

OPINION 6
WHEN LAWMAKERS
BYPASS SET NORMS**WORLD 8**
EUROPE, CANADA CLOSE THEIR
AIRSPACE TO RUSSIAN AIRPLANES**MONEY 9**
REGULATION SHOULD NOT INHIBIT
INNOVATION IN FINANCIAL SECTOR: NITI

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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MEDVEDEV
REPLACES
DJOKER AS
WORLD NO 1
12 SPORT**CAPSULE****'UNAVOIDABLE CLIMATE
HAZARDS IN 20 YRS'****New Delhi:** Human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions around the world, despite efforts to reduce the risks, scientists warned in the latest Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change report released on Monday. **P4****MADHABI PURI BUCH IS
NEW SEBI HEAD****New Delhi:** Madhabi Puri Buch on Monday was appointed as the new chairperson of Sebi, the first woman to head the capital market regulatory body.**VIOLENCE MARS FIRST
MANIPUR POLLS****Imphal:** Violence marred the first phase of Manipur Assembly elections to 38 constituencies on Monday even as 67.53 per cent of around 12.09 lakh voters exercised their franchise till 3 PM, election officials said.**PRASHANT KISHOR
MEETS KCR****Hyderabad:** Political strategist Prashant Kishor's meeting with Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao here has assumed political significance ahead of next year's Assembly elections in the State, even as the TRS supremo is making efforts to stitch up an anti-BJP bloc comprising various regional leaders including Mamata Banerjee and Uddhav Thackeray.**DALIT ACTIVIST FORCED
TO DRINK URINE IN MP****Gwalior:** A 33-year-old Dalit Right to Information activist was allegedly beaten up and forced to drink urine by seven people after he sought information related to a village panchayat in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, police said on Monday.**3 WORKERS IN G'GRAM
HACKED TO DEATH****Gurugram:** In a shocking incident, three employees of a CNG pump in Sector-31 here were hacked to death by some people early on Monday, police said. **P3****GIRLS IN HIJAB DENIED
ENTRY TO COLLEGES****Bengaluru:** Hijab and burqa wearing girls were denied entry to educational institutions in Shivamogga and Udipi by the authorities citing the Karnataka High Court's interim order on Monday.**RLY RESUMES GENERAL
CLASS SERVICES****New Delhi:** The Railways on Monday announced the resumption of general class passenger services which were suspended due to the coronavirus crisis. The Railways had been running fully reserved 'special trains' during the pandemic to prevent crowding in trains so as to contain the spread of the disease.

Russia-Ukraine come to talks table

No immediate
pact but stage set
for second round
of parleys soon

AP ■ KYIV

Russian and Ukrainian delegations met for talks on Monday amid high hopes but low expectations for any diplomatic breakthrough, after Moscow unleashed the biggest land war in Europe since World War-II amid ramped up nuclear threats but met unexpectedly stiff resistance. However, the first round of Ukraine-Russia talks aimed at ending the fighting between Moscow and its smaller neighbour concluded with no immediate agreements. An aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin says talks with Ukrainian officials lasted nearly five hours.

Vladimir Medinsky headed the Russian delegation in Belarus. He said the two sides "found certain points on which common positions could be foreseen." Another round of talks was agreed to, Medinsky said. Mykhailo Podolyak, a top adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, gave few details except to say that the talks, held near the Ukraine-Belarus border, were focused on a possible cease-fire and that a second round could take place "in the near future."

"The next meeting will take place in the coming days on the



A Russian armoured personnel carrier burns amid damaged and abandoned light utility vehicles after fighting in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. The city authorities said that Ukrainian forces engaged in fighting with Russian troops that entered the country's second-largest city on Sunday

Polish-Belarusian border, there is an agreement to that effect," Medinsky said.

Meanwhile, an embattled Ukraine moved to solidify its bond with the West on Monday by applying to join the European Union, even as the first round of Ukraine-Russia talks aimed at ending the fighting concluded with no deal but an agreement to keep talking.

Earlier in the day, a tense calm reigned on Monday in Kyiv

as explosions and gunfire were heard in embattled cities in eastern Ukraine and terrified Ukrainian families huddled overnight in shelters, basements, or corridors. "I sit and pray for these negotiations to end successfully so that they reach an agreement to end the slaughter, and so there is no more war," said Alexandra Mikhailova, weeping as she clutched her cat in a makeshift shelter in the strategic southeastern Ukrainian city of

Mariupol. Exact death tolls are unclear, but the UN human rights chief said 102 civilians have been killed and hundreds wounded in five days of fighting — warning that figure was likely a vast undercount — and Ukraine's President said at least 16 children were among the dead. More than 500,000 people have fled the country since the invasion, another UN Official said Monday — among millions who have left their homes.

Still, a tiny sliver of hope emerged as the first face-to-face talks between Ukrainian and Russian officials since the war began opened Monday. The delegations met at a long table with the blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag on one side and the Russian tricolour on the other. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Office said it would demand an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of Russian troops.

Continued on page 2

Ukraine slows Russian advance

Belarus could send in troops to help Putin

AP ■ KYIV

Outgunned but determined Ukrainian troops slowed Russia's advance and held onto the capital and other key cities — at least for now and the Ukrainian Defence Minister promised Russian soldier amnesty if they laid down their arms. However, the relative lull in warfare Monday morning in Ukraine was unlikely to last as neighbouring Belarus could send troops to help Russia soon according to a senior American Intelligence official with direct knowledge of current US Intelligence assessments. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

US officials say they believe the invasion has been more difficult, and slower, than the Kremlin envisioned, though that could change as Moscow adapts.

The British Defense Ministry said Monday that the bulk of Putin's forces are about 30 kilometers north of Kyiv, their



A US military vehicle is stopped in Arlamow, southeastern Poland, near the border with Ukraine, on Monday

advance having been slowed by Ukrainian forces.

Western nations ramped up the pressure with a freeze on Russia's hard currency reserves and even football's governing body FIFA decided to expel Russia from the upcoming World Cup, scheduled to be held in Qatar. In addition to sanctions, the US and Germany announced they will send Stinger missiles to Ukraine among other military supplies. The European Union — founded to ensure peace on the continent after World War II — is supplying lethal aid for the first time, including anti-tank weapons and ammunition.

At least one Western country is studying a request from Ukraine to provide fighter jets, a European official said. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

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4 Union Mins to fly to Ukraine neighbours to oversee evacuation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing its efforts for speedy evacuation of Indian nationals from the conflict-struck Ukraine, the Central Government on Monday decided to send four senior Union Ministers to five neighbouring countries of Ukraine to oversee the evacuation process of Indians, mostly students, who are stranded there following the Russian invasion.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijiju, and V K Singh will be going as "special envoys" of India, Government sources said.

Scindia will take care of evacuation efforts from

3 more Indian airlines join Op Ganga Mission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Meanwhile, three more Indian airlines - Indigo, SpiceJet, and Air India Express have joined the "Operation Ganga" mission from Hungarian capital Budapest and Romania's Bucharest to bring back stranded Indians safely amid the Ukraine crisis.

Continued on page 2

Romania and Moldova while Rijiju will go to Slovakia.

Puri will go to Hungary, while Singh will be in Poland to manage the evacuation.

Continued on page 2

India abstains on vote to call emergency UNGA session on Ukraine crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Monday abstained from a procedural vote to call an emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Welcoming the decision by Ukraine and Russia to hold talks, New Delhi also reiterated that diplomacy and dialogue was the way forward to defuse the situation.

Voting to convene the special session took place in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) early on Monday. The resolution was adopted with 11 votes in favour. India, China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) abstained while Russia voted against the resolution.

The UNSC, comprising 15 members met to vote on the emergency special session of the 193-member UNGA on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The vote for the UNGA session was procedural and, therefore, none of the five permanent members of the



Security Council, including China, France, Russia, the UK and the US could exercise their vetoes.

Explaining India's position for abstaining, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said, "It is regrettable that the situation in Ukraine has worsened further since the Council last convened on this matter."

Tirumurti stressed that there is no other choice but to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue. "We welcome today's announcement by both sides to hold talks at the Belarus

border," he said.

The Ambassador said India continues to be deeply concerned about the safety and security of Indian nationals, including a large number of Indian students, who are still stranded in Ukraine.

"Our evacuation efforts have been adversely impacted by the complex and uncertain situation at the border crossings. It is important to maintain an uninterrupted and predictable movement of people. It is an urgent humanitarian necessity that must be immediately addressed," he said.

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Ruble crashes amid Western sanctions

Defiant Russia doubles key interest rate

AFP/ANS ■ MOSCOW

Russia has more than doubled its key interest rate after the Ruble slumped by 30 per cent against the US Dollar. The Bank of Russia said it raised the rate to 20 per cent from 9.5 per cent to help cushion the impact on prices of the Ruble's slide. The move came after Western nations announced new sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

The ruble collapsed against the Dollar and the Euro on the Moscow Stock Exchange on Monday as the West punished Moscow with harsh new sanctions over the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine and some of the country's banks were banned from using the SWIFT international payment system



and froze and freezing central bank assets.

The Ruble fell sharply at the start of currency trading, reaching 100.96 to the Dollar, compared to 83.5 on Wednesday, the day before the invasion of Ukraine, and 113.52 to the Euro, compared to 93.5 before the assault. This fluctuation came after the Ruble-based MOEX index increased the upper trading limit. The Ruble later rallied slightly to 98.6 to the Dollar and 108.7 to the Euro.

Russia's central bank announced that it would not open share trading at the Moscow stock exchange on Monday "due to the situation that has arisen".

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Govt puts an end to Delhi's booze discount party

To control rush
rebate on MRP
discontinued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the national Capital witnessed long queues at liquor shops following the huge rebate and concession on liquor rates, the Delhi Government on Monday decided to discontinue the discount on the maximum retail price (MRP) on liquors. A senior Government official said the step was also taken after some licensees, using unhealthy market practice, placed banners and hoardings of the discount to gather more crowds at their shops. The Government also released an order stating that there were instances reported of large crowds gathering outside the liquor stores leading to law



and order problems and causing inconvenience to the local population of the areas.

According to an order released by the Excise Commissioner, Arava Gopi Krishna, on Monday, the Covid-19 situation is not yet over and danger of coronavirus still persists and therefore the huge crowds is likely to aggravate the rise in the Covid cases in the city.

"It has been reported that such discounting is also leading to unhealthy market practices deployed purely for short term

business gains by some of the licensees and is leading to the distortions of the market," stated the order.

"The intent of the Government in regard to discounting was to promote consumer choice and healthy competition and determination of price by market forces. The discount of this nature was not the objective of the Government while permitting the discounts in the new Excise Regime," the order further stated.

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Fate of Yogi, 5 BJP Mins to be decided in March 3 polls

Ten districts of UP going to polls in sixth phase

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■
LUCKNOW

The penultimate round of the seven-phase Uttar Pradesh poll on March 3 will decide the fate of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and five Ministers of his Government.

The ten districts going to the polls in the sixth phase are Gorakhpur, Ambedkarnagar, Ballia, Balrampur, Basti, Deoria, Kushinagar, Maharajan, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Siddharthnagar.

Besides Yogi, Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Minister of State for Basic Education Satish Chandra

Dwivedi, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, and Ministers of State Sriram Chauhan and Jai Prakash Nishad are in the fray in this round.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the BJP won 46 seats and its allies Apna Dal and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) one each. However, this time the SBSP has deserted the BJP and joined hands with the Samajwadi Party. Of the 57 seats, 37 are under red alert (polling areas where more than three candidates have criminal cases registered against them).

Despite only two phases of polling left, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is holding back-to-back rallies in Purvanchal. In eastern UP, his rallies are scheduled till March 4. The last phase of election will be held on March 7.

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GDP grows by 5.4% in Q3 of 2021-22

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy grew by 5.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of 2021-22, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The economy had grown by 20.3 per cent in the first quarter of this fiscal due to the low base effect. In the second quarter, the GDP grew by 8.5 per cent.

The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 0.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 2020-21. In its second advance estimates of national accounts, the NSO has projected 8.9 per cent growth in 2021-22.

In its first advance estimates released in January, it had projected 9.2 per cent growth for 2021-22 as against a contraction of 6.6 percent in 2020-21.

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DGCA extends suspension of int'l passenger flights

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Regular international flights will remain suspended till further orders. This restriction will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

In a circular issued on Monday, the DGCA stated: "The competent authority has decided to extend the suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India till further orders."

This restriction will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA, mentioned. Flights under the air bubble arrangement will not be affected, the circular said. Earlier on January 19, the sus-



pension was extended till February 28.

Presently, several central European countries, including Romania, Hungary and Poland, are helping India operate evacuation flights via alternative routes as the airspace over Ukraine is shut.

The DGCA order comes just a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the Civil Aviation Ministry and the DGCA to review its decision in wake of rising concerns over the Covid-19 variant Omicron.

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Amid efforts to unite non-BJP parties, KCR reaches Delhi

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Against the backdrop of a recent meeting with political strategist Prashant Kishor and ongoing efforts to bring together different parties against the BJP's alleged anti-people policies, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday reached Delhi. Rao left for Delhi on a visit, an official release said. However, it did not provide further details. It is expected that Rao may confer with leaders of like-minded parties during his

stay in the national capital.

Rao's visit comes against the backdrop of a meeting here with Kishor during the last couple of days and also his recent meetings with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai. Rao, who has been critical of the BJP and the Centre on a number of issues, had said he will hold meetings with his Maharashtra and West Bengal counterparts as part of efforts to unite various political parties against the BJP and the NDA government. Addressing a public meeting in Siddipet district on February 23, Rao had said he is moving in the direction of influencing national politics.

Stranded Indians in Ukraine tell sordid tales of helplessness

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telling sordid tales of intolerable living conditions, stranded Indians in Ukraine said they are facing hardships in availing meals and medicines as priority is being given to locals. Trapped inside a bunker in Kharkiv city of Ukraine, Assoiun Hussain (25), who hails from Kerala, told PTI over phone on Monday that he only had a loaf of bread in the last 48 hours. He said the bunkers are freezing 24X7 and are overcrowded, adding that they also lack basic amenities like water or bathrooms with doors. "We bought four to five bedsheets and arranged them together for makeshift beds. We are sleeping near railway tracks and on platforms. Our jackets are worn out because it is very cold here. The conditions are quite bad here," Hussain said. Indian students trapped in Ukraine have also alleged racial

discrimination against them by the locals. Recently, videos showing Indians being attacked did the rounds of social media. In one of the videos shot during night time, a student wheeling his suitcase behind him is kicked by a guard in uniform. In another video, students claimed that they were being thrown off the train parked at a railway station in Kyiv and beaten with sticks. Manogya Bora (19), who recently returned from the Poland border to Lviv, alleged that Indians are being subjected to racist attacks and students were beaten up. "People here are telling us to go back to Ukraine. The situation is much worse for boys. I have seen boys being beaten up," she said. Talking further about the pitiable conditions in the bunkers, Hussain said, "I received a loaf of bread today. I did not get food yesterday.

The Ukrainian authorities are providing food and medicine, including insulin and food for babies. However, priority is given to Ukrainians not Indians. "We are only getting what is left after distributing to Ukrainians," he said. The student said getting food from outside is not a cakewalk with continuous shelling underway. Moreover, no food supplies are available in the market, he added. "There is only one supermarket and there is nothing in there — only juices and water. We have self-respect, we cannot beg them. The Ukrainian authorities allowed us to go out to get food because some locals complained that because of us, they are running out of food fast," he said. "I tried going out today, but ran back as there was continuous shelling," Hussain added. Kharkiv is among the Ukrainian cities where the situation is dire with continuous

shelling. Thousands have taken refuge in metro bunkers to protect themselves. Recently, a nine-storey residential tower was hit, killing an elderly woman, while about 60 people survived after hiding in the basement. 21-year-old Shana Shaji of Kerala said there is continuous shelling. "It appears as if the building will fall apart," she said. Thousands of Indian students are stranded in Ukraine after the Russian Army launched a brutal offensive last week. With the war now entering the fifth day, the Indian government has been carrying out evacuations of its citizens from Romania and Hungary — neighbouring countries of Ukraine. When asked about the evacuation process, Hussain said the embassy has asked the students to reach the western border at their own risk.

India to help people from neighbouring countries stranded in Ukraine

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the entire government machinery is working round the clock to ensure that all Indians in Ukraine are safe and secure and that India will also help people from neighbouring and developing countries who are stranded in the eastern European nation. The prime minister made the remarks at a high-level meeting, his second of the day, that was held to review the ongoing efforts under "Operation Ganga" to bring back the Indians stranded in Ukraine, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The government has also

decided to send Union ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijjiu and General (ret'd) V K Singh to Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova to oversee the evacuation of Indians. The MEA said Modi noted that the first consignment of relief supplies to Ukraine to deal with the humanitarian situation on the country's borders would be dispatched on Tuesday. "The prime minister pointed out that the visit of four senior ministers as his Special Envoys to various nations will energise the evacuation efforts. It is reflective of the priority the government attaches to this matter," the MEA said in a statement.

PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR LOST OF DOCUMENTS
To be known to all that I, Sagun Bhayana S/o Late Sh. Sanjeev Bhayana, R/o E-10, E Block, Ball Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi-110015, have lost his original property Documents i.e. Perpetual Lease Deed and 'D' Form in respect of the Property Bearing No.- T-2/98, Mangolpuri Industrial Area Phase-I, New Delhi, have been lost, an NCR Vide LR No: 165225/2022 against this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch Police Station Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9891502200 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that the Mr. Rajesh Bhardwaj has acquired the Portion of Plot No. 197, area measuring 50 Sq. yds, (15'x30'), out of Kharsa No. 158, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nawada, Delhi, colony knowns as Vipin Garden, New Delhion POA basis vide Notarized GPA, ATS and Will dated 24/07/2002, executed by Mr. Subhash Sharma, and late Mr. Rajesh Bhardwaj is intending to sell the above said property to Mrs. Suman Swami vide Sale Deed. Further Mrs. Suman Swami is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. and in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no. 907, 9th Floor, GD-TIL Tower-B-03, Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE
Know all men through these presents that my clients Sh. Ramesh Dixit s/o Late Balwant Ram and Smt. Veena Dixit w/o Sh. Ramesh Dixit both R/o H-103, Great Value Sharnam, Sector-107, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have severed all relationship with their son Sh. Shaendra Dixit, daughter in law Mrs. Megha Dixit and grand-daughter Anika w.r.t. all their rights due to their ill & assaulting behavior & involvement in various unwarranted acts. Henceforth they are debarred from claiming/holding any right in all kind of movable and immovable property of my client. Any person who maintains any kind of relationship with them which is not his/her responsibility and my client would not be responsible for any act of his sons and daughters in law.
Narendra Sharma, (Advocate)
Chamber No. 742, Lawyer's Block, District Court Saket, New Delhi 110017
Mob. 9212545556, 9871574455

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001.
O.A. NO 535/2019
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
VERSUS
Vikas Kataria ...Defendants
TO,
1. Vikas kataria
S/o Sh. Kirti Lal Kataria R/o: House No. A-85, Jain Park, Near Matiala Road, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059
Also At
Super Store & Garments House No. A-85, Jain Park, Near Matiala Road, Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059
...Defendant

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.12,28,820.37/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty & Thirty Seven Paise Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before **Ld. Registrar on 15.02.2022 at 10:30 A.M.** (for further details kindly visit **DRTWebsite www.etnbunai.gov.in** Phone Number: 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:
(I) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/Software;
(II) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/ Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.
(III) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. **011-23748473**.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **31st December of 2021**
By Order of this Tribunal For Registrar
Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry.
Mr. Amit K. Dar,
Ld. Registrar DRT-I, New Delhi.
Phone No: 011-23748473
Email : drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION-LUCKNOW
e-Tender Notice No.: RE/JBP/EL/Telemetry/OT/21-22/06 Date: 24.02.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE
Executive Electrical Engineer/ Railway Electrification/Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on prescribed tender form for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Offer received manually shall be ignored.

1	Tender No.	RE/JBP/EL/Telemetry/OT/21-22/06
2	Name of work	Work for integration of Energy data from RCC to SEMC and from SEMC to SLDC in ET-COI and G-JBP of RE Jabalpur.
3	Approx. Cost of the work in Rs.	₹ 37,90,724.00/- (Rs. Thirteen Seven Lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four.)
4	Cost of Tender Form In Rs.	₹ 0.00/-
5	Date & Time for submission of the tender form online	15:00 Hrs. on 22.03.2022
6	Date & Time for opening of the tender online	15:30 Hrs. on 22.03.2022
7	Earnest Money in Rs.	₹ 75,800.00
8	Completion of work	06 Months

Complete details of tender notice available on the Railway website **www.irps.gov.in** and also placed on notice board of the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, beside Railway stadium, in front of M.P. tourism office, Jabalpur M.P.- 482001. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.
Chief Project Director
Railway Electrification, Lucknow
For and on behalf of President of India
PR/52/2022/ANU
"Serving Customers with a Smile"

DECLARATION FORM IV (SEE RULE 8)

1. Place of publication	No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002
2. Periodicity of Publication	Daily
3. Printer's Name (Whether citizen of India) Address	Narendra Kumar Yes E-4, Greater Kailash, Part-2, New Delhi-110048
4. Publisher's Name (Whether citizen of India) Address	Narendra Kumar Yes E-4, Greater Kailash, Part-2, New Delhi-110048
5. Editor's Name (Whether citizen of India) Address	Navin Kumar Upadhyay Yes 29C, Pocket C, Siddharth Extension, New Delhi-110014

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20	CHANDAN MITRA DIPAK MUKHERJI, DABUR JANGHVI (JOINT SHAREHOLDING)	H-33A, LANE W10C, SAINIK FARMS, NEW DELHI -110082

Note: Above data is based on MLA record.
1. Narendra Kumar, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Narendra Kumar
PUBLISHER
THE PIONEER
Place: New Delhi
Dated: March 1st, 2022

Ruble crashes....

