the US. From the 1960s to the late 1970s, there was a brief period when US aid to Pakistan decreased.

The 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan again allowed Pakistan to extract more aid from the US. In exchange for Pakistan's role in the Afghan war, a \$400-million US aid was offered to Pakistan. It was rejected by the Zia-ul-Haq regime in 1980 and was labeled as 'peanuts.' Haq eyed the F-16,

which Islamabad later got. Thus, from 1983 to 1990, Pakistan received military aid of \$3.73 billion along with 1,000 Stinger missiles, and the component of US arms sales was \$2.2 billion. This was the same period when Pakistan's proxy war in Kashmir started, including the massacre of Kashmiri Hindus.

Also, at a regional level, many security experts attribute the birth of the Taliban to ISI and US agencies. Had the US assistance not been there, Pakistan would not have been so aggressive against India and its other neighbours, such as Afghanistan and Iran. Thus, the relationship between Pakistan and the US has always been based on a patron-client state wherein foreign or military aid is given to serve the US' geopolitical interests.

In the post-Cold War phase, Pakistan was reeling under sanctions due to its nuclear tests and was denied any military aid. However, the 9/11 attacks in the US again brought Pakistan to the forefront of Washington's South Asia policy. As per the SIPRI data, during 2002-14 Pakistan, as a major non-NATO ally, got military aid worth \$5.81 billion and the arms sales component was \$3.2 billion.

This was the same period when the Nandimarg massacre and Mumbai attacks took place. All these attacks were attributed to Pakistan. India collected the 'proof' and gave it to the US, hoping that the US might acknowledge it and help India. Little did India realise that the geopolitics of national interests, military aid, and arms trade are closely interrelated factors. Hence Pakistan is never

labeled as a 'terrorist state' by the US.

It was only after Pakistan's backstabbing of the US in Afghanistan that former US president Donald Trump realised America's mistake and commented in 2018 that it had "foolishly" given aid and, in return, merely got "lies and deceit."

Today, despite Washington's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and the backstabbing by Pakistan in Afghanistan, the US is all set to re-engage Pakistan, which will harm India's interests.

Given the evolving situation, India too is changing. The coupling of strategic autonomy and Atmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector is the answer to the geopolitics of the patron-client relationship.

UKRAINIAN ARMY TO LEAVE BATTERED CITY TO AVOID ENCIRCLEMENT

AP ■ KYIV

After weeks of ferocious fighting, Ukrainian forces will retreat from a besieged city in the country's east to avoid encirclement, a regional governor said Friday.

The city of Sievierodonetsk, the administrative center of the Luhansk region, has faced relentless Russian bombardment. Ukrainian troops fought the Russians in house-to-house battles before retreating to a huge chemical factory on the city's edge, where they holed up in its sprawling underground structures.

In recent days, Russian forces have made gains around Sievierodonetsk and the neighboring city of Lysychansk, on a steep bank across the river, in a bid to encircle Ukrainian forces.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said that the Ukrainian troops have been given the order to leave Sievierodonetsk to prevent that.

"Regrettably, we will have to pull our troops out of Sievierodonetsk," Haidai told The Associated Press. "It makes no sense to stay at the destroyed positions, and the number of killed in action has been growing."

He said that the Ukrainian soldiers have "received the order to retreat from Sievierodonetsk to new positions in fortified areas and continue resistance from there."

Haidai noted that Ukrainian troops still remain in Sievierodonetsk, facing massive Russian bombardment that has destroyed 80% of buildings.

Haidai said the Russians were also advancing toward Lysychansk from



The sculpture of prominent Italian poet Dante Alighieri, is protected by sandbags, on Vladimir's Hill in Kyiv, Ukraine

Zolote and Toshkivka, adding that Russian reconnaissance units conducted forays on the city edges but were driven out by its defenders.

The governor added that a bridge

on a highway leading to Lysychansk was badly damaged in a Russian airstrike and became unusable for trucks.

The Russian Defense Ministry declared Friday that four Ukrainian bat-

talions and a unit of "foreign mercenaries" totaling about 2,000 soldiers have been "fully blocked" near Hirske and Zolote, south of Lysychansk. The claim couldn't be independently verified.

Following a botched attempt to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in the early stage of the invasion that started Feb. 24, Russian forces have shifted focus in the war to the Donbas region, where the Ukrainian forces have fought Moscow-backed separatists since 2014.

The Russian military controls about 95% of Luhansk province and about half of neighboring Donetsk province, the two areas that make up the Donbas.

After repeated requests to its Western allies for heavier weaponry to counter Russia's edge in firepower, Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said a response had arrived in the form of medium-range American rocket launchers.

A U.S. defense official confirmed Wednesday that all four of the promised High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, were in the hands of Ukrainian forces but said it wasn't clear if they have been used yet.

