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THERE ARE LEADERS
WHO JUST CUT AND RUN**WORLD 8**
UN RIGHTS CHIEF
TO VISIT XINJIANG**AVENUES 10**
HOW GEOFENCING CAN HELP
TACKLE TALENT CRUNCH

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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OZ-PAK TEST
ENDS IN
STALEMATE
12 SPORT

All 694 stuck in war-hit Sumy evacuated: Govt

52 of 75 Indian sailors stranded in Mykolaiv port also brought to safety

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said it has evacuated all the Indian citizens stranded in Sumy in eastern Ukraine and transported them by buses to Poltava.

Announcing this here on Tuesday, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said here, "Last night, I checked with the control room, 694 Indian students were remaining in Sumy. Today, they all have left in buses for Poltava," he said.

India has, so far, brought out more than 18,000 citizens from Ukraine in nearly 80 special flights.

Meanwhile, Indian Embassy in Kyiv said the mission intervened to evacuate 75 Indian sailors stranded in Mykolaiv Port. "Yday buses evacuated 57 sailors, including two Lebanese and three Syrians. Route constraints precluded evacuation of balance 23 sailors. Mission's attempting their evacuation today," it said in a tweet message.

Sumy along with Kharkiv

are the two cities in eastern Ukraine that witnessed heavy fighting since the Russian military offensive started on February 24.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday had urged Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to keep dialogue process on to end crisis and ensure the safety of the students from Sumy. He had talked to the two leaders and called holding direct talks at the highest level to stop the conflict. *Continued on Page 2*

Use evacuation passage to leave at once, Indian embassy urges citizens

New Delhi: With ceasefire coming into force for a limited time in Ukraine, the Indian embassy there issued an advisory on Tuesday urging all its citizens to avail of this opportunity to leave the country. "Humanitarian Corridor for evacuation of stranded people announced in various parts of Ukraine from 1000 hrs on 8 March..All stranded Indians are urged to make use of this opportunity and evacuate using trains/vehicles or other available means of transport," it said.

Safe corridors help people flee Ukraine



AP ■ LVIV

Evacuations of people fleeing embattled Ukrainian cities along safe corridors began on Tuesday, while UN officials said the exodus of refugees from Russia's invasion reached 2 million.

The Russian onslaught has trapped people inside cities that are running low on food, water and medicine amid the biggest ground war in Europe since World War II.

Previous attempts to lead civilians to safety have crumbled with renewed attacks. But

on Tuesday, video posted by Ukrainian officials showed buses with people moving along a snowy road from the eastern city of Sumy and yellow buses with a red cross on them heading toward the southern port of Mariupol. It was not clear how long the efforts would last.

"The Ukrainian city of Sumy was given a green corridor, the first stage of evacuation began," the Ukrainian state communications agency tweeted.

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Related reports on P8

WOMEN POWER: Members of Seema Bhawani Shaurya Expedition-Empowerment Ride 2022 of BSF during their flag off ceremony on International Women's Day, at India Gate, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. The 36 members of BSFs Seema Bhawani, an all-women daredevil motorcycle team led by Inspector Himanshu Sirohi, will embark on 5,280 km ride, organised by BSF in association with Royal Enfield

Cash in on Ukraine crisis to grab world wheat mkt: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Russia and Ukraine, the two of the world's biggest wheat exporters, locked horns, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the demand for India's wheat in global markets has increased. This opportunity could be used to provide the best quality product globally and regularly, he said.

Russia is the second-largest and Ukraine the fourth-largest wheat exporters in the world. India is one of the world's biggest producers of grain, but it exports a little of its produce as a major chunk of it goes for domestic consumption. India is expected to ship a record 7 million tonnes in 2021-22.

Earlier, speaking at a webinar, Modi said, "Agar mano dunia mein hamare liye gehun (wheat) ki opportunity aayi hai, to usko samay se pehle, uttam quality, uttam service ke saath hum provide karenin, to dheere dheere woh permanent ban jayega." (It's as if a golden opportunity to export Indian wheat has knocked our door and we should seize this opportunity with best quality of grain and service, and slowly this arrangement will become permanent).

There is news of the rising demand of Indian wheat in global markets, and the financial sector, import-export departments as well as shipping



industry should make a "comprehensive effort" to help wheat and other exports, he said via a video link.

The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war is also visible in India as wheat is selling at Rs 2,400-2,500 per quintal, quite above the minimum support price of Rs 2,015 per quintal in domestic mandis. The global wheat prices have already gone up and are ruling in the range of Rs 24,000-25,000 per tonnes so far. India primarily exports wheat to neighbouring countries like Bangladesh. Besides, it exports the grain to Yemen, Qatar, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

"Wheat prices have skyrocketed globally due to the geopolitical condition, especially since Russia and Ukraine, the world's second-largest and fourth-largest wheat exporters respectively, have set themselves at war. This is an oppor-

tunity for Indian wheat exporters," said officials of the food ministry.

"Russia and Ukraine together account for almost a quarter of the global wheat supply and most of their wheat goes to European countries. As the Western countries have imposed restrictions on Russia, they won't import wheat from it. This will give India a chance to capture European markets," officials added.

India's wheat production is estimated to touch a new record of 111.32 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) as against 109.59 million tonnes in the previous year, of which a major chunk goes for domestic consumption.

Wheat, the main rabi (winter) crop, will start hitting the market from March 15 onwards. The country also has a surplus stock of wheat in the government godowns.

FM concerned about oil prices; Puri says oil cos to take hike call

PTI ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday hinted that the current spike in international oil prices may upset provisions of the Union Budget as she voiced concern over the impact of spiralling oil rates on the Indian economy.

"(It rising crude prices) will have a bearing. We have made some provisions for it in the Budget (for fiscal 2022-23). But that provision is only based on some average (price of oil) prevailing earlier but now is beyond that. So, we will have to see how we can work it out," she said at an interactive session organised by BJP's Karnataka unit in Bengaluru.

International crude oil prices shot up to 14-year high of USD 140 per barrel on Monday before retracting to near USD 129 on Tuesday. But even this rate is 50 per cent higher than the USD 80-87 range of January when most of the Budget 2022-23 would have been prepared.

Sitharaman presented the

Budget on February 1. India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices. The twin blows of oil prices, already up more than 60 per cent this year, and a weakening rupee may hurt the nation's finances, upend a nascent economic recovery and fire up inflation. "It will certainly have an impact on the Indian economy," Sitharaman said. "How much we are going to be prepared to take it as a challenge and mitigate the impact is something which we will have to see as we go (along)."

International oil prices have been on the boil ever since Russia put its forces on the Ukraine border last month. They spiked after it invaded the eastern European nation on fears that oil and gas supplies from energy giant Russia could be disrupted, either by the conflict in Ukraine or retaliatory Western sanctions.

While Western sanctions have so far kept energy trade

out, a prospect of a full embargo of Russian oil and products is leading to the latest rally in international oil prices.

But Indian consumers have so far largely remained insulated as PSU oil firms have for over four months not changed prices in view of assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh. While petrol and diesel prices are due to revision anytime as the polling has ended, the indirect effect on the industry in the form of higher input cost is already being felt across sectors.

There are concerns that elevated oil prices will fire up inflation which is already above the RBI's tolerance range of 6 per cent. Noting that India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements, Sitharaman said when oil prices go up, it is a matter of concern and "now we will have to see how it pans out".

She said oil marketing companies fix pump prices daily based on a 15-day rolling average.

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Clarify Govt's stand on assurance given to Portugal in Salem case: SC to Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting the Centre in a tight spot, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Union Home Ministry to clarify whether it is going to abide by the assurance given by then Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani to the Portugal Government that the maximum sentence to gangster Abu Salem will not exceed beyond 25 years.

The apex court said that it is not satisfied with the affidavit filed by the CBI which said that the assurance given by India to Portugal on the maximum sentence during the extradition of Salem, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blast case, is not binding on the Indian courts.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh asked the Home Secretary to file an affidavit specifying whether the Government of India will abide by the solemn assurance given by then Deputy Prime Minister to Portugal.

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India to resume i'ntl flights from March 27 as Covid on wane

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid-19 cases ebb worldwide, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Tuesday announced that international scheduled commercial flights to and from India will resume on March 27, after a 25-month ban.

Previously, the Government had announced that India would resume international flights on December 15, 2021, but the order was taken back just a day later after Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought a review of the decision in the wake of the Omicron variant.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on February 28 had extended the ban on scheduled international passenger flights to and from India till further orders. Union Civil Aviation

Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday, "After deliberation with stakeholders and keeping in view the decline in the COVID-19 caseload, we have decided to resume international travel from March 27 onwards." Air bubble arrangements will also stand revoked thereafter, he said.

"With this step, I am confident the sector will reach new heights," Scindia said. The move will allow airlines to operate at their capacity as per the original bilateral agreements on foreign routes ahead of the summer travel season.

India has been operating flights under air bubble arrangements with Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya,...

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Covid shrinks brain, triggers memory loss

Whether changes are irreversible not yet known, says study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even a mild infection of Covid-19 can negatively tinker the brain and thinking, scientists have found in a study that highlights the illness' alarming impact on mental function.

However, in a bid to not scare the Covid-survivors about their mental status, the researchers simultaneously clarified that they are yet to investigate whether the changes are reversible.

The researchers identified Covid-associated brain damage months after infection, including in the region linked to shrinkage in size could be equivalent to as much as a decade of normal aging. The changes were linked to cognitive decline in the study, which



was published Monday in the journal Nature.

The study is believed to be the first involving people who underwent brain scans both before they contracted Covid and months after. Neurological experts who were not involved in the research said it was valuable and unique, but they cautioned that the implica-

tions of the changes were unclear and did not necessarily suggest that people might have lasting damage or that the changes might profoundly affect thinking, memory or other functions.

The study, involving people aged 51 to 81, found shrinkage and tissue damage primarily in brain areas related to

Salient points

- The overall brain size in infected participants had shrunk between 0.2% and 2%
- There were losses in grey matter in the olfactory areas, linked to smell, and regions linked to memory
- Those who had recently recovered from Covid found it a bit harder to perform complex mental tasks

sense of smell. Some of those areas are also involved in other brain functions, the researchers said.

The study involved 785 participants in UK Biobank, a repository of medical and other data from about half a million people in Britain. The participants each underwent two brain scans roughly three years apart, plus some basic cognitive testing. In between their two scans, 401 participants tested positive for the coronavirus, all infected between March 2020

and April 2021.

The other 384 participants formed a control group because they had not been infected with the coronavirus and had similar characteristics to the infected patients in areas like age, sex, medical history and socioeconomic status.

With normal ageing, people lose a tiny fraction of gray matter each year. For example, in regions related to memory, the typical annual loss is between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent, the researchers said.

But Covid patients in the study — who underwent their second brain scan an average of four and a half months after their infection — lost more than non-infected participants, experiencing between 0.2 per cent and 2 per cent additional gray matter loss in different brain regions over the three years between scans. They also lost more overall brain volume and showed more tissue damage in certain areas.

Sena accuses ED of running extortion racket

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a sensational charge that came on the heels of the Income Tax department carrying out a series of raids at its various offices in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena on Tuesday alleged that the ED was running a major "extortion racket" in Maharashtra and the investigating agency had become an "ATM" for the ruling BJP at the Centre.

Talking to media persons here, Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member and party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said: "The ED's top official contested the recent elections on a BJP ticket. The ED has become an ATM for the BJP. I have given all the details of the extortion indulged in by the ED to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Modi government is misusing its investigating agencies to harass and victimise its political rivals."

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ED has turned into an ATM for BJP at Centre: Sena

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sensational charge that came on the heels of the Income Tax department carrying out a series of raids at its various offices in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena on Tuesday alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was running a major “extortion racket” in Maharashtra and the investigating agency had become an “ATM” for the ruling BJP at the Centre.

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Charging that the maximum ED and IT searches were taking place in Shiv shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)-ruled Maharashtra and TMC-ruled West Bengal, Raut said: “Today, a series of raids are being carried out by Income Tax department in

Maharashtra. The ED and Income Tax departments have carried out 14 operations in Maharashtra and 7 operations in West Bengal.

The sole intent behind the raids is to instill fear in the minds of political rival and topple the two Opposition-led state governments”.

“Today, IT raids are taking at Sena offices across Mumbai. My gut feeling is that these raids will continue till the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections are over. The ED has already initiated proceedings against 14 MVA leaders. The ED and IT are doing nothing against moneyed BJP leaders. The Shiv Sena will make a shocking disclosure as to who is behind these operations,” the Sena spokesperson said.

Among other things, Raut charged that acting at the behest of the BJP, the ED had zeroed in on around 100 top builders and corporate houses to ‘extort’ hundreds of crores of rupees from them.

“BJP’s former MP Kirit Somaiya is acting as the ED’s conduit to extort money from builders. One Jitendra Chandralal Navlani, who is a director in 7 private companies is acting as the keeper of the ill-

gotten wealth and benami properties of ED officials and BJP leaders,” Raut alleged.

Explaining the modus-operandi of the “extortion racket” indulged in by the ED at the behest of the BJP, Raut said: “Soon after the ED begins investigations against the targeted builders and corporate houses, large sums of monies are transferred from various targeted persons to Navlani’s seven companies. Who is he and what are his connections with the BJP leaders? Will the ED-Income tax department take action against him?”

Raut went onto allege that several big companies including the chemical company United Phosphorus Ltd, engineering company Larsen & Toubro and companies like K Raheja Pvt. Ltd. DHFL, India Bulls, HDIL, Omkar Realty, Wadhwa Realty, Inorbit Malls, DB Realty, builder Avinash Bhosale, Panorama Studios, Pallazio Hotels, Gaylord Co. Ltd, Monsher Fire Protection Systems Pvt. Ltd., Nerka Chemicals, had “transferred” huge sums of money to Navlani’s various companies.

Raut said that after these ‘bribe’ monies were transferred, the ED went slow in its investigations.

India, China to hold 15th round of military talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With stand-offs persisting at some friction points at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for nearly two years, India and China will hold the 15th round of military level talks on Friday to find ways for speedy disengagement of troops.

The last round was held on January 14 without much headway. “India and China have mutually decided to hold the 15th round of Corps Commander level talks at the Indian side of Chushul Moldo Meeting Point on 11 March 2022. 14 rounds of talks till now have resulted in resolution of North and South Bank of Pangong Tso, Galwan and Gogra Hot Spring areas.

Both sides will now focus

to achieve resolution of balance friction areas. Recent statements by both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution have been encouraging and positive in nature,” sources in the defence establishment said here on Tuesday.

The talks will be held on the Indian side of the LAC and 14 Corps chief Lt General Anindya Sengupta will head the Indian delegation. It may include officials from the external affairs ministry. At present, stand-offs are on at three flash points at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Given the tense situation, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are now deployed at the front there.

They did not retreat to their bases during the harsh winter months for the second year in a row. India has all

along maintained that complete disengagement and restoring status quo ante as prevailing on the LAC prior to May 2020 is the prerequisite for normalcy of relations with China.

Incidentally, the announcement came a day after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday ties between India and China have seen some setbacks. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar last month had said the ties were going through a “very difficult phase” after Beijing violated agreements that were signed not to bring military forces to the border and maintain peace and tranquility along the LAC.

“China, India relations have encountered some setbacks in recent years which don’t serve the fundamental interests of two countries and

the two peoples,” Wang Yi said.

He favoured managing boundary differences through consultation, actively seeking a “fair and equitable” settlement. Addressing his annual press conference on China’s foreign policy on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s legislature, Wang said some forces have always sought to stoke tensions between China and India.

“Their attempts have put more and more thoughtful people in reflection and on alert. More people have come to realise that for China and India, both major countries with a population of over a billion, only by staying independent can we firmly grasp our own destiny and realise our goals of development and reju-

venation,” he said.

Wang Yi said his country hopes India will work with them to “...uphold the strategic consensus that our two countries pose no threat, offer development opportunities to each other and continue to build mutual trust.” He also said the two countries should “...avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation so that we will be partners for mutual success instead of adversaries of mutual attrition.”

The 14th round of Corps Commander-level meeting was held on January 12 during which the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels to work out a “mutually acceptable resolution” of the remaining issues of the standoff at eastern Ladakh.

DCW confers awards on Kung Fu nuns

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women honoured the Kung Fu Nuns with the International Women’s Day Award for their extraordinary achievements in the field of women empowerment, disaster relief, environmental conservation and breaking societal barriers.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal presided over the function attended by DCW Chairperson Swati Maliwal, Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, and Deputy Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly Rakhi Birla.