From page 1

It said that it would make an announcement about trading for the next day by Tuesday morning. The Kremlin acknowledged the impact on Monday, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying that "the Western sanctions are hard, but our country has the necessary potential to compensate the damage." President Vladimir Putin was set to meet officials including the central bank chief Elvira Nabiullina and the CEO of Russia's largest lender Sberbank, German Gref, to discuss the economy. The ruble had already fallen sharply against the main world currencies due to the erupting conflict. On Sunday, Russia's central bank appealed for calm amid fears that there could be a run on the country's banks. Growing tensions also helped push Brent crude oil above \$100 a barrel.

Russia-Ukraine come...

From page 1

But while Ukraine sent its Defence Minister and other top officials, the Russian delegation was led by Putin's adviser on culture — an unlikely envoy for ending the war and a sign of how Moscow views the talks. Meanwhile, Russia's Central Bank scrambled to shore up the tanking Ruble and the US and European countries upped weapons shipments to Ukraine. While they hope to curb Putin's aggression, the measures also risked pushing an increasingly cornered Putin closer to the edge — and inflicted pain on ordinary Russians. In Moscow, Russians lined up Monday to withdraw cash as Western sanctions threatened their livelihoods and savings. In Kyiv, Ukrainians lined up to buy food and water after two nights trapped inside by curfew.

मध्यप्रदेश गृह निर्माण एवं अधोसंरचना विकास मण्डल रेडो फॉर पनेशन
भोपाल शहर के बीच अयोध्या नगर एल-सेक्टर भोपाल एवं डॉ. एस.पी. नगर विदिशा में स्थित आवासीय भूखण्डों को ऑफर के माध्यम से कय करने का सुनहरा अवसर
(जहां है, जैसी है स्थिति में एकमुश्त आधार पर विक्रय)
‘रेरा अधिनियम लागू होने के पूर्व विकसित भूखण्ड’

क्र.	भूखण्डों की संख्या	भूखण्डों के क्रमांक	क्षेत्रफल (वर्गमीटर में)	अपसेट मूल्य (रु. लाख में)	घरोहर राशि (रु. लाख में)	आवेदन शुल्क (रुपये/जी.एस.टी. सहित)
अ. एल-सेक्टर अयोध्या नगर भोपाल के भूखण्ड						
1.	02	202 से 203	216	31.11	6.23	रु. 1180/-
ब. डॉ. एस.पी. नगर विदिशा के भूखण्ड						
1.	01	ए-61	241.40	11.11	2.23	रु. 1180/-
2.	02	ए-62 एवं ए-65	217.00	10.05	2.01	रु. 1180/-
3.	01	बी-266	166.16	7.70	1.54	रु. 1180/-
4.	01	बी-267	166.65	7.70	1.54	रु. 1180/-

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ED attaches over 94 acres of land of Maha Min, others

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday attached over 94 acres of land belonging to Maharashtra Minister Prajakt Tanpure and others in connection with its money laundering probe into the alleged scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB). Tanpure is the fourth leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which is ruling in alliance with the Shiv Sena and Congress in Maharashtra, to face action from the central agency for money laundering. While Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik was arrested last week on money laundering charges, his former colleague Anil Deshmukh was held in a separate case and a sugar mill linked to state Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was attached by the agency last year in the MSCB case.

Tanpure was earlier questioned in this case by the agency. He is an NCP MLA and the minister of state for urban development, energy, tribal development, higher and technical education and disaster management in the Maharashtra government. The case relates to allegations that cooperative sugar factories were sold by the then officials and directors of the bank at throw-away prices to their relatives and others. The ED's money laundering case is based on an August 2019 FIR of the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing. The police complaint came after the Bombay High Court ordered on August 22, 2019, a probe into the allegations of selling sugar factories in the Maharashtra cooperative sector allegedly through fraudulent means. The ED said 90 acres of land of erstwhile Ram Ganesh Gadkari Sahkari Sakhar

Karkhana (SSK) held in the name of Takshshila Securities Pvt. Ltd. and two parcels of non-agricultural lands of 4.6 acres in Ahmednagar district belonging to Prajakt Tanpure worth Rs 7.6 crore have been attached. The total value of the attached lands is Rs 13.41 crore, it said. "MSCB undertook auction of Ram Ganesh Gadkari SSK in 2007 at undervalued price and without following due process the said SSK was sold to Prasad Sugar and Allied Agro Products Ltd., a firm of Prajakt Tanpure (son of Prasad Tanpure) for mere Rs 12.95 crore against the reserve price of Rs 26.32 crore. Investigation also revealed that though Prasad Sugar was the "sole bidder", signature of "second bidder" was taken by MSCB officials on the bid documents in order to project the bid process as competitive, it added.

DGCA extends suspension...

From page 1

The DGCA had on November 26, 2021, announced that India will resume scheduled international passenger flights from December 15, 2021. Due to the COVID pandemic, international flights have been suspended in India since March 23, but special passenger flights have been functioning since July 2020 under bilateral air bubble arrangements.

GDP grows by 5.4%....

From page 1

According to the statement, real GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in 2021-22 is estimated to attain a level of Rs 147.72 lakh crore as against the first revised estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 of Rs 135.58 lakh crore, released on January 31, 2022. The growth in GDP during 2021-22 is estimated at 8.9 per cent as against a contraction of 6.6 percent in 2020-21. In value terms, GDP stood at Rs 38,22,159 crore in

October-December 2021-22, higher than the Rs 36,22,220 crore in the corresponding period of 2020-21. According to NSO data, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector growth remained almost flat at 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2021-22, compared to a growth of 8.4 per cent a year ago. Farm sector GVA growth was slow at 2.6 per cent in the third quarter compared to 4.1 per cent growth a year ago.

3 more Indian..

From page 1

As many as 489 Indian nationals returned on Monday from Bucharest and Budapest. So far, Tata Group-owned Air India has evacuated 1,396 Indian nationals in six evacuation flights till now. Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi welcomed the returnees from the sixth evacuation flight at the Delhi airport.

Govt puts an end...

"The licensee are seen indulging in various promotional activities through social media and banners or hoardings being placed outside the stores which is a non-permissible activity under the Delhi Excise Act, 2009 and Delhi Excise Rules, 2010," said the Excise Commissioner.

Ukraine slows Russian....

From page 1

EU defence ministers were to meet Monday to discuss how to get the pledged weaponry into Ukraine. Germany's Defence Minister said without elaborating that her country has "channels and possibilities" to do that, and a trainload of Czech equipment arrived late on Sunday night. Blocking off those shipments will clearly be a key Russian priority. It remains to be seen how much the weaponry will help Ukraine fend off Russia's vastly greater arsenal. Even as Putin raised Russia's nuclear posture on Sunday citing "aggressive statements" by NATO as a reason for US and British officials played down Putin's nuclear threat, and said its practical

meaning was not immediately clear. With the Ukrainian capital besieged, the Russian military offered to allow residents to leave Kyiv via a safe corridor, raising fears a further onslaught is coming. The mayor of the city of nearly 3 million had earlier expressed doubt that civilians could be evacuated. Authorities have been handing out weapons to anyone willing to defend the city. Ukraine is also releasing prisoners with military experience who want to fight, and training people to make firebombs. Battles also broke out in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, and strategic ports in the country's south came under assault from Russian forces. Mariupol, a strategic port city on the Sea of Azov, is "hanging on," said Zelenskyy adviser Oleksiy Arestovych.

BUSINESS BLASTERS INVESTMENT SUMMIT

School students to share 100 startup ideas

Summit to be held at Thyagaraj Stadium on March 5

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will organise its first of its kind Business Blasters Investment Summit at the Thyagaraj Stadium on March 5, in which over 100 top business ideas from Government school students will be showcased to the investors, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Monday.

According to Sisodia, through this programme, the Delhi Government's schools are all set to produce CEOs of the future. "During the mega event more than 100 selected business ideas by student entrepreneurs will be showcased. This will be an opportunity for the investors visiting at the



summit to directly invest in the projects of their choice. These ideas for the expo have been selected after rigorous assessment by eminent entrepreneurs and experts," said Sisodia.

"Along with the investment for their business ideas, students who will qualify the final round will get the direct

admission in State universities like Delhi Technological University (DTU), Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) and Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) to pursue Bachelor of

Business Administration (BBA)," said the Deputy CM.

While inviting the investors from all across the country to "Business Blasters Investment Summit and Expo", Sisodia said investors must come and encourage the budding entrepreneurs from Delhi Government Schools.

Sisodia said this expo will be an opportunity for the investors to meet the CEOs of prominent future companies like Tata, Birla, Infosys, Facebook, Tesla etc and see where they are beginning their journeys from. "Even those not willing to invest should come to see how on getting an opportunity students of the Delhi Government schools are becoming job providers and are contributing to the economy of the nation," said Sisodia.

He said unemployment is such a major issue in the country that, when a job vacancy

with the eligibility of eight pass criteria is released, most of the applicants are either graduate, post graduate or Phd holders. "On assessing the situation, it was observed that today's generation is lacking an entrepreneurship mindset and thus the Business Blasters programme was introduced to inculcate the same," said Sisodia.

"When the Business Blasters programme was telecasted on a national television channel for the first time, Delhi as well as the whole country saw how students of Delhi Government schools earned great profits from a small seed money invested in their business ideas.

Many investors who wanted to support these bright budding entrepreneurs have offered the support of more than Rs 12 crores through Business Blasters website," said Sisodia.

3 staffers of G'gram CNG

pump stabbed to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Three employees, including a manager of a CNG station in sector 31 of Gurugram, were stabbed to death by unknown assailants in the early hours of Monday. Police said they are scanning CCTV cameras installed in the area to identify the accused and to know the crime sequence.

The deceased were identified as Pushpender, manager, Bhupender, pump operator and Naresh Kumar who worked as filler, all residents of Uttar Pradesh. According to the police, an unknown accused used a sharp knife to kill the three. The station is located near the Jharsa Chowk at Delhi-Gurugram Expressway.

"Three staff members of a CNG pump were found dead. No cash was found missing. Investigations are underway," said a senior police official.

Two bodies were found in the room of the pump station, while the third was found outside, the police said.

The bodies have been sent for an autopsy and the CCTV camera footage of the area is being scanned. Police suspect that the killing was done with intent to rob. However, other angles are also being probed.

Other CNG station employees told the police that they do not suspect anyone. A team of forensic science lab (FSL) and a dog squad has reached the spot along with police crime branch teams. Commissioner of Police Kala Ramachandran also visited the site of the incident.

Based on a complaint filed by the owner of the CNG pump, Prashant Gulati, First Information Report (FIR) under the relevant section of the IPC has been registered against unidentified criminals at the Sector-40 police station.

24x7 water supply to Delhiites soon: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Chairman of Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Satyendra Jain, on Monday said a new record has been set by the DJB by producing an all time high amount of water in a single day. Officials said the water production rose to a record of 956 MGD (millions of gallons per day) on Monday.

In a tweet Jain said, "Today, the DJB has achieved its all-time high water production mark of 956 MGD. With the commissioning of new water filters, Chandrawal WTP has crossed its water production mark of 100 MGD. Gradually, the DJB is moving towards its goal of providing 24x7 water supply to Delhiites."

Usually, the average daily water production in Delhi remains about 940-945 MGD. "There has been a manifold jump in the water production in Delhi and the performance shows the commitment of the Arvind Kejriwal Government to provide 24x7 water supply to the people of Delhi," said Jain.

The new water production feat was made possible because of all nine Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) working at their peak capacity. These WTPs are situated in Wazirabad, Chandrawal, Bhagirathi, Sonia Vihar, Haider Pur, Nangloi, Dwarka, Bawana and Okhla.

"New sand filters in these plants are making a remarkable difference in cleaning and processing water. This has led Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant to cross the water production record mark of 100 MGD compared to 94 MGD recorded earlier," said a senior DJB official.

"Similarly, Haiderpur WTP recorded a whopping increase to 235.45 MGD of water while the Nangloi WTP recorded an increase to 43.69 MGD," he said. "Old and obsolete methods are now being replaced with advanced technologies to make the system efficient and robust."

28-year-old shot dead in Gautam Nagar

NEW DELHI: A 28-year-old man was shot dead by unidentified persons in South Delhi's Gautam Nagar area early on Monday. Police said they suspect personal rivalry behind the murder but police teams are investigating the incident with all angles. The deceased has been identified as Shivam Pandey. He was in jail from 2016 till 2021 in connection with a murder case. Pandey came out on interim bail due to Covid-related guidelines.

According to Benita Mary Jaiker, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, around 3 am, a police control room (PCR) call was received regarding an incident of firing in Gautam Nagar area following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for the spot.

51 cases of dengue this year: Civic body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With three fresh cases of dengue reported last week, the total number of people infected with vector-borne disease has reached 51 this year.

About 9,613 dengue cases were reported last year, the highest number of cases recorded in the national Capital in a year since 2015. According to the report of the SDMC, 23 deaths were also reported last year due to vector borne diseases. Till February 19 this year, 37 cases of dengue were recorded in the city. Two fresh cases have been reported in the last one week.

According to the civic report on vector-borne diseases, released on Monday, it said 39 dengue cases have been recorded this year till February 26. For January 1-February 26 period, two cases were recorded last year, four cases in 2020, two in 2019, while nine cases were logged in 2018 and six in 2017, the report stated. Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December. In the years prior to 2021, the total dengue cases reported were -- 4431 (2016), 4726 (2017), 2798 (2018), 2036 (2019) and 1072 (2020), according to the report. In 2015, the city had witnessed a massive outbreak of dengue, when the number of dengue cases reported has crossed 10,600 in October itself, making it the worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease in the national capital since 1996. The number of dengue fatalities logged in 2021 was the highest in the national capital since 2016, when the officially reported death count was 10.

BJP to seek opinion of 10L Delhiites on new excise policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta on Monday said the party will hold a referendum on March 4 seeking the opinion of 10 lakh people on the Delhi Government's new excise policy.

Addressing the media, Gupta alleged the new excise policy was making the youth directionless by promoting alcohol with the opening of 850 liquor stores across the city. Women, too, feel unsafe due to the crowd near these outlets, he claimed.

Four boxes will be kept in each of the 280 wards in the city in order to gather the opinion of the people. There will be a questionnaire seeking the people's response about the excise policy, slashing of dry days, opening of shops near schools and temples, and other aspects of it, party leaders said.

Delhi Police launches QR code-based feedback system, user-friendly portal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Focusing towards the new dimension in digitisation and modernisation of the Delhi Police, Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana, on Monday launched three digital initiatives, Anubhuti-QR Code based feedback system, more informative Delhi Police website and e-Chittha portal, at police headquarters in the national Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, the CP said the maximum utilisation of technology with the objective to improve service delivery system and ensuring safety and security of people is essential in the present environment. "Anubhuti - Feedback Management System will establish two-way communication with public and improve the police working through the analysis of feedback received. Similarly, the refurbished user friendly and more informative website of Delhi Police will be quite useful for citizens to know about Delhi Police services at one click," said the CP.


"The third initiative, e-Chittha, is the backbone of duty deployment.




Implementation of e-Chittha will not only ensure optimal use of manpower resources, but also increase efficiency and transparency in working. Thus, the staff will get sufficient time for family and their own health and wellbeing and would work with more zeal and enthusiasm," said the CP.

"The Delhi Police has set an example by introducing these digital initiatives and other forces will emulate us in coming days," said Asthana.

ॐ त्र्यम्बकं यजामहे
सुमर्त्यं पुष्टिवर्धनम् ।
उर्वारुकमिव बन्धनान्
मृत्योर्मुक्षीय मामृतात् ॥




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आज़ादी का
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‘35mn people to get hit by coastal flooding by 2050’

The IPCC report, released on Monday, has listed India as one of those countries that will be economically hit the most by the human-induced climate change

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

By the middle of the century, around 35 million people in India could face annual coastal flooding while by the end of the century 45-50 million will be at risk if carbon emissions are high.

The risks would be far fewer if emissions are lower, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group II report — 'Climate Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' released on Monday.

The report, released on Monday, has listed India under one of those countries that will be economically hit the most by human-induced climate change.

"This report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction," said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC while releasing the report 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability'.

"It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people

adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks," Lee said during a virtual press conference.

The report says that India could be one of those countries where heat and humidity would pass limits of human survivability.

The report refers to wet-bulb temperatures, a measure that combines heat and humidity. (A wet-bulb temperature of 31°C is extremely dangerous for humans, while a value of 35°C is unsurvivable for more than about 6 hours, even for fit and healthy adults resting in the shade.)

While Patna and Lucknow are expected to exceed wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C, most of the Indian states and cities could reach dangerous levels by the end of the century.

Climate change would also result in erratic heat and humidity threatening human survivability. Given the range of impacts from climate change, India's food production and food security will also be severely hit. Combined with disasters taking place across the world, this will impact international supply chains, markets, trade and result in economic shocks.

Climate change could also mean that about 40% of people in India will live with water scarcity by 2050 compared with about 33% now. Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins could see increased flooding if warming passes 1.5°C.

India is also seen as the most vulnerable country in terms of crop production, warns the report. Rice, wheat, pulses, coarse and cereal yields could fall almost 9% by 2050. In the South, maize production could decrease 17% if emissions remain high.

However, the adaptation plans for Indian cities currently focus only on one or two risks while ignoring the compounding nature of disasters such as tropical cyclones coinciding with heatwaves and urban droughts.

As such risks increase, the report says, the adaptive capacity of local communities will be threatened, especially low-income marginalised communities. In his address, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres cautioned that global emissions are expected to increase by 14 per cent in the coming decade, which can have catastrophic consequences.

This critically important UN report, authored by 270 scientists from 67 countries and approved by 195 governments, shows that worsening climate impacts are wreaking havoc in every part of the world and are affecting every living thing on the planet — humans, animals, plants, and entire ecosystems. The Working Group II report is the second instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed this year.

Stranded Indians can board flights without -ve RT-PCR test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing humanitarian grounds, the Union Health Ministry has revised the mandatory international travel guidelines for all Indians being evacuated from war-torn Ukraine, permitting them to board flights without a negative RT-PCR test report or a full-vaccination certificate.

"The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in close collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Home Affairs is lending all support possible in evacuating Indians from Ukraine," said a statement issued here.

Indian nationals are also exempted from uploading documents before departure on Air-Suvidha Portal.

Individuals who have completed their Covid-19 vaccination, irrespective of the country of departure or vaccination, have been allowed to leave the arrival airport in India with the advice to self-monitor their health for the next 14 days, the Ministry said.

In case a traveler is not able to submit a pre arrival RT PCR test or has not completed their Covid-19 vaccination, the government has allowed them to submit their samples on arrival.

As on February 28, at least 1,396 Indians from Ukraine have arrived in India with none of the passengers kept under isolation.

On February 10, the Ministry in view of declining Covid cases had relaxed the international travel guidelines with no mandatory 7-day isolation or compulsory RT-PCR testing for fully vaccinated.

Government had also removed the demarcation of countries 'at-risk' and other countries. With this the requirement of giving samples on port of arrival and waiting till the result is obtained from countries 'at-risk' was done away with.

India reported 8,013 new cases in the last 24 hours as of Monday morning. The weekly test positivity rate in the country currently stands at 1.17 per cent and the daily positivity rate is reported to be 1.11 per cent.

Three more Indian airlines join ‘Operation Ganga’ to bring back Indians from Ukraine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three more Indian airlines — Indigo, SpiceJet and Air India Express — have joined "Operation Ganga" mission from Hungarian capital Budapest and Romania's Bucharest to bring back stranded Indians safely amid the Ukraine crisis.

In a related development, the Embassy of India in Ukraine issued a new advisory to Indian nationals advising them to make their way to the railway station for onward journeys to western parts as weekend curfew was lifted in Kyiv "Weekend curfew lifted in Kyiv. All students are advised to make their way to the railway station for onward journey to western parts. Ukraine Railways is putting special trains for evacuations," it reads.

As many as 489 Indian nationals returned on Monday from Bucharest and Budapest. So far, Tata Group-owned Air India has evacuated 1,396 Indian nationals in six evacuation flights till now. Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi welcomed the returnees from the sixth evacuation flight at the Delhi airport.