The U.S. approved providing the precision-guided systems at the end of May, and once they were in the region, Ukraine's forces needed about three weeks of training to operate them. The rockets can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers).

The U.S. will send an addition \$450 million in military aid to Ukraine, including four more of the medium-range rocket systems, ammunition and other supplies, U.S. officials announced Thursday.



Ukrainians cheer nation's EU candidacy amid wartime woes

AP ■ KYIV

The European Union's decision to make Ukraine a candidate for EU membership offered war-weary Ukrainians a morale boost and hope of a more secure future Friday as the country's military ordered its fighters to retreat from a key city in the eastern Donbas region.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the decision for EU leaders as vindication for his nation's fight against Russia's aggression and said he was determined to ensure Ukraine retained the ability to decide if belonged in Europe or under Moscow's influence. "This war began just when Ukraine declared its right to freedom. To its choice of its future. We saw it in the European Union," Zelenskyy told the nation in a televised address late Thursday.

"That is why this decision of the EU is so important, motivates us and shows all this is needed not only by us."

Others recalled the 2014 revolution that ousted

Ukraine's pro-Moscow president, sparked in part by his decision not to complete an association agreement with the EU. Russian President Vladimir Putin opposed that agreement, just as he demanded before he sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 that NATO never accept Ukraine as an alliance member.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, an opposition leader who became prime minister after the revolution, expressed joy at the country's candidate status but also "bitterness" over the "terrible price that Ukraine pays for the desire to be a free, independent European state."

"Thank you to our soldiers - they won this decision," Yatsenyuk tweeted. "Ukraine is a great country that will inevitably become a member of the EU and, just as inevitably, a member of NATO."

Ukraine applied for membership less than a week after Russia invaded the country and must undergo a complicated process of many months to be eligible to join the 27-nation bloc.

Poland gets a loan to help it look after Ukraine refugees



AP ■ WARSAW

Poland is getting a loan of 450 million euros (\$474 million) from a bank linked to a European human rights group to help it cope with the influx of refugees fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Poland and the Council of Europe Development Bank signed the loan agreement Friday.

Some 4.3 million refugees crossed into Poland after Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Poland is providing them with free shelter, social and medical care, education and job opportunities.

Many have moved on to other countries and some have decided to go back home, but an estimated half of the number remain in Poland.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki singled out the European Union earlier this month, saying it's decision-making procedures for providing financial support are "sometimes too slow."

The Council of Europe has 46 member countries, including EU nations, and aims to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Russian military cargo plane crashes, killing 4

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian military cargo plane crashed Friday, killing at least four crewmembers and leaving several others injured, officials said.

The heavylift Il-76 cargo plane went down in the southwestern Ryazan region. The Russian Defense Ministry said that the plane suffered an engine problem that forced the crew to crash-land it on the ground.

The regional administration said that four of its crew were killed and a further five were injured when the plane slammed into a field just outside the city of Ryazan. Officials said that those injured were hospitalised in grave condition.

The four-engine Il-76 was designed in the 1970s and has served as the main heavylift cargo plane for the Soviet and Russian air force. It has also been widely used by many countries around the world.

UN chief warns of 'catastrophe' from global food shortage

AP ■ BERLIN

The head of the United Nations warned Friday that the world faces "catastrophe" because of the growing shortage of food around the globe.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the war in Ukraine has added to the disruptions caused by climate change, the coronavirus pandemic and inequality to produce an "unprecedented global hunger crisis" already affecting hundreds of millions of people.

"There is a real risk that multiple famines will be declared in 2022," he said in a video message to officials from dozens of rich and developing countries gathered in Berlin. "And 2023 could be even worse."

Guterres noted that harvests across Asia, Africa and the Americas will take a hit as farmers around the world struggle to cope with rising fertilizer and energy prices.

"This year's food access issues could become next year's global food shortage," he said.



"No country will be immune to the social and economic repercussions of such a catastrophe."

Guterres said UN Negotiators were working on a deal that would enable Ukraine to export food, including via the Black Sea, and let Russia bring food and fertilizer to world markets without restrictions.

He also called for debt relief for poor countries to help keep their economies afloat and for the private sector to help sta-

bilise global food markets.

The Berlin meeting's host, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, said Moscow's claim that Western sanctions imposed over Russia's invasion of Ukraine were to blame for food shortages was "completely untenable."

Russia exported as much wheat in May and June this year as in the same months of 2021, Baerbock said.

She echoed Guterres' comments that several factors underlie the growing hunger crisis around the world.

"But it was Russia's war of attack against Ukraine that turned a wave into a tsunami," Baerbock said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken insisted that Russia has no excuse for holding back vital goods from world markets.