“Breaking a centuries-long social order favouring men in leadership, the Kung Fu Nuns are taking on kindness in its fiercest form — empowering themselves and others to serve the world,” said Jigmet Yangchan Ghamo of Kung Fu Nuns.

NHAI suspends M/s rights to salvage delayed six lane Pune-Satara NH project

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an effort to “salvage” the much-delayed project involving the six-laning of Pune-Satara National Highway, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) suspended the rights of the M/s. Reliance Infra-floated SPV M/S P S Toll Road Pvt Ltd and is now collecting the toll to complete the project expeditiously.

This disclosure was made by M/s S P S Toll Road Pvt Ltd in an affidavit filed last week before the Bombay High Court which is hearing in a petition filed by RTI activist-advocate Pravin Wategaonkar and Sanjay Shirodkar seeking a directive to implement M/s. Reliance Infra-floated SPV M/S P S Toll Road Pvt Ltd in the case involving the alleged irregularities in the Pune-Satara toll collection project.

In the affidavit, M/s S P S

Toll Road Pvt said that the NHAI – after a meeting with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari held on July 7, 2021 – invoked the Article 36 of the contract, suspended the rights of the Reliance Infra-floated SPV on November 1, 2011 and began collecting the toll revenue of Rs 25 crore per month. The NHAI took the extreme step to “salvage” the project and complete it expeditiously.

The petitioners are seeking criminal action against M/s. Reliance Infra-floated SPV M/S P S P S Toll Road Pvt Ltd for the alleged irregularities in the Pune-Satara toll collection project. They have sought investigations by the CBI.

Notwithstanding a case sought to be made out by the petitioners against it, Reliance Infra-floated SPV opposed the CBI inquiry against it claiming

that no case had been made out against it and urged the court to dismiss the petition.

The high court is likely to hear the petition on March 10.

While hearing a PIL filed by Wategaonkar and Shirodkar, a HC division bench of Justices A.A.Sayed and Abhay Ahuja had on January 5, 2022 ordered that NHAI be made a respondent in the case. The HC had also ordered that notices be issued to the CBI, ED and NHAI and asked the three parties to file their affidavit by January 24, 2022.

In his application filed before the high court on December 13, Wategaonkar had told the high court that the Union government had amended rules and taken away contractors’ right to collect toll with effect from January 1, 2014 for not completing six-laning of Pune-Satara National Highway as per agreement.

Clarify Govt’s...

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The Bench directed, “We are not satisfied with the reply affidavit. The question is whether the assurance given by the then Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the government of India is to be abided or not. The Government has to take a stand keeping in mind the international commitment made and the ramifications of it. Therefore, we call upon the Home Secretary to file an affidavit in this regard. The affidavit shall be filed within a period of three weeks. List on April 12, 2022.”

At the outset, the bench told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for CBI, that it is not the affidavit of agency it had wanted to be filed. “Who has asked you to file an affidavit? CBI is just a prosecuting agency. We have asked you to inform us whether you are going to abide by the assurance given. Is the government saying that it will not stand by the international commitment?” the bench said.

The top court added that it accepts that the offences are serious but the stand on the commitment made by the Union of India in its political wisdom should be evaluated based on the wide ramifications it would have.

“You have to clarify the stand taken by the Union Government. We will ask the home secretary to file an affidavit. We understand, the offences are serious, but in your political wisdom, you made a commitment that you have to take care of it. It would have far-reaching ramifications the next time you want someone to bring to the country,” the bench said.

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for Salem, said that in Portugal the courts cannot award a sentence of more than 25 years, and based on the principle of reciprocity the Government of India had assured that in case Salem is extradited he would not be sentenced more than 25 years but now the TADA court has awarded life imprisonment.

On February 2, the top court had sought a response from the Centre on a plea filed by Salem, serving life imprisonment for his role in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, contending that his imprisonment cannot extend beyond 25 years as per the terms of the extradition treaty between India and Portugal.

India to...

From Page 1

...Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, US and Uzbekistan since July 2021. Limited capacity under air bubble flights had led to higher fares. In a statement, the MoCA said that international operations from March 27 will be subject to strict adherence to Union Health Ministry guidelines that were issued on February 10.

“After having recognised the increased vaccination coverage across the globe and in consultation with the stakeholders, the Government of India has decided to resume scheduled commercial international passenger services to/from India from March 27, the start of Summer Schedule 2022. The suspension of scheduled commercial international passenger services to/from India, thus, stands extended only up to 2359 hrs IST on 26.03.2022 and air bubble arrangements shall accordingly be extended to this extent only,” it said. The international operations shall be subject to strict adherence to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare guidelines for international travel dated 10.02.2022 and as amended from time to time.

मध्यप्रदेश गृह निर्माण एवं अधोसंरचना विकास मण्डल				प्रॉपर्टी फ़ार सेल
गांधी नगर, किटियानी, मंदसौर स्कूल भूखण्ड आवासीय भवन एवं इंदिरा नगर नीमच में कम्यूनिटी भूखण्ड ई-ऑफर के माध्यम से विक्रय। (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)				ई-ऑफर दिनांक 26.03.2022 तक आमंत्रित

क्र.	कॉलोनी	भूखण्ड क्रमांक	भूखण्ड का क्षेत्रफल (वर्ग मी)	कुर्सी क्षेत्रफल (वर्ग मी)	भूखण्ड/भवन का अपसेट मूल्य (लाख में)	घरोहर राशि (लाख में)	आवेदन शुल्क (रुपये)
1.	कम्यूनिटी भूखण्ड इंदिरा नगर नीमच	01	900.00	-	165.96	24.90	2950/-
2.	शाला भूखण्ड गांधी नगर मंदसौर	02	1667.25	-	191.94	28.80	2950/-
3.	शाला भूखण्ड किटियानी मंदसौर	02	1345.80	-	269.05	40.36	2950/-
आवासीय भवन							
4.	70 ईडक्यूएस भवन गांधी नगर मंदसौर	EWS, 40, 45, 50, 58, 59, 62, 68 (कुल 07 भवन)	40.50	29.67	9.29	1.86	590/-
5.		EWS, 70 अच्छी स्थिति एवं कार्पर	41.40	29.67	9.80	1.96	590/-
6.	156 ईडक्यूएस भवन गांधी नगर मंदसौर	E 63 भवन अच्छी स्थिति	40.50	24.50	6.70	1.34	590/-
7.	-/-	E 119	40.50	24.50	6.57	1.32	590/-

- आसान किश्तों पर राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से ऋण सुविधा उपलब्ध योजना की विस्तृत जानकारी एवं ई-ऑफर की सुविधा वेबसाइट www.mphousing.in/www.mponline.gov.in के माध्यम से कियोस्क पर उपलब्ध।
- उपरोक्त सभी सम्पत्ति जो मण्डल की विभिन्न कॉलोनियों/शहर में स्थित हैं इनका विक्रय यथास्थिति में किया जा रहा है।
- मण्डल द्वारा सम्पत्ति के विक्रय उपरांत भवन का विक्रय विलेख तथा भूखण्ड का पट्टाभिलेख निष्पादन उपरांत आधिपत्य दिया जावेगा।
- सम्पत्तियों का निरीक्षण किये जाने एवं ऑफर खुलने के उपरांत किसी भी प्रकार की आपत्ति मान्य नहीं होगी।
- 50 लाख तक की सम्पत्ति हेतु ऑफर मूल्य से अधिक प्राप्त होता है तो सम्पूर्ण मूल्य का एक प्रतिशत टीडीएस पृथक से देय होगा। अन्य कर प्रयुक्त से देय होंगे विक्रय विलेख/पट्टाभिलेख अपने व्यय पर कराना होगा।
- स्वयं के कारणों से ऑफर प्रस्तुत करने के उपरांत आवेदन/ऑफर निरस्तीकरण कराने पर 50 प्रतिशत घरोहर राशि राजसात/जब्त कर शेष राशि वापिस की जावेगी। शासन/मण्डल द्वारा निर्धारित अन्य कर, शुल्क, प्रभार एवं लीजॉरेंट इत्यादि पृथक से देय होंगे।
- मण्डल के आवंटियों को ऑनलाइन भुगतान में सहायता हेतु मुख्यालय स्तर पर एक वाट्सअप हेल्प डेस्क स्थापित की गई है जिसका नंबर 7974264023 है आवंटियों को आ रही कठिनाईयों का त्वरित समाधान हेतु इस पर संपर्क करें।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन एवं घरोहर राशि जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक 26.03.2022 तक	ऑफर डालने की अंतिम दिनांक 28.03.2022 सायं 5.00 बजे तक	ऑफर खोलने की दिनांक 29.03.2022 सायं 3.00 बजे
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(रिपुदमन सिंह चन्द्रावत) सम्पदा प्रबंधक मंदसौर मोबाइल 9827064411	साइट विजिट हेतु सम्पर्क करें श्री विजय कटार उपयंत्री उप सम्भाग मंदसौर मोबाइल 9425087461	(पी.के. भट्ट) सहायक यंत्री, मंदसौर मो. 9425356307	(बी.राजकुमार, सम्पदा अधिकारी) सम्भाग रतलाम, मो. 9303270087
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MP Online Helpline 0755-4019400

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सरल एवं पारदर्शी ऑनलाइन भुगतान की सुविधा उपलब्ध

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**B-1035****Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****Bid Identification No. C.C.E.DkI.(R&B) 20/2021-22****Email id-sedkljpwd@gmail.com**

Letter No 541 /Dt. 04.03.2022

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road/Building works as detailed below:

- Name of the work : Road/Building works
- No of works : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : **Rs.1.62,57,239/- to Rs. 8,50,61,157/- (as given in column No. 03 of table)**
- Cost of tender paper : Rs 10,000.00
- Class of contractor : 'B', 'A', 'Special' & 'Super' (as given in column No. 06 of table)
- Period of Completion of work : 05(Five) to 11(Eleven) Calendar months (as given in column No. 07 of table)
- Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt.11.03.2022 to 5.30 P.M. of Dt.25.03.2022
- Date of opening of bid : Dt.28.03.2022 at 11.30 hours

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-34132/11/0020/2122**Chief Construction Engineer Dhenkanal(R&B) Circle,Dhenkanal**

International Women’s Day celebrations

Kejriwal honours women achievers

Delhi CM lauds DCW for instilling sense of security among women

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal honoured women from various fields on International Women's Day and recognised their contribution in society. The Chief Minister also lauded the Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) for its work, saying the panel has instilled a sense of security among women in the Capital.

“The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government is making sure that women stand on the same pedestal as men, get equal opportunities and security in Delhi. We have worked extensively to strengthen the DCW to empower women and make them feel more secure,” said Kejriwal while speaking at the International Women's Day Awards function hosted by the DCW here.During the event,



Kejriwal, who was also the chief guest, presented citations to women who have excelled in various fields. Around 60 awards were given away to women achievers and those who have been involved in working on women's issues.

“We’ve done two major things to make a more women-friendly atmosphere in Delhi. First, we’ve provided them with a sense of security. Second, we’ve provided them with ample opportunities. To make them feel more secure, we took

a hoard of new steps — paramount being the strengthening of the DCW,” said Kejriwal.

“Due to our efforts, Delhi tops the list of CCTV coverage per square mile throughout the globe. Such things deter criminal mindsets.

We transformed our education system, now year on year newspapers tell tales of how girls outperform boys in results,” said Kejriwal. “Half our aim of women empowerment gets fulfilled when these girls who are perhaps first gen-

eration learners get to study in world-class schools. We’re doing whatever we can in our capacity to make our students the best versions of themselves,” Kejriwal added.

While praising Swati Maliwal, chairperson of the DCW, the Chief Minister said that the women of Delhi know that if they face any injustice or any untoward incident, they can call 181 (DCW helpline) and they will be provided assistance. “Every woman knows that they can pick the phone,

call 181 and Swati Maliwal will reach for their assistance,” he said. Kejriwal called Maliwal “Delhi's Lady Singham” who is not scared and has rescued several women and children without thinking about her own safety.

Maliwal said that in the last six years, the DCW have processed 1.23 lakh cases and the 181 helpline team has attended more than 15 lakh calls.

“We have created a system with the help of the Delhi Government, where 181 helplines have 30 vehicles and more than 100 counsellors for deployment. Through this system, we have freed thousands of women and children from the shackles of traffickers,” said Maliwal.

“There are more than 80 Mahila Panchayats running at the grass root level, which work for empowerment and awareness. We have given more than 300 suggestions to the Centre and State Government till now. Our aim is to make such a system in which people are afraid to commit crimes against women and we are working on it with full dedication,” Maliwal added.

500 PCR vans deployed near schools, colleges for safety

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Tuesday interacted with around 50,000 women from 1,784 police beats across the city on the occasion of International Women's Day through a hybrid platform “Tarangini”.

Addressing citizens via podcast, the police chief also spoke about the various measures taken by the force for women's safety. Asthana said that over 500 Police Control Room (PCR) vans have been deployed near schools and colleges across the Capital for the safety of female students.

“On the occasion of International Women's Day today, I salute the women who have achieved great heights despite all the challenges. I want to assure you that the Delhi Police is with you and we are working every moment to make your dreams come true,” said the Police Commissioner.



Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Tuesday interacted with around 50,000 women from 1,784 police beats across the city on the occasion of International Women's Day through a hybrid platform “Tarangini”. THE PIONEER

He said the force has taken various measures for women's safety, including emergency helpline numbers for them (1091 and 1096), Himmat Plus app, self defence training and setting up of the crime against women cell. “For the safety of female students, more than 500 PCR vans have been deployed near schools and colleges. Under our free ride scheme, distressed women are being dropped to their homes at night,” Police Commissioner

said. In some areas of Delhi, dark spots were marked where women felt insecure, he said. “To overcome this shortcoming, integrated facilitation centres and pink booths have been set up so that women can easily contact us,” Asthana said. The Police Commissioner also said six out of 15 districts have women DCPs and three out of six ranges have women officers.Apart from this, over 10,000 women police personnel are working in field, he said.

Govt approves plan to restructure, strengthen DDC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the aim to make the national Capital the number one city in the world by 2047, the Delhi Government on Tuesday approved a plan for restructuring and strengthening the capacity of its policy think-tank, the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi.

The DDC vice-chairperson, Jasmine Shah on Tuesday announced that the plan for restructuring the DDC has been notified in the Delhi Gazette.

“The DDC will have 48 sanctioned posts including 26 posts for policy experts from various domains hired on contractual basis from around the world,” said Shah.

“With the expansive mandate and recruitment flexibility we will be able to contribute to a wide array of critical development challenges facing Delhi and help find evidence-based and people-centric solutions,” he said.

“DDC's experts will advise and assist the Government's



work across six core policy sectors viz; the social sector, environment, transport and infrastructure, economy, governance, and monitoring, evaluation and learning. The DDC will have the flexibility to hire high quality professionals as staff as well as consultants and young professionals from around the world,” said Shah.

“The Delhi Government had constituted DDC in February 2015, when Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's first Government came to power. Last year he had announced Delhi's vision for 2047, and committed to building a world-class Delhi by 2047,” said Shah.

5th session of motivational speaker series organised

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the fifth session of a motivational speaker series organised by the Delhi Government on Tuesday, young IAS and IPS officers shared their experiences related to studies and preparation for competitive exams like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with the students studying in the schools run by the Delhi Government.

Sonalika Jiwani, a 2017 batch IAS officer and South Delhi District Magistrate shared her experience regarding preparation for UPSC exams with the students. The program was organised at the Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Kalkaji. It was attended by 75 children of different schools

and about 13,000 children participated in this program through YouTube live.

While interacting with the students, Jiwani said, “If you dream of being something in future, stay determined to achieve that goal.

I got a good job soon after completing engineering but I had a strong feeling to do something for the people and society and started preparing for civil services.”

Giving information about the preparation of the UPSC exam to the children, Jiwani said that during the preparation always do smart study and stay focussed. She also advised students to use mobile phones very smartly so that it becomes their companion in preparation and not a hindrance.



Chintels case: Registration of conveyance deeds, sales deeds restricted

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner and District Registrar, Nishant Kumar Yadav has restricted the registration of conveyance deeds, sale deeds and other types of property-related documents on all the projects of Chintels Paradiso Developers with immediate effect.

This prohibition will apply only to the transaction between the developer and the first buyers and will not apply to third party transactions.

This ban has been imposed in view of the accident that took place in Gurugram's Chintels Paradiso Society earlier in February which claimed two lives after which an FIR was also registered against the developer.