SpiceJet said Boeing 737 MAX aircraft has departed from Delhi on Monday evening. The aircraft will fly to Budapest from Delhi and the return flight will operate via Kutaisi, Georgia. The airline said that it is planning to operate more evacuation flights and is in discussion with the authorities concerned.

IndiGo said it is operating two evacuation flights using A321 aircraft to bring back Indian citizens safely, following the crisis in Ukraine. Both the flights will land in Delhi on Tuesday, it noted. "These flights are being operated from Delhi to Bucharest in



Romania and Budapest in Hungary via Istanbul, Monday, as part of the Indian government's Operation Ganga mission," it mentioned. India's largest airline said it is closely liaising with the government to offer its support for more such evacuations flights. The reason for the revision in schedule could not be immediately ascertained.

Air India Express also joined Operation Ganga as its Mumbai-Bucharest plane departed at 1: 50 pm and it will carry 182 passengers on Bucharest - Mumbai flight expected to land on Tuesday 9.30 am. "The flight will have a stopover at Kuwait for refuelling. It will land in Mumbai at 9:30 am on Tuesday," it added.

"A large crowd can be expected at the railway stations, therefore, it is advised that all Indian students remain patient, composed and especially not to exhibit aggressive behaviours while at the railway stations," as per the second advisory.

It also alerted students for the possible delay in trains' schedule, even cancellation at times and long queues. It guided the Indian students to carry their passport, sufficient cash, ready to eat meals, easily accessible winter clothing and only essential items, to ensure easy mobility.

"Be mindful of your belongings at all times. Ukrainians both civilians and authorities have been remarkably supportive in facilitating evacuation efforts of Indian citizens, especially considering these critical and dangerous times. You are all requested to respect this sentiment," the statement said.

India on Saturday began evacuation of its citizens from Romania and Hungary — countries sharing land borders with Ukraine — as the Ukrainian airspace has been closed since February 24 when the military offensive began. Around 14,000 Indians, mainly college students, are currently stranded in Ukraine.

Defence Min Rajnath reviews preparation for DefExpo-2022

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday reviewed the preparation for DefExpo-2022, Asia's largest exhibition on Land, Naval, Air and Homeland Security Systems, to be held from March 10-14 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event has gained significant traction since India relaxed its health protocols on February 10 due to the reducing cases of COVID-19.

DefExpo-2022 promises to be the largest event since its inception in 1999. The uncertainty on organizing such events due to the pandemic last year had not deterred India in its resolve to further the business interests of its indigenous defence manufacturing sector and the Ministry of Defence's decision on July 31 last year to go ahead with DefExpo-2022 appears not off mark in hindsight, officials said here on Monday.

DefExpo-2022 is set to re-

onate India's 'Path To Pride'. To make DefExpo-2022 inclusive for those who cannot make it due to restrictions or delays at their end in decision making, the event will be held in hybrid mode, with stalls in both physical and virtual realms.

The onboarding process of the virtual event has commenced with the Ministry of Defence inviting greater participation from nations with different health protocols and the initiative will result in greater engagement and outreach as exhibitors can cater to those who are not physically present.

DefExpo-2022 is being planned in the largest ever area of approximately one lakh sqm at three venues; Exhibition at the Helipad Exhibition Center (HEC), Events and Seminars at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Center (MMCEC) and Live demonstration for

the public at Sabarmati Riverfront.

Rajnath noted that the recent relaxation of health protocols in India has generated greater interest in DefExpo-2022 which has 78 participating nations, 39 Minister Level delegations with other confirmations to be received in the days ahead and 1,000 plus registered exhibitors. Foreign Defence Ministers confirmations are also being received and as on date are equal to the previous edition at Lucknow in February 2020 in the pre-COVID times.

As the countdown for the mega DefExpo-2022 has begun, the defence minister noted the extension of DefExpo-2022 by one day will benefit the local students as dedicated trips for them are being planned. DefExpo-2022 on March 14 will facilitate inclusiveness for young entrepreneurs and college millennials of the host state.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Criticising the Centre, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday asked the government to urgently share its evacuation plan with those stranded in Ukraine and their families as he shared a video of some students being harassed by the military there.

"My heart goes out to the Indian students suffering such

violence and their family watching these videos. No parent should go through this," he said on Twitter while sharing the video of some students. The GOI must urgently share the detailed evacuation plan with those stranded as well as their families. We can't abandon our own people," he also said.

Rahul and the Congress have been criticising the government for not evacuating

Indian students in time from Ukraine and have called for urgent steps to evacuate them, after Russia attacked Ukraine.

A number of Congress leaders have shared videos of Indian students in Ukraine highlighting their plight and making appeals to the Indian government to evacuate them soon.

The Congress also tweeted the video of Indians being

beaten up in Ukraine and said,

"These sticks on foreign land are falling on the honour and prestige of the country, not on the children of the country, Prime Minister ji. Leave elections, remove the stress of the children of the country, Prime Minister ji."

The Congress' official statement on Russian invasion was diplomatic and in line with the government's stand at the UN

after abstaining from a vote to denounce Russia.

"The path of diplomatic negotiations must be embraced in all sincerity for a negotiated resolution of all issues between Russia and Ukraine, respecting the Minsk and Russia-NATO agreements and earlier understandings," former Union Minister Anand Sharma, who heads the party's foreign affairs department, said in a statement.

Delhi HC issues notice to political leaders over Delhi riot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notice, seeking stand of several political leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra (Congress), Anurag Thakur (BJP), Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others, on pleas to make them parties to proceedings seeking FIR and investigation against them for allegedly delivering hate speeches leading to the February 2020 riots amidst protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anoop Kumar Mendiiratta, dealing with a batch of petitions concerning the 2020 riots in north-east Delhi, issued notice to all proposed respondents — persons against whom action is sought in two petitions. One impleadment is filed by petitioner Shaikh Mujtaba Farooq who has sought FIR for hate speech against BJP leaders Anurag Thakur, Kapil Mishra,

Leaders include Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra (Congress), Anurag Thakur (BJP), Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia

Parvesh Verma and Abhay Verma.

The other application is by petitioner Lawyers Voice which has sought the registration of hate speech FIRs against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as well as Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan, AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, former AIMIM MLA Warris Pathan, Mehmood Pracha, Harsh Mander, Mufti Mohammad Ismail, Swara Bhasker, Umar Khalid, BG Kolse Patil — former Bombay High Court Judge and others.

"Before we implead, we will have to give them an opportunity. We can't implead (without hearing) if they oppose it," the court said.

SC directs States, UTs to identify sex workers deprived of dry ration

The Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said the figures that have been given by States in the status reports are not realistic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed States and Union Territories to continue with the process of identification of sex workers who do not have identity proof and are deprived of dry ration.

The bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said the figures that have been given by States in the status reports are not realistic and efforts have to be made by them to consult community based organisations without relying on list of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) for implementation of orders. "Apart from ration cards,

the States shall also take steps to issue voter cards to sex workers identified by NACO and community based organising after verification. The State Government, UTs shall continue to give dry ration without insisting on proof of identity," the bench said while asking the states to submit reports in three weeks.

"Having the dealt with status reports by West Bengal and Maharashtra, it's not necessary to take up status report of each State separately. We direct all States and UTs to continue with the process of identification of sex workers who do not have identity of proof and who are deprived of dry ration," said the order. The direction came after the apex court was informed that there are 6,227 sex workers in West Bengal.

The State told the bench that sex workers have been given food coupons which entitle them for 5 kg food-grains. "Looking at the numbers in other states, we are not sure of the 6,227 numbers as given by West Bengal. We

direct the sex workers to be identified again in West Bengal with help of NACO and issue them ration cards without insisting on any other identity card," the bench said.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) told the top court that a suggestion has been made that Aadhaar card can be issued to sex workers without insisting on proof of identity subject to the condition that producing certificate issued by gazetted officer of NACO. The amicus curiae sought time to obtain instructions about the workability of the proposition.

The apex court asked community based organisations to prepare a list of sex workers in their areas which shall be verified by concerned district legal services authority/ State Aids control society.

The apex court, on September 29, 2020, had directed all the states to provide dry rations to sex workers, who are identified by NACO, without insisting on any proof of identity and had sought status report on compliance.

Kids await treatment as funds dry up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least 50 kids suffering from rare diseases and needing immediate treatment are among 237 patients awaiting treatment support via crowdfunding that has, apparently, taken a severe hit in Covid times.

Donations have almost dried up. According to Union Health Ministry data, it has managed to mobilise a meagre amount of just Rs 1.15 lakh, when these diseases require huge amounts of money for treatment. As a result, not a single patient has been treated so far, said Saurabh Singh, co-founder-director of Rare Disease India Foundation (RDIF) on Monday i.e. February 28 which is marked as Rare Disease Day.

He pointed out that the

Ministry currently provides under the scheme a one-time grant of Rs. 20 lakh to Group 1 (Disorders amenable to one-time curative treatment) patients. However, in the past several times the ministry had extended support to Group 3 (Diseases for which definitive treatment is available but challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit, very high cost and lifelong therapy) which are based on the literature sufficient evidence for good long-term outcomes exists.

Urging the Government to address the gaps in providing life-saving treatment to those requiring it, he said that the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) should be made available to all Group 3(a) patients with treatable conditions.

Singh suggested that the

annual budgetary allocation of Rs. 25 crore under the RAN for 2021-22 that has not been spent could be immediately used to treat patients with diseases under Group (3) such as Gaucher, Pompe, Fabry disease and MPS I and MPS II.

The Ministry should also provide a budgetary allocation of at least Rs.150 crore from the ministry to provide life-saving therapy to patients with Lysosomal Storage Disorders, for which the Drug Controller General of India approved treatment is available for many years now. Singh suggested following the PM Cares model by encouraging and building PSU support.

Nearly 45 patients had died while awaiting treatment since setting up of the portal by the Ministry a few months ago, he said, adding that several devel-

oping economies such as Argentina, Brazil, Algeria and Egypt had robust reimbursement mechanisms or had allocated funds from the healthcare budget for the purpose. Jaipur-based Vikas Bhatia, head of MERD India, said, "The government should have facilities of OPD and clinics in each and every district for treatment of rare diseases."

The commonly reported diseases include Primary immunodeficiency disorders, Lysosomal storage disorders (Gaucher's disease, Mucopolysaccharidoses, Pompe disease, fabry disease etc.) small molecule inborn errors of metabolism (Maple Syrup urine disease, organic acidemias etc.), Cystic Fibrosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, certain forms of muscular dystrophies and spinal muscular atrophy, etc.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Young scientists with 25 active years ahead have a crucial role to play in the roadmap for the next 25 years when India celebrates 100 years of independence, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science & Technology said here on Monday.

He was speaking at the concluding day of the National Science Week on the National Science Day to mark "Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate, a pan-India program to celebrate the essence and magnificence of our scientific achievements.

During the event, the Minister also presented Science Communication Awards to stimulate, encourage and recognize outstanding efforts in the area of science and tech-



Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science and Technology giving away award to Dr RK Dhamija, IHBAS Director at the National Science Day at an event on Monday in Delhi

Pioneer Photo

nology communication and popularisation as well as inculcate scientific temper among masses. These awards are presented every year on National

Science Day.

Among those who were conferred with the award included Dr RK Dhamija, Director of Institute of Human

Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), the country's well-known mental health and neurosciences research institute based in Delhi.

Prior to joining IHBAS, Dhamija who is an advisor for Royal College of Physicians (London) and Chair of Movement Disorders at World Federation of Neurorehabilitation and health talks host, was heading the Neurology Department at Lady Hardinge Medical College in Delhi. An WHO expert in Parkinson's Disease Rehabilitation, Dr Dhamija has a string of publications and prestigious awards to his credit with 33rd S Radhakrishnan Memorial National Medical Teacher Award in 2017, Dr B C Bansal, Uma Bansal Oration in 2019 being a few of them.

Manipur: 78% turnout in 1st phase polling

Stray incidents of violence reported as polling held in 38 constituencies

Imphal: Stray incidents of violence marred the first phase of Manipur Assembly elections to 38 constituencies on Monday as 78.03 per cent of around 12.09 lakh voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm when polling ended, an hour after the time announced earlier, officials said.

Naoem Ibochouba, a state police personnel deployed for poll duty in Tipaimukh assembly constituency in Churachandpur district, died in a "suspected case of accidental firing" from his service rifle, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rajesh Agarwal said.

The highest voter turnout of 82.97 per cent was recorded in Kangpokpi district followed by Imphal West (82.19 per cent), Imphal East (76.64 per cent) and Churachandpur (74.45 per cent), the officials said.

The final percentage will be available after the return of the polling parties.

Voting at 1721 polling stations was more or less peaceful except for stray incidents of violence as EVMs were damaged by miscreants at Saitu, Henglep and Singhat constituencies.

FIRs were registered in the incidents of EVM damage in seven polling stations, the CEO said.

As there were complaints that the pace of polling was slow in certain booths, those who came before 4 pm were allowed to cast their votes, Agarwal said.

A polling staff died of haemorrhagic stroke in Tipaimukh constituency, he said.

At least one person was injured in a clash between two political parties in Churachandpur district.

Alleged Congress workers vandalised a BJP polling booth in Kakwa area in Langthabal constituency in Imphal West district, while a vehicle of an NPP candidate was damaged by supporters of a rival group in Keirao assembly seat, although nobody was injured in the incident.

Security forces fired in the air to control the crowd at New Keithelmanbi polling station in

Kangpokpi district. The situation arose after Congress accused BJP of attempting to capture the booth.

Prominent candidates in the fray in the first phase of the elections include the chief minister, Assembly Speaker Y Khemchand Singh, Deputy Chief Minister and NPP candidate Yumnam Joykumar and Manipur Congress president N Lokesh Singh.

Of the 38 seats, 10 constituencies are in Imphal East, 13 in Imphal West, six each in Bishnupur and Churachandpur, and three in Kangpokpi district. Nine seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and one for Scheduled Castes.

All-women personnel are conducting voting in 381 polling stations. PWD personnel are manning a polling station in Saikot assembly seat in Churachandpur.

The BJP has fielded candidates in all the 38 seats, followed by Congress with 35 contestants, NPP with 27, JD (U) with 28, Shiv Sena with seven, RPI (Athawale) with six, IJP (Ram Vilas) with three, and Kuki National Assembly and Kuki People's Alliance with two each.

SP, BSP worked on caste lines, BJP worked for all in UP: Shah

Kushinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday accused the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party of working on caste lines when in power in Uttar Pradesh, and said his BJP has worked for all communities in the State since 2017.

Addressing an election meeting for party candidates in Kushinagar, Shah said free scooters will be given to girls and free tablet and smartphones to poor youths who want to pursue higher education if the BJP returns to power in Uttar Pradesh.

He hit out at both the SP and the BSP, accusing the previous governments of "bua and bhatija" (Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav) of keeping Uttar Pradesh divided on caste lines.

"One government would come to power and work for one caste, the other would come and work for another caste. Then the government was formed under Narendra Modi's leadership which worked for whole Uttar Pradesh on the principle of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'," Shah said.

"Of all parties today, only BJP and Prime Minister Modi are the one who worked for the welfare of the poor and the deprived. For 70 years, parties came and went, SP-BSP talked about poor, backwards, Dalits and deprived classes but did nothing for them," he said. The district of Kushinagar, which goes to polls on March 3, has seven assembly seats -- Kushinagar, Khadda, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Raj, Fazilnagar, Hata and Ramkola -- of which the BJP had won five in 2017 elections.

The seat of Tamkuhi Raj was won by Ajay Kumar Lallu of the Congress while in Ramkola, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party's Ramanand Baudh had emerged victorious despite a BJP juggernaut in the state. Notably, Swami Prasad Maurya, considered a prominent face of backward class voters, had won from the Padrauna seat but he recently switched over from the BJP to the Samajwadi Party. However, former Congress leader R P N Singh switched over to the BJP recently in a move that was considered a significant gain for the saffron party in the region. **PTI**

PM cites Int'l challenges, says need to make India strong

Maharajganj/Ballia: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday stressed that India must be made strong in view of emerging international challenges that were affecting every citizen of the world.

He said being a big state, Uttar Pradesh has a "biggest" responsibility in making India powerful. His remarks at the Maharajganj rally came against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine from where India is trying evacuate thousands of its citizens. Modi, however, did not specifically mention the crisis.

Modi addressed another rally at Ballia. Both these places will go to polls in the sixth phase on March 3. In Maharajganj, he said the Centre has launched a "vibrant village" scheme to speed up economic development in the country's bordering areas.

"The world is going through many challenges at this time, and no one can remain untouched by these situations. It affects every citizen of the world in one way or the other.

"In such a situation, the biggest need of the hour is a strong India. From agriculture to military, from sea to space, India has to become powerful in every field. Therefore, being such a big state of the country, UP has the biggest responsibility," he said. Talking about the Union government's new initiative in the bordering areas, he said today, a network of roads are being laid at the Nepal border and the main roads are being converted into four-lane roads and highways.

After the construction of an international airport in Kushinagar, the number of tourists visiting here has increased, he said.

"In this budget, a special plan has been made for the development of the villages located adjacent to our borders. And we have not only made promises, we have also made provisions of funds for it. We have named it vibrant village," Modi said. Maharajganj is located on the border of Nepal. Hitting out at rivals over their criticism of the Covid vaccine, PM Modi said "dynasts" never miss a chance to dent the country's self-confidence.

He said they (rivals) always cared for the interest of their



family but the BJP government has worked for the poor by providing them health insurance and electricity.

Without naming the Samajwadi Party, Modi said, "These 'ghor pariwarvadi' (staunch dynasts) can never make India capable nor can they make UP empowered. In this COVID-19 pandemic, you have seen how these people have spared no effort to hurt India's self-confidence by talking negative about vaccines."

Every Indian, including these dynasts, should feel proud of the Covid vaccine, which has been made in India, he said.

"They tried to instigate the poor (people) against the vaccine. Even the major countries in the world are lagging much behind India in terms of vaccination. Today, India has administered 175 crore vaccine doses free of cost," he said.

He went on to say, "This is the strength of self-reliant and powerful India. But, these dynasts do not want to see India (as a) powerful (nation), and they keep on putting some obstruction or the other.

"Hence, they have to be defeated once again in this election. I have come today to tell you that you have to remain alert of these dynasts. The districts, which the dynasts have pushed back, we are working hard for their development," he said.

Didi extends unconditional support to PM on Ukraine crisis, urges him to call meet

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to call an all-party meeting to "consolidate" India's "national resolve" to "come out of the crisis."

Mamata who offered her unconditional support on his Government's stand on the Ukraine issue said that the whole country stood united on the issue of quick evacuation of the Indian students stranded in the war-torn country.

"I would request you to accept my unconditional support during the ongoing international crisis and to consider whether you will like to have an all party meeting now for consolidating our national resolve to come out of the crisis with our head held high," Banerjee wrote.

Banerjee who has often been highly critical of the Prime Minister also wrote that in this hour of crisis she wanted to keep aside all the "domestic disagreements."

She said "In times of grave international crisis we keep aside our domestic disagreements to stand united as ana-

tion. We do this to make sure that our dignity as a nation is unchallenged and unviolated. We do this to ensure that the principles on which we conduct our foreign affairs continue to be stable in the global arena."

As the world's largest democracy India should take the lead to workout peaceful solution to the crisis, Banerjee reminded. "I reiterate our adherence to this long-standing norm of our polity during the current international crisis of the Ukraine War," her letter read.

Saying that though there were concerns raised on India's "general stand on the war," she wrote, "I am sure that in steering our diplomatic affairs during the current crisis you will lead us on the basis of those abiding principles"

The Chief Minister had earlier created a dedicated team of officials led by a senior IAS officer to coordinate on the evacuation of students from Bengal who were currently held up in Ukraine. The State Government was among the first to start a helpline to assist the students and their families with information and other helps.



Indian nationals hold the Tricolour before boarding a special Air India flight, evacuating Indians from war-torn Ukraine, in Budapest

PTI

Min asks admin to acquire 300 acres for expansion of airport in Dhanipur

Aligarh: In order to reduce the traffic at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, Aligarh's Dhanipur airport is being expanded. Recently, Director of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Special Secretary of the Government Kumar Harsh issued a letter to the Aligarh Administration on acquisition of land of 300 acres. A meeting was held with the officials of the National Airport Authority under the chairmanship of the City Magistrate, in which the length, width and height of the runway of Dhanipur Mini

Airport would be increased. Dhanipur airport has been prepared for 19 seater aircraft at present. 72 seater aircraft will fly from this airport in future. The work of finding land for the expansion of the runway of Dhanipur airport is going on very fast. A report will also be sent to the government in 7 days. In which 3 villages of Tehsil Kol, Nizamapur Borna, Khangarhi and Alhaddpur were also seen. The farmers of these 3 villages will be talked to and their land will be acquired. Land of 736 farmers of

Khangarhi, Alhaddpur and Nizamapur Borna is to be acquired. Altogether 137.8102 hectares of land is to be taken. A total amount of about 117 crores will be spent on this. Giving information, City Magistrate Pradeep Verma said that the Dhanipur airport is being prepared nationally and internationally to reduce the traffic load from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. For this, the land of the surrounding village has been seen and the report will be sent to the government soon. **PNS**

12-hr Bengal bandh called by BJP evokes a mixed response

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The 12-hour Bengal bandh called by the BJP — to protest against the alleged "rampant violence and booth capturing" in Sunday's election to 108 municipal boards — evoked mixed response with most of the establishments both government and private working normally.