"The sanctions that we've imposed on Russia collectively and with many other countries exempt food, exempt food products, exempt fertilizers, exempt insurers, exempt shippers," he said.

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता—सह—स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली

संक्षिप्त निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पत्र सं० —251 /स्था०अभि०,

दिनांक— 24 / 06 / 2022

बिहार भवन एवं बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भवन निर्माताओं से बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग एफ-2 एकसरनामा में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता :- स्थानिक अभियन्ता, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यापुरी नई दिल्ली
- परिमाण विपत्र के बिक्री की तिथि :- 18.07.2022 (कार्यालय अवधि तक)
- निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 19.07.2022 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे तक)
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 19.07.2022 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे से 5:00 बजे तक)
- परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत का स्थान :- 1. स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।
2. उपस्थानिक अभियन्ता, कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।
- निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।

क्र मांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन राशि	बी.ओ. क्यू. राशि	कार्य राशि
1.	Repair & painting work of HE suits with attached room in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
2.	Repair, painting & polishing work first floor rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
3.	Repair, painting & polishing work second floor rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	325000.00	16000.00	750.00	15
4.	Repair, painting & polishing work third floor rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	300000.00	15000.00	750.00	15
5.	Repair & painting work of boundary wall of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
6.	Repair & painting polishing work of Multipurpose hall of first floor in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	200000.00	10000.00	500.00	15
7.	Repair, painting & polishing work ground floor office rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	200000.00	10000.00	500.00	15
8.	Repair, painting & polishing work corridor and staircase in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	150000.00	7500.00	500.00	15
9.	Painting & beautification of flower bed & bamboo jafri of garden in Bihar Niwas for the year 202223	200000.00	10000.00	500.00	15
10.	Repair, painting & polishing work first floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
11.	Repair, painting & polishing work second floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
12.	Repair, painting & polishing work third floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
13.	Repair, painting & polishing work fourth floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
14.	Repair, painting & polishing work ground floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
15.	Repair, painting & polishing work C.M. suite of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
16.	Repair, painting & polishing work C.S. & C.J suite of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
17.	Repair, painting & polishing work all corridor and staircase of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
18.	Repair, painting work of Boundary wall, RTFS & driver room of Bihar Bhawan for the year 202223	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
19.	Repair & painting & work of outer portion old wing in Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
20.	Repair & painting work outer surface New wing of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	700000.00	35000.00	1250.00	30
21.	Repair & painting work of out house of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	650000.00	32500.00	1250.00	30
22.	Repair & painting work of Rain Basera and garage in Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	350000.00	17500.00	750.00	15

शर्तें:—


- निविदा के साथ अद्यतन निबंधन आयाकर प्रमाण—पत्र वाणिज्य कर प्रमाण—पत्र, चरित्र प्रमाण—पत्र, पैन कार्ड आदि की छाया प्रति जो राहपत्रित पदाधिकारी से अभिप्रमाणित हो संलग्न करना होगा।
- अग्रघन की राशि डाकघर के एन०ए०सी/सावधि जमा के रूप में संलग्न की जानी है जो स्थानिक अभियन्ता चाणक्यापुरी बिहार भवन नई दिल्ली के नाम से निविदा प्राक्कलन के तिथि के बाद के तिथि में विधिवत प्लेज्ड हो।
- निविदाकारों को भारतीय मानक विनिर्देश के अनुसार कार्य हेतु उपेक्षित सामग्री की खुद व्यवस्था करना होगा।
- बिना कारण बताए निविदा स्थगित एवं रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।
- प्राक्कलन की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

उक्त कार्य के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से कार्यालस अवधि में संपर्क कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता—सह— स्थानिक अभियन्ता

बिहार भवन नई दिल्ली।



Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun
Phone 0135-2608125, Fax : 2608126, E-mail : ut-urdda@pmgsy.nic.in, urdda@yahoo.com

Ref. No. : 753/11-02 (xix)-2 /ITCO/URRDA/22

Dated : 24-06-2022

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice-06/2022-23

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of **Dehradun** for 01 number of Packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 4.99 Crore** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 25.06.2022.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works)**, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non- responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 01.07.2022 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer
URRDA, Dehradun

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

Monetary policy actions to be more moderate than other nations: RBI

New Delhi: RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra on Friday exuded confidence that the monetary policy actions will be more moderate than the rest of the world, as inflation is expected to fall below 6 per cent in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal.

The Reserve Bank has already raised the key policy rate by 90 basis points in May and June to 4.9 per cent to tame high inflation, mainly due to supply disruptions on account of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Speaking at a session on 'Geo-Political Spill-overs and Indian Economy' at PHDCCI here, Patra said there are indications that inflation may be peaking.