Keeping in view the incident at Chintels Paradiso Society, Yadav has directed all the sub-registrars and joint sub-registrars not to register sale deed, conveyance deed and other property-related documents of the project developed by Ashok Solomon and Intels India Pvt Ltd.

Details of group housing, commercial and residential plotted colonies built by this developer in Sector-109, 114, 108, 106 of Gurugram have also been given in the orders.

“Strict orders have been given to all the sub-registrars and Tehsildars to stop the registry from doing financial transactions between the developer and the first buyers,” the order said. A case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy has been filed against several individuals including Chintels India Managing Director Prashant Solomon.

India needs dedicated approach to achieve NEP 2020 goals: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

India needs a focussed and dedicated approach to achieve the goals set by the National Education Policy 2020 and provides quality education to every child; Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the “ThinEdu conclave”, Sisodia said there is a need to set our priorities for implementation of the policy successfully. While discussing the Delhi Government's approach towards implementing the policy, he said “We need a focused and dedicated approach to achieve the goals set by the National Education Policy 2020.

The AAP government has already taken the first step in this direction and aims to change the mindset of people towards education, especially the public education system, by providing them new options. Our efforts so far have helped in restoring the faith of common people in the public education system,” he said.

“The Kejriwal government is aiming to bring changes in the assessment systems along with maintaining the standards of the quality education system. For this a new board has been set up, which will focus on assessing students round the year instead of three hours examination,” he added.

The AAP government is committed to provide world-class quality education to each and every child in Delhi that can enable them to be emotionally, academically and professionally sound, he said.

Talking about the Delhi education model, he said that the government has focused on setting benchmarks of quality education in schools by providing state-of-the-art infrastructure, training teachers professionally at national/ international level, implementing focused approaches to improve academics and providing a growth mindset to all stake-



holders of the education system since 2015. Sisodia added that from infrastructure to inculcating growth mindset among students and other stakeholders, the Kejriwal government

Montessori Lab for early childhood care opened

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With focus on early childhood care and education, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday inaugurated Montessori Lab at Rana Pratap Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in Rajender Nagar. According to an official, the Montessori lab built in this school in Rajender Nagar is divided into two parts.

“The lab present here is equipped with ultra modern learning-materials to encourage experiential learning and develop skills like research, communication, social thinking, self-management etc. in children,” hye said.

“This will prepare a strong foundation for the future for them. This lab gives meaningful engaging assignments. And preferably the ones that allow students to work at their own pace.

Apart from this an open area has been attached to the lab to provide sports infrastructure to young kids and develop their cognitive skills,” the official added. On this occasion, Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister said that this



Montessori lab built in Delhi's government school and the facilities present here is first of its kind in India and is not available in any other school of the country.

“This model will be followed by all the government schools of Delhi. Under the leadership of Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, students from socio-economic strata, are getting excellent education facilities like any developed country of the world, in Delhi government schools,” said Sisodia.

“In the last 7 years, the infrastructure of Delhi's government schools has been made world-class, confidence of the teachers and academic results have improved here. Now Delhi Government will focus on Early Childhood Care Education and will make it world-class, as it is very important for the foundational development of children,” said Sisodia.



IHBAS, the first neuro- psychiatric institute in India, to get NABH accreditation celebrated International Women's Day on Tuesday. Its Director, Dr RK Dhaniya facilitated ex-IHBAS director, Dr Meena Gupta and Dr Sangeeta Sharma among others in the national Capital

DFS uses drone for sizing up fire in North West Delhi’s Bawana area

This is first time that DFS have used a drone for better coordination and utilisation of resources

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) used a drone for sizing up the fire that broke out at a plastic granules factory in North West Delhi's Bawana area on Tuesday. However, no casualty was reported in the incident.According to Atul Garg, Director, DFS, a call regard-

ing the blaze was received at around 7:47 AM in DSIDC, Bawana Industrial Area Delhi in a plastic factory. “Following the call a total 25 fire tenders were rushed to the site and around 100 staff were deployed,” said Garg. “This is the first time that we have used a drone for sizing up the fire and better coordination and utilisation of resources. During Covid-19 wave, no huge fire was reported,” said Garg.

“With summers approaching, there will be an increase in fire-related incidents. The drones, which have cameras installed in them, help firefighters in taking

better control of the blaze,” he said. The fire department said it currently has only one such drone which basically guides the firefighters to estimate the extent and area up to which the fire has spread and accordingly utilise their resources in the specific direction to control the blaze.The blaze at Bawana was brought under control by the fire department in the evening.

Meanwhile, the officials said information regarding another fire was received at 11.33 AM. “The fire broke out in a cardboard factory in Narela's Sector-3. The process of dousing the blaze is underway,” said senior DFS official.

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION					
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-I					
Room No. 2, Near Gate No. 09, Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, Delhi Gate, New Delhi-02					
No. EE(E&M)-I/SDMC/2021-22/D-392					
Dated: 07.03.2022					
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT NO.-07)					
The Executive Engineer (E&M)-I SDMC on behalf of Commissioner, SDMC invites online tender in two parts (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) for the following work:-					
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	SITC of electrical pumps along with E&M allied works at storm water pump house at pocket-03, Bindapur, Dwarka with operation & maintenance under SDMC.	1,25,43,793/-	2,51,000/-	1000/-	90 Days
The tender can be downloaded online from the website http://etenders.gov.in . The last date of tender sale will be 23.03.2022 up to 14:00 PM. The tenderers will submit their offer online. However, the tender fee and EMD will be payable to Commissioner, SDMC through online mode only before submission of closing bid upto 23.03.2022 at 14:00PM for an amount mentioned in above table. Pre bid meeting will be held on 14.03.2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of SE (E&M) SDMC, 2nd Floor, Room No. 205, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, New Delhi-110002.					
Addendum / corrigendum etc. (if any) shall be uploaded on the aforesaid website only. All prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan the said websites for any update with regard to the subject tender.					
Ro. No. 76/DPI/S/2021-22			EE (E&M)-I, SDMC		



President Ram Nath Kovind honours awardees during the presentation of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the years 2020 and 2021 on the occasion of International Women's Day, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, on Tuesday PTI Photo



Members of Seema Bhawani Shaurya Expedition-Empowerment Ride 2022 of BSF during their flag off ceremony on International Women's Day, at India Gate, in New Delhi on Tuesday RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

Kanya Shiksha Abhiyan exemplary effort: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called "Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav Abhiyan" "an exemplary effort which will ensure more girls get the joys of education". Modi also asked for efforts to make the movement a success. The campaign is a mission to ensure every young girl is allowed to pursue education and skilling.

Replying to a tweet of the Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani, the Prime Minister said in a tweet "An exemplary effort which will ensure more girls get the joys of education! Let us all, as a nation, come together and make this movement a success."

On the eve of International Women's Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' scheme to bring back the out-of-school girls back to the education system. The scheme envisages partnership of



Women and Child Development Ministry with Education Ministry. The scheme will fulfil the target of Right to Education Act that seeks to bring out-of-school girls back to the education system.

Paying tribute to the 'Nari Shakti' in the country on the International day of women, the Prime Minister highlighted exemplary tasks accomplished by the women in different parts of the country as he recalled his monthly radio programme 'man ki baat'.

One of the women in audio tagged by Modi includes 105 year old Bhagirathi Amma who even at her advanced age sat for class IV exam and passed it in a commendable way.

Centres to hold self-defence camps for women in collaboration with BPR&D: Irani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Tuesday said one-stop centres are planning to organise self-defence camps for women and girls in every district in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

There are 704 One Stop Centres and 36 Mahila Help Lines in the country through which 70 Lakh women have been protected, she said at an event of BPR&D to mark the International Women's Day.

Addressing the National Conference on Safety and Security of Women at Public and Workplaces organised by the BPR&D, Irani also said the government is working towards linking mahila helpdesk at every police sta-

tion with one-stop centres. "One-stop centres in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development are planning to organise self-defence camps for women and girls in every district," she told in her speech at the conference organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The Minister also put forward a number of proposals where collaboration can take place between BPR&D and the Women and Child Development Ministry.

"If the BPR&D desires, then the Ministry of Women and Child Development can arrange Crèche at the District Level for the Indian Police Women," she said. BPR&D and NIMHANS, which is among the country's apex cen-

tre for mental health and neuroscience education, can collaborate to provide counselling for women police personnel who are stressed, she said.

Irani further proposed that the BPR&D and the Women and Child Development Ministry can have a special crèche facility for women personnel in every district. Irani said that under the Nirbhaya fund, the government wants to empower women.

She said, "Rs 4,000 crore have been given to various states and I request BPR&D if they wish to propose any new projects under the fund then we welcome it."

As much as Rs 9,000 crore worth projects have been evaluated in the Nirbhaya Fund, she added.

Senior Cong leaders deputed for poll mgmt ahead of results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday deputed senior leaders for poll management ahead of election results in Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur.

While Karnataka Congress chief D K Sivakumar will be special observer in Goa, party general secretary Mukul Wasnik and Chhattisgarh Health Minister T S Singh Deo besides Vincent Pala have been deputed in Manipur for post-poll management.

AICC General secretary Ajay Maken and party spokesperson Pawan Khara have been deployed as party special observers for Punjab. Rajya Sabha member Deepinder Singh Hooda has also left for Dehradun after he was asked by the party leadership to reach there for management of legislators in case of a hung assembly. Hooda will work out modalities with

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel once the results are out on March 10. Hooda has reached Uttarakhand.

The party's in-charges and observers in various poll-bound states will also be stations at the state headquarters ahead of results. The move is aimed at keeping the Congress flock together in case of a hung assembly in Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Punjab.

The appointment of special observers is part of the Congress strategy to work out government formations in states where no party gets a clear majority.

AICC sources said plans are also afoot in the party to shift its newly-elected legislators to a safe location in Congress-ruled states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is also learnt to have seen the arrangements in

place for its legislators in the desert state in case they need to be shifted there. Sources said the MLAs will be kept at 'safe locations' to prevent what they said "possible attempts by others to poach them".

Congress is not taking any chances this time as had been done during the last Goa elections when despite emerging as the single largest party, it failed to form its government there.

Exit polls have predicted a tight race in Uttarakhand and Goa, while most of them have projected a victory for the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab.

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram said talks were on between leaders of his party and other opposition parties in Goa ahead of counting of votes in the Assembly elections in the coastal state. Congress is also focusing on keeping its flock together and plans to shift all its candidates to a resort, said sources.

MoHUA allows plot ownership in illegal colonies in Capital

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the impending Amunicipal elections in Delhi, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Tuesday announced allowing ownership right on full plot area in case of private land and simplifying the development control norms in unauthorized colonies by reducing the norms for group housing land requirement from 3000 square metres to 2000 sqm.

Further, as per the amendments in the PM-UDAY Regulations, vacant government land parcels can be earmarked / reserved for creation of supporting social and physical infrastructure for unauthorized colonies regeneration / redevelopment and pave the way for regularization of UCs.

"Vacant land parcels can be utilized for creation of parks, schools, hospitals / dispensary for the benefit of residents of UCs.

Protection of vacant government land from unscrupulous elements / land grabbers under the garb of General Power of Attorney (GPA) and Agreement to Sell (ATS)," Union Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Puri said.

This will also curb the practice of creating fake and illegal property documents for government land, he added. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and state BJP leaders have written to the MoHUA requesting modifications in the list of documents needed for processing the applications to further simplify the process so that people can be covered or benefit from the scheme.

The DDA has received 90,700 applications of which approximately 21,000 were rejected as the applicants were found to be ineligible and 11,500 were given ownership documents (either conveyance deed to properties on private land or authorisation slip to properties on government land). Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Puri said that new amendments in unauthorized colonies (UC) will

help residents to get their property registration without any hassle. "Many applicants under PM-UDAY are not in possession of valid 'Will' document. As on 04.03.2022, around 1,000 applications under PM-UDAY have been kept under abeyance due to unavailability of valid 'Will' or 'Gift Deed' documents.

The proposed amendment for not treating valid 'Will' as a mandatory document will resolve the grievance of applicants whose applications have been kept on hold due to absence of valid Will.

It will speed up the process of disposal of cases and will facilitate in increasing the number of Conveyance Deed (CD) /Authorization Slip (AS)," he said. On the amendments of in the Delhi Development Act 1957, the minister said that a major recommendation is that once the minimum threshold of 70% voluntary land pool area is achieved in a sector, it shall be obligatory for all landowners of the sector i.e. the balance 30%, to mandatorily pool their land.

"Keeping in view that the proposed amendments will have to follow the due legislative process, which will take time, a second pronged strategy has also been worked out.

It has been decided that DDA will issue conditional notice for formation of consortium for the eligible sectors (where 70% land is pooled), stating that consortium would ensure proper contiguity of all the partially participated khasras at the time of filing the implementation plan," he said.

The amendments will empower to central government to declare mandatory pooling even if minimum threshold participation has not been achieved to ensure time bound planned development.

Reacting on the amendment, BJP MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri who was present at the press conference alongwith BJP Delhi unit president Adesh Gupta, said that these amendments will simplify the norms in 1700 unauthorized colonies in Delhi and this will be a great relief to these people.

2nd part of Budget Session to start on March 14 as per pre-Covid schedule

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The second part of the budget session of Parliament from March 14 will function as per pre-Covid schedule where Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha will resume from 11 am and both the Houses will use their respective chambers and galleries for the members.

According to the sources, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met on Tuesday and discussed the seating arrangements for the second part of the budget session.

The secretaries general of both the houses also discussed the issue in the context of a substantial reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases during the third wave of the pandemic in the country and

the extensive vaccination coverage. The Rajya Sabha functioned from 10 am to 3 pm and the Lok Sabha from 4 pm to 9 pm during the first part of the budget session. The session started on January 30 with the president's address to a joint sitting of both houses and the Union budget was presented on February 1.

The budget session of the Lok Sabha and the 251st session of the Rajya Sabha in January 2020 were the first sessions to be curtailed by eight sittings due to the outbreak of the pandemic and the 252nd session of the Rajya Sabha in September 2020 and the monsoon session of the Lok Sabha were the first ones to be held under full Covid protocols, with the members seated in both houses and in two shifts, officials said.

SC refuses urgent hearing on VVPAT slips' verification

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused urgent hearing on a PIL seeking verification of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) before the counting of votes, saying it is not interfering as the counting is scheduled on March 10 for assembly polls held in five states.

The plea has also said verification of VVPAT with EVMs, which are being conducted at five polling booths per assembly segment, be raised to five polling stations, a larger unit as one polling station has several polling booths.

"We are not interfering, let counting go on as per established practice, procedures and law. They (Election commission) are following judgment. They have made a statement (to this effect)," said the bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli. The bench, in forenoon, reluctantly agreed to hear plea when

senior lawyer Meenakshi Arora, appearing for petitioner Rakesh Kumar, mentioned it for urgent listing saying she will be intimating the poll panel about the proposed hearing.

Later in the afternoon, senior advocate Maninder Singh appeared for the poll panel and said the Commission has been following the verdict of the apex court in relation to VVPAT verification and the officials have been trained to counting of votes accordingly.

"We are not interfering at the moment," the bench said, adding that the petition will be considered in the regular course only. In the morning when the plea was mentioned, the bench said, "You are coming at the last moment... Last minute if you are asking us to take it up then we do not have time. You know counting is the day after tomorrow. You should have mentioned it yesterday. You are mentioning it now. Assuming for a minute, we hear it tomorrow, will it be possible to send to all states a particular direction to follow?"

SC seeks Govt reply on judicial vista PIL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and its Registry on a PIL seeking development of a "judicial vista" near the apex court premises to cater to the growing need of judicial infrastructure for all the courts including the subordinate judiciary, tribunals, the Delhi High Court and the bar in the national capital.

A bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose took note of the PIL, filed by lawyer Ardhendumauli Kumar Prasad, which also sought a direction to the Union Ministries of Law and Justice and the Housing and Urban Affairs to constitute a central authority, funded by the Consolidated Fund of India, to cater to need of judicial infrastructure under administrative control of the Chief Justice of India (CJI). "Issue notice. Returnable on March 30," the

bench ordered. "The lack of judicial infrastructure, hat is courtrooms, basic amenities, etc. For Judges, advocates and the litigants across the country, in the subordinate Judiciary and tribunals, is a very serious issue, and the lack of autonomy of the Judiciary in the matter, and the dependence on the Central Government and the State Government, defeats the cause of judicial independence," the plea said.

The judicial infrastructural independence is "quintessential for the furtherance of the cause of judicial independence", and hence need to set up a National Judicial Infrastructure Authority, and falls within the most basic fundamental rights of constitution, it said.