While the State secretariat at Nabanna, and the Information Technology sector reported normal attendance besides markets remaining for most part of the day in South Bengal there some response to the bandh calling North Bengal where the BJP won maximum parliamentary seats in 2019 general elections.

The police had hard time removing obstructions put by the BJP workers at various railway stations causing some delay in train timing in North 24 Parganas, Hooghly and other areas. A large posse of BJP workers led by Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari blocked roads at Nandigram East Midnapore.

Some BJP leaders like Meena Devi Purohit, Sajal Ghosh, Kalyan Chowbey,

Police had hard time removing obstructions put by BJP workers at various railway stations causing some delay in train timing in North 24 Parganas, Hooghly and other areas

MLAs Shankar Ghosh and Anando Roy Burman were detained and later released by the police. State BJP president and MP Sukanto Majumdar led a rally at Balurghat in North Bengal.

Meanwhile, State Election Commissioner Saurab Das on Monday briefed Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar who summoned him following allegations of widespread violence on Sunday. The SEC earlier said that it had received about 800 complaints of booth level violence. State DG Phowever said that all the complaints were addressed and no major issue was created during the elections.

Newly-wed woman leaves in-laws' home over lack of a toilet

Aligarh: A newly married girl left the in-laws house in Tappal area of Aligarh as there was no toilet built in the house. The newly-wed chose to leave the in-laws' house and live in the maternal house due to lack of toilets in the house. However, the family members attribute this to poverty. The family of a worker living in a room is arguing for not getting a toilet built due to lack of money. But two months ago, when the son of this house got married and the new daughter-in-law came, she raised question about why toilet has not been built following which she left the house. She has demanded to build toilet in the house, only then she will return back to in law's house.

The matter is of Tappal police station area of Aligarh. Gajjo has been living with his family for the past several years in the town of Jattari. Gajjo and his son Kamal earn their living by doing hard labor and picking up garbage.

She has demanded that a toilet be built in the house, only then will she return to the husband's house

It has been told that due to the financial condition of the family, Gajjo's wife had died due to lack of treatment a few months back. After which Gajjo got his son married to Khushi, a resident of village Takipur in district Prayagraj.

The newlywed girl who came to the house left the house in no time due to lack of toilet in the in-laws' house and went to the maternal home. Kamal and his father Gajjo say that they are illiterate. They have not been able to get any kind of government facilities like government houses and free toilets.

Not only this, but no government document, Aadhar or even ration card has been made. The local woman has told that this family is very poor. After leaving of Kamal's wife, a social worker of the area came to know about it, then he started building toilets in the house.

Kerala HC to hear plea to direct Centre to repatriate stranded Indian students in Ukraine

KOCHI: The Kerala High Court on Monday listed for hearing on Wednesday a petition moved by the Kerala High Court Advocates Association seeking a directive to the Union Government to repatriate the Indian students stuck up in Ukraine due to the ongoing war between that country and Russia.

The association alleged in the petition that the Embassy in Ukraine was indifferent to the pleas of the students who are studying in that country to help them return to India. They also said that Indian students were facing discrimination by the Ukrainian Army who were firing in the air to

scare away the children. The Ukrainian Army and police were spraying pepper powder on the students with the intention to neutralise them and this was happening because of the absence of Embassy Officials in the conflict zone, said the association in its petition.

They wanted the Court to issue directive to the Centre to facilitate speedy repatriation of the students stuck up in Ukraine. The Indian Embassy in Ukraine has taken the stand that unless there were any court orders directing arrangements to be made by the embassy, steps cannot be taken to facilitate the repatriation of student s from Kerala who are

stranded in the war zone.

The petitioners further stated that the students were left with no means to communicate or return to the State. Justice N Nagesh who heard the plea asked the petitioners to hand over whatever information they had about the students to the Assistant Solicitor General so that the latter could do whatever possible to facilitate their speedy repatriation.

Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said he had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take whatever steps the latter could take to being the stranded students back to India. **PNS**

Calicut varsity girl students protest sexual abuse

KOCHI: Girl students of the elite School of Drama of the Calicut University at Thrissur are on a path of agitation against sexual abuse by some of the faculty members. Women Against Sexual Harassment, an initiative by girl students alleged in a social media post that Raja Warrior, a guest faculty and S Sunil Kumar, a permanent faculty member were sexually abusing girl students and the complaints by the victims have not evoked any response from the college or university authorities.

Students of School of Drama said in a statement that Raja Warrior, a guest faculty, had physically abused a girl student on 21 November 2021 in open class and despite the

complaint by the victim no action has been taken by the college authorities.

The students said Warrior insulted and humiliated the victim even after the conclusion of the class and threatened her with dire consequences of she complained to the authorities.

This was followed by sexual abuse and threats by Sunil Kumar (46), a permanent member of the faculty. "He was persuading the student to watch Irrational Man, a movie based on the romance between a college professor and his girl student. Sunil Kumar, to whom the girl student had confided about her pathetic experience with Warrior, started calling her over phone during night hours and seeking favours from

her. Most of the time he would be in an inebriated condition," said the post by Women Against Sexual Harassment.

The posting further says that the faculty member raped the student many times and this forced her to resort to the extreme step of committing suicide.

But she was saved from the jaws of death by her hostel roommates who took her to the hospital in a serious condition. The teacher continued tormenting her in hospital too and threatened her that he would commit suicide if she discloses anything about the rape. "The same teacher told her colleagues and other faculty members that the girl was under hallucination and speaks inco-

herently. He asked us not to believe what she was saying," said another girls student.

School of Drama is the alma mater of Malayalam movie makers like Ranjith and Syamaprasad. In its heyday, the institution was led by G Sankara Pillai, the doyen of Malayalam drama and Vayala Vasudevan, a well known dramatist.

Both Warrior and Sunil Kumar were not available for comments. The students said that they would continue their agitation till the authorities take action against the offenders. The students further alleged that the Police was not helpful despite their pleas for justice and refused to initiate a probe. **PNS**

Maha Cong seeks apology from Guv for his Swami Samarth Ramdas remark

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari drew severe flak from various political parties for wrongly describing Swami Samarth Ramdas as the 'Guru' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the State Congress on Monday demanded an apology from the Governor for "insulting" the Maratha warrior and the people of the State.

A day after the Governor referred Swami Samarth

Ramdas as the 'Guru' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj while speaking at a programme at Aurangabad on Sunday, Rajya Sabha MP Udayanraje Bhosale of Satara who is a direct descendant of Satara who is a direct descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, slammed the Governor "for his lack of knowledge and history", while State Congress chief Nana Patole said that after his slur against the Maratha warrior, Koshyari had lost moral right to continue to continue as the Governor.

In his speech at

Aurangabad, the Governor had, while stressing on the significant role played by "Gurus" in the lives of leaders, recalled that the great political strategist Chanakya had a big influence on the life of the legendary Emperor Chandragupta Maurya, the founder-ruler of one of the biggest empires in the sub-continent, and had said: "Had there not been Samarth (Ramdas), there would have not been Chhatrapati (Shivaji)".

Hitting out at the Governor

for his slur against Shivaji, Patole said: "The Governor has insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji and the people of Maharashtra and should immediately tender an apology for his remarks....The people of Maharashtra will not tolerate this kind of a slur against the Maratha warrior by the Governor. He is trying to contort history. He has lost his moral right to continue as Governor and the Centre should recall him".

Having apparently realised

that he had erred in describing Swami Samarth Ramdas as the 'Guru' of Shivaji, the Governor clarified on Monday evening: "Chhatrapati Shivaji is an inspiration for people across the country. I had read somewhere that Swami Samarth Ramdas was Maratha warrior's Guru. But, people have come up with some new facts from the history about Chhatrapati Shivaji. That being the case, I will gather more facts and decide on what to do next.

Koshyari came up with

this clarification when media persons buttonholed him for his comment and asked if he would apologise for wrongly describing Swami Samarth Ramdas as the 'Guru' of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Earlier, in the day, BJP's Rajya Sabha member Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale said:

"RashtraMata Jijabai was the actual 'guru' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj... Sant Ramdas was never his 'guru', that is the real history. Yet, Governor

Koshyari has cited incorrect history in this regard".

Shiv Sena Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the Governor's statement about Sjhivaji had triggered resentment among the people in the state. He asked the Opposition BJP to take a stand and clarify on the issue immediately. "There is huge resentment in Maharashtra over the Governor's statements. The BJP should clarify or take a stand," Raut said.


Even Patole wondered as to

why the BJP "is silent". And The remarks by Patole and Raut should be seen in the context of the public perception that Koshyari, being a BJP leader himself before being appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra, continues to be close to the ruling party to the Centre. On his part, BJP state President Chandrakant Patil chose not to say anything on the Governor's statement. "No comments," was all he said, when he was contacted by media persons.

FIRST COLUMN


THE REAL WORLD ORDER

Only the United Nations Charter cannot help Ukraine



GWYNNE DYER

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine last Thursday many people have expressed their shock and horror at Vladimir Putin's violation of international law and the death of the 'rules-based world order', but there's actually no reason for surprise. Those people just never understood what the rules really were. There's lots of text in the United Nations Charter about suppressing "acts of aggression" and avoid "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state", but it's all trumped by Article 27, which gives each of the great powers a veto on all decisions of the Security Council. What that means in practice is that all other countries are subject to the UN's rules, but the five 'permanent members' of the Security Council - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - are not. Some



countries are also more equal than others. The Security Council is the UN's executive authority, but it can no more order Vladimir Putin to stop the invasion of Ukraine (the Russian veto) than it could have stopped the US from invading Iraq (the US veto). The rules that say no country's borders can be changed by force and that nobody may intervene in a country's internal affairs, but these rules do not bind the Famous Five.

This was not some accidental oversight by the Charter writers; it was a design feature. The Charter was signed in San Francisco in June 1945, six weeks after Germany surrendered and six weeks before the first use of nuclear weapons and the Japanese surrender. At least 50 million people had been killed in the previous six years of war, and most cities in Europe and Asia were in ruins. The people who negotiated the Charter were not idealists; they were realists terrified by the destructiveness of modern war, trying to write rules that would persuade the great powers to accept a rules-based international order. The great powers did accept them, but only on condition that they themselves were exempt from the rules, and that's the real world order. It cannot help Ukraine, but that was always true. Nothing has been lost, because the UN was not really designed to stop every war. The United Nations was created to prevent any more wars between the great powers, because the great-power wars - the 'world wars' - are the great mass killers. With some help from the theory of nuclear deterrence, it has succeeded at that vital task for 75 years now. Sir Brian Urquhart, who fought through the Second World War and was one of the first Allied soldiers into the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, got involved with the new United Nations as soon as peace came and served under four secretary-generals over four decades. He practically invented peace-keeping. He spent his last decade as Undersecretary-General for Special Political Affairs, and I asked him one day why he kept on going. He said: "As Hammarskjöld once said, while none of us are ever going to see the world order we dream of in our lifetime, nevertheless, the effort to build that order is the difference between anarchy and a tolerable degree of chaos." Urquhart died last year at 102, but if I could ask him whether Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky should have agreed to ceasefire talks with Russia, I'm sure he would say yes. Not because Zelensky should bargain his country's freedom away, but because a great many people are going to die in the next few days if there is no ceasefire. It's always worth going the extra mile.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of Warpersonal.)

Corporate governance — Sebi's volte face

A reform measure cannot be held hostage to the whims and fancies of those who decide not to comply with the reform order

Based on the recommendations of Uday Kotak committee on corporate governance (2018), the stock markets watchdog, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had asked listed companies to separate the positions of Chairperson and Managing Director (MD)/Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The requirement was mandatory.

The companies were required to implement the order by April 2020. However, based on representations received from the industry, an additional two years was given for compliance. In April last year, SEBI chairman Ajay Tyagi goaded them to ensure that the April 2022 deadline is not missed. Now, that even this deadline is barely a month away, the regulator has done a volte face.

On February 15, 2022, the SEBI decided to implement the requirement on a voluntary basis for now. The substitution of 'mandatory' by 'voluntary' tantamount to saying good bye to the order as an entity who is not comfortable with it; hence, unwilling to comply is no longer under any compulsion to do it.

While, handing out its latest decision, the regulator has made the following observations:

"Considering rather unsatisfactory level of compliance achieved so far, with respect to this corporate governance reform, various representations received, constraints posed by the prevailing pandemic situation and with a view to enabling the companies to plan for a smoother transition, as a way forward, SEBI board at this juncture, decided that this provision may not be retained as a mandatory requirement and instead be made applicable to the listed entities on a voluntary basis".

Three considerations prompting SEBI to bend backward are (i) unsatisfactory level of compliance achieved so far; (ii) constraints posed by the prevailing pandemic situation; (iii) enabling the companies to plan for a smoother transition.

Why did the regulator come up with this order in the very first place?

A listed company by nature is an entity whose ownership or shareholding (a jargon that represents ownership; a certain number of shares - each of specified value say ₹10 - held by a person give him/her ownership right in the company proportionate to his/her holding of company's total share capital) is publicly held; those shares are listed and traded on the stock exchange.

Normally, a significant chunk of shares are held by a person or a group of persons - call him 'promoter' (for instance, the Ambani family, holds approx. 49.38% of the total shares in the Reliance Industries Limited or RIL whereas the remaining 50.62% shares are held by public shareholders, including foreign institutional investors or FIIs and corporate bodies). By virtue of this, he/she has also the prime responsibility



IN THIS BACKDROP, THE PROPOSAL OF KODAK COMMITTEE WAS APT AND SEBI HAD INITIALLY MADE THE RIGHT MOVE TO IMPLEMENT IT. THE ABOUT-TURN NOW IS RETROGRADE. THE THREE REASONS ADVANCED BY THE REGULATOR ARE BIZARRE

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



of running the company.

An ideal structure of running a firm (call it 'corporate governance') is one in which there is a management headed by the MD/CEO and a Board of Directors (BoD) headed by the Chairperson. While, the MD/CEO runs the day-to-day affairs of the company, BoD acts as the supervisory authority and gives policy directions - consistent with set goals for the company - to the former. The BoD is accountable to the shareholders. Each centre of authority is expected to carry out its responsibilities as per the mandate assigned to it and refrain from interfering in the functioning of the other.

This provides a fairly balanced governance structure and helps in steering the company in a manner so as to ensure its sustained health and growth and protect the interests of all shareholders. But, the situation on ground zero is far from it.

Many companies have the post of CMD. As the designation suggests, the Chairperson is also MD. This is bizarre. Acting as MD, this individual takes orders from himself whereas, in his incarnation as Chairperson, he gives orders to himself. In short, there is excessive concentration of authority in one person.

This scenario holds particularly for family-owned businesses where the promoter has a fundamental interest in keeping his own interest above those of other/public shareholders. Prima facie, this could be bandied as being out of sync with conventional wisdom that gives credence to convergence of interest between the two; for instance, when the company makes higher profit, all shareholders, including promoter and

public shareholders, gain. But this is an over-simplified view of a situation which is far more complex.

Invariably, a family-owned promoter has a number of diversified businesses and there are numerous instances of a company saying 'A' in the conglomerate transferring surplus funds to another 'B' wherein also he has a major stake or the latter taking loan from a financial institution on the strength of former's balance sheet. 'A' could also be used to favor 'B' in matters of assigning contracts or procuring materials etc. In several instances, the management of 'A' diverts funds to the so called shell companies whose beneficial ownership rests with the promoter of 'A'.

A governance structure where the Chairperson and MD is the same person (read: CMD) is amenable to such decisions which undermines the interest of public shareholders of 'A'. On the other hand, if these two positions are segregated, this will result in a better and more balanced governance structure which will enable more 'effective' and 'objective' supervision of the management. It will help avoid all undesirable scenarios of the type mentioned above and protect interests of all shareholders without discrimination.

This will also be consistent with the global practice in countries such as the UK, Australia, Germany, Netherlands and so on who have opted for separation of the Chairperson and CEO roles.

In this backdrop, the recommendation of Kodak Committee was apt and SEBI had initially made the right move to implement it. The about turn now is retrograde. The three reasons advanced by the regulator are bizarre.



UTTAM GUPTA

On (i), SEBI posits that as on September 2019, the compliance level which stood at 50.4 percent amongst the top 500 listed firms has progressed to only 54 percent as on December 31, 2021 - a four percent incremental improvement in two years. Hence, it goes on to say 'expecting the remaining 46 percent to comply with these norms by the target date would be a tall order'.

If, non-compliance by 46 percent is the criteria for abandoning the 'mandatory' requirement then by the same logic with 50.4 percent of firms having complied - that too within a year of enforcing the order - SEBI should stay with it. Dispensing with it (read: mandatory) just because 46 percent have not complied will be 'unfair' and 'discriminatory' to the companies who have already complied.

A reform measure has to be viewed in terms of what it is intended to achieve. It cannot be held hostage to the whims and fancies of those who decide not to comply with the order. The reversal will also send a wrong message that 'lobbying by some powerful groups' can always force the regulator to backtrack.

As for (ii), it is hard to fathom any linkage - even remotely - between a 'mere change in the structure of running a firm' with the prevailing pandemic situation. Moreover, to see this link now when Covid is waning makes it laughable. As for invoking 'a smoother transition' argument (reason iii), this is just a ploy to let the violators forget this advisory with passage of time.

To conclude, following SEBI's volte face, corporate governance in India has received a big blow.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE REAL FIGHTING FOR KYIV IS ONGOING. RUSSIA IS ATTACKING INFRA AND CIVILIAN TARGETS. WE WILL WIN. — UKRAINE PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY



WE URGE THAT ALL EFFORTS ARE MADE FOR THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE AND HOSTILITIES. — INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN TS TIRUMURTI

Adoptability of the IFRS in India

Growing international transactions and cross-border investments underline the need for a common financial language

The modern world has become a global village with increased international transactions besides ever-increasing cross-border investments. It leads to the need for a common financial language, particularly in the form of reporting of financial statements. And why is this standardization important? The foremost reason is to bring the financial accounting and reporting practices around the globe to a common platform so they could be comparable, reliable and transparent. Common financial reporting practices also boost industrial growth by increasing foreign investment by eliminating information barriers.

Cross border transactions make one-third of all financial transactions that take place in the world and are expected to



HIMA BINDU KOTA

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

increase by leaps and bounds. International operations like subsidiaries in different countries, raising capital across several stock exchanges and investments in various nations get complicated as all countries have their own financial transactions reporting standards. Trying to work around these diverse accounting standards often add to costs and may not be useful to all stakeholders for decision making purposes.

To address these issues, International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) has developed International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which are accounting rules that are a set of principle-based standards for developing financial statements of public companies that are intended to make them consistent, transparent,



and easily comparable around the world, with a distinct advantage of not being easily manipulated. The IFRS standards are based on the pillars of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Transparency is achieved by improving the comparability of reports which in turn enhances the quality of financial information facilitating accurate decision making by investors. Reduction of information gap between providers and

users of capital strengthens accountability, which in turn helps investors in allocation of capital across various opportunities thereby enhancing economic efficiency. Therefore, as a source of globally comparable information, IFRS standards are of high relevance to regulators worldwide.

Notwithstanding the importance of IFRS in this globalised and integrated economies, several countries have developed their accounting standards with some degree of variation from IFRS. There are several reasons for it. Firstly, the different legal and regulatory environment prevailing in countries. For example, in India, terminology such as, 'balance sheet' instead of 'Statement of financial position'. Secondly, dissimilar economic environment within a country.

Thirdly, industry preparedness and practices in country may vary. For example, in some emerging countries recognition of inflation is higher than in other nations. Fourthly, some countries choose the facility available in IFRS to remove alternative treatments, like, India has removed the option to use fair value model to measure investment property in the relevant Ind AS, it only uses cost model. And lastly, difference in conceptual issues in recognition of hybrid securities may lead to nations not adopting IFRS in totality. As far as India is concerned, we have not fully adopted IFRS, but officially decided in 2007 to converge with IFRS through the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS).

To formulate IFRS-converged IND AS, ICAI reviews

the relevant IFRS standards. Changes are made by removing optional treatments outlined under IFRS, in case they are entirely necessary keeping in mind the Indian environment. On identification, these issues are taken up with the IASB. Having decided to converge with IFRS, the initial target period was set as April 2011 but the implementation as delayed due to bureaucratic and operational constraints. These standards were finally implemented effective from 1st April 2016 initially for listed companies with more than 500 crores of net worth. From April 1, 2017, companies with network of more than 250 crores came under the ambit. The regulatory requirement has been extended to banks, insurance and financial service companies

from April 1, 2019 onwards.