"As monetary policy works through into the economy...Inflation is expected to fall back into the threshold in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 and fall even further in the next year. This is only the baseline scenario," he said, adding that because of initiatives taken so far, the inflation may fall "sooner and faster".

"Therefore, in this world of global inflation crisis, it is possibly better to look at the change in inflation, not the level," said the Deputy Governor, who looks after the monetary policy department in

the RBI.

He is also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which decides the key policy rate (repo).

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a two per cent deviation on either side.

While the retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) moderated to 7.04 per cent in May from 7.8 per cent in April, it remained above the RBI's threshold of 6 per cent for the fifth month in a row. "Against this backdrop, it is our hope that required monetary policy actions in India will be more moderate than elsewhere in the world and that we will be able to bring inflation back to target within a two-year time

span.

If the monsoon brings with it a more benign outlook on food prices, India would have tamed the inflation crisis even earlier," he said.

Observing that the decline in inflation will be very "grudging", Patra said India will "succeed in bending down the future trajectory of inflation and thereby it will win the war".

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank in its bi-monthly monetary policy review raised the benchmark repo rate -- at which it lends short-term money to banks -- by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 4.90 per cent to rein in spiralling prices. It followed an off-cycle meeting on May 4, when the central bank hiked the repo rate by 0.40 per cent. **PTI**

RBI exploring options to ensure customer safety dealing with PPIs issued by non-bank entities

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank is considering various options to ensure that customers are not put at risk on account of activities of non-bank fintech players with regard to prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), sources said.

Earlier this week, RBI issued an advisory clarifying that non-bank prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers cannot load their wallets and cards from credit lines or pre-set borrowing limits.

Such practice, if followed, should be stopped immediately and any non-compliance will attract penal action, the advisory said.

According to sources, the idea behind the issuance of the advisory was to ensure customer safety and also to stress the fact that any business that requires an authorization or a licence should not be done by someone else without authorization or licence.

The RBI is in discussion with the players and exploring options to deal with the situation, sources said. Innovation should not be based on regulatory arbitrage so various options are being explored including devising a framework and greater disclosure for non-bank fintech players issuing prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) players, sources said.

PPIs are instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, financial services, and remittance facilities, against the value stored therein. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty gain for 2nd day amid firm global trends

Close up nearly 1%

Mumbai: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty rose by nearly 1 per cent on Friday, extending gains for a second straight day on the back of buying in auto, banking, and energy stocks in line with firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced further by 462.26 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 52,727.98 as 23 of its constituents ended in the green. During the day, it rallied 644.15 points or 1.23 per cent to 52,909.87.

The Nifty rose by 142.60 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 15,699.25 with 39 of its scrips posting gains. Sensex and Nifty had recovered nearly 1 per cent Thursday.

"Mirroring a firm trend in the global market and in response to declining commodity prices, the domestic market maintained its positive trend.

The up-move was supported by broad-based buying except in IT," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

From the Sensex pack, M&M was the biggest gainer spurting 4.28 per cent. IndusInd Bank rose by 2.59 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 2.58 per cent, Hindustan Unilever by 2.3



per cent, ICICI Bank by 2 per cent, and Bharti Airtel by 1.72 per cent.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries rebounded 1.47 per cent and Tata Steel by 1.42 per cent. Nestle, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Ultratech Cement, Maruti, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank and SBI also advanced.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, TCS, Wipro and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

"Markets edged higher for the second consecutive session, driven by firm global cues. Healthy rebound financials, metals and PSU banks aided sentiments," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The broader markets outperformed and ended higher in

the range of 1.4 per cent to 1.6 per cent. Barring IT, all the other sectoral indices ended in the green.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.60 per cent and the midcap index gained 1.53 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, telecom jumped 2.53 per cent, auto (1.98 per cent) power (1.73 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (1.68 per cent), consumer durables (1.47 per cent) and finance (1.40 per cent). Information Technology and tech were the only laggards.

As many as 2,401 stocks advanced, while 906 declined and 141 remained unchanged.

On weekly basis, Sensex jumped 2.66 per cent or 1,367 points after two straight weeks of losses. **PTI**

Rupee settles at all-time low of 78.33 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee on Friday slipped 1 paisa to close at its all-time low of 78.33 (provisional) against the US dollar.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and finally settled at its all-time low of 78.33, down 1 paisa from its previous close.