The petition has sought construction of a large multi-level complex of courtrooms with 45 to 50 courtrooms with video conferencing facilities and adequate seating facilities for lawyers, litigants, law clerks, and interns.

Covid slide continues but 108 deaths reported

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 slide continued with India on Tuesday reporting the lowest daily spike in cases in 662 days at 3,993 new infections. The Covid tally has touched 4.29 crore while 108 fresh fatalities were reported.

According to the Union Health Ministry data, the active cases dipped to 49,948. With 108 fresh fatalities, the death count climbed to 5,15,210 so far. "This is the lowest daily spike in Covid cases in 662 days. The last time India's daily new cases fell below 4,000 was on 15 May 2020, when the country recorded 3,967 fresh cases.

The daily Covid-19 cases have remained less than one lakh for 30 consecutive days, and it is the second straight day the new case count has been under 5,000 cases," said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry. The active cases comprise 0.13 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery

rate has further improved to 98.68 per cent, the official said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.46 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 0.68 per cent, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,24,06,150 and the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.20 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 179.13 crore.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. The

India, Argentina to jointly conduct Yoga workshop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Embassy of India in Argentina and University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police (IUPFA) will be jointly conducting a workshop on Yoga with an aim to promote ancient practice as a tool to develop physical, mental and emotional well-being, incorporating discipline techniques for stress management. University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police students, faculty, graduates, and staff; students from School of Cadets and School of NCOs and Agents of the Argentine Federal Police can participate in this workshop, according to a statement from Union Ayush Ministry. In India a customized yoga package has been developed for army, air force and navy to tackle high altitude, hot desert and cold desert conditions and submarine and ship conditions. According to various research, it has been found that asanas and pranayams have enabled its application in combating stress in soldiers and promoting their psycho-physiological fitness, said statement. Though Yoga has been practiced in this part of globe for the last several years, yet in the last couple of years, interest in yoga and awareness in Indian culture has increased rapidly.

108 new fatalities include 83 from Kerala and five from Karnataka. A total of 5,15,210 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,43,740 from Maharashtra,

66,263 from Kerala, 39,996 from Karnataka, 38,017 from Tamil Nadu, 26,137 from Delhi, 23,476 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,180 from West Bengal.

Bengal will provide alternative in 2024: Didi PK, MAMATA TRUCE!

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the exit polls not showing a promising result for the Congress Party in the just-concluded Assembly elections in five States, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again said that it is Bengal (read Trinamool Congress) that would provide a political alternative in Delhi in the days to come.

Addressing a TMC party conference in Kolkata the Chief Minister on Tuesday said, “The BJP is flourishing in Delhi as there is no alternative there as soon as an alternative is given to the people this party will be obliterated ... and remember post 2024 it is Bengal that will show the way for which we will have to start working from now... we will have to create an alternative in Delhi the responsibility will be with us to provide an alternative to the people.”

In order to make the Trinamool stronger and more acceptable Banerjee asked her party leaders to commence a “Jan Sanyog Yatra (public relations rally) from May 5 onwards.” “The party leaders

will travel the districts ... down to each village if need be they will sleep on Khatias and win the people's trust ... listen to their problems and solve them this Yatra will continue till July 21 (TMC martyrs' day) when there will be a big party conference,” Banerjee said adding the public relations exercise would continue throughout the year.

The Chief Minister also attacked the Centre for taking a belated decision on Indian nationals stranded in war-torn Ukraine. “The

Government should have taken a decision six months ago the question is why they failed to take the decision ... why for their failure thousands of Indian students will have to suffer can those in power return their peace of mind ... can they restore to them what they have lost,” Banerjee said.

During the meeting Banerjee announced a cabinet reshuffle appointing former Urban Development Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya as the Finance Minister with Independent charge and restoring the Urban Development portfolio to Kolkata Mayor



and Transport Minister Firhad Hakim.

As the State's first woman Finance Minister Bhattacharya would replace Dr Amit Mitra who has been indisposed and did not contest the 2021 Assembly elections.

Dr Mitra would however function as the Finance Advisor to the Chief Minister.

Even as experts said that the TMC supremo's comments were directed at the Congress which was fast losing clout in large parts of the country, Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury promptly hit back wondering why the Chief Minister had called a 19-party alliance in 2019 that finally hit the Congress which was the biggest anti-BJP force then.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what was seen as an indication of truce between the Trinamool Congress' reformist brigade and the old guards Tuesday's party conference saw both Abhishek Banerjee who is also Mamata Banerjee's nephew and poll strategist Prashant Kishor sharing the same stage with the Chief Minister where she took a whole lot of organisational decisions appointing old timers to various organisational posts.

The Chief Minister went about announcing her decisions while both junior Banerjee and his pollster friend watched the proceedings quietly.

“She will have to answer why she spiked the chances of the Congress-led alliance by creating an alternative forum that divided the opposition votes in 2021 she will also have to explain herconduct as an

The party had come to a situation of a vertical split early this year after the TMC youth icon Abhishek Banerjee and Prashant Kishor had started introducing young faces triggering rebellion till down the district level.

So much so that at one point of time Kishor and the Chief Minister had reportedly exchanged messages indicating a formal break up. Regarding Tuesday's development senior party leader Sudip Bandopadhyay said, “The TMC has always been a single unit performing under the guidance of Chief Minister Banerjee and it will continue to do so in future ... good that everyone is working together now.”

NDA ally till 2009,” Chowdhury said reminding the Congress being an all-India party still enjoyed 22 percent votes that was next only to the BJP whereas the TMC had only 4 percent votes.

CM office trying to influence counting of votes: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Accusing the Chief Minister's Office of trying to influence the process of counting of votes, Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav said that the elections are the last battle of democracy and there is a need to stand up to save democracy.

“I have definite information that the Chief Minister's Principal Secretary has asked all district officials to slow down the counting of votes where the BJP is losing,” Akhilesh told mediapersons in Lucknow Tuesday and even named the District Magistrate of Varanasi playing mischief.

The SP chief even said that EVMs were taken away by the officials on the direction of their political masters. “One vehicle carrying EVMs was apprehended in Varanasi, while two vehicles sped away.

The needle of suspicion points towards the DM of Varanasi as to why no action was taken against the persons



who removed the EVMs from the custody,” he said.

Akhilesh further said, “Also three boxes were seized carrying EVM machines and over 500 ballot papers were seized from a garbage disposal vehicle (UP 25 DT 9166) in Bareilly. The people who caught the vehicle informed Ghoraval's SDM but the official took no action. So, it shows that officials are working on the directions of the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister.”

The Samajwadi Party chief

appealed to party workers to stage a dharna outside strong rooms where EVMs are kept. “Now the EVMs have to be protected for the next two

days. Stage a sit on outside the strong rooms as farmers staged dharna in UP-Delhi border. Save your vote if you have voted for Samajwadi Party as everyone will have to come forward to save democracy,” he said.

Earlier, the Samajwadi Party had demanded that jammers be installed outside counting centres so that no one could hack the EVMs.

“The BJP can go to any extent to win the UP polls. They can use technology available under the sky to manipulate EVMs.

Therefore, our demand is to install jammers so that hacking (of EVMs) could be prevented,” the SP chief said.

Ex-VP of Bengal BJP joins TMC in Mamata's presence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Former Bengal BJP vice president and a fierce critic of Mamata Banerjee --- who was last month 'temporarily suspended' from his party --- on Tuesday joined the Trinamool Congress in presence of the Chief Minister who promptly appointed him the State TMC vice president.

Majumdar who had been 'temporarily suspended' from his former party along with former State general secretary Ritesh Tewari for siding with rebel party leader and Union Minister Shantanu Thakur immediately returned the favour to the Chief Minister by comparing her with soccer star Messi.

“I have joined the TMC on the grounds of Bengali asmita (pride) ... here is a woman who is carrying forward the honour of Bengal ... she is undoubtedly the Messi of Indian politics and it is worth working with her,” Majumdar

said.

Incidentally, Majumdar had a closed-door meeting with BJP MP Locket Chatterjee, former State committee leaders Sayantan Basu and Raju Banerjee and Tewari on Monday.

When asked to comment on Majumdar's joining the TMC, Chatterjee said “I had tried to convince him yesterday about not taking any hasty decision but he would not listen to this ... it seems some people join party for their personal benefits ... it is good that he has left.”

Tewari said he would never join the TMC while both Basu and Raju Banerjee remained silent on the issue.

Curiously Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh made a suggestive statement saying though he was not privy to what transpired in the Monday's meeting “I think it is possible that some more people may try to join the TMC because the BJP is on its way out in Bengal.”

Returning Officer alleges pressure by DMK made him declare loser a winner in civic polls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The massive win scored by the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu in the February 19 election to the urban local bodies suffered a setback as a Returning Officer told the Madras High Court on Monday that pressure exerted on him by the ruling party bigwigs led him to commit a faux pas and declare the loser as winner.

This was disclosed by the Returning Officer of T Kallupatti Town Panchayath in Madurai district. The officer personally appeared before the First Bench of the Madras High Court consisting of Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandati and Justice Bharat Chakravarti and explained what had happened on February 22 when votes were taken up for counting.

Independent candidate R Palaniselvi and DMK's K Subbulakshmi polled 284 votes each and this prompted the Returning Officer to elect the winner through a draw of lots.

Palaniselvi won the election as the lot bearing her

The officer personally appeared before the First Bench of the Madras High Court and explained what had happened on February 22

name was handpicked by the polling officer. The State Election Commission announced Palaniselvi as the winner and made the announcement through the portal. But within half an hour, matters took a turn for the worse as the Returning Officer declared that Subbulakshmi (DMK) was the winner when casts were drawn.

Palaniselvi, in her writ petition to the Madras High Court said that she was elected winner when casts were drawn and the Returning Officer had made the announcement in this regard. But the SEC website removed the results within 30 minutes and posted the information that Subbulakshmi was the winner.

The judges examined the CCTV footage of the counting station in the open court and

the Returning Officer was summoned to personally appear in the court. The RO, who was present in the court on Monday told that he was under immense pressure to change the election results. The Court asked the RO to file a detailed affidavit by March 18 stating the kind of pressure exerted on him and the persons concerned. Meanwhile the State Election Commission complied with the Court directive and declared the writ petitioner as the winner.

There were widespread allegations from major Opposition parties viz the AIADMK, the BJP, the PMK and the Makkal Neethi Maaim that the ruling dispensation had engaged in massive malpractices during the election. D Jayakumar, former minister in the Edappadi Palaniswami-led AIADMK government was arrested and sent to jail when he caught hold of a history sheeter while impersonating as a voter in a Chennai corporation booth.

The incident has put shadow on the impressive victory registered by the DMK and allies in the just concluded polls.

Install jammers near counting centres, SP's Naresh Uttam tells EC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Fearing the hacking of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), State Samajwadi Party president Naresh Uttam has written to UP Chief Electoral Officer to install jammers near counting centres and not to allow excessive use of mobile phones there.

Polling for 403 Assembly seats concluded in the seventh phase on March 7 and the counting of votes will start from 8 am at all voting centres across the state on March 10.

In a letter to the Election Commission of India, Uttam said that there was a fear of hacking of EVMs and therefore excessive use of mobile phones should not be allowed and jammers be installed there.

The Samajwadi Party has also demanded that counting of votes should start with postal ballots and EVM counting should be taken up after counting of paper ballots is over.

“If the District Magistrates

Polling for 403 Assembly seats concluded in the seventh phase polls in UP on March 7

did not start the process by counting paper ballots, Samajwadi Party workers will stage dharna at the counting centres,” he said.

The directives were issued after Exit Polls were released by several news channels pointing towards a thumping majority to the BJP in the just concluded Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

“Everyone has seen the gatherings at SP rallies, people have seen that Akhilesh Yadav was able to touch every issue and how people responded to him. The Exit Polls were an attempt to create a situation to help the ruling party to rig the counting,” Uttam said.

The SP leader further said that the party brass has asked all the workers to be on high alert during counting. “The party workers are already guarding the locker rooms where the EVMs have been in each district,” he said.

Nine die of Covid in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Despite Covid infection being on the ebb, at least nine people died of the viral disease, 105 fresh cases were reported and 326 patients recovered across Uttar Pradesh in the last 24 hours.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said in Lucknow on Tuesday that 1.10 lakh samples were tested in a day and 105 new Covid cases were reported.

A maximum of 15 cases were reported from Gautam Budh Nagar (Noida), followed by 13 in Lucknow and 12 in Ghaziabad. He said that no new cases were reported in 45 districts in the last 24 hours, indicating that the viral infection was on the ebb.

“Of the nine people who died of Covid in the last 24 hours, 2 deaths each were reported from Hardoi and Ambedkar Nagar, while other deaths were reported from Basti, Gonda, Moradabad, Rae Bareli and Shravasti,” he said.

'Special efforts in UP helped increase conviction in crime against women'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the occasion of International Women's Day on Tuesday, the UP Government claimed that special efforts made by the Prosecution Department have not just helped in jacking up conviction in crimes related to women but also put Uttar Pradesh on the top amongst all States.

Through a communiqué released on Sunday, the state government said that the conviction rate of accused involved in crimes against women in 2019 was 55.2 percent in the country except in northeastern states and the highest was recorded in Uttar Pradesh.

The conviction rate was

50.6 percent in Uttarakhand, 45.5 percent in Rajasthan, 44.7 percent in Jharkhand, 32.3 percent in Chhattisgarh, 26.5 percent in Madhya Pradesh and 23.1 percent in Punjab.

It further said that the UP government stressed on more effective advocacy in crimes against women which yielded fruitful results.

As a result, in 2020, the conviction rate of accused in crime against women in India except northeastern states, Uttar Pradesh clocked the highest rate of 61.0 percent.

In comparison, Uttarakhand recorded 41.8 percent, Rajasthan 47.5 percent, Jharkhand 51.0 percent, Bihar 43.9 percent, Chhattisgarh 37.5 percent and Madhya Pradesh 33.2 percent

respectively.

It is worth mentioning that the UP Prosecution department headed by ADG, Ashutosh Pandey occupies the top spot in India as per International Criminal Justice System (ICJS).

The Prosecution department also bagged the first prize for carrying out prosecution among the other states of India and was feted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Uttar Pradesh is at the top position across the country with more than 70 lakh entries being registered on the e-Prosecution portal.

Madhya Pradesh recorded 18 lakh entries and was in the second position while Gujarat occupied the third place with 4 lakh entries.

Bundelkhand has high expectations from new UP Govt

BISHWADEEP GHOSH ■ LUCKNOW

With a new Government set to be formed after the counting of votes on March 10, people of Bundelkhand who have been battling crippling crises like water scarcity, financial crunch and even hunger for decades have high expectations from the new regime.

While the common public refrain is that the area did witness a certain amount of infrastructural development, little was done to address the agrarian crisis even as a large populace is dependent on farming which has been hit by frequent drought in the region. Despite the presence of at least seven all weather rivers, the region has been arid and has been affected by 13 droughts in the last two decades. The consequence of these recurrent calamities have been pronounced on the

not-so affluent masses.

Professor of Social Work at Bundelkhand University (Jhansi) Mohammed Naem opined, “The next government will have to seriously work on rejuvenating traditional water bodies to cut the costs of farming in the region and make markets available so that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. This will help in increasing the per capita income of farm-dependent locals. High deposits of granite render natural water recharge difficult in the region and it has been a bane for the locals. Even as the government has been providing free ration to the poor, the quantity supplied to each family is much less than their need. Shortage of food becomes acute for poor families in the first three months of a year before the new crop hits the market. I can readily refer to the Adivasi colony of

Bhadana where most families sleep without a proper dinner in these months. Also, officials present on ground zero have to be more sensitive to these burning problems so that the government can formulate and implement people-centric policies for the region.”

Social worker Gopal Sahriya has been working in Jhansi, Lalitpur and adjoining areas to alleviate the condition of the poor families for over a decade now. When asked on this score, Sahriya said, “Poverty and hunger are realities in Bundelkhand which have adversely affected the purchasing power of the common man. The condition is so pitiable that poor families munch on dried grams as vegetables are out of their reach. Cattle-rearing has been a traditional occupation here but due to scarcity of fodder, most owners let their cattle loose, as a result of which

they graze in cornfields, inflicting losses to farmers. Such incidents often lead to disputes and even clashes. The government has to focus on such incidents and address these problems.”