So, for India is convergence better than adoption? A global standard like IFRS, by virtue of its requirement to be standard across the world, cannot take into account environment and capabilities available in each country. Indian Accounting Standards developed by ICAI totally reflects Indian position. However, the deviation from global reporting standard should be minimal as India is one of the key nations with positive economic interest by developed nations and operations of several MNCs in its territory. Therefore, a policy of carving out of and carving in IFRS in formulating Indian accounting standards convergence, while keeping the deviations from IFRS at the minimum, is a better option than adoption.

Russians hold anti-war rallies

DASHA LITVINOVA ■ MOSCOW

From Moscow to Siberia, Russian anti-war activists took to the streets again to protest Russia's invasion of Ukraine, despite the arrests of hundreds of protesters each day by police.

Demonstrators held pickets and marched in city centres on Sunday, chanting "No to war!" as President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian nuclear deterrent to be put on high alert, upping the ante in the Kremlin's standoff with the West and stoking fears of a nuclear war.

"I have two sons and I don't want to give them to that bloody monster. War is a tragedy for all of us," 48-year-old Dmitry Maltsev, who joined the rally in St. Petersburg, told The Associated Press.

Protests against the invasion started on Thursday in Russia and have continued daily ever since, even as Russian police have moved swiftly to crack down on the

rallies and detain protesters. The Kremlin has sought to downplay the protests, insisting that a much broader share of Russians support the assault on Ukraine.

But in addition to street protests, tens of thousands of people in recent days have endorsed open letters and signed petitions condemning the invasion. Celebrities and famous TV personalities spoke out against it, too.

One online petition, launched hours after Putin announced the attack, has gathered over 9,30,000 signatures in four days, becoming one of the most widely supported petitions in Russia in recent years.

In St. Petersburg, where several hundred gathered in the city centre, police in full riot gear were grabbing one protester after another and dragging some into police vans, even though the demonstration was peaceful. Footage from Moscow showed police throwing several female protesters on the ground before dragging them away.

According to the OVD-

Demonstrators held pickets and marched chanting, 'No to war'

Info rights group that tracks political arrests, police detained at least 2,710 Russians in 51 cities for anti-war demonstrations on Sunday, bringing the total of those detained over four days to nearly 6,000.

Four days into the the fighting that has killed scores, Putin raised the stakes dramatically on Sunday, ordering the military Russia's nuclear forces on high alert, citing Western countries "taking unfriendly actions against our country in the economic sphere" and "top officials from leading NATO members made aggressive statements regarding our country."

The day before, the U.S. And its European allies have warned that the coming round of sanctions could include freezing hard currency reserves of Russia's Central Bank and

cutting Russia off SWIFT international payment system.

The unprecedented move could quickly plunge the Russian economy into chaos.

Ordinary Russians fear that stiff sanctions will deliver a crippling blow to the country's economy.

Since Thursday, Russians have been flocking to banks and ATMs to withdraw cash, creating long lines and reporting on social media about ATM machines running out of bills. According to Russia's Central Bank, on Thursday alone Russians withdrew 111 billion rubles (about USD 1.3 billion) in cash.

The anti-war protests on Sunday appeared smaller and more scattered than the ones that took place on the first day of Russia's attack in Ukraine, when thousands of people rallied in Moscow and St. Petersburg, but their true scale was hard to assess and they seemed to pick up speed as the day went on.

"It is a crime both against Ukraine and Russia. I think it is killing both Ukraine and

Russia. I am outraged, I haven't slept for three nights, and I think we must now declare very loudly that we don't want to be killed and don't want Ukraine to be killed," said Olga Mikheeva, who protested in the Siberian city of Irkutsk.

In Moscow and St. Petersburg, many people went to makeshift memorials for Boris Nemtsov, a top Russian opposition figure who was shot dead near the Kremlin on February 27, 2015.

Some brought flowers to honour Nemtsov's memory, while others also held banners protesting the invasion of Ukraine, only to be detained minutes after taking them out.

Nemtsov, one of Russia's most charismatic opposition figures, was a staunch advocate against the fighting in eastern Ukraine, where Russia-backed separatists have been battling with Ukrainian forces since 2014 in a drawn-out conflict that has killed more than 14,000.

Russian authorities in recent days have moved to stifle critical voices. Speaker of

Russia's lower house of parliament Vyacheslav Volodin said the anti-war stance of "certain cultural figures" was "inappropriate" and "nothing short of a betrayal of your own people."

Access to Twitter and Facebook has been restricted, and human rights advocates feared similar steps would soon be taken against YouTube.

Russia's state communications and media watchdog Roskomnadzor on Sunday demanded that Google lift restrictions imposed on YouTube channels run by several Russian state media outlets.

The Network Freedoms rights group noted that Facebook's refusal to comply with a similar demand this week led to restricted access to the platform.

The website of the Current Time, a Russian TV channel launched by the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that has been critical of the Kremlin, became unavailable on Sunday after the channel reported receiving a notification from Roskomnadzor about blocking it.

Europe, Canada close their airspace to Russian airplanes

DAVID KOENIGAP ■ BRUSSELS

Europe and Canada said they would close their airspace to Russian airlines after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, raising the pressure on the United States to do the same.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday said the European Union would shut down its airspace for planes owned, registered or controlled by Russians, "including the private jets of oligarchs."

Canada's transport minister, Omar Alghabra, said his nation was closing its airspace to all Russian planes to hold the country accountable for an unprovoked attack on its neighbour.

The European Union action came after many of its member countries had said they were barring Russian planes or planned to do so by Sunday night.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo tweeted that European skies are "open for those who connect people, not for those who seek to brutally aggress."

"There is no room in Dutch airspace for a regime that applies unnecessary and brutal violence," Mark Harbers, the Netherlands' minister of infrastructure and waterworks, said on Twitter.

A handful of European nations including Spain, Greece and Turkey had resisted closing their airspace before von der Leyen's announcement.

Robert Mann, an aviation consultant in New York, said the moves by the European Union and Canada would put added pressure on the U.S. To also bar Russian flights.

"It is difficult to understand why we are last to move, both operationally and financially," he said.

As more airlines cancelled flights in and out of Russia, and more countries blocked Russian airlines, the U.S.

Embassy in Moscow said Americans there "should consider departing Russia immediately via commercial options still available."

Russia has responded to western aviation sanctions by banning flights

from several European countries. Russian airline S7 suspended flights to Europe.

On Sunday afternoon U.S. Time, a Moscow-New York flight by Russian national carrier Aeroflot turned back after passing over Norway, according to flight-tracking services. The plane had been routed to fly over Canada.

Other Aeroflot flights took circuitous routes after European countries began closing their airspace.

Growing tension between Russia and western nations over Russia's invasion of Ukraine have

so far had a modest impact on airlines, which are trying to recover from huge losses since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. They face jet-fuel prices that have climbed more than 50 per cent since last summer, and are likely to rise further because of sanctions against Russian oil and natural gas.

Airlines in the U.S. And Europe are expecting to pack planes with transatlantic vacationers this summer. Helene Becker, an airline analyst for Cowen, said on Friday that she continued to expect strong travel demand from the U.S. To western Europe, but travel to eastern Europe "will be curtailed until there is some resolution or some assurance it won't spread to other countries."

George Dimitroff, an analyst for aviation-research firm Cirium, most of the largest European airline had one or two daily flights to Moscow and St. Petersburg and won't be affected much, although Hungarian budget carrier Wizz Air, which had a hub in Kyiv, may feel the pinch slightly more.

With European airspace closed off for now, Aeroflot, Rossiya and S7 "effectively become Russian domestic carriers," he said. Of those, Aeroflot had the most international flights.

The global tension is already costing some airlines more money to reroute flights.

An American Airlines flight from Delhi to New York has been stopping in Bangor, Maine, to refuel because its new route, skirting to the south of Russia, is longer.

It remains to be seen whether United Airlines will do the same on four routes between the U.S. And India. Those flights usually go over Russia, and two of its planes were sticking those paths on Sunday.

Ian Petchenik, a spokesman for tracking service Flightradar 24, said "dozens" of cargo flights from Anchorage, Alaska, that would ordinarily pass over eastern Russia were being rerouted.

"They will take a fuel penalty," he said.

Mann, the aviation consultant, estimated that passenger flights forced to reroute could add between USD 4,000 and USD 12,000 per hour in costs, depending on the size of the plane and the price of fuel. Some routings will simply become uneconomic or impractical," he said.

Cargo carrier FedEx said Sunday it has temporarily suspended flights to Russia. The company said in a statement that it continued to provide service inside Russia and between Russia and other countries "where conditions allow."

Irked by MCC, China asks US to respect Nepal's sovereignty

K J M VARMA ■ BEIJING

Peeved over the Nepalese Parliament's approval of the US-funded USD 500 million grant agreement despite its persistent opposition, a concerned China said on Monday that Washington should not undermine the sovereignty of other countries through "coercive diplomacy".

Much to the surprise of Beijing, Nepal's Parliament on Sunday ratified the contentious US-funded USD 500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact along with an Interpretive Declaration a day ahead of the February 28 deadline set by Washington, ending months of debates, protests and polarisation in the Himalayan nation.

"We noted the decision and the declaration by the Nepalese parliament," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here in response to questions from the official media about the Interpretive Declaration, which was passed along with the US aid highlighting Nepal's sovereignty.

Senior leader of the ruling Nepali Congress Ram Chandra Poudel has said that the declaration includes the statements that the MCC is not part of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, Nepal's constitution will be above any

provisions of the MCC and the country will perceive it purely as economic assistance.

"China has stressed repeatedly that international formal cooperation should follow the principle of mutual respect, equal treatment and fully respect the sovereignty of the country concerned and the will of its people," Wang said.

"It should not interfere in other country's internal affairs to engage in coercive diplomacy, undermine other sovereignty and interest out of self-interests," he said, adding that Beijing always supported Nepal choosing an independent path of development.

The MCC is a bilateral United States foreign aid agency established by the US Congress in 2004. It is an independent agency separate from the State Department and USAID.

Nepal's political parties were sharply divided on whether to accept the US grant assistance under the MCC agreement.

The MCC also dragged Nepal into a geopolitical game, with Beijing taking a jibe at Washington for providing a "gift" to Nepal with an ultimatum, for a second time in a week, firstly warning the US against using "coercive diplomacy" in Nepal.

On February 23, Chinese

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying directly attacked the MCC saying "I wonder how a gift can be sent with an ultimatum. How can anyone accept such a gift?"

Besides public criticism of the MCC, Chinese officials lobbied hard with the bickering Nepalese politicians against accepting the American aid, which is perhaps the biggest US grant for Nepal in recent years.

While Hua attacked the MCC, on the same day Song Tao, Minister of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, had a virtual meeting with former pro-Berlin Nepalese Prime K P Sharma Oli, the Nepal's daily the Kathmandu Post reported.

China's political influence as well as investments have grown in Nepal significantly, especially under the previous tenures of Oli. Beijing was mostly silent on Nepal in recent months after Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba - an advocate of diplomatic balanced foreign policy with close ties with India - assumed power last year.

China is wary of the US making forays into Nepal, where over the years it wielded influence among the influential Marxist parties. Currently, the Nepali Congress is leading the ruling Coalition in Kathmandu which includes major Left parties - CPN-Maoist Centre CPN-Unified Socialist.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"To be known to all that We, Savita Kumar W/o Sh. Ravinder P Kumar D/o Late Shri Suren Kumar Jain R/o H.No. 101, Second Floor, State Bank Colony, Delhi-110009 has a Sale Deed in her favour dated 07.02.2019 of property - back position of built-up first floor, property bearing No. 35/22, (old No. known as 15/21), Kharsa No. 11, Kewal Park, Netaji Marg, Village Azadpur, Delhi-110033. That if anybody has any objection than the same shall be raised to the undersigned within 7 days of time from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which no claim of any kind whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter. Sd/- Advocate Amarendra Kr. Dubey, (Enr. No. D-200/2013) 501/A, 5th Floor, Usna Kiran Building, Commercial Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110033 Mob.: 9599801188.

BSES

BSES Rajghani Power Limited, New Delhi

CORRIGENDUM

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF OFFER Due to unavoidable circumstances, the last date of submission of tender against NIT No Head (PMG)/BRPL/E Tender/2021-22/ 1198 dated 14.2.2022 for Purchase of Power by BRPL has been extended till 09.03.2022 and the revised schedule is as follows:-

- Last date of submission of RfP Bids including EMD 09th March, 2022 at 15:00 HRS
- Opening of non financial technical Bids 10th March, 2022 at 11:00 HRS

HOD (PMG) BSES Rajghani Power Limited.

For further details please log on to <http://www.bsesdelhi.com> or <http://mslcecommerce.com>. Regd. Off.: BSES Rajghani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No.: +91 11 4800 7235 Fax No.: +91 11 39999890 Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

UN: 500,000+ people have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN refugee agency said Monday that more than 500,000 people have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded the country last week.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi gave the estimate in a tweet. The latest and still growing

count had 281,000 people entering Poland, more than 84,500 in Hungary, about 36,400 in Moldova, over 32,500 in Romania and about 30,000 in Slovakia. UNHCR spokeswoman Shabia Mantoo said.

The rest were scattered in unidentified other countries, she said. Another train carrying hundreds of refugees from

Ukraine arrived early Monday in the town of Przemysl in southeastern Poland.

In winter coats to protect them against near-freezing temperatures, with small suitcases, they lined up at the platform to the exit. Some waved at the cameras to show they felt relief to be out of the war zone. Many were making phone calls.

Indian Navy's advanced diving support ship on training mission in Sri Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Indian Naval ship 'Nireekshak', an advanced diving support ship, arrived at Sri Lanka's Trincomalee port on Monday for facilitating diving training for the Sri Lankan Navy, the Indian High Commission here said.

The deployment of the naval ship for 10 days in Sri Lanka is part of the Indian government's capacity building initiative under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, it said.

During its deployment in the island nation, the ship will facilitate 'Mixed Gas Diving training for the Sri Lanka Navy', the mission said in a press release.

The vessel has two six-men recompression chambers and one three-man diving bell, it said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Plot No.90, Sector-17, HSIIDC, Industrial Estate Bahadurgarh, Haryana

The captioned Plot is in the name of Shri SANJAY ARORA S/o Shri Manohar Lal Arora R/o House No. 313, First Floor, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, vide Re-Allocation Letter No. HSIIDC : Estate vide : Bahadurgarh : 2498 dated 19.12.2019, issued by HSIIDC, Bahadurgarh, Haryana. That Smt. Ritua Arora wife of Late Shri SANJAY ARORA R/o House No. 313, First Floor, Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, vide her request letter dated 27.12.2021 intimated that Shri SANJAY ARORA has expired on 21.05.2021. That the legal heirs has/have furnished the death certificate of Late Shri SANJAY ARORA and an Undertaking indicating the names of the legal heirs of the deceased i.e.

- (1) Smt. Ritua Arora W/o Late Sh. Sanjay Arora,
- (2) Shri Karan Arora S/o Late Sh. Sanjay Arora &
- (3) Shri Ishan Arora S/o Late Sh. Sanjay Arora

That the legal heirs has requested to transfer the said Plot in favour of Smt. Ritua Arora W/o Late Shri Sanjay Arora and have also submitted/intimated that they are the only legal heirs of deceased and they have no objection, if the said Plot is transferred in favour of Smt. Ritua Arora wife of Late Shri Sanjay Arora.

Through this Public Notice it is hereby informed that in case any person has any reservation / objection to the said transfer, he/she can file his/her objection(s) in writing before the undersigned along with supportive documents and an Affidavit with in a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no response / objection is received within the aforesaid period, it will be presumed that no person has any objection for transfer of said Plot in favour of Smt. Ritua Arora wife of Late Shri Sanjay Arora and the Corporation shall go ahead with the request of Transfer/Re-allocation of said Plot in favour of Smt. Ritua Arora wife of Late Shri Sanjay Arora. The HSIIDC thereafter will not entertain any objections, whatsoever.

On behalf of Estate Manager, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Sector-17, Industrial Estate, Bahadurgarh (Haryana).

Ukraine says world's largest plane damaged

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

Ukraine's defense industry conglomerate says the world's largest plane that was in regular operation was heavily damaged in fighting with Russian troops at the airport outside Kyiv where it was parked.

The h e Ukroboronprom company said in a statement that the Antonov-225 was "destroyed" but would be repaired.

The An-225, which is operated by Ukroboronprom's subsidiary Antonov Airlines, is used to move exceptionally large cargos. Its arrivals and departures at overseas airports often attract aviation buffs to observe the lumbering plane with a 290-foot (84-meter) wingspan.

Only two planes have been built with larger wingspans - the Stratolaunch and the Hughes "Spruce Goose" - but each was used only for a single flight.



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The ship had earlier visited Trincomalee in September 2019 for a similar training deployment for Sri Lankan Navy divers.

"Such continued engagement of Indian Naval ships with the Sri Lanka Navy is in keeping with the Government of India's capacity building initiative as part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy," the release said.

AP ■ BEIJING

Three weeks ago, the leaders of China and Russia declared that the friendship between their countries "has

no limits" as they met in Beijing on the eve of the Winter Olympics.

But that was before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a gambit that is testing just how far China is willing to go.

The nuclear-armed neighbouring giants have grown closer in recent years, raising the spectre of an alliance of authoritarian states that could challenge a US-led democratic West in a new Cold War.

Yet China has much to lose in such a scenario, and President Xi Jinping has spoken out against the "Cold War mentality" of those who portray his country's rise as a threat.

The emergence of a China-Russia axis is far from a foregone conclusion.

Trade with Europe and the United States is a major driver of China's economic growth, even as its estrangement with the US and its appetite for energy have led it to deepen ties with Russia.

"The ongoing conflict in Ukraine will reveal whether there is a deeper bond or whether the relationship is essentially transactional," Anthony Saich, a China expert said in a Q&A posted on the

website of Harvard University's Ash Centre for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

He outlined three possible actions that would indicate "China has thrown its lot in with Russia". These include Beijing using a veto, rather than an abstention, of any UN resolution to criticise Russia's actions; recognition of a puppet regime in Ukraine put in place by Russia; and a refusal to call the attack an invasion even after civilian deaths are clearly confirmed.

China, along with India and the United Arab Emirates, already abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution Friday demanding Russia stop its attack on Ukraine. Russia vetoed it. China abstained again on another vote on Sunday, though it was a procedural one not open to veto.

The two abstentions show that China has adopted a more prudent attitude than before amid the extremely broad criticism and protest of the world against Russia's all-round attacks," said Shi Yinhong, an international relations expert at Renmin University of China.

Li Fan, a Russian studies professor at Renmin, said that China and Russia have "a neighbourly, friendly strategic partnership" but that China isn't taking sides in the current crisis. "It is not that China supports Russia's military operation," she said. Russia's move to put its nuclear forces on high alert Sunday, escalating the crisis, may make



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Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 5.84% in Jan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation for industrial workers rose to 5.84 per cent in January over the same month a year ago mainly due to higher prices of certain food items, the labour ministry said on Monday.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 5.84 per cent compared to 5.56 per cent for the previous month and 3.15 per cent during the corresponding month a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated food inflation stood at 6.22 per cent as against 5.93 per cent of the previous month and 2.38 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago.

According to the data, the All-India CPI-IW (consumer price index for industrial workers) for January 2022 decreased by 0.3 point and stood at 125.1 points. It was 125.4 points in December 2021.

On one-month percentage change, it decreased by 0.24 per cent with respect to previous month compared to decrease of



0.51 per cent recorded between corresponding months a year ago.

The maximum downward pressure in current index came from food & beverages group contributing 0.82 percentage point to the total change. At item level, fish fresh, mustard oil, apple, carrot, french-been, garlic, brinjal, cauliflower, lady's finger, onion, peas, potato, radish, tomato, etc, are responsible for the fall in index.

However, this decrease was checked by house rent, rice, wheat, buffalo-milk, goat

meat/mutton, orange, beetroot, chilli dry, cooked meals, etc, putting upward pressure on the index.

At centre level, Puducherry recorded a maximum decrease of 7.3 points. Among others, 5 centres recorded decrease between 2 and 2.9 points, 13 centres between 1 and 1.9 points and 33 centres between 0.1 to 0.9 point.

On the contrary, Ludhiana recorded a maximum increase of 2.3 points. Among others, 6 centres recorded increase between 1 to 1.9 points and 26 centres between 0.1 and 0.9 point. Rest of three centres' indices remained stationary.

The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers every month on the basis of retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country.

The index is compiled for 88 centres and All-India and is released on the last working day of succeeding month.

Centre's fiscal deficit touches 58.9% of full yr target at end-Jan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government's fiscal deficit at end-January worked out at 58.9 per cent of the annual Budget target for 2021-22, according to official data released on Monday.