During the day, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 78.19 and a low of 78.35 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 78.32 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.25 per cent to 104.17. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.13 per cent to USD 111.29 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 462.26 points or 0.88 per



cent higher at 52,727.98, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 142.60 points or 0.92 per cent to 15,699.25.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,319.06 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Meanwhile, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael D Patra on Friday said the Central Bank will not allow "jerky movements" of the rupee and stressed that the Indian currency has witnessed the least depreciation in recent times. **PTI**

Gold declines by ₹70; silver falls ₹621

New Delhi: Gold prices declined by ₹70 to ₹50,557 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to HDFC securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹50,627 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also declined by ₹621 to ₹59,077 per kg from ₹59,698 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by ₹70 reflecting overnight fall in COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,828 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 20.97 per ounce. Spot gold prices were up 0.33 per cent at COMEX, Patel added. **PTI**

Centre procures 52,460 tonne onion till May for buffer stock

New Delhi: The Centre has procured 52,460 tonne of onion till May-end this year for maintaining a buffer stock, a senior Consumer Affairs Ministry official said on Friday.

The Government for the last few years has been maintaining a buffer stock of onion to tackle price rise during the lean season. Onion is being procured through an agency National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed).

A procurement target of 2.50 lakh tonne of rabi 2022 onion has been fixed for 2022-23. "Nafed has reportedly procured 52,460.34 tonne of onion till May 31, this year," the official said.

The target set for the current year will be achieved by next month, the official added.

In 2021-22, a total quantity of 2.08 lakh tonne of rabi (winter) onion was procured for calibrated and targeted releases to stabilise prices dur-



ing the lean season.

As per the Agriculture Ministry's estimate, the country's total onion production is estimated to increase by 16.81

per cent to 31.12 million tonne in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), compared to 26.64 million tonne in the 2021-22 crop year. **PTI**

Intel India opens new design & engineering centre in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Intel India on Friday announced the expansion of its design and engineering footprint in India with the unveiling of a new 4.53 lakh sq. ft facility here.

The new centre across two towers can accommodate 2,000 employees and will help advance Intel India's "cutting-edge" design and engineering work in client, data centre, IoT, graphics, artificial intelligence, and automotive segments, a company statement said.

It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Karnataka Minister of IT & BT, Higher Education, Science & Technology, C N Ashwath Narayan, and Country Head, Intel India & Vice President, Intel Foundry Services, Nivru



Rai were among those present.

Chandrasekhar was quoted as saying in the statement: "Intel's critical contributions and relentless quest to advance innovation in design and engineering in India over the past two and half decades highlight the design opportunity India offers to the world". **PTI**

MG Motor inaugurates residential community EV chargers in Jaipur

Mumbai: MG Motor India on Friday said it has inaugurated the first two residential community SMART electric vehicle chargers in Jaipur as part of its plans to set up more such charging stations in the

Rajasthan capital.

Under the company's MG Charge initiative, the automaker will install 1,000 AC fast chargers at residential localities across India in 1,000 days, it said in a statement.

MG Motor said it is taking conscious steps towards green mobility and strengthening the EV charging infrastructure in the country.

It provides 6-way charging ecosystem with a plug-and-charge cable onboard, AC fast chargers (installed at the customer's home/office), DC superfast chargers at MG dealerships, public charging network, charge-on-the-go with RSA (Roadside Assistance) and community charger.

MG has also recently part-

nered with Jio-Bp and BPCL to add momentum to EV adoption by expanding opportunities for intercity travel while installing EV chargers across highways and cities, it said.

The SMART chargers installed in an NRI colony in Jaipur are Type 2 chargers, sim-enabled and supported through a sharable charger management system while the connected AC charging stations will cater to the residents and visitors of these societies for their EV charging needs round-the-clock, MG Motor said.

Along with its partners and other RWAs, MG will continue to bolster the community charging infrastructure in the future, it said. **PTI**

GST dept may soon clarify on exemptions to IVF, tax on honorarium paid to guest anchors

New Delhi: The GST department may soon issue a host of clarification on certain vexed issues in tax rates, including exemptions to assisted reproductive technology (ART) or in vitro fertilization (IVF) as well as applicability of GST on payment of honorarium to guest anchors.

A committee of tax officers from the Centre and states, referred to as the Fitment Committee, has informed the GST Council that healthcare services provided by a clinical establishment, an authorised medical practitioner or paramedics are exempt under Goods and Services Tax regime and a clarification be issued regarding GST exemptions to ART/IVFs.

GST law defines health-



care services as any service by way of diagnosis or treatment or care for illness, injury, deformity, abnormality or pregnancy in any recognised system of medicines in India.

It also includes services by way of transportation of the patient to and from a clinical establishment, but does not include hair transplant or cosmetic or plastic surgery, except

when undertaken to restore or to reconstruct anatomy or functions of body affected due to congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, injury or trauma.

The ailment of infertility is treated using ART procedure such as IVF. Such services are covered under the definition of healthcare services for the purpose of above exemption notification, the fitment committee said adding a clarification may accordingly be issued by way of a circular.