Principal of Arya Kanya Women's College Dr Alka Rai highlighted the lack of industries despite there being vast swathes of land in the region, forcing locals to depend on agriculture. Dr Rai pointed out, “If the state government is serious on improving the plight of the masses it has to focus on setting up industries as there is ample barren land. Even a little industrial development will lead to organised employment and effectively prevent exodus of poor families to other states for employment. In the last few years, the seven districts of Bundelkhand have been witness to large-scale employment-linked exodus and several vil-

lages have become ghost settlements. I feel the worst casualty in this scenario are children who are deprived of education due to displacement and the region has become home to an army of people with little or no education. The government should give a serious thought to this social problem.” Farmer leader Mahendra Sharma felt that more than expressways and airports, Bundelkhand residents needed proper employment and improved form of farming. “Generation of employment will translate into welfare and prosperity of the locals. Instead of Kisan Samman Nidhi, the new regime should come up with a package for improving farming and implement welfare schemes transparently. The revenue earned from Bundelkhand's abundant natural resources should also be put to use for its development to turn a new leaf.

Become medium of Govt schemes' implementation: CM to institutes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On International Women's Day on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called upon educational institutions to become a medium of the Government schemes' implementation.

“A society or class lags behind when it is not aware of the system and schemes of the government. Therefore, schools, colleges and universities will have to become the medium of implementing government schemes because the students coming out of these institutions will implement these schemes some time in future,” Yogi said while addressing a seminar organized on International Women's Day at

Mahayogi Gorakhnath University on Tuesday.

The BJP leader said that this year's theme on World Women's Day is 'Gender Equality for a Sustainable Tomorrow'. “You would be surprised to know to what extent women had to fight for their rights across the globe. In several countries, women did not have the right to vote. There have been movements in all countries of the world regarding this. But from the day elections started in India, women got the right to vote. India's first general election was held in 1952 and women were given the right to franchise without any discrimination.

However in many countries, like in England, women



got the right to vote after India. This implies that there is already a sense of equality for women in India,” the Chief Minister said.

“When India adopted its Constitution, its sentiment was that no one would discriminate against any person on the basis

of caste, religion, creed, sex or language. Equality and liberty are the souls of the Constitution of India. Despite all this, this process may not have progressed that well. Therefore, we talk about awareness so that people should have information about the schemes related to the welfare of women and all sections of the society,” he said.

Yogi Adityanath, who is also Chancellor of Mahayogi Gorakhnath University, said that security, respect and self-reliance would pave the way for women empowerment. “When Modi ji became the Prime Minister in 2014, he introduced 'Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao' scheme. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, 2.61

crore families were given toilets, which is also related to the dignity and respect of women. Under the Ujjwala scheme, 1.67 crore poor families were provided with LPG gas. Through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, women were given the right of ownership of houses by providing them with more than 43.50 lakh houses,” he said.

On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor of Mahayogi Gorakhnath University, Prof. UP Singh, Registrar Dr. Pradeep Rao, Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur Prof. Surekha Kapoor, Principal of Ayurveda College Dr. T. Suresh, Principal of Nursing College Dr. GS Ajita, Prof. Shobha Gaur were present.

Priyanka: We fought as hard as we could, will wait for results

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the majority of Exit Polls predicted a poor show by Congress candidates in the just-concluded Assembly polls, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, however, appeared to be satisfied with the partymen saying that they fought hard.

In Lucknow to lead a march under her party's campaign - 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' in Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka reacting to Exit Polls said, “We fought as hard as we could. We will wait and see the results.”

Meanwhile Congress leaders claimed that Priyanka had

shed the maximum sweat among top leaders for over the last 45 days for the seven-phase UP Assembly election campaign.

“Despite the Exit Polls not making an encouraging prediction for the grand old party, Priyanka Gandhi held the maximum number of 209 rallies and roadshows during electioneering starting mid-January to enhance the party's poll prospects.

If the number of rallies held by a party and its leaders is any indication of their efforts, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath almost matched Priyanka's electoral efforts by holding 203 rallies and roadshows, but still fell

short of efforts made by her alone,” senior UP Congress leaders claimed.

While Priyanka led her party from the front in a bid to regain its lost ground, her efforts were supplemented only by a virtual rally by her mother and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi when she addressed a virtual rally for party candidates in the fray from various Assembly segments of her Lok Sabha constituency - Rae Bareli.

Priyanka's brother and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi too made only guest appearances addressing barely two rallies — one in Amethi and the other in Varanasi.

FIRST COLUMN

INDIAN LINK TO THE SOUTH KOREAN POLL

The grandson of an Indian princess is being denied a fair chance



PRASHANT TEWARI

The grandson of an ancient Indian princess is running for the office of President of South Korea. But experts feel he is severely discriminated against by those in established power. The person, causing a sensation in the 20th presidential election, is the presidential candidate of the National Revolutionary Party, The Huh (Hur) family is descended from an Indian princess, who married a Korean king. Among the 13 candidates running in Korea's presidential election, the candidate who paid the most in taxes was Huh Kyung-young. Wealth creation and its equitable distribution remain the focus of his campaign. "When I become president, I will create a world without worrying about money," he emphasized Kim Dong-ju, head of the Planning and Coordination Office of the National Revolutionary Party, said Huh Kyung-Young, whose main income is lecture fees, has a non-profit

corporation and does not have to pay taxes under the current tax law. He said, "Even if he becomes president, he is determined to return his salary in full and to pay \$3,300 million expenses by himself, saving even a penny of the national budget and returning it to the people." In the Internet election where 120,000 people have voted so far, HKY took first place with 41 per cent. "We expected Huh Kyung-Young's approval rating to be higher than the media reports, but we didn't know it would be this high, as number one rank among all candidates," he said. Korea's presidential election, scheduled for March 9, 2022, appears to have become a gruelling duel between Lee Jae-Myung of the ruling Democratic Party (DP) and Yoon Seok-Youl of the main opposition conservative People Power Party (PPP). But the presidential hopefuls are at present suffering from a high level of distrust from both the public and members of their own political camps. A day before the polls, experts feel that the ruling and opposition parties' candidates engaged in an ugly campaign and only accused each other of personal corruption and there was no worthwhile political debate.

Korea's polling method itself is unfair. It involves polling only the presidential candidates who have at least one member of the National Assembly and excluding candidates who do not." How can this be called a fair opinion poll?" said an expert. All presidential candidates should be randomly assigned a number, and a poll on their favourability of the presidential candidates should be conducted in the determined order, said a political expert. The people's right to know is camouflaged in the name of democracy and it is a serious dictatorship between elephants. "People are disgusted with the current establishment powers," he said. "Most of the media and social groups are corrupt. Why do social groups that should monitor the government accept bribes from them?" he added. There are rules that do not change. You reap what you sow. People pay taxes with the money they earned through blood and sweat. People in power are stealing that tax money. How are they going to bear the consequences of karma, he asks. The conspiracy of this presidential election is too pronounced. Many people wanted to see the presidential debate in which Candidate Huh Kyung-young also took part. People want a presidential candidate who brings a smile to the public rather than a candidate who has a lot of family corruption. What are the ruling and the opposition party afraid of? Why do they broadcast a poll every day that excludes candidate HKY? The two-way game of the ruling and the opposition party looks like a train wreck and deceives the people. These are some of the questions many observers tend to ask.

(The writer is Editor-in-Chief of Opinion Express. With an inputs from INWANGSANIN(K.T. HEO) from Seoul. The views expressed are personal.)

Gender budgeting for empowerment

Higher representation of women in political decision-making positions can help increase women's autonomy in their families and economy



JOYITA ROY CHOWDHURY ARUSHI BHASIN YASHOBANTA PARIDA

The gender budgeting approach includes an assessment of government expenditure through a gender lens such that fiscal spending can adequately meet the needs of both men and women. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines "gender budgeting as integrating a clear gender perspective within the overall context of the budget process, through the use of special processes and analytical tools, with a view to promoting gender-responsive policies."

Gender budgeting efforts have been undertaken in several developed and developing countries. It is an essential tool that helps to correct gender inequities and ensure women's socio-economic development. Per the United Nations, India has set a leading instance of integrating gender into fiscal policy to address gender disparities. A 2021 article published in World Development, by Chowdhury, Parida, and Agarwal Goel suggests that the gender budgeting policy has improved women's overall well-being and has helped to serve as insurance against death from flood disasters. Based on empirical findings, the study concluded that a greater expenditure on gender budgeting could help to reduce gender-based vulnerability to floods. Therefore, it is imperative for the government to prepare gender-responsive actions, leading to a zero-disaster mortality rate.

At the national level, the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) highlighted the necessity for directing funds and benefits from different development sectors to women. Later, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) stated that at least 30 per cent of public funds and benefits should be designated for women's development. This led to the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in 2001. Finally, in 2005, a gender budget statement was introduced with commitments to budgetary allocations for financing women-focused public interventions.

Gender budget has been divided into two major components: part A involves spending for 100 per cent women-specific programmes, and part B incorporates spending on social security programmes where at least 30 per cent of the allocation is directed to women. In 2022-23, Budget Estimates reveal that ₹1,71,006.47 crore has been allocated for women-specific programmes combining parts A and B of the Gender Budget. This shows a 11.53 per cent rise from ₹1,53,326.28 crore budgetary allocation in 2021-22. Although the focus of gender budgeting varies across Indian states, the principal objective is to improve women's education, employment, and welfare and create state infrastructure to facilitate women's social and economic empowerment.

A new women-centric scheme, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, was introduced in Union Budget 2014-15 with an initial budgetary

allocation of ₹100 crores. In order to ensure equitable access to schooling and enhance the quality of education, the Union Budget 2018-19 introduced three additional schemes under 'Samgra Shiksha', namely, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE).

These schemes emphasize gender-equal access to general education and vocational training with improved teaching staff. The strong focus on enhancing the education and participation of girl children is what makes all these schemes so crucial for women's empowerment. Classes on self-defense training for girls and providing stipends to girls in upper primary to higher secondary education and its alignment with the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme are additional gender-equitable provisions. Increasing women's general and technical education can improve their access to employment opportunities.

In addition to enhancing the scope for women's education, a credit-linked subsidy scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), has been introduced to encourage female ownership of houses in rural and urban areas. Predominantly, women's ownership of land and assets has been restrained due to patriarchal social norms that require male family members to own properties, therefore, limiting women's intrahousehold bargaining power and increasing dependence on male members. PMAY mandates ownership of houses in the name of women heads of households unless no adult female member is present in the family.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' report on Transforming Urban Landscape-Empowering Women through PMAY(U) highlighted the case studies of 35 women across Indian

states who described their experience of increased attainment of social protection and integrity due to ownership of homes. Improved access to sanitation facilities resulting from the construction of proper toilets and ensured water supply have boosted women's self-esteem and helped them gain a sense of security through the PMAY scheme.

These new women-specific schemes are some gender-based interventions that can help increase women's educational participation, secure women's asset ownership rights, and boost the female labor force participation rate (FLFPR). According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the rural FLFPR has increased from 18.2 per cent during 2017-18 to 19.7 per cent in 2018-19. Furthermore, the rural FLFPR has risen to 24.7 per cent during 2019-20. The urban FLFPR has shown an increasing trend, rising from 15.9 per cent in 2017-2018 to 16.1 per cent in 2018-19 and increasing to 18.5 per cent during 2019-20. Despite the rise in FLFPR over 2017-2020, a substantial gender gap in employment exists even today.

The traditional rural job guarantee scheme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), has introduced some gender-sensitive provisions, such as including a quota necessitating women laborers to be at least one-third of the total participants, providing childcare facilities at worksites and equal wages to men and women workers. However, the scheme is inadequate at addressing socio-cultural barriers such as conservative norms regarding confining women's mobility and employment. Further more, the budgetary allocation for MGNREGA has been reduced by 25.5 per cent from the revised estimates of ₹98,000 crore in financial year (FY) 2021-22 to budget estimates of ₹73,000 crore in FY 2022-23. The fall

in fund allocation will adversely hit rural workers who depend on the MGNREGA scheme for their livelihoods. The reduction in resources will also be detrimental to achieving gender equality and inclusive development.

Besides, there is a considerable gap in education between male and female persons. Per the PLFS (2017-18), the literacy rate in both rural and urban areas is higher among males than females, and the gender gap in education is much more pronounced in rural India. In 2017-18, the literacy rate was 64.5 per cent for rural females compared to 80.7 per cent for rural males. In 2019-20, the literacy rate for rural females marginally increased to 66.3 per cent, and rural male literacy was 82.2 per cent. The gap between male and female literacy rates and employment levels reinforces the disadvantaged position of women in Indian society.

Beyond this, another aspect that profoundly impacts women's lives is the gender gap in political representations at various levels of the Indian political system. According to the Election Commission of India, in 1967, only 6 per cent of women were members of the Indian Parliament. In 2019, women's representation in political decision-making bodies increased as 14.4 per cent of women became members of Parliament.

Higher representation of women in political decision-making positions can help increase women's autonomy in their families and economy. This would lead more families to encourage increased enrolment of women in higher education, thereby expanding economic opportunities for women. The presence of women political leaders can improve social outcomes by creating gender-sensitive policies, which can address women's needs and voice their concerns.

THIS WOULD LEAD MORE FAMILIES TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED ENROLMENT OF WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION, THEREBY EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN. THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS CAN IMPROVE SOCIAL OUTCOMES BY CREATING GENDER-SENSITIVE POLICIES

(Dr. Joyita Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of Economics, FLAME University; Ms. Arushi Bhasin, Economics and Public Policy Candidate, FLAME University; Dr. Yashobanta Parida, Assistant Professor of Economics, Pune. The views expressed are personal.)



Time for United Nations to reform itself to new challenges

The fact that it has survived despite ups and downs shows it has performed within restraints and there has been no nuclear war to date



KALYANI SHANKAR

Russia's 'invasion of its neighbour Ukraine' on February 24 has brought to the fore once again the urgent need for United Nations reform and the need for an international body to play its proper role. The world is facing a possible nuclear conflict today.

Whatever may be the reason, Russian President Vladimir Putin, despite the coordinated sanctions of the west, is sitting pretty presiding over a \$600 billion war chest.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar summed up on February 19 that the conflict "derives from the post-Soviet politics, the expansion of NATO, the dynamics between Russia and Europe, and Russia and the West broadly."

Ironically Russian envoy

Vassily Nebenziyas was presiding over an emergency meeting of the Security Council in New York on February 24 when Putin announced Russia's assault on Ukraine. He called it 'a special military operation'. As expected, Russia blocked the resolution to condemn its aggression.

UN has rarely imposed sanctions on the Security Council members. As a permanent member, Russia did not face any UN sanctions in Chechnya in 1999, Georgia in 2008, and Crimea in 2014. Two other permanent members, the US and the United Kingdom did not face sanctions when they invaded Iraq in 2003. There have been other instances also.

Ukraine has questioned the legality of Russia's membership in the UN Security Council. In 1991, most Soviet republics signed the Alma Ata Protocol agreeing that Russia would take over the USSR's seat as a Permanent member. Now Ukraine says it was the USSR and not Russia, which was a member, and is asking for records to show how Russia is a member today.

China also would not like to raise this question. The Nationalist government of the

Republic of China initially held the SC seat. The Chinese Communist Party-controlled mainland China and established the People's Republic of China while the ROC retreated to Taiwan in 1949. In 1971 UN recognized the PRC and gave it the security council seat.

After Russia's blocking the resolution, the UN adopted the "Uniting for Peace" resolution model from 1950, which had been invoked only ten times before. On last Wednesday, most members (141) voted in favor, demanding that Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally" withdraw its military forces from Ukraine.

Unable to control Putin, a frustrated UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres threw up his arms and said in a statement, "End hostilities in

Ukraine - now. Silence the guns - now".

The problem is that there is no unanimity among the P5 to remove Russia. While some members of the US Congress are in favor, the White House is not considering such a step. "We don't see that happening," spokeswoman Jen Psaki said at a news conference when asked about Ukraine's request to remove Russia. She clarified that "we are not considering taking steps that would put us in direct conflict with Russia."

In such a situation, member countries, particularly those plugging for SC expansion, have intensified their demand for speeding up the reforms.

Conflicts like the present Ukraine crisis revives whether the UN has been relevant or not. The pro-reform lobby

argues that today's UN is hugely different from the United Nations of 77 years ago. From just 51 countries in 1945, the UN membership has grown to 193 today. They argue that the UNSC is increasingly becoming irrelevant to match the realities of the 21st-century world. Members seek the expansion of SC to be more representative and inclusive.