The fiscal deficit was 66.8 per cent of Revised Estimate (RE) of 2020-21 during the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

In actual terms, the deficit was ₹ 9,37,868 crore at end-January 2022 against upwardly revised annual estimate of ₹15.91 lakh crore, according to the data released by the Controllor General of Accounts (CGA).

The country's fiscal deficit -- the difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government -- is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent this fiscal ending March 2022 as against 6.8 per cent estimated earlier.



The total receipts of the government at end-January were ₹18.71 lakh crore or 85.9 per cent of the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2021-22. The collection was about 80 per cent of the RE of 2020-21 in the corresponding period last fiscal.

The tax (net) revenue so far were at 87.7 per cent of the RE of 2021-22. It was 82 per cent of RE 2020-21 in the corresponding period of last fiscal. In actual terms, the net tax revenue stood at ₹15.47 lakh crore during April-January 2021-22.

The CGA data further said central government's total expenditure at end-January stood at Rs 28.09 lakh crore or 74.5 per cent of this year's RE. It was 73 per cent of RE in the corresponding period.

The fiscal deficit of the government for 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 16,61,196 crore. The Revised Estimate for 2021-22 indicate a fiscal deficit of Rs 15,91,089 crore as against the Budget Estimate of Rs 15,06,812 crore.

Rupee slips to 75.35 against US Dollar as crude oil spikes



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slipped by 2 paise to 75.35 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday due to rising crude oil prices amid deepening tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Sustained foreign capital outflows also weighed on investor sentiment, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened weak at 75.73 against the US dollar. However, it recovered most of its losses to quote at 75.35 at 1530 hrs, down 2 paise from the previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the green-back's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.46 per cent higher at 97.06.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped 5.46 per cent to USD 103.28 per barrel amid a war in Ukraine.

Core sector growth at 3.7% in January

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 3.7 per cent in January against 1.3 per cent in the same month last year on better show by coal, natural gas and cement industries, according to official data released on Monday.

Crude oil and fertiliser production recorded negative growth in January. The core sector industries had grown by 4.1 per cent in December 2021.

The growth rate of the eight infrastructure sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity -- stood at 11.6 per cent during



April-January this fiscal, as against a negative growth of 8.6 per cent during the same period last fiscal.

According to the data, pro-

duction of coal rose by 8.2 per cent, natural gas by 11.7 per cent, refinery products by 3.7 per cent, and cement by 13.6 in January.

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed first woman chairperson of SEBI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former banker Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator.

Buch, 57, who was not only the first woman whole-time member of SEBI but also the first person working at the regulator from the private sector, has been appointed for a three-year term, finance ministry sources said.

She replaces bureaucrat Ajay Tyagi whose tenure as SEBI chairman ends on Monday.

A graduate from Delhi's prestigious St Stephen's College and an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, Buch has three decades of financial market experience.

Starting her career with ICICI Bank, she went on to become the managing director and CEO at ICICI Securities from

February 2009 to May 2011.

In 2011, Buch left for Singapore to join private equity firm Greater Pacific Capital LLP. She later served as a consultant to the New Development Bank, set up by the BRICS bloc of nations, in Shanghai.

She is the founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd.

Buch, who will assume charge on March 1, has worked closely with Tyagi as a whole-time member between April 05, 2017, and October 4, 2021.

She handled key portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes, and investment management.

Sources said the Appointments Committee of Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved Buch's appointment for an initial period of three years.

Tyagi, 63, a 1984

batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed as Sebi Chairperson on March 1, 2017, for three years.

He was subsequently given a six-month extension and later in August 2020, his tenure was extended by 18 months.

As per the procedure for the appointment of regulators, the candidates are short-listed by the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC) headed by the cabinet secretary.

They are interviewed by the panel comprising Economic Affairs Secretary and three external members having domain knowledge and their recommendation is set to the Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.

Sensex spurts 389 pts, Nifty up 135 pts as oil, metal stocks recover



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex recovered from early lows to close higher by 389 points on Monday, supported by gains in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Infosys.

The 30-share barometer closed at 56,247.28, up by 388.76 pts or 0.70 per cent.

After a weak opening, the barometer had plunged more than 1,025 points to the day's low of 54,833.50 in line with weak global sentiments.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange jumped by 135.50 points or 0.81 points to settle at 16,793.90.

As many as 33 Nifty scrips advanced while 17 declined.

Among major Sensex movers, Reliance Industries soared by 3.29 per cent as energy prices rose due to the war in Ukraine.

Tata Steel emerged as the lead gainer among Sensex scrips, jumping by 6.61 per cent.

Power Grid, Titan, NTPC, ICICI Bank, L&T, Infosys and Sun Pharma were among the gainers.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's fell the most by 2.81 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, M&M and HDFC Bank.

Meanwhile, Asian markets recovered from early losses to close higher.

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.2 per cent, the Shanghai Composite index rose by 0.3 per cent while the Kospi in Seoul climbed 0.8 per cent.

However, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped 0.2 per cent.

Oil prices firmed up on Monday, with US benchmark crude rising 4.7 per cent to USD 95.92 per barrel and Brent crude gaining 4.5 per cent to USD 98.32 per barrel.

'Regulation should not inhibit innovation'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the financial sector, policymakers need to take extra care that the regulatory framework should not inhibit innovation, NITI Aayog Senior Adviser Anna Roy said on Monday.

Addressing a virtual conference on 'AI in Indian Financial Services - Uncovering Ground Truth' organised by industry body FICCI, Roy said the government is also working to expand the use of AI in the pension and insurance sector to benefit the customers and extend the coverage of social security schemes. "As policymakers and as regulators, we need to take that extra care that regulation or regulatory framework should not inhibit innovation."

"And there, I think one important thing which needs to be done is for everybody to work together and not in silos," she said. Roy further highlighted that with digital divide, digital literacy along with cyber security related issues, the use of AI in financial services has a lot of avenues. "In sectors represented by public goods, the approach of the government has been to take a lead and be the key driver, whereas in sectors like financial sector, the government's role is more of an enabler and a catalyst," she noted.

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING RFP
No. RMSA/LEP/Remedial Teaching/1313/2020/pt/9155 Date: 28.02.2022
The Notice inviting RFP vide No. RMSA/LEP/Remedial Teaching/1313/2020/pt/8569 Date: 19.01.2022 for implementation of Learning Enhancement program for Secondary Level students is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

Sd/-Mission Director
SSA, Assam,
Kahlipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog /CF/3507/21

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender No.: 19-TRD-NDLS-2021-22 Dated 28.02.2022
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its location	Part A: Replacement of failure prone brazed joint Contact wire (28 Km.) 5th phase over Delhi Division. Part B: Replacement of failure prone brazed joint Contact wire (28 Km.) 6th phase over Delhi Division
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs 9799160/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs196000/- (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	14.03.2022
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	28.03.2022 (15.00 hrs.)
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

425/22

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)
E-mail id :- eeamh-phe-cg@nic.in, टेलीफोन :- 07723-223731

निविदा निस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 322 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 86464) जी नं०. 65886, 440 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89253) जी. नं०. 66116, 465 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89434), 468 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89439) 481 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89417), 485 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89743), 487 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 89746), जी. नं०. 66455, 516 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90029), 518 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90032) जी. नं०. 66605, 544 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90605), 551 (सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 90621), जी. नं०. 66885 को एकल निविदा हो जाने के कारण निरस्त किया जाता है। शीघ्र ही पुनः निविदा आमंत्रण की कार्यवाही की जावेगी।


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

ASSAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS
ULUBARL, GUWAHATI
Corrigendum - 2
No. S/V-588/2018-19/NEPOL/46
Ref this office RFPNo. S/V-588/2018-19/NEPOL/32 dtd. 10-02-2022. The bid submission start, end and opening (technical bids only) date & time has been extended as below.

1. Bid submission date & time : 05-03-2022 at 04:00 PM
2. Bid submission end date & time: 11-03-2022 at 02:00 PM
3. Bid opening (technical bids only) date & time: 11-03-2022 at 04:00 PM The other terms & conditions of the RFP remain the same.

Sd/-
Inspector General of Police (A),
Assam, Guwahati


Janasanyog/C/12694/21


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.	Pammi Tejraana/ Rahul Dev/ LBDEL00001491797	267 A, GF., PKT.- C, Trilok Puri- 2, Mayurvihar PH-2, New Delhi/ February 24, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs.31,12,870/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : March 01, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

**राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन**
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
मध्य प्रदेश शासन



शेष रिक्त पदों के विरुद्ध कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर की भर्ती

क्रमांक / एन.एच.एम. / HWC / 2022 / 1436

भोपाल दिनांक- 25/02/2022

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्यप्रदेश द्वारा संविदा कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर के शेष रिक्त पदों के विरुद्ध संबंधित वर्गों के उम्मीदवारों से 6 मार्च के सॉर्टिक्रेट इन कम्युनिटी हेल्थ (CCH) प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में चयन हेतु और संविदा कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर पद पर सीधी भर्ती के लिये मध्यप्रदेश राज्य के मूल निवासी अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। चयनित उम्मीदवारों को उक्त प्रशिक्षण सफलता पूर्वक पूर्ण करने या सीधी भर्ती प्रवेश परीक्षा में चयन के परचात ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्थित उपस्वास्थ्य केन्द्र स्तरीय संस्थाओं पर कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर के पद पर संविदा नियुक्ति दी जायेगी।

उपलब्ध स्थान :-

1. सॉर्टिक्रेट इन कम्युनिटी हेल्थ प्रशिक्षण - 480 पद (मार्च अप्रैल से सितम्बर 2022 सत्र के लिये)
2. संविदा कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर पद पर सीधी भर्ती - 486 पद

चयन प्रक्रिया हेतु सामान्य दिशा-निर्देश, श्रेणी और प्रशिक्षण वैध बार स्थान, लिखित परीक्षा तिथि और ऑनलाइन एडमिट कार्ड / हॉल टिकट की विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए कृपया www.nhmp.gov.in या www.sams.co.in पर जाएं।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन :- 25 फरवरी, 2022 को सुबह 12:01 से 15 मार्च, 2022 को रात 11:59 बजे तक।

अनिवार्य शैक्षणिक योग्यताएं :-

1. सॉर्टिक्रेट इन कम्युनिटी हेल्थ प्रवेश परीक्षा - बी.एससी. (नर्सिंग) / पोस्ट बेसिक बी.एससी. (नर्सिंग) / जी.एन.एम्. / बी.ए.एम.एस. तथा 1 फरवरी 2022 की स्थिति में वैध एवं जीवित पंजीयन।
2. संविदा CHO पद पर सीधी भर्ती - कम्युनिटी हेल्थ एकीकृत कोर्स बी.एस.सी. (नर्सिंग) / पोस्ट बेसिक बी.एस.सी. (नर्सिंग) उत्तीर्ण तथा 1 फरवरी 2022 की स्थिति में वैध एवं जीवित पंजीयन।

आयु सीमा :- 21 से 40 वर्ष (दिनांक 01/02/2022 की स्थिति में)। अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति/अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग / शारीरिक रूप से प्रभावित तथा महिला अभ्यर्थियों को 5 वर्ष की छूट।

प्रशिक्षण सत्र एवं वर्गवार उपलब्ध स्थानों की संख्या :-

CCH Batch	Total Seats	UR		EWS		ST		SC		OBC		PH			
		Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	VH	HH	OH	MD
अप्रैल 2022	480	55	111	16	31	36	72	18	35	35	71	0	0	7	0

संविदा CHO पद पर सीधी भर्ती हेतु उपलब्ध स्थानों की संख्या :-

सीधी भर्ती	486	56	113	16	31	36	73	18	35	36	72	0	0	7	0
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नोट- प्रत्येक वर्ग में 33 प्रतिशत सीटें/पद महिलाओं के लिये आरक्षित हैं।

- उम्मीदवार अपनी अर्हता अनुसार केवल एक प्रकार की प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिये आवेदन कर सकता है।
- सॉर्टिक्रेट इन कम्युनिटी हेल्थ (CCH) प्रशिक्षण में चयन और संविदा कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर पद पर सीधी भर्ती के लिये एक समान प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित की जायेगी।
- मानदेय एवं कार्य आधारित प्रोत्साहन राशि- कम्युनिटी हेल्थ ऑफिसर (संविदा) पद हेतु मानदेय रु. 25000/- प्रतिमाह एवं कार्य आधारित प्रोत्साहन राशि अधिकतम रु. 15000/- प्रतिमाह

महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश-


- 1) केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। किसी अन्य स्रोत/माध्यम से प्राप्त आवेदन मान्य नहीं किये जायेंगे।
- 2) रिक्त स्थानों के विरुद्ध चयन एवं पदस्थापना मध्य प्रदेश को राज्य आरक्षण नीति के अंतर्गत नियमों के अधीन होगी।
- 3) अपूर्ण जानकारी या फोटो, हस्ताक्षर/आवश्यक दस्तावेजों के बिना भरे गये आवेदन को अस्वीकृत कर दिया जायेगा।
- 4) यदि भर्ती के किसी भी चरण में, यह पाया गया है कि उम्मीदवार पात्रता को पूरा नहीं करता है और उसने गलत सूचना/ प्रमाण पत्र/ दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत किए हैं या किसी भी भौतिक तथ्य को छुपाया गया है, तो उसकी उम्मीदवारी निरस्त कर दी जायेगी।
- 5) भर्ती प्रक्रिया के किसी भी चरण में भर्ती से संबंधित किसी भी मामले में एनएचएम, मध्य प्रदेश का निर्णय अंतिम और उम्मीदवारों पर बाध्यकारी होगा।
- 6) चयन पूरी तरह से ऑनलाइन लिखित परीक्षा पर आधारित होगा।
- 7) राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के पास रिक्त पदों की संख्या में बदलाव, नियमों में संशोधन और चयन के किसी भी प्रक्रिया में परिवर्तन/संशोधन का अधिकार है। ऐसा कोई भी संशोधन मान्य और बाध्यकारी होगा।
- 8) उम्र गणना के लिए 01/02/2022 को संदर्भ तिथि के रूप में लिया जाएगा।

G-23142/21

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्य प्रदेश
लिंक रोड नं-03, पत्रकार कॉलोनी के सामने, भोपाल, म.प्र. (462016)
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DOCYARD

DR PANKAJ AGGARWAL



M D (Hom); Ph D

AGARWAL HOMOEOPATHIC CLINIC

Take alternative route



Homoeopathy is a well understood word now everywhere in the world but still, everyone wants to know if it is an option for treating sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or not. STDs are diseases or infections that are caused due to sexual contact and can be harmful if left untreated. Various diseases initially affect the pelvic regions and later impact the whole human body. There are many STDs but the commonly spread are Chlamydia, Genital herpes, Gonorrhea, AIDS, HPV, Pubic lice, Syphilis and Trichomoniasis. Most STDs affect both men and women, but in many cases, the health problems can be more severe for women.

Symptoms
Initially, STDs don't show any symptoms or show mild symptoms that go unnoticed. These symptoms could be unusual discharge or bleeding from the penis or vagina, Itchiness in or around the vagina, painful or swollen testicles, sores, bumps, or rashes on or around the vagina, penis, testicles, anus, buttocks, thighs, or mouth, unexpected periods or bleeding after sexual activity and even pain or discomfort during sexual activity or urination. Besides these symptoms, there are other indicators like fever, recurring pain, fatigue, nausea, weight loss, memory loss, changes to vision or hearing, lumps or swellings that can happen due to STD. If an individual shows any of these warning signs immediately consult a doctor who will check the history of your intimate physical contact. One of the best treatments for STDs is Homoeopathy which treats not just the symptoms but also the root cause of the diseases.

Treating root cause
When homoeopathy was discovered in the 19th century these diseases were rampant. And antibiotics were still not discovered. So, in those days homoeopathy was the only answer to eradicate them at the very roots. Now in this era of antibiotics, symptoms of such diseases are wiped off but the disease itself is not rooted out completely - its remnant remains. With time, these traces take the forms of various diseases in the whole human body. Different degenerative, metabolic diseases, lumps, nodules and various cancers come under this category. One needs to understand that STDs do not always mean infections, but it is the source of STDs.

One needs to understand that STDs do not always mean infections, but it is the source of STDs
Treatment
While in its homoeopathic treatment, such diseases are understood by their detailed symptoms of each part and the whole human body. During this investigation, the pattern is analysed and then its medicine is explored from the list of homeopathically known medicines. Only one such medicine is selected which corresponds to the pattern of symptoms in the patient. This process in homoeopathy is called individualization. The same individualization helps in selecting the potency and repetition of medicine selected. It is altogether a very dedicated process as it involves the administration of medicine as per the need of a patient's individualization.

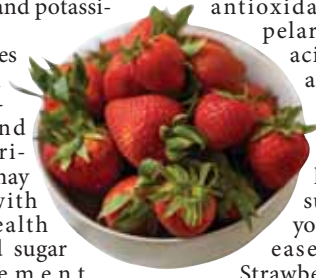
This individualization process is the real hard-working task of the homoeopathic doctor which takes a pretty good time, and its accuracy depends on the skill of the doctor. When a homoeopathic doctor is highly skilled then his selection of the medicine works with the very first dose. This process does not end up with one prescription rather it needs many follow-ups in the required intervals and each follow-up consultation, changing patterns are studied and a further selection of medicines is done. Yes! One must know that at a time only one medicine is prescribed to a patient with required doses.

Hence, truly speaking homoeopathy can completely root out the STDs in whatever stages it is in, but one should consult a skilled homoeopathic doctor who can do it with due diligence. In fact, in today's time majority of the people get affected with STDs either acquired by infection after having unprotected sexual contact or got it transmitted from family genes.

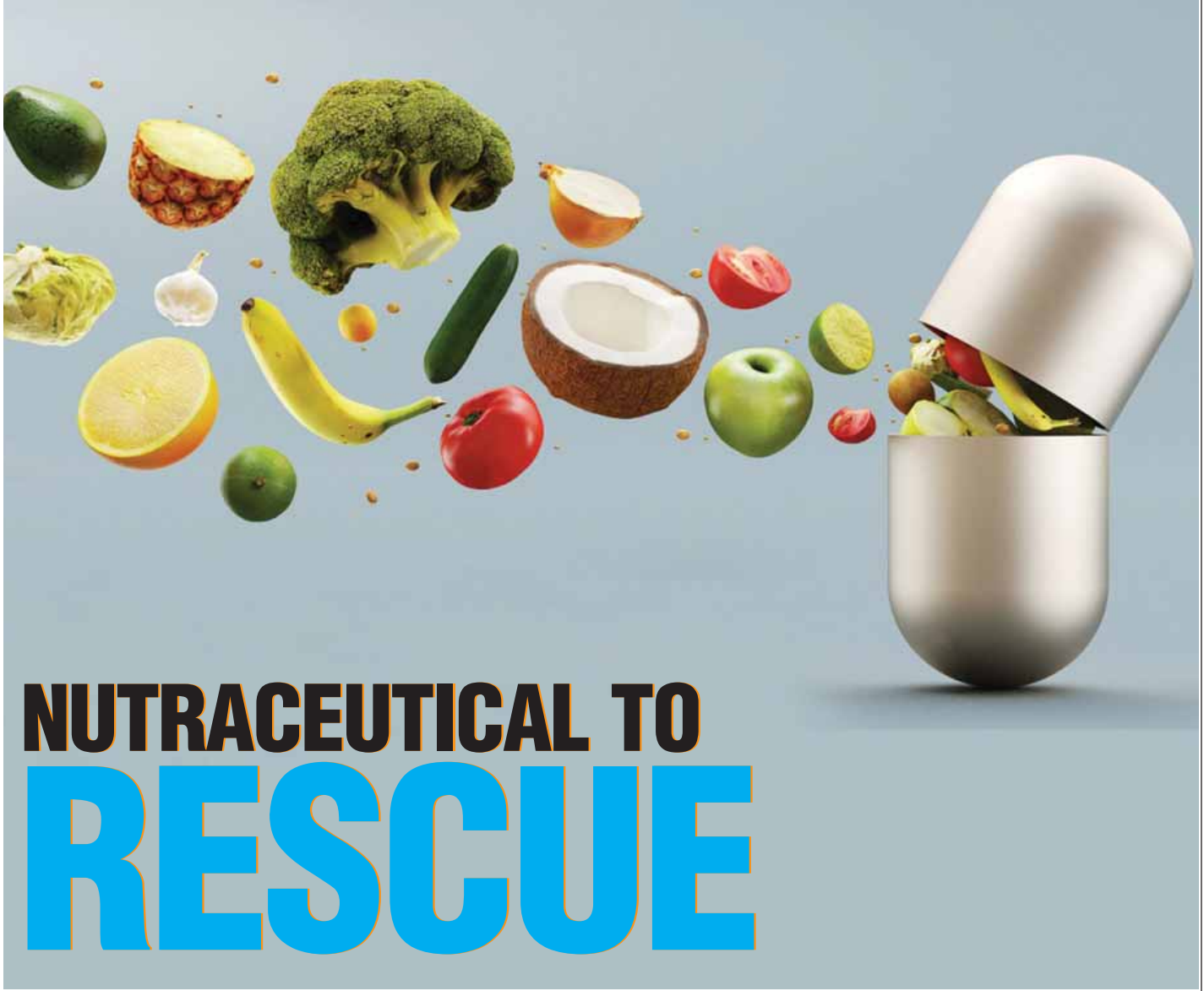
So, if you are facing STD symptoms there is no need to worry. This can be treated with the help of homoeopathy and a skilled homoeopathic professional.