The recommendations of the committee which will be placed before the GST Council meeting on June 28-29 also include a clarification on the issue of applicability of GST on payment of honorarium to the guest anchors. **PTI**

Automobiles to be accorded 'Star Ratings' based on performance in crash tests: Gadkari

New Delhi: To boost road safety in India, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said the new car assessment program -- Bharat NCAP, proposes a mechanism wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded 'Star Ratings' based upon their performance in crash tests.

In a series of tweets, Gadkari said the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) will serve as a consumer-centric platform, allowing customers to opt for cars based upon their Star-Ratings, while promoting competition among manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.

"I have now approved the draft GSR notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in crash tests," he said. **PTI**

Govt re-advertises top post of oil regulator

New Delhi: The government has for a second time in as many years re-advertised the post of chairman of oil and gas regulator PNGRB, which has been lying vacant since December 2020.

The oil ministry this week issued an advertisement inviting applications for the post of chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

It sought applications by July 21 from those who fulfill the qualifications and are not more than 62 years of age,

according to the advertisement.

The post of chairman of PNGRB has been lying vacant since December 4, 2020, when Dinesh K Sarraf completed his three-year term.

A search-cum-selection committee headed by V K Saraswat, Member (S&T), Niti Aayog in June 2021 picked former power secretary Sanjeev Nandan Sahai for the job. But that appointment was not confirmed by the government and so the post was re-advertised in November 2021. **PTI**

HCL Tech opens new global delivery centre in Vancouver

New Delhi: Indian IT services company HCL Technologies on Friday announced the opening of its new delivery centre in Vancouver, Canada.

The centre will "significantly" expand the company's presence in the country to serve clients primarily in the hi-tech industry, HCL Tech said in a statement.

Announcing the opening of the new delivery centre, HCL Tech said the nearly 9,000 square foot facility would enable faster and streamlined delivery of innovative technology services. **PTI**

HCL Tech employs more than 2,000 people in Canada and is growing at a rapid pace.

The new centre will also feature a Customer Experience Centre focused on the development of futuristic digital technologies and next-generation products and solutions for HCL Technologies' global customers. This includes full-stack engineering solutions, customer experience and R&D services across different industries. "This announcement follows a broader wave of momentum in Canada for HCL Technologies. **PTI**

NTPC declares commercial op of last part of Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV project

New Delhi: State-owned NTPC on Friday said it has begun commercial operations of the last part capacity of 35 MW out of 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV Project at Kayamkulam, Kerala. The company in a regulatory filing said that the Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV Project was declared on Commercial Operation with effect from 00:00 hours of June 24.

"Consequent upon successful commissioning, the last part capacity of 35 MW out of 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating



Solar PV Project at Kayamkulam, Kerala is declared on Commercial Operation with effect from 00:00 hours of 24.06.2022," the filing added.

With this, the standalone installed and commercial

capacity of NTPC has become 54749.20 MW, while group installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 69114.20 MW.

NTPC, under the ministry of power, is the country's largest power producer. **PTI**

India can finish on podium in hockey WC: Savita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India captain Savita feels there is no dearth of motivation and confidence in the national women's hockey team as it eyes a historic podium finish at the upcoming World Cup.

The top International Hockey Federation (FIH) tournament will be jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Spain from July 1 to 17.

India finished a historic fourth at the Olympics last year and Savita said the Tokyo Games had instilled a belief that they can match the best in the business on the biggest stage.

"Our performance in Tokyo gave us the belief that we can finish on the podium in global events," Savita said.

"Post Olympics, we realigned our focus on taking our performance to the next level. We channelled our energy into doing well in the FIH Pro League and finishing third in this prestigious league has given us a boost ahead of the World Cup."

Indian women's best-ever result at the World Cup is a fourth place finish in the inaugural edition in 1974. In the 2018 tournament, India secured the eighth spot.

India's splendid show in Tokyo has changed the face of women's hockey in the coun-



try. Featuring in its debut FIH Pro League, the Indian women gave big shots like the Netherlands and Argentina tough fights to finish a creditable third.

"The Indian women's hockey team has never won a medal at the World Cup and it is our mission to make this dream come alive this time," Savita said.

The ace goalkeeper said playing and fighting together as a unit will be key to success in the World Cup.

"We are very excited to play in the World Cup. We just want to play as a team. For us, the Olympics was a great experience. We learnt a lot from there and we believe we have to play together and fight hard," she said.

"After the Olympics, everyone in our team is so motivated, so focused. We really want to play against good teams," she added.

In the upcoming quadrennial event, India are placed in Pool B alongside England, China and New Zealand, and will open their campaign against England on July 3 at Amstelveen.