The UN has not been effective in overseeing the multi-lateral system for many reasons. For instance, the P5 countries escape any sanctions even when they violate international law. The UN came into being to prevent conflicts and war, yet over 80 conflicts have emerged since its inception.

Under its watch, several authoritarian rulers have used conventional weapons against

innocent citizens. UN is also facing a resource crunch because members, including the US, do not pay their contribution in time.

However, UN supporters believe that the world body has served its purpose by and large. The very fact that it has survived despite the ups and downs shows it has performed within the restraints. Most of all, there has been no nuclear war in the past 77 years. However, the Ukraine conflict makes it dangerous with Putin threatening to use Russia's nuclear power.

Perhaps it is time that the UN will speed up its reform process to make it more effective. It needs more teeth and sufficient funds to play its role as an influential international body.

Refugees from Ukraine hit 2M as people flee embattled cities

AP ■ LIVI

Buses packed with people fleeing the Russian invasion in Ukraine left two embattled cities along safe corridors Tuesday, while officials said the exodus of refugees from the country reached 2 million.

The Russian onslaught has trapped people inside besieged cities that are running low on food, water and medicine amid the biggest ground war in Europe since World War II.

Previous attempts to lead civilians to safety have crumbled with renewed attacks. But on Tuesday, video posted by Ukrainian officials showed buses packed with people moving along a snowy road from the eastern city of Sumy and others leaving the besieged southern port of Mariupol.

It was not clear how long the effort would last. “The Ukrainian city of Sumy was given a green corridor, the first stage of evacuation began,” the Ukrainian state communications agency tweeted.

Those buses are headed to other cities in Ukraine, but many people have chosen to flee the country instead.

Safa Msehli, a spokesperson for the UN’s International Organisation for Migration, tweeted that 2 million have now fled the country, including at least 100,000 people who are not Ukrainian.

With the invasion well into its second week, Russian troops have made significant advances in southern Ukraine but stalled in some other regions. Ukrainian soldiers and volun-

teers fortified the capital, Kyiv, with hundreds of checkpoints and barricades designed to thwart a takeover.

A steady rain of shells and rockets fell on other population centres, including the Kyiv suburb of Bucha, where the mayor reported heavy artillery fire.

“We can’t even gather up the bodies because the shelling from heavy weapons doesn’t stop day or night,” Mayor Anatol Fedoruk said. “Dogs are pulling apart the bodies on the city streets. It’s a nightmare.” In one of the most desperate cities, Mariupol, an estimated 200,000 people — nearly half the population of 430,000 — hoped to flee.

Russia’s coordination centre for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk both said a ceasefire was agreed to start Tuesday morning to allow some civilians to evacuate, but it was not clear where all the corridors would lead to, amid disagreement between the two sides.

Russia’s coordination centre suggested there would be more than one corridor, but that most would lead to Russia, either directly or through Belarus.

At the UN, however, the Russian ambassador suggested corridors from several cities could be opened and people could choose for themselves which direction they would take.

Vereshchuk, meanwhile, only said that the two sides had agreed to an evacuation of

civilians from the eastern city of Sumy, toward the Ukrainian city of Poltava. Those to be evacuated include foreign students from India and China, she said.

She reiterated that proposals to evacuate civilians to Russia and its ally Belarus, which was a launch pad for the invasion, were unacceptable.

Later, Ukrainian presidential aide Kyrylo Tymoshenko posted a video of yellow buses with a red cross plastered on the side that he said showed evacuations from Mariupol toward the city of Zaporizhzhia.

He said that humanitarian aid was also being sent in to Mariupol.

Demands for effective passageways have surged amid intensifying shelling by Russian forces. The steady bombardments, including in some of Ukraine’s most populated regions, have yielded a humanitarian crisis of diminishing food, water and medical supplies.

Through it all, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces were showing unprecedented courage.

“The problem is that for one soldier of Ukraine, we have 10 Russian soldiers, and for one Ukrainian tank, we have 50 Russian tanks,” Zelenskyy told ABC News in an interview that aired Monday night.

But he noted that the gap in strength was closing and that even if Russian forces “come into all our cities,” they will be



met with an insurgency.

A top US official said multiple countries were discussing whether to provide the warplanes that Zelenskyy has been pleading for.

The besieged city of Mariupol was short on water, food and power, and cellphone networks are down.

Stores have been looted as residents search for essential goods.

Police moved through the city, advising people to remain in shelters until they heard official messages broadcast over loudspeakers to evacuate.

Hospitals in Mariupol are facing severe shortages of antibiotics and painkillers, and doctors performed some emergency procedures without them.

The lack of phone service left anxious citizens approaching strangers to ask if they

Japan slaps more sanctions on Russians

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan says it has suspended the assets of 32 more Russian and Belarusian individuals as part of international sanctions against Russia.

The additional sanctions announced Tuesday target 20 Russians including head of the Chechen Republic Ramzan Kadyrov, deputy chiefs of staff and a press secretary for President Vladimir Putin’s government, and deputy chairmen of the State Parliament.

The list also includes business executives with close ties to Putin and his administration such as Volga Group, Transneft, the Private Military Company Wagner and USM Holdings, according to a statement.

China’s Xi criticises sanctions on Russia

AP ■ KYIV

China says President Xi Jinping has criticised sanctions imposed on Russia over its war against Ukraine as “harmful to all sides,” in a video summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

China has largely backed Russia in blaming the US and its allies for provoking the conflict and has abstained in votes at the United Nations over whether to condemn Moscow for its actions. In its readout of Tuesday’s conversation, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said Xi expressed “anxiety and deep pain” over the fighting.

Ukraine says 400 civilian deaths recorded

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov has released new estimates of casualties and damage from the Russian war, saying Russian military actions have killed 38 children and wounded more than 70.

Overall at least 400 civilian deaths have been recorded and 800 wounded, though “these data are definitely incomplete,” he said in a video address.

It was not immediately possible to verify the figures.

He said Russian strikes have destroyed more than 200 Ukrainian schools, 34 hospitals and 1,500 residential buildings. He estimated some 10,000 foreign students, notably from India, China and the Persian Gulf are trapped by the fighting, and described attacks on British and Swiss journalists.

He claimed that Ukrainian forces have killed more than 11,000 Russian troops.

“Russian invaders fire on humanitarian corridors through which civilians are trying to escape,” he said, without saying where. Russian officials did not comment Tuesday and have only acknowledged several hundred deaths among Russian forces.

knew relatives living in other parts of the city and whether they were safe.

The battle for Mariupol is crucial because its capture could allow Moscow to establish a land corridor to Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014.

Several hundred kilometers (miles) west of Mariupol, Russian forces continued their offensive in Mykolaiv, opening fire on the Black Sea ship-building centre of a half-million people, according to Ukraine’s military. Rescuers said they were putting out fires caused by rocket attacks in residential areas. Ukraine’s gener-

al staff of the armed forces said in a statement Tuesday that Ukrainian forces are continuing defense operations in the suburbs of the city. The general staff said “demoralised” Russian forces are engaging in looting in places they have occupied, commandeering civilian buildings like farm hangars for military equipment, and are setting up firing positions in populated areas. The claims could not be independently verified.

Ukrainian defense forces were also involved in operations in the northern city of Chernihiv and the outskirts of Kyiv, the general staff said.

Pak’s Oppn submits no-confidence motion against PM

Blames his Govt for uncontrolled inflation

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Opposition parties on Tuesday submitted a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan to remove him from office after

holding his government responsible for the uncontrolled inflation, prompting him to dismiss the move and flaunt his closeness to the powerful army.

The motion, signed by about 100 lawmakers from the

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), was submitted with the National Assembly Secretariat, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said.

“We have taken this decision for the people of Pakistan and not for ourselves,” PML-N president and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif, who was flanked by former president and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, told a press conference.

As per rules, signatures of at least 68 Members of Parliament were required to force the Speaker to summon a session, which should be convened between three to seven days to conduct a vote on a no-confidence motion.

In the house of 342, the opposition needed the support of 172 members to remove the Prime Minister and his cabinet. Khan, 69, is heading a coalition government and he can be removed if some of the partners decide to switch sides, which is not unusual in parliamentary democracies. Reacting to the opposition move, Prime Minister Khan said that the country’s powerful army was with him and he was confident that the government was not going anywhere.

Israeli troops demolish homes of Palestinian attackers

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Tuesday it has demolished the homes of two Palestinians accused of carrying out a deadly shooting attack in the occupied West Bank last year.

The residences of Mohammed Jaradat and Jit Jaradat in the West Bank were demolished Monday, the military said. The men are accused of shooting at a car driving near the outpost of Homesh, killing a Jewish seminary student and wounding two others. During the demolition, the military said armed Palestinians fired at the troops, who fired back.

The military also said dozens of Palestinians threw rocks, firebombs and grenades at the troops who responded with live fire and other means. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Israeli officials say home demolitions deter future attacks, while rights groups view the tactic as a form of collective punishment. The demolitions came hours after a Palestinian stabbed two police officers in Jerusalem’s Old City before he was shot and killed by the police.

UN rights chief to visit Xinjiang as groups press for report

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN human rights chief said on Tuesday that her office and China’s government have reached an agreement for her to visit in May the western region of Xinjiang, where human

rights groups and Western governments have alleged that genocide and other crimes are being carried out against the predominantly Muslim minority group known as Uyghurs.

Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, told the Human Rights Council by video message that she was pleased to announce the visit and that concrete preparations have begun.

She said the Chinese government has also accepted the visit of an advance team from her office next month “to prepare my stay in China, including on-site visits to Xinjiang and other places.”

Bachelet has talked about hoping to visit Xinjiang nearly since she took office in 2018. Her office has also been compiling a long-awaited -- and much-delayed -- report into alleged human rights abuses in the region.

Separately, Human Rights

Watch said a total of 195 human rights groups in an open letter released Tuesday are calling on Bachelet to “urgently” release the report on “Chinese government rights violations targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities.”

Diplomats in Geneva have said the report has been ready - or very close to it - for months. Speaking to the rights council on Thursday, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called on Bachelet’s office to release the report.

Human rights groups and others have focused much of their criticism on what they call detention centers set up by the Chinese government for Uyghurs and others in the region.

Beijing says the sites are vocational training centers aimed at helping improve economic fortunes and counteract bouts of extremist violence in Xinjiang.

“Human rights groups have become increasingly concerned that the UN human rights office has still not published its long-awaited report on Xinjiang, even as the atrocity crimes pile up,” said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch.

Sri Lankan court releases 11 Indian fishermen

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Eleven Indian fishermen were released on Tuesday on the instructions from a local court, a month after they were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly poaching in the country’s territorial waters, officials said.

The fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on February 7 near the Delft Island in the north. Their three fishing trawlers were also seized. The fishermen were charged for bottom trawling.

“11 Indian fishermen detained in Jaffna prison were released by the Kays court today. The consulate in Jaffna provided them with the legal assistance by representing their case in the court and facilitated their early release,” the Consulate General of India in Jaffna, Raakesh Natraj Jayabhaskaran, tweeted.

They have been released with one-and-a-half-years jail sentences suspended for 10 years, J Sudakaran, the Assistant Director of Fisheries Jaffna, told PTI.

“On May 27, there will be another inquiry by the court on the three boats,” Sudakaran added.

Shooting outside Iowa high school leaves 1 teen dead, 2 hurt

AP ■ DES MOINES

One teenager was killed and two others were critically wounded after gunfire that appeared to come from a passing vehicle struck them outside an Iowa school, authorities said.

Des Moines police said in a news release that potential suspects have been detained in the Monday afternoon shooting on the grounds of East High School, near Des Moines’ downtown, about a half-mile (0.8 kilometers) from the Capitol. No charges were immediately filed.

Sgt. Paul Parizek told KCCI-TV that calls started pouring in around 2:50 pm, shortly before classes were scheduled to dismiss for the day.

Police didn’t identify those shot but said a 15-year-old male had died. He was not a student at East. The other two shot were females aged 16 and 18, who both attend East. They were hospitalised in critical condition. The district said in a news release that the school was immediately put into lockdown and students were kept inside while police investigated.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734 2525856
NIT No.- USCL/158, Tender ID- 2022_UAD_188554_1 Dated: 04.03.2022
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Expression of Interest for
“Installing Public Wi-fi Hotspots Supporting 2G/ 3G/ 4G at Various Locations in Ujjain City.” Interested bidders may submit their proposals at email ujjainsmartcity@gmail.com. Last date of EoI Submission is **25.03.2022 upto 17:00 hrs.** For more details please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be uploaded on this website only and not in newspapers.
For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007
(Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No.979 of 2021
Date: 03.03.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application.
No.979 of 2021
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
SUBAL JALAN & Ors
...Defendants
To,
1. SUBAL JALAN S/o CHANDRA KUMAR JALAN R/o C3/114, Milan Vihar, Apt., IP Extn, Patparganj, Near Max Balaji Hospital, Delhi-11092.
Also At: Flat No. 1202, 12th Floor, Marvella, Mahagun Moderne, Plot No. Gh-02, Sec 9th Floor, Tower C2, Victory Ace, Plot No.Gh02, Sector 78, Noida-201305

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007
(Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 98/2021
Date: 21.02.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application.
No.98/2021
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
MR. YOGENDRA SINGH & OTHERS
...Defendants
To,
1. MR. YOGENDRA SINGH, C/o Abhay Chedi Singh Gha 127 Gf, JpCity, Ghaziabad, U.P 201001
Also At: Flat No-1303, 13th Floor, Block B, Sec 3, Jnc Greenwoods Ghaziabad-201010.
2. MR. DEEPAK SINGH C/o Abhay Chedi Singh Gha 127 Gf, JpCity, Ghaziabad, U.P 201001
Also At: Flat No-1303, 13th Floor, Block B, Sec 3, Jnc Greenwoods Ghaziabad-201010.
3. JNC CONSTRUCTIONS PVT. LTD.
Registered Office: Plot-1, GH-3, Sector 3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201012
Corporate Office: H, A/120, Sector-63, Noida-201301
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **26/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 978/2021
Date: 03.03.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application.
No.978 of 2021
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
ROSHAN KUMAR & ORS
...Defendants
To,
1. ROSHAN KUMAR S/o Anil Jha B-610, BriJ Vihar, Ghaziabad-201001, U.P. Also at: Flat No. 1701, 17th Floor, Victory Ace Tower C1 and C3, Pocket No. 02, Plot No. GH-02, sec-143, Noida-201307, U.P.

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 978/2021
Date: 03.03.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application.
No.978 of 2021
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
ROSHAN KUMAR & ORS
...Defendants
To,
1. ROSHAN KUMAR S/o Anil Jha B-610, BriJ Vihar, Ghaziabad-201001, U.P.1
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **26/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
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Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 978/2021
Date: 03.03.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application.
No.978 of 2021
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
ROSHAN KUMAR & ORS
...Defendants
To,
1. ROSHAN KUMAR S/o Anil Jha B-610, BriJ Vihar, Ghaziabad-201001, U.P.1
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **26/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

Markets rebound after four-day rout; IT, pharma stocks sparkle

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks ratcheted higher in a see-saw session on Tuesday after four days of steep declines as investors accumulated recently-battered IT, pharma and finance stocks even as the Ukraine crisis remained an overhang.

World equities were mixed as participants tracked Russia's intensifying attack on Ukraine and the cascade of sanctions against Moscow.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note and tumbled 581.93 points or 1.10 per cent to 52,260.82 during the day amid firming oil prices and relentless selling by foreign institutional investors.

Overcoming bouts of volatility, the index gained momentum in the last hour of trade to close 581.34 points or 1.10 per cent higher at 53,424.09.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty darted up 150.30 points or 0.95 per cent to 16,013.45.

Sun Pharma topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.99 per cent, followed by TCS, NTPC, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's, UltraTech



Cement and Infosys.

In contrast, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, Titan, Nestle India, Reliance Industries and SBI closed with losses of up to 1.73 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap index gained 1.46 per cent and the smallcap gauge jumped 1.33 per cent.

"Domestic indices reversed its trend and traded with gains led by export-oriented

sectors like Pharma and IT which witnessed buying interest as the rupee fell to its record lows. Favourable exit poll results of state election and low-level buying seen in mid and small caps also helped in adding optimism in the domestic market.

"Major western markets were also trading in the green while other Asian peers continued to trade in negative territory on fear of the impact of global

inflationary pressure..." said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo settled lower.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mostly higher in the afternoon trade.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.87 per cent to USD 126.6 a barrel.

"After purchasing resurfaced at low levels, benchmark indices returned to green. Early trades on European marketplaces show a slight upward trend," said Mohit Nigam, Head - PMS, HEM Securities.