WARMFOOD

STRAWBERRY: They're high in vitamin C and manganese, and they also have a good amount of folate (vitamin B9) and potassium. Strawberries are high in antioxidants and phytonutrients that may help with heart health and blood sugar management. Because fresh strawberries are abundant in water, they



have a low overall carb value. They also have trace levels of a variety of vitamins and minerals. Plant components and antioxidants such as pelargonidin, ellagic acid, ellagitannins, and procyanidins are abundant in strawberries. Strawberries may help control blood sugar and reduce your risk of heart disease and cancer. Strawberry allergies are rather prevalent, particularly in children.



NUTRACEUTICAL TO RESCUE

Currently, a large proportion of the world's population relies on botanical remedies to meet their health needs, says DR ANISH DESAI

A novel coronavirus (CoV) named 2019-nCoV or 2019 novel coronavirus or COVID-19 by the World Health Organization (WHO) over-sees the current outbreak of pneumonia that began at the beginning of December 2019 near Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. COVID-19 is a pathogenic virus. Most people recovered from COVID-19 within 2 to 3 weeks, however, some had experienced a mild version of the disease and continued to suffer with symptoms after recovery.

These people are sometimes regarded as long haulers, and the conditions are known as post-COVID-19 syndrome or long COVID-19. These health issues are sometimes referred to as post-COVID-19 conditions. They are generally thought to be COVID-19 side effects that last for more than four weeks after you've been diagnosed with the virus.

Older people and those with a variety of serious health problems are more likely to have lingering COVID-19 symptoms, but even young, otherwise healthy people can feel ill for weeks to months after infection. The following are some of the most common long-term signs and symptoms: Shortness of breath, fatigue, joint pain, cough, chest pain, loss of smell or taste, anxiety, depression, fever, dizziness, headache, etc.

Nutraceuticals obtained from herbs have been used as a source of medicine by humans since ancient

times. Currently, a large proportion of the world's population relies on botanical remedies to meet their health needs. Now, there is a growing interest in and use of botanical therapies in the formulation of healthcare products. Different herbs which can be used in the treatment of Long COVID symptoms are as follows:

Ginger: It has proven its anti-inflammatory and antiviral action and therefore can be used in the COVID-19 symptom treatment.

Honey: Consists of different active components such as vitamins, phenolic acids, flavonoids etc which act as antioxidant agent and effective in down regulating viral RNA during infection

Glutathione: They are called mast antioxidant agents which reduce reactive oxygen species (ROS) & activation of NF-kB. It is also effective in relieving respiratory symptoms.

Astaxanthin: It possess strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant action which act as Janus kinase/signal transducer and activator of transcription (JAK/STAT) in the initiation of interferon-stimulated response elements (ISRE), attenuating the pathway would play a crucial role in avoiding the inflammation in COVID-19.

Curcumin: It is an active constituent obtained from Curcuma longa & possesses anti-inflammatory action. Clinical evidence showed that curcumin is an effective agent in the treatment of COVID-19.

Andrographis paniculata:



Dr Anish Desai
Clinical Pharmacologist and Pharmaceutical Physician, Founder of IntelliMed Healthcare Solutions

Andrographolide which is an active constituent of Andrographis paniculata showed potent inhibitory effect against COVID-19. It binds with spike protein of glycoprotein and limits entry of virus into the host cell.

Vitamin D3: Literature review suggest that Vitamin D3 shows direct action on angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), which serves as the cell surface entry receptor for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Vitamin C: Ascorbic acid is a water-soluble vitamin that is proposed to have antioxidant, anti-

inflammatory, and immunomodulatory properties.

Selenium: Selenite, a type of selenium stops the entrance of viruses into healthy cells. Hence, selenium can be effectively used in the treatment of COVID-19.

Zinc: Zinc is helpful for the treatment of upper respiratory tract viral infection and hence can also be beneficial in the management of COVID-19.

Melatonin: Melatonin has proved to be effective in downregulating acute lung oxidative injury and inflammation.

Ashwagandha: Ashwagandha has properties like immune-modulatory, anti-stress and antiviral efficacy. Root extract of ashwagandha is effective against anxiety and stress which can be useful in the treatment of long COVID-19 symptoms. Furthermore, the medicine also has a very good pulmonary protective function and hence is beneficial in post-COVID care.

Different clinical studies indicate that nutraceuticals such as Ashwagandha, Zinc, curcumin Vitamin C & D etc. are found to play an important role in supporting immune function and reducing respiratory infection. All these nutrients can be obtained from diet or available as a dietary supplement. The use of specific nutraceuticals is effective in the treatment of long COVID-19 symptoms without any adverse events. However, further research is needed to clarify the mechanisms of action as well as the potential therapeutic value.

Mindful bodybuilding



Most of us, at some point, contemplate having a chiselled body in a perfect shape, with only muscles bulging out instead of fat. SAHIL MEHTA shares a few tips to ace bodybuilding

With the penetration of gyms, fitness apps, and wellness products and the availability of organic and protein-rich diets, it is indeed possible for one to achieve their fitness goal. To start the bodybuilding journey, one needs to have years of foundation of exercise and proper diet; to ensure that it's done healthfully.

While some may have gotten their muscles through a strict regimen of weight-lifting and diet, others may have gotten that through the illegal use of steroids. Anabolic steroids are a group of synthetic drugs. They copy the masculinising effects of the male sex hormone, testosterone. They do have legitimate medical uses but are never prescribed by a doctor for body-building purposes.

For bodybuilding, there are countless ideas, approaches, and choices. Whether the end goal is better health, performance, or a mix of both, there is no depletion of pieces of advice available. Sometimes, it makes the whole process excessively complicated and confusing, wherein the fundamental points get lost. But it is, in fact, very simple and doable if done correctly. Though gym plays a vital role, bodybuilding is more than that:

Eating healthy: Mindful eating is the key factor in bodybuilding. Maintaining a balanced diet, reducing starch, and avoiding sugar and processed food. Eating green vegetables and consuming a lot of water would help to stay energetic during workout sessions.

Eating healthy: Mindful eating is the key factor in bodybuilding. Maintaining a balanced diet, reducing starch, and avoiding sugar and processed food. Eating green vegetables and consuming a lot of water would help to stay energetic during workout sessions.

Taking proteins: When one works on gaining muscles or even does long cardio sessions or high-intensity workouts, the appetite and dietary needs change drastically. This is especially true for bodybuilding, as you can only achieve both the muscle growth and tone desired through sufficient nutrition intake. Unless guided by an expert, over intake of protein should be avoided.

Sleeping sufficiently: While one sleeps, the blood glucose is stored in the muscle as muscle glycogen which is related to a human's overall performance. It is when maximum hormones are released and allows the body to recover and grow. Hence, it is tough to build muscle without sleeping for 7-8 hours a night.

Incorporating the whole-body workout: The goal should be to have strength in the whole body. So, the workouts should not be dedicated to the chest or legs. It should involve the whole body and use as many muscles as possible for better results.

Don'ts
Overtraining: Starting with basic workouts and pushing harder as the body becomes resistant towards it. Also, ensuring resting to avoid muscle injuries.

Focusing on muscles: The goal should be to get fitter and stronger because ultimately if the body is strong, it will take lesser time to recover from the exercise and will be able to work out longer and harder. And once the body is stronger, the muscle will follow.

The writer is MD & Founder, MuscleXP

Understanding Inflammatory Bowel Disease

There is an increase in the incidence of IBD throughout the world and lifestyle and environmental factors also seem to be the cause, says DR MANEESH PALIWAL

As the name suggests, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is chronic inflammation of the digestive tract. Mainly of two types, its classic symptoms are, pain in the abdomen, diarrhoea, blood in stool, fatigue, and loss of weight usually for over a month. The exact causes are not known, currently, malfunction of the immune system in genetically prone individuals is a major factor. Lifestyle factors like western diet, obesity, and environmental factors like childhood hygiene, air pollution are also considered to be contributory factors. There is an increase in the incidence of IBD throughout the world including India.

IBD is predominantly of two types, Ulcerative colitis — a type of IBD in which inflammation or swelling occurs only in the large bowel (intestine) or colon of the digestive tract, and in Crohn's disease the entire digestive tract, from mouth to bottom (anus) can have inflammation, but mostly limited to parts of the small bowel and or large bowel.

The exact causes are unclear and appear multifactorial. Our immune system normally recognizes environmental bacteria and viruses as foreign environmental agents and protects us

against their invasion. In some people who have a specific genetic makeup and develop IBD, this becomes defective. The immune system confuses our own protective intestinal population of useful microorganisms (good bacteria and fungi) which maintain gut health, as foreign. The immune cells then attack the area of the intestines where they are living and cause inflammation.

Diagnosis
The diagnosis is on the basis of symptoms along with appropriate tests. The gastroenterologist first analyses the symptoms. To confirm the suspicion of IBD, blood tests, stool tests, and endoscopic examination of the intestines, especially a procedure called colonoscopy is needed. Using these investigations the gastroenterologist is able to find out the cause and also the type of IBD, ulcerative colitis, or Crohn's disease. During a colonoscopy, they also take a small tissue sample (biopsy) from the intestine to confirm the diagnosis. Sometimes additional tests like capsule endoscopy, MRI of intestines are done.

Treatment
Treatment largely depends on the

form, severity, and extent of the disease as seen by gastroenterologists on endoscopic examination. Oral medication, suppositories, medicated enemas, intravenous or subcutaneous medicines are used. Most people require oral medications in combination. IBD is the result of disordered immune cells mounting an attack on our own intestinal tissue. Therefore, most drugs either modify our immune systems by suppressing these disordered cells or prohibit them from attacking the intestinal tissue. Some of these medications are steroids (anti-inflammatory and suppress immune cells), mesalamine (anti-inflammatory), immunosuppressants of various types, and biological therapy (antibodies created in laboratories that suppress defective immune cells). In select populations who have severe disease or fail to respond to medication, surgical therapy is offered to remove the diseased part of intestines or complications caused by the disease.

Causes
Severe infections of any part of the body including intestines, severe stress, pain killers belonging to the group called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory type, for example,

ibuprofen, diclofenac (NSAIDs) and development of cancers of the intestines.

Myths
Multiple myths about this disease are propagated like any, blood in the stool is only hemorrhoids, besides some have even spread this myth that women suffering from IBD can not conceive. In addition, people mix it up with other diseases like IBS, and last but not the least, IBD patients should not take COVID vaccination. Contrary to this all frequent rectal bleeding should be evaluated as IBD is one important cause. Women with IBD can easily have normal pregnancies. IBS and IBD are different disease entities. Covid vaccination is recommended by doctors for IBD patients.

Prevention
This is currently not known and is an active area of research. IBD is a lifelong chronic illness, easily managed with medicines, and adopting a healthy lifestyle will definitely prevent its flare. Most people do well and the disease remains under control with medication and can continue living a normal life.

The writer is Senior Consultant Gastroenterology, PSRI Hospital, New Delhi

INBRIEF

Complex surgery restores vision of a two-month-old

In treating one of the most complex cases, doctors at Centre for Sight Hospital saved the vision of a two-month-old suffering from congenital cataract.

This surgery is claimed to be the first in the region to be performed on a two-month-old.

Management of congenital cataract is entirely different from treating age-related cataract, and pertaining to the tender age of the kid, the team of doctors took up the case with utmost safety and priority. While the initial symptoms in the eye looked like a retinoblastoma (cancer of the eye), various examinations were performed to rule out cancer and confirm the presence of cataract.

The surgery was successfully performed by the team led by Dr Praveen Kumar, Ophthalmologist, along with Dr Bipin Mishra (Anaesthesia) and with our expert OT staff. "Despite several advancements made in the treatment modalities for cataract with the advent of femtosecond lasers etc., the only option to treat congenital cataract is surgical intervention under general anaesthesia. Pertaining to the tender age of the child, not only surgery but administration of anaesthesia was also a major challenge," says Dr Praveen Kumar, Ophthalmologist, Centre for Sight Hospital, Patna.

A CREATIVE JOURNEY

Just before the release of *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, CHAHAK MITTAL caught up with ALIA BHATT and found that the character’s transitional journey in the film and the actor doing justice to it run parallel

Somewhere in Kamathipura, in a dingy room, a young teenager lies, confused and shocked at her life’s sudden twist. As she tries to come to terms with her current plight, her face is made up of rouge, *kajal*, and dark red lipstick. Her mouth is stuffed with a cloth. Earlier, when her nose was forcefully pierced for the first time, her screams reverberated through the brothel but to no avail. Lifeless, she could be mistaken for a corpse, but her visitors need only her body now and she just gives in. *Gangubai Kathiawadi* delves into the dark side of the world’s oldest profession.

The story of the young, 18-year-old who was brought to Kamathipura in then Bombay and sold to a *kothewali* brings back memories of actor Alia Bhatt’s elder sister, Pooja, playing a similarly traumatised character in *Sadak*.

Cut to a day before the release of the film when I catch up with Bhatt at The Imperial in the capital, where she has come on a brief visit. I probe her about an incident where when she first heard the script and was offered the role, she was afraid and almost “ran away” or so director Sanjay Leela Bhansali had jokingly said (earlier). Bhatt calls it a rather “funny way” of telling the story of her fear.

She says, “I didn’t run away. What’s true out of Bhansali sir’s story is that there was a fear in my eyes when I first heard the script. It was a big opportunity for me. At the same time, it was a huge responsibility. And I was not able to mask that fear of ‘will I be able to do it?’ This is why sir always narrates the story in a funny way that I picked up my bag and just ran away (laughs). However, the bigger picture is that I wanted to experience this with him and make sure that one day, I work under his direction and do justice to his vision, collaborating it with mine.”

Since Bhatt’s first audition for *Black* (2005), for the younger Michelle — the character played by Rani Mukerji in the film — she has wanted to be a Bhansali heroine. Today, being an SLB heroine, for her, is “everything you can imagine and more because it’s also more of things which you can’t even imagine.”

She adds, “It is an experience and a creative journey, which nobody expects themselves to



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

‘ANYBODY IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THEY LOOK STRONG OR NOT CAN HAVE TOUGH EXPERIENCES. PERHAPS, AMONG THE AUDIENCE, IT WAS THE SAME FEAR IF I COULD DO JUSTICE TO THIS ROLE’

land on due to the amount of intensity with which sir creates it. He puts a massive effort into your performance and hence, the extraction he expects out of you is also huge. One can only go on such a journey through an SLB film. You feel, realise and discover, and each of these emotions is visible on the screen. I don’t think it’s a language that anybody has before one starts working on it. You develop it on the sets of an SLB film.”

The film is packed with powerful dialogues, vibrant imagery and subtle expressions. However, when the initial teaser went viral across social media, questions about whether a young and charming face like Alia’s suited such a tough character. The actor doesn’t blame the audience for saying that. But she points out the fact that hardships don’t have anything to do with how one looks like. “They can fall upon anybody,” she says and adds, “Anybody irrespective of whether they look strong or not can have Tough experiences. Perhaps, among the

audience, it was the same fear if I could do justice to this role. Also, that is what sir would have seen – softness on the outside and experience on the inside — that makes a person like Gangubai so strong and fearless. It completely changes the colour.”

Minimal dialogues, subtle body language, and delivery through the eyes are some things that Bhansali films are known for. Alia found this contrast in the natural play of emotions. “There is a combination of thinking and talking. There are times when you’re thinking something else but saying a completely different thing. This is something we consciously try to play with — when we’re saying something else but our eyes

reflect something else. Having said that, you also have to believe whatever you’re saying to make the combination of the two appear effectively. I enjoyed this constant yin and yang. Sometimes, it’s just one or two dialogues and sometimes many. Other times, it is also just genuinely coming from the heart. I think that is also the beauty with which Gangubai’s character has been created in this film,” she says.

One of the other reasons why her young age is being brought into question for such a role, she points out, is because people misconceive the character being an older woman, “who is perhaps in her 40s or more. However, in the film, Gangubai is in only her late

20s and early 30s.”

Another reason why the film has been in the headlines is the legal objection raised by Gangubai Kathiawadi’s alleged family to the portrayal of her character — as a prostitute — which is claimed to be factually incorrect. However, Alia clarifies that the film is based on Hussain Zaidi’s book, *Mafia Queens of Mumbai*, (first published in 2011). She says, “There were no such objections when the book was released several years ago, why are the questions only raised now?”

She says that the character of Gangubai has, “in fact,” been represented in a very honest, humble and noble way. “I feel people would be very proud of her when they watch the film. Gangubai’s soul herself would be very happy. It’s rather a very sensitively-made film,” she adds.

Given the subject of prostitution and the rights of women in this profession, the film’s narrative is marred by taboos in a country like India. So, is the Indian audience ready for a character like

Gangubai? Alia believes there’s nothing to be not ready for. “People’s most common response after watching the trailer was being awestruck and getting goosebumps. And if the audience feels that without any context, it is the most powerful thing. The fact that there is eagerness among people, irrespective of what age group, especially women, to watch the film indicates what the audience wants.”

Recently, actor Kangana Ranaut took a dig at Alia related to nepotism in the industry and predicted Gangubai’s eventual failure at the box office. Alia, however, chooses silence in this matter and says, “No amount of attention or words go to such kind of chatter.”

As to her forthcoming film *Brahmastra* with partner Ranbir Singh, she says, “One can’t find a way or help anyway because it’s a pandemic and as humans, we’d have to learn to adapt to it. So, the idea is that once the film is on floors, it recovers, just like us!”



Celestial consciousness

SUBODH GUPTA’s *Cosmic Battle* casts a spell as you draw into the physical sensation of a circle in a spiral, says UMA NAIR

At Nature Morte, the visitor’s eyeballs are grabbed into a sensorial symphony; you step in and gaze in awe at the sculptural intensity and identity of *Cosmic Battle*. Subodh Gupta’s piece de resistance in a solo show that says seven works can spell a solo in a world that has depleted itself from conspicuous consumption.

Three *handis* and a stone of mortar welded hung and beaten into gorgeous gravitas tell us about Gupta’s love for cooking, his understanding of the fabric of cultural connotations and his continuous process of exploring everyday objects to create a corollary of cosmic consciousness.

The blackened insides and the brass limned gold all cast a spell as these draw you into the physical sensation of a circle in a spiral, a wheel within a wheel, perhaps like an ever spinning reel. The suspended sculpture moves on its axis in a motion that is slow timed, reminding us of the galaxy and planetary motion. Sir Isaac Newton would have loved Gupta’s take on gravity and anti-gravity.

But then the vessel, the humble *handi*, brings back Nirgun poets of the Bhakti movement in 15th century India; the ardour and lacing of purity in the words of Sant Kabirdas. Sitting in front of the installation *Cosmic Battle* on the eve of his opening he recites Kabir with elan.

Iss ghat antar baag bagiche
Iss hi mein sirjanhaara,
Iss ghat antar saat samundar
Iss hi mein nau lakh taara,
Iss ghat antar paaras moti
Iss hi mein parkhan haara,
Iss ghat antar anahad garje
Iss hi mein urat phoohaara
Kahat Kabir suno bhaai saadhho
Iss hi mein saain hamaara.
(In this vessel lie groves and gardens
In it, too, lives the creator,
In this vessel lie the seven seas
In it, too, the nine hundred thousand stars,
In this vessel lies the philosopher’s stone
In it, too, the appraiser,
In this vessel unstruck sound reverberates
In it, too, bursts forth the fountain
Says Kabir, listen, dear wise men,
In this, itself, is the Supreme Being we seek.)

Kabir identifies a humble vessel, a trope for the human body, to be the carrier of everything — the earth, the universe, and the divine. When Gupta takes the vessel and creates this installation, it is a meditative exploration of the literal and metaphorical implications of these verses. The humble *handi* sculpted in its glory reflects how the quotidian pantry has long been Gupta’s artistic realm where he finds material and meaning. The monumental brass *handi* with its inner details took one year to be cast.

To the viewer, it feels as if Gupta is expressing an earth song, as he captures cosmic notes in the everyday. The beauty of the impact is that it is simultaneously minimalist and born of exaggerated exultation. For Gupta, the sculpture is pregnant with celestial currents. In the humble *handi* Subodh superimposes the domestic on the cosmic and subtly tells us, the viewers, that the astrophysical can be minimised to the mundane, and mundane earthly objects like the *handi*, when created in the language of the installation, can eke out into inter-stellar awe.