"Of course, England, China and New Zealand are good teams. We've already played against them. But we have to focus on ourselves first. We will go match by match," Savita said.

Consistency is paramount for progress: Schopman ahead of WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's hockey team coach Janneke Schopman is stressing on consistency, without which, she said on Friday, the side will struggle to go far in the upcoming World Cup.

The quadrennial event will be jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Spain from July 1 to 17.

India's best-ever result at the World Cup is a fourth-place finish in the inaugural edition in 1974. In 2018, India finished eighth.

"If we truly play to our potential, we play the way we know we can consistently, anything is possible. Women hockey at this moment is very tight, anyone can beat anyone," Schopman said.

"(But) consistency is a big point of attention. If we can play consistently well, top-4, and who knows a podium in the World Cup is a possibility."

"At the same time if we don't perform we can miss the quarterfinals."

The coach said the players need to understand their



potential and deliver on the field in order to achieve consistency.

"I think we have great potential and if we actually play to our potential we are a tough team to beat," the 45-year-old said.

Schopman, a double Olympic medallist defender from the Netherlands, said players will have to shoulder responsibility to achieve success in the World Cup.

"If anything I need to see is players taking up ownership on the field and believe that they can perform."

"Realistically, I think we are up there. We are in the top 6. Our performance against Argentina (recently in Pro League) showed that we can compete against any country."

India finished a creditable third in their debut FIH Pro League season and Schopman said the recent back-to-back high-intensity matches against Belgium and Argentina augur well ahead of the World Cup.

"Pretty happy with our preparation. We have another week. Last week we had the Pro League matches and quite happy with the way we responded after the Belgium matches. So preparation is going in the right direction."

"It's a great achievement to finish on the podium in your first Pro League. We had good runs against pretty much every team we played. Apart from points we got we learned a lot from these games. It was a satisfying run," she said.

Serena to begin Wimbledon against 113th-ranked foe

AP ■ WIMBLEDON

Serena Williams will begin her Wimbledon comeback by facing Harmony Tan, a 24-year-old from France who is ranked 113th and owns a 2-6 career record in Grand Slam matches.

The placement of Williams in the women's bracket was the most anticipated aspect of Friday's draw at the All England Club. She is making her first appearance in singles at any tournament since she hurt her right leg and stopped playing during the first set of her first-round match at Centre Court a year ago.

Because of her lack of activity over the past 12 months, Williams - who has been No 1 in the rankings - is outside the WTA's top 1,200 this week and so could have ended up anywhere in the field and against any opponent in the first round. She only returned to the tour this week by playing two doubles matches at a tuneup event in England.

While the 40-year-old

American's track record merit seeding, the All England Club now adheres strictly to the rankings in determining how it seeds players.

Williams has won seven Wimbledon championships, part of her total of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, a record for the professional era. Tan, meanwhile, will be making her debut at the grass-court tournament.

If Williams gets past Tan, next up could be a match against Sara Sorribes Tormo, who is seeded 32nd but has never been past the second round at the All England Club or the third round at any major in 19 past appearances.

The third round potentially would put Williams against



a tougher test: No 6-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who was the runner-up to Ash Barty last year at Wimbledon and also reached the final of the 2016 U.S. Open - beating Williams in the semifinals there.

Barty retired at age 25 in March and so is not defending her title when play begins on Monday. That also leaves open the question of which woman will have the honor of playing the first match at Centre Court on Tuesday, a slot traditionally reserved for the prior year's champion.

The two most likely choices would seem to be No 1 Iga Swiatek, who enters on a 35-match winning streak and is coming off a title at the French Open, or Simona Halep, who won the 2019 trophy.

Kvitova vs Ostapenko in Eastbourne final

AP ■ EASTBOURNE

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova advanced to her first grass-court final in four years by beating Beatriz Haddad Maia 7-6 (5), 6-4 at Eastbourne on Friday.

Kvitova will face defending champion Jelena Ostapenko in the final. The eighth-seeded Latvian defeated 12th-seeded Camila Giorgi 6-2, 6-2 in the other semifinal match.

Haddad Maia had won 12 straight matches on grass including back-to-back singles titles in Nottingham and Birmingham over the last two weeks.

The 14th-seeded Kvitova reached her first final of 2022 and first grass-court final since Birmingham in 2018.

Kvitova earned the only



service break of the match to begin the second set against the 15th-seeded Brazilian.

The 32-year-old Czech player's only career loss in five grass-court finals was to Marion Bartoli at Eastbourne in 2011, when Kvitova went on to win Wimbledon for the first time.

Medvedev loses to Bautista Agut in Mallorca quarters

AP ■ PALMA

Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev will remain without a title on grass this season after a straight-set loss to Roberto Bautista Agut in the quarterfinals of the Mallorca Championships.