Among BSE sectoral indices, realty, IT, Teck and healthcare were the biggest gainers, climbing as much as 3.19 per cent.

The rupee slipped 6 paise to close at 76.99 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a weak greenback overseas.

Foreign institutional investors continued their selling spree in Indian markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 7,482.08 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.

Women prefer cash for retail payments; digital adoption high among younger gen: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

For most women, cash is still the king when it comes to making payments at retail outlets, even as those in age group of 21-30 years are the most adept digitally, according to a survey.

Cash continues to dominate the payment space among women as more than 60 per cent preferred dealing in cash, followed by UPI QR and cards, as per the 'PayNearby Women Financial Index (PWFI)' survey released on Tuesday.

Digital payments and branchless banking network PayNearby partners with neighbourhood retail stores to provide digital and financial services to the local communities.

In the second edition of the pan-India survey covering over 3,000 retail stores across the country, recording financial transactions of women, PayNearby said more than 58 per cent of female customers preferred the Aadhaar enabled AePS to avail basic banking services. More than 75 per cent of the retailers said women in 21-30 years age group were the

most digitally adept, with over 50 per cent of this age bracket owning a smartphone and accessing digital content through it.

This was followed by the age group 31-40 years.

In the remittance driven urban and metro centres, the 20-30 years group contributed to nearly 25 per cent of women consumers, showcasing the growing trend of young women getting integrated into the workforce. Cash withdrawals, mobile recharges and bill payments were the top three services used by women customers at the retail touchpoints.

At urban and metro locations, money remittance services by them also saw good adoption.

The transactions were primarily conducted by young working women belonging to the age bracket of 21-30 years (45 per cent) and 31-40 years (25 per cent).

In the withdrawal market largely driven by tier III and rural regions, majority of the transactions conducted by women were in the age bracket of 31-40 years (65 per cent), PayNearby said.

About 78 per cent of women in tier III and rural markets availed cash withdrawals. Overall, Rs 1,000-2,500 was the most preferred range of withdrawal for women across the country, it said.

Over 75 per cent of the women operated their bank account themselves, even as 20 per cent admitted to their husbands operating their bank accounts.

On the post-pandemic scenario, it said there is now a growing awareness among women to save for medical emergencies and rainy days. More than 40 per cent of those surveyed indicated 'bachat' (savings) as a priority.

Formal saving instruments, though, continue to see thin adoption, with less than 15 per cent aware of these instruments. Penetration of evolved services such as insurance (less than 5 per cent) also continues to be low. "Whether it is our women force or the large underserved rural economy, it is important for us to measure the digital index across segments, to put in place appropriate actions wherever necessary.

PM to address global investors on privatisation, asset monetisation on Wed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Wednesday address global investors as well as infrastructure, real estate and legal sector experts on the strategy of CPSE privatisation, asset monetisation and their contribution to India's growth.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, is organising the apex level consultative post-Budget webinar, which will see participation from 22 ministries and senior management from PSEs.

Global sovereign funds, private equity, global pension



funds, investment banks, asset monetisation companies especially real estate, infrastructure, and legal experts along with other stakeholders from North America, Europe, Middle East, Asia and Far East, and Australia will also participate.

"With this webinar,

DIPAM aims to elicit ideas and views from the sectoral experts, investors' community and other eminent stakeholders on the issues to chalk out a time-bound implementation plan/strategy regarding Privatization/ Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises and Asset Monetization of Core and Non-Core assets for realization of optimal outcome/contribution in India's growth," an official statement said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will give her address in the concluding session of the webinar.

DIPAM will incorporate valuable thoughts/experiences from the panellists and participants

to formulate robust implementation strategy for privatisation, asset monetisation and disinvestment programme of the Government of India with sharper focus, the statement added.

The Government has set a Budget target of Rs 65,000 crore from CPSE disinvestment/privatisation in the next fiscal beginning April 1. In the current fiscal, the disinvestment target has been scaled down to Rs 78,000 crore in the revised estimates, from Rs 1.75 lakh crore pegged in the Budget. So far this fiscal, over Rs 12,400 crore has been realised from minority stake sales and Air India privatisation.

Estd residential realtors topline to grow

PTI ■ MUMBAI

There has been a significant recovery in the property market as the established realtors reported sale of Rs 34,000 crore in the first nine months of FY22, equalling the amount achieved in the entire FY21, a report said on Tuesday.

The established residential realtors' topline is expected to rise by 35 per cent in FY22, compared to 14 per cent in FY21, it added. This jump in sales for the 11 listed players was attributed to affordability and a preference for larger homes, owing to a surge in remote working driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, as per the report by rating agency Crisil. This has led to an improvement in the market share of these players to about

22 per cent against the 14-16 per cent before the COVID pandemic struck, it said.

Apart from the higher sale of residential dwellings, this set of developers has been able to navigate the pandemic, courtesy equity raising and monetisation of land and other assets, it said.

"Increased affordability due to low-interest rates and flatish capital values, rising demand for bigger homes, and government measures in the past two fiscals have provided a fillip to residential reality," Anand Kulkarni, a director at the agency, said.

The sector did face reverses due to the first wave of the pandemic in FY21 but has continued on the upward trajectory in the latter two waves, he said, adding that this will

give a fillip to growth.

The established residential realtors' topline will grow by up to 35 per cent in FY22, up from 14 per cent in FY21, he said, estimating them to clock a 10-15 per cent jump in FY23.

he sector has seen a lower impact and a shorter disruption period with each passing wave, with sales at 70-75 per cent of the pre-pandemic level during the second wave compared with 50-55 per cent in the first, underlining the sector's resilience, the agency said.

Home prices in the top six cities are expected to rise marginally soon as realtors will be passing on the impact of inflation in labour and material costs on the improvement in demand, the agency said, adding that the same is reflected in a dip in inventory levels to 2.5 years as against earlier 3.5 years. On the balance-sheet strengthening front, the established realtors have deleveraged in the five fiscals through 2022 by raising equity and monetising commercial assets.

EPFO processes all pending claims of women

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO said it has processed all pending claims of women across the country to mark the occasion of International Women's Day in a unique way.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) began a massive exercise on March 25, 2022 and processed about 1.39 lakh claims filed by women, it said in a statement.

Out of the 1.39 lakh claims, 73 per cent were settled and 27 per cent claims were found deficient and returned for due corrections.

The Chennai Zone of the body received and processed maximum claims. As per the statement, a function was organised on the theme



'Value and empower the women workforce' in New Delhi.

On the occasion, Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav lauded

the EPFO and Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for running a special campaign for women while celebrating the

International Women's Day. "While EPFO symbolizes Trust, ESIC compliments through Services," Yadav said.

He also appreciated clearing of all women's claims in EPFO and ESIC.

The pilot for processing all pending claims of women to mark this occasion was done last year at EPFO's regional office of Delhi West situated in Dwarka.

Talking to PTI, Uttam Prakash, former Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Delhi West, said, "It is overwhelming when an idea takes a policy kind of shape. Replication on a larger canvas gives me immense satisfaction."

Over 7 lakh e-nominations were

filed by women members, from just the top 100 establishments in terms of e-nominations. Dedicated e-nomination camps for women employees were organised by all the Regional Offices.

More than 10,000 establishments in this drive reported 100 per cent e-nomination of their women employees, the statement said.

The EPFO is chasing the magical number of one crore e-nominations by the end of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The labour ministry celebrated International Women's Day by clearing all claims of women by EPFO and ESIC, launching a Women Empowerment Desk, and excellence awards.

Google buys Mandiant for \$5.4B to beefing up its cybersecurity

AP ■ SILVER SPRING

Google is fortifying its cloud services with a USD 5.4 billion acquisition of the cyber security firm Mandiant, the companies announced Tuesday.

The acquisition is the first of many that analysts foresee in the cyber security sector following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Analysts and government officials have said they expect a wave of cyberattacks from Russia and others as geopolitical tensions rise.

"In a massive growth backdrop for cyber security and further tailwinds seen during this Ukraine invasion from Russia bad actors/nation state attacks, we believe today's deal is the tip of the iceberg to a massive phase of consolidation potentially ahead for the cloud space," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives wrote Tuesday.

Google, a subsidiary of Mountain View, California-based Alphabet Inc., will pay USD 23 per Mandiant share in all-cash deal expected to close this year. The price represents a 57 per cent premium on Mandiant's share price in early February, when speculation about a deal between the com-

panies first surfaced.

Mandiant, based in Reston, Virginia, and its 5,300 employees will join Google Cloud as soon as the transaction closes.

"The Mandiant brand is synonymous with unmatched insights for organisations seeking to keep themselves secure in a constantly changing environment," said Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian.

"This is an opportunity to deliver an end-to-end security operations suite and extend one of the best consulting organisations in the world."

Russia has long been accused of disrupting other governments and businesses via online attacks and Western officials have warned that Russia could launch more cyberattacks against Ukraine and its allies.

Rupee slips 7 paise to record low of 77 per USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sliding for the fifth consecutive day, the rupee depreciated by 7 paise to close at a lifetime low of 77 against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed by surging crude oil prices amid the Russia-Ukraine war.

Heavy foreign fund outflows and prevailing risk aversion globally added to the woes, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 77.02 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 76.71 and a low of 77.05.

The rupee finally finished at 77.00, down 7 paise over its previous close of 76.93.

Analysts said the deepening Russia-Ukraine conflict has sapped risk appetite in the mar-

ket, pushing investors towards safe-haven assets.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.18 per cent to 99.11.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 581.34 points or 1.10 per cent higher at 53,424.09, while the broader NSE Nifty rose

150.30 points or 0.95 per cent to 16,013.45.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 2.73 per cent to USD 126.57 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 8,142.60 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Minister felicitates 3 ESIC medical staffers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday felicitated three medical staffers of ESIC hospitals for rendering services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Total nine officials were selected for the award from different ESIC hospitals

across the country, including in Karnataka, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Noida, Faridabad and Delhi, according to a statement issued by the Ministry for Labour and Employment.

"Out of the 9 candidates, 3 top achievers were felicitated by Minister Bhupender Yadav," it said.

Interest subsidy scheme extended till March 2024

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post shipment rupee credit for MSME exporters till March 2024 with the objective of boosting outbound shipments. Exporters get subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit'.

In April last year, the scheme was first extended till June end and later till September 2021. The interest equalisation rates under the scheme have been revised to 2 per cent and 3 per cent for specified categories of MSME manufacturer exporters, the RBI said.

"The government has approved the extension of

Interest Equalization Scheme for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit up to March 31, 2024 or till further review, whichever is earlier. The extension takes effect from October 1, 2021 and ends on March 31, 2024," the RBI said in a notification. The scheme will not apply to telecom instruments and entities availing benefits under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme of the government. While issuing approval to the exporter, the bank will be required to furnish the prevailing interest rate, the interest subvention being provided, and the net rate being charged to each exporter, so as to ensure transparency and greater accountability in the operation of the scheme, the RBI said.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), the premier fashion Institute in India, has recently undertaken a new project of the Ministry of Textiles for development of a national knowledge portal titled "The Repository -- Indian Textiles and Crafts (RTC)". NIFT is looking for a highly motivated professional with experiences in relevant areas for the following post for the Project:
1. Content Team Lead
The Terms of Reference (TORs) for the post are available at <https://nift.ac.in/careers>
Last date to Apply :- 24-03-2022

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUDGE, CITY CIVIL COURT, AT HYDERABAD.
A.S.NO. 167 OF 2013

Between:
Union Bank of India, Personal Department, (erstwhile Andhra Bank merged in UBI), Head Office, Hyderabad, represented by its General Manager
.....Appellant/Plaintiff
And
Sri Gaurav Singh, S/o Arjun Singh, age not known to the appellant, but major, Ex- Officer (No. 20785), R/O Flat No. 976, Block No 23, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Near GPO, New Delhi
.....Respondent/Defendant

The Appellant/Plaintiff filed the above numbered appeal against you, praying to setting aside the judgment and decree dated 24-11-2009 in O.S.No.7006 of 2005 on the file of the learned V Junior Civil Judge, City Civil Court, at Hyderabad and the same stands posted to 06-04-2022 for your appearance in person or through duly appointed Advocate at 10-30 A.M and if you fail to so appear, the matter will be decided on merits, in your absence.
(BY ORDER OF THE COURT)
H.No.16-11-16/75,
West Prasanthnagar Colony,
Moosarambagh, Hyderabad,
Telangana State -500 036
Sd/- (S.MUJIB KUMAR)
Counsel for the Appellant/Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publicly notified that the FLAT NO 43B, BLOCK U-3, DHAWALGIRI APARTMENT, SECTOR-11, NOIDA has been allotted in the name of SMT. SUMAN LATA W/O UMESH CHAND & SHRI UMESH CHAND S/O HARI SINGH both R/O HOUSE NO-1852, SECTOR 37 NOIDA, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons: A GPA was executed in favour of JAGDISH CHANDER BAGHA S/O MILKH RAM BAGHA & NEELAM BAGHA W/O JAGDISH CHANDER BAGHA both R/O FLATNO-43B, BLOCK-U-3, DHAWALGIRI APARTMENT, SECTOR-11, NOIDA vide Book No. IV Volume No.-2432 on pages 192 to 198 Document No 3383 dated 2.5.96 at Delhi and Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of above flat goes in favour of PUNEET BAGHA S/O JAGDISH CHANDER BAGHA R/O FLAT NO C-1/A-103, CARLTON ESTATE 1, DLF PHASE-5, GURGAON GALLERIA DLF-IV, HARYANA-122009 & SHAILZA BAGHA D/O JAGDISH CHANDER BAGHA R/O FLAT NO 43B, BLOCK-U-3, DHAWALGIRI APARTMENT, SECTOR-11, NOIDA & SHALINI MITTAL W/O NAVENDU D/O JAGDISH CHANDER BAGHA R/O C-65, FIRST FLOOR, LAJPAT NAGAR-1, NEW DELHI-110024 if any one above partners has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication this notice.

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 12/2022
Date: 05.03.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
Original Application
No.12 of 2020
ICICI BANK LTD.Applicant
Versus
AVINASH GUPTA & OTHERS
...Defendants
To,
1. AVINASH GUPTA
S/O R.L.GUPTA
R/O 64 B, Shivam Enclave Ph-2, P.K.T-C, Opp.Jhilmil Colony, Vivek Vihar, New Delhi-110032. Also At: Flat No Sovereign 3/404, Superchek Emerald, Plot No. 4, Sector 93A, Express Way, Noida, U.P-201301.
2. PRIYANKA GUPTA
W/O AVINASH GUPTA,
R/O 64 B, Shivam Enclave Ph-2, P.K.T-C, Opp.Jhilmil Colony, Vivek Vihar, New Delhi-110032.
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **25/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

FORM NO.5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
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(Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 12/2022
Date: 05.03.2022
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
Original Application
No.12 of 2020
ICICI BANK LTD.Applicant
Versus
Mr. HITESH KUMAR JAIN & OTHERS
...Defendants
To,
1. M/S J.S.S. BUILDON PVT LTD
Registered Office: 197 E, Mayur Vihar, Phase 1, New Delhi.
Corporate Office at: H-38, Sector-63, Noida, U.P-201307
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **25/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

Targeting a specific set of people earlier used to entail identifying a neighbourhood and sending mass mail from the post office. However, on the internet these days, location-based targeting is more powerful and accomplished with greater precision. Such strategies can be used for a lot more than just product promotion and service offers. It's also useful for recruiting, as it allows you to focus on specific neighbourhoods, universities, companies, hospitals, and other locations that can be useful in your talent search.

Geofencing is a location-based service in which a mobile device enters a virtual boundary set up around a geographical area and an app or other software that uses GPS, Wi-Fi, or cellular data to trigger a pre-programmed action. Depending on how the geo-fence is configured, it can send push notifications, SMS messages, alerts, or targeted social media advertising.

It is the method of setting up a virtual, wireless boundary – around an event, a post-code, or a neighbourhood – so that individuals in that region receive messages or adverts on their cellphones. Perhaps the most well-known application of the technology is the distribution of coupons to potential shoppers passing by establishments. For several years, retailers have used this technology to offer discounts and coupon codes to clients who enter a specific area around their businesses. The idea is to get them to come in and buy something.

TALENT ACQUISITION

Geofencing is a good way to recruit in today's digital world. By sending out adverts to students on a certain campus, geofencing can help you recruit current or future college graduates. While aggressive, this method is effective for firms wanting to hire passive people. Geofencing can be used by businesses of any size and in any industry. It's a fantastic technique for attracting talented and skilled employees to your company. Using geofencing for recruiting might also help you find specialised individuals. The ubiquitous usage of phones, targeted attention, personalization factor and the variety of ways to communicate with potential prospects make geofencing for recruiting effective.