The phrase *paaras* or *paarasmani*, mentioned in the verses by Kabir, refers to an oddly universal mythological object that can transmute ordinary materials into precious metals or imbue them with extraordinary powers. This is what happens in this installation which is at once opened and filled with majestic beauty, cosmic significance, and astrological import. Subodh Gupta, the star of contemporary Indian, makes mirages for the senses and fills our mental chambers with memories. His materials are cultural signifiers ubiquitously rooted in his biography.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

Spanish sonata

Singer MINU BAKSHI presented legendary Spanish poet, Federico García Lorca’s compositions at Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav for the Embassy of Spain. By TEAM VIVA

The singer rendered 10 Spanish songs that were composed by the legendary poet almost a 100 years before. The standing ovation that she received from a hall packed with celebrities, dignitaries, Ambassadors of the Latin American diplomatic community and art enthusiasts, has marked this concert as a successful event in Indo-Spanish cultural programs.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Meenakshi Lekhi praised Bakshi’s recital. The diplomatic community was charmed with a Spanish concert by an Indian singer. Guests included filmmaker and fashion designer Muzaffar Ali, Bina Ramani, Reynu Taandon, Ex FICCI FLO

president Harjinder Kaur Talwar, interior designer Sunita Kohli, painter Hemi Bawa, Francois Delhay, Ambassador of Belgium to India and Mariana Pacheco Montes, Ambassador of Colombia to India.

“The ease and perfection with which she (Bakshi) presented the songs are amazing. She has created an extraordinary fusion in her presentation of the songs keeping the flamenco flavour alive yet giving it that Indian touch, making this a cultural sangam of both Spain and India”, said H E José Maria Ridaó, Ambassador of Spain in India.

Minu Bakshi said, “The Federico García Lorca show has been amongst my most difficult ones to date. There are various

reasons for this. One, I was singing songs that I had never heard before. Two, I had only a month to prepare. Three, I had to maintain the original composition of the year 1931, the recording where the style of singing was completely different, the language, the Spanish was different from how we speak it today. The songs were sung at a speed that for a non-native Spanish speaker was difficult to follow. The next challenge was to memorise 10 songs.”

Bakshi has been conferred with the second highest order given to a foreigner by the King of Spain in 2014, ‘The Order of Isabella la Católica’ by the Spanish Government for her contribution to the promotion of Spain and its culture. The singer has years of Hindustani classical musical training and is a professor of Spanish language at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, an accredited Spanish language interpreter for the Indian Government, chairperson of the NGO Savera (a society for the uplifting of underprivileged women and children) and the former Chairperson of the UK Asian Film Festival, London

Wasifuddin Dagar honoured



The World University of Design presented the ‘Critics’ Choice Award’ for 2022 to dhrupad singer Wasifuddin Dagar for his everlasting contribution to Indian Classical Music at the Performing Art Studio of the institution.

On being felicitated, Dagar said, “I have for years lived up to my strengths and in every way have only tried my best to add value to the rich culture we as Indians possess and to make it reach out across borders. I believe that music has the power to bring together hearts and souls and through this gift, I have from God I have ensured

to hold that intent close. Congratulations to the World University of Design for taking such concrete steps to encourage and empower Indian performing arts and treating it as paramount.”

“It is an honour to have with us a legend as great as Dagar Saheb who has to his credit a lifetime of rich contribution to the Indian Classical music panorama. We have a vision of promoting the rich heritage of India and the Critics’ Choice Award is our small step towards achieving that aspiration,” says Dr Sanjay Gupta, vice-chancellor, World University of Design.

AAMAAR ARANYA SOLO ART EXHIBITION

The title in Bangla, means ‘My Forest’ is a solo exhibition of paintings, drawings, and mixed media works. This show by Amrita Ghosh deals with the subject and idea that revolves around the human relationship with nature and forest. She has tried in her way to portray this relationship in different socio-cultural, environmental and historical contexts. Tribal and indigenous subjects have played a significant part in this series. As we know ‘My’ is the possessive form of ‘I’, and the nature and sense of ‘possessiveness’ vary widely. The different forms of ‘I’ guided by their different



attitude towards forest and nature have repeatedly come up with their perception and understanding of the concept of ‘My’ and ‘Mine’ in the works of this present series.

Where: Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

When: March 1-7 from 10 am to 8 pm

TALES FROM THE LAKE SHOW

An exhibition will showcase art by seven local artists of Meghalaya, Rahul Surong, Randell Nongkhaw, Careen Joplin Langstiehl, Monaliza Surong, Balaiaimon Khargapkynta, Growfield Lyngdoh Nonglait, Treiborlang Mawlong. The majority of rural artists are shut off from the mainstream market, resulting in the loss of a legacy that generates a distinctive representation of cultural value in the form of art. The exhibition will also launch the premium food range, The Lakadong Turmeric and Wild Forest Honey which are locally homegrown produce of Meghalaya. The store seeks to deliver the most original and distinctive products to the market, demonstrating Meghalayan artists’ outstanding art and craftsmanship.

Where: Meghalayan Age, The Store, Connaught Place, New Delhi

When: Till March 31



JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2022

Japan Foundation New Delhi, in partnership with PVR Cinemas, has announced the fifth edition of Japanese Film Festival to be held in Delhi. Celebrating Japanese culture through specially curated films, the three-day festival will screen 11 globally popular Japanese movies of varied genres and styles. The films selected will carry English subtitles for the viewer’s convenience and bookings of seats are only available online through Bookmyshow website and App for free.

Here is the link to the BMS booking page:

<https://in.bookmyshow.com/events/japanese-film-festival-india-2022/ET00320951>

When: March 4-6



BRINK ART EXHIBITION

The title, BRINK, generates a sense of being at the edge of something powerful where reimagining and reevaluation of actions and practises are not only imperative but critical. From both the curatorial and philosophical perspective, this exhibition talks about the meaning of events and a sense of something inevitable that is about to happen. Curated by Monica Jain, the exhibiting artists include: Bhargav Barla, Bholanath Rudra, Ganesh Gohain, KP Pradeepkumar, Neeraj Patel, Shalina Vichitra and Tom Vattakuzhy.



Where: Art Centrix Space, Jain Farm, 2, near The Heritage School, behind Sector D, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Delhi

When: March 10-April 10

PERFECT FROM THE SPOT

Liverpool convert all 11 penalties before Kepa skies one as Klopp's men win record 'ninth' League Cup title

AP ■ LONDON

Jurgen Klopp challenged Liverpool to chase a historic quadruple after the Reds won the League Cup final in a dramatic penalty shoot-out against Chelsea on Sunday.

Klopp's side clinched the first of the four major trophies they are competing for this term when Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga smashed his penalty high over the crossbar.



Kepa was the only player to miss in the shoot-out as Liverpool converted all 11 of their kicks and Chelsea netted 10.

It was a fittingly tense conclusion to a thrilling encounter that finished 0-0 after extra-time despite both sides creating numerous chances.

Liverpool had a Joel Matip goal controversially disallowed for a dubious offside against Virgil van Dijk in the second half.

Chelsea were denied three times by the offside flag, with Blues boss Thomas Tuchel furious that Romelu Lukaku's effort didn't survive a

VAR check.

Liverpool's record ninth League Cup triumph was their first domestic knockout tournament triumph since 2012.

Having failed to win a trophy last season, Klopp believes his players can use the momentum from their

Wembley success to fuel their bid to become the first English club to enjoy a trophy clean-sweep.

The Reds are six points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City with a game in hand, hold a 2-0 lead heading into their Champions League last-16 second leg against

Inter Milan and host Norwich in the FA Cup fifth round on Wednesday.

"This is the start. We are not silly. You need luck. We have to survive, work hard and, we have to play on Wednesday again, which I cannot believe at this moment," Klopp said.

"Anfield will be rocking because of this result and hopefully we can deliver a game to enjoy.

"We don't get nervous when things don't go well. We are more experienced now.

"It's a big one for us. The first time for this group. The atmosphere was outstanding. It was nice to celebrate with the people after the match."

Liverpool's final kick in the shoot-out was coolly converted by keeper Caoimhin Kelleher, who was again deputising for first-choice Allison Becker after playing all but one game in the competition this season.

"The game he played was absolutely incredible. I can remember two brilliant saves. He showed his full skill set in the penalty shoot-out," Klopp said.

"It was like two lions going at each other. It was absolutely crazy. It was one of the most spectacular shoot-outs I ever saw."

Tuchel insisted he will not second-guess his decision to send on Kepa to replace Edouard Mendy, who had made a series of superb saves throughout the match.

Kepa has a reputation as a penalty-saving expert and came off the bench to help win the UEFA Super Cup shoot-out against Villarreal earlier this season.

But the Spaniard failed to repel

any of Liverpool's kicks before his own miss.

BARCA WIN 4-0

Ousmane Dembele turned the jeers to cheers at Camp Nou on Sunday by scoring a stunning goal and setting up two more in a 4-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao.

Dembele's explosive finish in the second half was his first goal since the January transfer window, when Barca told the Frenchman he should leave if he refused to sign a new contract.

But Xavi Hernandez has insisted on reintegrating Dembele in the last few weeks, with Barca needing the 24-year-old in their fight to finish in La Liga's top four.

This victory puts Barcelona back into fourth place, above Atletico Madrid and now only one point behind Real Betis, who have been dragged into the scrap after they lost 2-1 to Sevilla earlier.

NAPOLI ON TOP

Fabian Ruiz shot Napoli top of Serie A with a stunning, last-gasp winner in a thrilling 2-1 victory at Lazio.

Spain international Fabian crashed home a first-time strike in the 94th minute at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome to snatch first place from AC Milan on goal difference.

His goal came at the end of a hugely eventful match which Lazio thought they had drawn when Pedro crashed home a sumptuous volley with two minutes remaining to cancel out a superb 62nd-minute opener from Lorenzo Insigne.

The best place for me to bat is No. 3: Shreyas

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Shreyas Iyer relishes finishing off games, Sbut, on the back of his excellent run in the T20Is against Sri Lanka, he has expressed his desire to bat at No.3, the place which is normally reserved for Virat Kohli.

Shreyas, who got a chance in the side after Kohli was given a bio-bubble rest following the second T20I against the West Indies, cracked three fifties against Sri Lanka to ensure a 3-0 sweep for the hosts.

"I'm not keeping any expectations from myself nor from the team coaches because if you see the competition in our team, it's immense.

"Every individual is capable of winning you games. Personally I want to enjoy each and every moment and opportunity, which I've been provided with.

"I like to finish off the games and that's like my mindset whenever I go onto the pitch," he said.

Given a choice however, Shreyas added that he would prefer batting at No 3.

"Obviously in this format, top-three is the only place where you can pace your innings pretty well. Otherwise if you bat down the order you can't give yourself time

you need to start going from ball one.

"So yeah, if I had to say the best number to bat for me personally, it's obviously No. 3," he said.

He is not loosing sleep over keeping his place in what is shaping up to be a formidable middle-order, instead preferring to "cherish" his good form in the run-up to the T20 World Cup.

The man, who has just won the Player-of-the-Series Award following the white-wash of Sri Lanka in the T20I rubber, is aware of the cut-throat competition in the team.

"Personally, I want to cherish this moment, I've achieved really good totals in the series," Shreyas, who scored 204 runs at a strike rate of 174, said at the post-match media interaction on Sunday night.

"I want to relax a bit, give myself time and not think much beyond because it's something that if I start thinking from right on I won't be able to focus when I'll be playing on the ground. So I'm just staying in the moment now."

Shreyas, who fetched the third highest bid of Rs 12.25 crore when he was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL 2022 auction earlier this month, did not get a

chance in the first two T20Is against West Indies.

The batter now has four fifties in his last five matches which includes an 80 against West Indies in an ODI earlier this month.

Asked whether he feels he has sealed his place for the T20 World Cup in Australia, he said: "I think it's way wrong to think about right now.

"I can't talk about cementing my place because as I mentioned earlier as well, the competition is so much.

"You need to be flexible in terms of batting in any position, or any given situation.

"So my mindset is just to, you know, grab as many opportunities as I can and see to it that I maximise the use of it."



Mayank Agarwal named captain of Punjab Kings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Opener Mayank Agarwal was on Monday named the captain of Punjab Kings for the upcoming Indian Premier League.

A member of the Indian Test team, the 31-year-old from Bengaluru was one of the two players retained by Punjab Kings alongside young pacer Arshdeep Singh ahead of the mega auction earlier this month.

"I have been at Punjab Kings since 2018 and I take a lot of pride in representing this fantastic unit. I am delighted to be given the opportunity to lead the team," Agarwal said in a press release issued by the franchise.

"I take over this responsibility with utmost sincerity, but at the same time, I believe my job would be made easier with the talent we have at the Punjab Kings squad this season."

Agarwal has been an integral part of Punjab



Kings since 2018, has served as the squad's vice-captain and has also briefly led the team last season.

"We have some vastly experienced players in our ranks, along with many talented youngsters who are keen to grab the opportunity and run with it.

"We have always taken to the field hoping to win the title and as a team we will once again work towards this goal of lifting our

maiden IPL trophy. I thank the team management for entrusting me with this new role of leading the side.

"I look forward to the new season and the new challenges it brings with it."

Agarwal, who made his IPL debut in 2011, aggregated more than 400 runs in the last two seasons. He has also played 19 Tests scoring 1429 runs, including four hundreds, and five ODIs for India.

Punjab Kings head coach Anil Kumble, "Mayank has been an integral part of the side since 2018 and of the leadership group for the last two years. The new squad we selected at the recently concluded auction has exciting young talent and outstanding experienced players.

"We want to create a strong foundation for the future with Mayank at the helm. He is hard-working, enthusiastic, a team player with all the attributes required of a leader.

"I look forward to working with him as captain and believe that he will lead this team to a successful campaign."



SA on top in 2nd test

AP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Kyle Verreyne stepped boldly into the vacancy left by the sudden retirement of Quintin de Kock with a maiden century Monday which put South Africa in total control of the second cricket test against New Zealand by the end of the fourth day. Verreyne's unbeaten 136 allowed South Africa to declare its second innings at 354-9 just before tea, setting New Zealand 425 to win in about 136 overs or four sessions. Kagiso Rabada, who supported Verreyne with a career-best innings of 47 from only 34 balls, then dismissed both New Zealand openers to leave the home side in a desperate position at 9-2.

An unbeaten 60 by South Africa-born Devon Conway lifted New Zealand to 94-4 at stumps, leaving it still 332 runs behind and with only six wickets to survive the final day. Tom Blundell was with Conway at the close of play, scoreless after 17 balls. Blundell technically is New Zealand's last specialist batsman. Still to come is the all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme, a century-maker in the first innings, then the bowlers.

South Africa's performance over the first four days of the match marked an extraordinary form reversal after their defeat by an innings and 276 runs in the first test in which they were bowled out for 95 and 111. New Zealand needed only to draw the second test of the two-match to achieve its first series win over South Africa in

17 attempts over 19 years. But they saw their hopes of that historic achievement dissolve Monday in the face of Verreyne's magnificent innings.

The red-haired wicketkeeper-batsman was thrust into his role when de Kock retired unexpectedly after the first of South Africa's three home tests against India in December. Verreyne previously had played two tests against West Indies as a specialist batsman, scoring 39 runs in three innings at an average of 13.

His 30 in the second innings of the first test against New Zealand was his highest test score at that time. That innings paled into insignificance in the light his dominating performance on Saturday.

Through partnerships of 78 with Wiaan Mulder (35) and 78 again with Rabada, Verreyne ground down New Zealand's resistance. He reached a half century from 97 balls after resuming Monday on 22 and went to his century from 158 balls in just over four hours.

Rabada drove home South Africa's advantage with aggressive innings at No. 9 which included four fours and four sixes. New Zealand's bowlers had been worn down by Verreyne and Rabada compounded their misery as he helped make South Africa's lead impregnable. "There was a message that we should try and be positive and that's what I tried to do, to take the game forward," Rabada said. "Luckily it went my way. I thought about 50 but I thought I should keep on with the tempo. That was best for the team.

Afghanistan beats Bangladesh by 7 wickets

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz struck a brilliant 106 not out as Afghanistan avoided a clean sweep by sealing a seven-wicket win against Bangladesh in the third one-day international on Monday.

Apart from a consolation victory in the three-match series, the result also gave the Afghans a valuable 10 Super League points.

Legspinner Rashid Khan claimed 3-37 as Bangladesh was dismissed for 192 in 46.5 overs. Gurbaz, who has now converted all three of his half-centuries to centuries in just nine matches, then helped Afghanistan race to the victory



with 59 balls remaining.

Rahmat Shah scored 47 and opener Riaz Hasan added 35.

Gurbaz struck seven fours and four sixes for his 110-ball 106 not out and shared two important partnerships to edge the side closer to victory.

He and Riaz gave Afghanistan a solid start, combining for a 79-run opening stand before left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan had the latter stumped to break through.

Gurbaz then added another 100 with Rahmat Shah for the second wicket. Offspinner Mehidy Hasan struck twice, dismissing Shah to end the partnership and then took the wicket of Afghan skipper Hashmatullah

Shahihi. Gurbaz brought up his century off 103 balls, pushing pacer Mustafizur Rahman through cover for doubles and soon after that fittingly finished the game with a single off Mehidy towards square leg.

Fresh from his 136 in the second game, opener Liton Das made 86 to be the top scorer for Bangladesh. Shakib scored 30 and Mahmudullah was not out on 29. Pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi dismissed skipper Tamim Iqbal for the third time in a row to give Afghanistan a good start after Bangladesh opted to bat first. Liton and Shakib then added 61 runs before the latter dragged Azmatullah Omarzai's delivery onto his stump.

Mandhana stable after being hit on head

PTI ■ RANGIORA (NEW ZEALAND)

Star India opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday declared "stable" but under observation due to a "mild soft tissue injury" to her left earlobe.

Mandhana was forced to retire hurt after taking a blow to her head during the team's first Women's World Cup warm-up fixture against South Africa here on Sunday, which India won by two runs.

The batter was hit by a Shabnim Ismail bounce. According to an ICC report, the 25-year-old Mandhana was assessed by the team doctor following the incident and was originally declared fit to continue, only to retire hurt an over and a half later after another consultation.

The report further stated that the left-hander felt no concussion symptoms according to the medical staff at the time, nor experienced delayed effects from the incident.

However, BCCI secretary Jay Shah issued a fresh update on Mandhana's current status.

"Smriti Mandhana sustained a blow to her left ear and lower temple while batting in the warm-up game against South Africa in Rangiora. Smriti was immediately assessed by the match-day doctor who expected a delayed

concussion," Shah stated in a release.

"After further assessment, Smriti was diagnosed with a mild soft tissue injury to her left earlobe which caused discomfort while batting and therefore she had to leave the field retired hurt," he updated.

Taking Mandhana off the field was more of a precautionary measure, the release stated.

"As a safety precaution, she was rested for the rest of the match and is currently under observation. Presently, the opening batter is doing fine and her condition is stable."

"Her progress will be monitored by the medical team and a decision on her participation in the next match will be taken accordingly," Shah concluded.

The stylish batter looked in fine fettle while scoring her 20th half-century in her previous ODI against New Zealand before the upcoming 50-over showpiece.

Mandhana has so far scored 2461 runs in 64 ODIs, including four centuries.

India are scheduled to play another warm-up, against West Indies, before beginning their World Cup campaign against Pakistan on March 6.

In the warm-up against South Africa, India posted 244 for 9 after a century from Harmanpreet Kaur and Yastika Bhatia's 58.

Luus and Laura Wolvaardt made half-centuries for South Africa but they couldn't get the team across the line, as left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad picked up 4 for 46 in 10 overs.



Medvedev replaces Djoker as world No 1

AP ■ LONDON

Daniil Medvedev succeeded Novak Djokovic as world number one on Monday, becoming the first man since 2004 outside the game's 'Big Four' of Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray to occupy the top spot.

US Open champion Medvedev is the third Russian man after Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Marat Safin, and 27th player overall, to rise to the top of the ATP rankings.

The 26-year-old Medvedev, beaten by Nadal in the Acapulco semi-finals

last week, was guaranteed to move above Djokovic after the Serb's quarter-final loss in Dubai. Djokovic, who has spent a record 361 weeks as the world number one, was competing in his first tournament of the season following his deportation from Australia in January.

Alexander Zverev stayed in third despite being thrown out of the Acapulco event after smashing his racket on the umpire's chair several times during a doubles match.

Nadal rose one place to fourth after claiming his third title of the season and 91st of his career.



Buffon extends Parma deal until 2024

AP ■ PARMA

Gianluigi Buffon signed a new deal with Parma on Monday that will keep the veteran former Italy captain at the Serie B club until 2024.

The one-year extension to his deal means Buffon, who is Parma's first choice goalkeeper, will continue as a profes-

sional footballer until beyond his 46th birthday.

"Gigi is a great player, one of Italy's three best goalkeepers and his renewal is a great pleasure for us," said Parma president Kyle Krause.

"His passion and dedication for Parma and the city are obvious every time you see him." Italian football icon

Buffon returned to Parma from Juventus last summer two decades after leaving the club where he started his professional career. The 44-year-old has a record 176 caps for his country, and also holds the record for Serie A matches played with 657 starting with his debut with Parma in 1995 as a 17-year-old.