Medvedev lost 6-3, 6-2 after entering the match with an 8-2 record on the surface for the year, with his losses coming in consecutive finals in Germany and the Netherlands.

Medvedev, who will not play at Wimbledon because of the ban on Russians over the war in Ukraine, needed to come from behind to get past Aslan Karatsev in the round of 16 on



Wednesday.

Medvedev, the defending champion in Mallorca, had only one break opportunity against the 20th-ranked Bautista Agut, who had advanced without having to play in the last 16 because Nick Kyrgios withdrew with an abdominal injury.

Archery WC Stage 3: Compound mixed pair in final

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian archers assured themselves of a second medal in the World Cup Stage 3 with ace duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam sailing into the compound mixed team final here on Friday.

A day after Deepika Kumari and Co. cruised into the final of recurve women's team event to confirm their first medal of the meet, the compound mixed pair of Verma and Jyothi followed suit, defeating Estonia's Robin Jaatma and Lisell Jaatma 156-151 in a lopsided semifinal.

The Indian duo will face fifth seed France in the com-



ound mixed team final on Saturday.

Making a comeback after more than seven months, world

number 3 Jyothi, who was sidelined in the Asian Games trial, is also in the hunt for an individual medal, having advanced

into the semi-final.

A day after Lisell gave Jyothi a tough fight in the individual quarterfinal, the Estonian along with her teammate Robin failed to create much pressure and slipped behind after the Indian pair had a perfect first round.

Maintaining their consistency, Verma and Jyothi extended their lead to five points in the third round that proved decisive, even as their rivals levelled it 38-38 in the final set of arrows.

Having got a bye into the pre-quarters, third seeded India began their mixed team campaign eliminating Puerto Rico by a handsome eight-point margin (158-150).

Milan begin Scudetto defence against Udinese in mid-August

AP ■ MILAN

AC Milan will begin their Serie A title defence with the visit of Udinese after the 2022/23 season's fixture list was announced on Friday.

Stefano Pioli's side then face Atalanta, Bologna and Sassuolo before hosting the first Milan derby of the season in early September.

Milan took the Scudetto from Inter on the final day of last season's enthralling title race and will likely be doing battle with their local rivals -- who are set to bring back Romelu Lukaku -- for the title in a campaign which starts earlier than usual.

The opening round of fixtures are on August 13, due to the World Cup which kicks off in Qatar in November, and finishes on June 4 next year.



The first week of the season will be held around when Italian families traditionally set off to the seaside, lakes or mountains on holiday to escape the intense summer heat.

The league will break from November 13 to make space for the World Cup but unlike the Premier League will not return in December, with the action starting up again on January 4.

Inter start with a trip to Serie B champions Lecce, one of only three teams from Italy's southern regions, before facing Spezia, Lazio and promoted Cremonese before their first

local derby of the season.

Should the season go down to the wire as it did in May, there are some big matches in the final few weeks which could have an impact on the destination of the title.

BERLUSCONI BACK

Juventus, hotly-tipped to sign free agent Paul Pogba, host Milan in the penultimate round of fixtures, when Inter await rivals Atalanta at the San Siro.

The week before Inter travel south to Napoli, who were well in the title race last season until they fell away in the final weeks of the campaign.

Milan fans will welcome back former owner Silvio Berlusconi in late October when promoted Monza visit the San Siro during the 11th round of fixtures.

Daruvala completes successful Formula 1 test with McLaren

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Young Indian racer Jehan Daruvala made a successful Formula 1 test debut this week with eight-time constructors' winner McLaren and is now eligible for a Super Licence.

The 23-year-old, who is aiming to become the third racer from India to race in Formula 1, drove the Woking-based team's 2021 race-winning challenger -- the MCL35M -- on Tuesday and Wednesday at Silverstone.

The test was Jehan's first taste of F1 machinery and he chalked up over 130 laps combined over the two days, over twice the distance F1 drivers will cover during British GP. The track time helped him earn enough points to apply for a



Super Licence, which is needed to compete in F1.

Jehan, who ran trouble-free on both the days, currently races with Italian team Prema in the Formula 2 championship, the feeder series that sits one step below Formula 1, and is third in

the overall standings.

"I really enjoyed my first time driving a Formula One car. I felt immediately at home and while it was physically more demanding than anything I have driven in the past, I didn't have any issues with my fitness," Jehan was quoted as saying in a media release on Friday.

According to Jehan, the experience gave him good understanding of how teams operate on an F1 weekend.

"As a result, we were able to work through the run plan well and complete everything we had mapped out. We did a mixture of high-fuel long runs and as well as shorter, low-fuel runs on different tyre compounds. That gave me a good understanding of how teams operate on an F1 weekend."