How geofencing works

It is a good way to recruit in today's digital world. By sending out adverts to students on a certain campus, geofencing can help you recruit current or future college graduates, says LALIT SINGH

INCREASING USAGE OF PHONES

With so many people owning cell phones, it makes sense for businesses to use them to reach out to customers and jobseekers. Recruiters can utilise geofencing to show relevant mobile ads or send out notifications to candidates. Advertisements can reach potential employees at any time of day.

TARGETED APPROACH

Geofencing also allows companies to recruit in a more focused manner. Companies are utilising geofencing for recruitment since it is a results-driven technique. One can target certain prospects based on educational records or online pro-

files when they design their ad and establish a virtual radius for their recruitment campaign. Candidates benefit from geofencing's specific focus because it alleviates some of the inconveniences of looking for a new job. Candidates will be able to see a vacancy in their field and area if they respond to your post. As a result, the company's advertising efforts will receive a better response rate.

Mapping Attendance Using Geo-fencing for Workforce Management Organisations can do more with geo-fencing than just recording the clock in and out time. It allows companies to track their employees' whereabouts in real time and run a number of security

Companies are utilising geofencing for recruitment since it is a results-driven technique. One can target certain prospects based on educational records or online profiles when they design their ad and establish a virtual radius for their recruitment campaign

checks based on their GPS location to guarantee that everything is running well at work. A good change management software system can guide the personnel and allow employers to communicate with them.

PERSONALISATION

When a company decides to target prospective employees in a certain area, they may tailor their adverts to reflect the culture of the place as well as the people who live there. They can also customise their messages and utilise personalisation to make users feel as if the message was written particularly for them, rather than sending out mass adverts that appear to be spam.

Companies can also devel-

op an ad campaign that generates engagement and conversions with the degree of personalization available in geofencing.

When the pool of candidates for a position is small, it can be difficult to find multifaceted tools like geofencing that can be used in ways they weren't designed for. With a little research and creativity, you can find multifaceted tools like geofencing that can be used in ways they weren't originally intended for. You just need to make sure you have a procedure in place to guarantee that those individuals have the essential skills and cultural fit to succeed in your company.

The writer is Co-Founder & CTO, Meraqui

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

MSC MACHINE LEARNING & DEEP LEARNING

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for its MSc Machine learning & Deep Learning course starting in September 2022.

Machine learning and deep neural network systems are currently used by leading organisations worldwide and research centres in a wide range of applications and products. This course is for engineers and scientists looking to gain the necessary skills to be able to design these systems for use in industry.

The MSc Machine Learning & Deep Learning degree focuses on state-of-the-art technologies for machine learning and deep neural network systems. The emphasis is on architectures, algorithms and implementation with applications in a diverse range of areas.

Eligibility: Normally a first-class or second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in electronic or electrical engineering, or computer science.

Highly-qualified candidates from other relevant engineering or science-related disciplines may be considered.

Fee: £23,050 for international students for 2022/23

Scholarship: a range of scholarships starting from £3,450 will be available for this programme

ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN CULINARY ARTS

The Academy of Pastry & Culinary Arts invites applications for Advanced Diploma in Culinary Arts. The batch is set to commence from May 16, 2022 and the programme is designed for students who want to pursue their career as a Chef and aspire to set a mark in the food and hospitality sector.

This nine-month-long programme provides students with a complete hands-on



experience in strategically designed Kitchen Classrooms where they can create their own delicacies under the supervision of acclaimed chefs. Rather than just theoretical knowledge, students are provided with mentored training to learn and master the art and science of cooking.

After the course, the students are offered internships in leading hotels & restaurants. Students are offered overseas exposure as well.

Course Fee: 7,38,000 (All inclusive)

Eligibility: Minimum 16 years of age, no experience in cooking required.

MSC PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS WITH DATA SCIENCE

The University of Sheffield, UK is inviting applications for its MSc Psychological Research Methods with Data Science course starting in September 2022.

The course will train you in the most commonly applied quantitative methods including multilevel modelling, factor analysis, and structural equation modelling, as well as the skills of when to apply such techniques and how to interpret the output. It will teach you the skills you need and give you the opportunities to apply them

Eligibility: Holders of a three-year/ four year bachelor's degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or first class from a recognised university, or equivalent, in psychology or a related discipline.

Evidence of undergraduate training in statistics for psychology is also required.

Fee: Overseas (2022 annual fee) : £26,200

Where NFT and metaverse will take us next

Although people are still not certain about the future of metaverse, it is undoubtedly going to take the industry by storm as more and more people are showing keen interest in the domain, says BIBIN BABU

NFTs and Metaverse have recently gained traction owing to their popularity and whether we will soon enter a phase where artificial intelligence will become a reality. While we look into the broader aspects and how this paradigm shift will transform the global landscape, it's imperative to understand the essential elements and definition of a metaverse.

The term Metaverse was discovered by science fiction author Neal Stephenson in his novel, Snow Crash, in 1992. But the advent of technology has made Metaverse a reality, with leading brands jumping onto the bandwagon. However, the term gained popularity after Facebook renamed itself as Meta, which created the much-awaited hype around the world.

Metaverse can be defined as a 3D world where you can become the masters of your own life. Like the real-world, Metaverse acts as a virtual world, providing opportunities to interact, communicate, and connect with others by adding a more immersive, three-dimensional layer to the web, creating more authentic and natural experiences. The features that lay the foundation of today's Metaverse are web 2.0 and emerging web 3.0 characteristics.

Oxford dictionary defines metaverse as a virtual-reality space where users can interact with a computer-generated environment and other users. Derived from meta (meaning transcendent) and verse (from the

universe), the Metaverse will allow a completely different virtual world experience. Instead of looking at the internet, one can actually become a part of it.

The next big frontier

Recent reports on the growth of Metaverse reflect that the metaverse market opportunity could be around \$800 billion by 2024. The numbers themselves show the market growth and potential future in the upcoming years that will lay the foundation for a new world, building a new economy and generating endless possibilities.

What does the Future Metaverse hold for users?

As the metaverse concept incorporates Web3 technology enabled through blockchain technology (like NFTs and Cryptos), the future of Metaverse seems huge in terms of growth. Although people are still not certain about the future of the metaverse, it is undoubtedly going to take the industry by storm as more and more people are showing keen interest in the domain. Tech giant Facebook (Meta) is currently working on a concept called Electromyography (EMG) technology that allows users to interact with something in the metaverse just by thinking about it. An increased number of NFT enthusiasts are also looking to invest in virtual lands on such games and sell or rent them for a price. People with no actual interest in Metaverse, but who look at them as financially yielding, could



Bibin Babu
Co-Founder, Colexion

The metaverse is a chance for global audiences and firms to embrace the radical shift and explore endless growth and development opportunities. While firms are already embracing technology to extract benefits and futuristic growth, people still need to be ahead of the curve

invest in the inequities of the firms working on the concept.

The Metaverse can also contribute to the growth of the virtual economy that is not controlled or regulated by a single entity. This allows artists and creators to channelise their interests and get monetary benefits.

The ability to buy, sell and trade things in the metaverse is another crucial factor that could prove to be the most transformative part of this new era. This will lead to a situation where decentralised ledger technologies or blockchains will be the most practical, if not ultimate, solution for value exchange and for storing value. The opportunities for economic growth will be unfathomable, as this is literally creating a new world where users will interact, transact, own, exchange and share economic value.

NFTs will enable users to get ownership of their characters, in-game purchases and even register virtual lands in their names. On the other hand, Cryptocurrencies will become the legal tender in the virtual economy.

Shaping the future of Gaming The gaming industry is also witnessing massive interest within the metaverse frontier because of an enhanced, immersive and improved gaming experience. Metaverse enables users to manipulate their virtual environment in a life-like way. There is greater participation with simple games being reintro-

duced by creators. This is being done through sophisticated digital avatars and holograms.

Gaming within the Metaverse is aimed at fostering and building strong connections. By using virtual and augmented reality, one feels fully immersed in the digital environment. Gamers have become active stakeholders by creating games. There are also the 'live service games' with lots of new updates and downloadable content. Evolving technology such as 5G will further provide the speed needed for this digital transformation to evolve.

Embracing the paradigm shift

With each year passing, metaverse projects are set to penetrate mass adoption as people will move from physical assets to digital ones, gaining interest from a lot of users. For the first time, metaverses can usher mass adoption for VR headsets, AR extensions and gadgets and tie them together to enhance the virtual experience. The metaverse is a chance for global audiences and firms to embrace the radical shift and explore endless growth and development opportunities. While firms are already embracing technology to extract benefits and futuristic growth, people still need to be ahead of the curve. The year 2022 is going to witness a massive revolution in the form of AR VR technologies that are spearheading market growth at exponential rates.

The writer is Co-Founder, Colexion

Making a difference with magic of words

Pandemic has hit the world hard. People have become more empathetic and kinder than ever. But for Anamika Mishra, it has been a life-transformation phase.

Mishra started writing articles, stories and poems at a very early age when she was in school. She is not just an author but also a travel blogger, motivational speaker and an entrepreneur. She is a creative mentor and brand consultant for many authors and start-ups.

"I am grateful to my parents. They never stopped me from doing anything in my life. They always believed in me and supported me for my dreams. May it be for career or marriage, I think all parents should support their daughters in their decisions," says Mishra.

She has published five books so far out of which two are exclusively available on amazon. "Dreamcatcher is my latest book. I published it with amazon because of the pandemic and its effect on the books industry. My publishers wanted me to wait till the market started to rise again but I didn't want to! So, I published it on amazon and I am very happy with the response," she says about her latest book.

Recently, many of Mishra's quotes went viral on social media. "Yes! I think when I write from my heart, it touches the hearts of the readers too. I aim to heal broken hearts with my words. Broken hearts don't mean only about love relationships but also for the ones who lost their parents, lost



Anamika Mishra
Author

their jobs and are going through hardships in life," she says adding that she has been through such a phase when she lost her parents within a span of two years.

"I know how difficult it is to cope up. I can't say I have healed completely, it never happens. But, I have learned to live with this truth. And this is the need of the hour, for everyone in this world—to accept the truth and live life normally. If my words—written or spoken, make a difference, even a little bit, I will feel I have accomplished something in life," Mishra says.

She is also one of the social media influencers with approximately half a million followers on her social media.

"The world needs more love, peace and empathy. People don't value what they have and by the time they realise its value, it's gone. It breaks my heart to see so much sadness and hatred in the world. With my books, quotes and poems, I aim to add positivity, hope and inspiration in people's life," Mishra concludes.

Conference on Innovations in Education

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The JK Lakshmipat University (JKLU), Jaipur, in collaboration with St Cloud State University, USA and AIC-JKLU recently organised the tenth edition of its two-day international conference on UN's SDGs. This year, the theme was, Sustainable Future: Innovations in Education, which was attended by more than 1000 viewers and had

22 speakers across the globe. It received conference submissions out of which 48 promising works were presented.

Anil Kakodkar, Padma Vibhushan and Nuclear Scientist; Prof Sudhir Jain, Padmashri and Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Dr Pramath Raj Sinha, Founding Dean, ISB Hyderabad and Prof. Ajit

Chaturvedi, Director IIT Roorkee were some of the dignitaries who graced the conference.

The conference was co-sponsored by BSE, Institution's Innovation Council and Turnitin and had IIT Roorkee, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Jammu, IIT Bhilai, MNIT Jaipur and Central University of Rajasthan as JKLU's Academic Partners. It brought all the stakeholders

on one platform and collectively discussed different aspects of education focusing on achieving a sustainable future.

Technical sessions, paper presentations and panel discussions were held on topics like Education for Creating Better World, Tools for Teaching and Learning Effectiveness, Educational Practices for Special Needs and Educational Policy and Governance were.

School of sports and e-sports management

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Whistling Woods International (WWI), has always been at the forefront to bridge the need for job-ready professionals within the Media & Entertainment landscape. With the launch of its latest venture—School of Sports & Esports Management, the institute has further expanded its mission to enable aspirants to transition into the booming industry of sports and esports seamlessly.

Announcing the launch, Subhash Ghai, Founder & Chairman, WWI says, "As an institute, we have always strived to stay with the trends of the dynamic Media & Entertainment industry and this vision has led us to introduce the School of Sports & Esports Management.

These industries are on a huge growth path and a lot of career opportunities are opening in these domains. There is, therefore, a tremendous need for trained and well-informed

specialists with comprehensive knowledge in these sectors and the WWI School for Sports & Esports Management aims to fulfill this requirement."

The School of Sports & Esports Management will offer two-year MBA and three-year BBA programmes.

These first-of-its-kind programmes are offered under an agreement with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), an Institute of National Importance, which operates as

a think-tank for various youth-related activities.

The MBA in Sports & Esports Management programme comprises of imperative business management courses along with integrated knowledge and information about esports, sports, online gaming businesses, and management of multiple companies in such industries.

The aim of the MBA programme is to create future leaders with an emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Because the IT structure is driven by technology, hiring right tech talent is a great challenge. Only 29 per cent of tech companies believe they have the right team to progress. And, this is just the beginning, says VINAY KRISHNA GUPTA

TALENT HUNT

We live in a continually changing world where new technologies like Artificial Intelligence and machine learning keep evolving. On one hand, rapid automation has led to a loss of 60 million jobs in the US alone. But, on the brighter side, it has been estimated that the future tech-driven economy will create close to 97 million jobs worldwide. 2021 has been great for the Indian tech industry, especially the startup ecosystem. Indian startups have raised more than \$33 billion this year, which amounts to more than the past three years, combined. However, there is a cause of concern—talent crunch. Did you know that there can be more than 80 million jobs that can go unfilled because of a lack of the right talent? Because the IT structure is driven by technology, hiring the right tech talent is a great challenge. Only 29 per cent of tech companies believe they have the right team to progress. And, this is just the beginning. The coming years will see more talent crunch as technology will evolve

each day challenging the tech companies to up their game to keep up. There are headlines daily about how robots are ready to do everything that a human brain can and at a much faster pace. Additionally, the pandemic has slowed down the hiring process. Because of the talent crunch, organisations are facing a huge loss in terms of failing to develop projects on time and meeting important deadlines. The current employees are overburdened, the pandemic forced everything to go digital, and so corporates had to augment their existing workforce with skilled tech resources. In the past year or so, it is definite that you might have heard of the Great Resignation of 2021. More and more people are quitting their jobs to do something better, or altogether change their careers. But if that is happening, why are businesses facing such a shortage when it comes to tech talent? The reasons can vary from sector to sector. One of the main reasons workers left the workforce was to take care of their children. Schools have been shut for the longest



Vinay Krishna Gupta
CEO, Founder at Antino

time, and unfortunately, more women have quit their jobs because of gender imbalance. Another factor may be the fact that more and more workers started embracing remote work models as compared to traditional ones, resulting in an acute shortage of the right people for IT industries. The truth is that the industry is evolving each day, and it's getting difficult for the educational sector to keep up, contributing as one of the factors for talent crunch.

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE QUITTING JOBS TO DO SOMETHING BETTER, OR ALTOGETHER CHANGE THEIR CAREERS. BUT IF THAT IS HAPPENING, WHY ARE BUSINESSES FACING SUCH A SHORTAGE WHEN IT COMES TO TECH TALENT? THE REASONS CAN VARY FROM SECTOR TO SECTOR



New technologies have emerged, but the college curriculums have remained the same. Students need early exposure to futuristic technologies, and our system seems to be slow. Talking about the hiring process, gone are the days when people were hired because of something that looked good on paper. Now, talent and skill set are the priorities. The mission and vision of the candidates are the priorities. Now, companies also have to ensure that the person doesn't find reasons to leave immediately after joining. So, the hiring process, like technology, has evolved. The tech talent crunch is expected to grow in the near future because technology is never going to stop. The market is hypercompetitive and the pandemic is stubborn. Even before the pandemic, we were in the midst of a digital shift, and now it has accelerated. With speculations like the talent crunch expected to continue for a decade, only time will tell how companies weather this storm.

‘Enhancing students’ managerial skills’

Management course makes students acquainted with the tools and techniques strategically used in improving business practices and performance, says ANKIT KAPOOR

While all the management aspirants in India dream to pursue a degree from IIM but given the level of competition in the CAT exam, it is a known fact that getting into the prestigious group of institutes is not a cakewalk. Those concerned and looking for solutions need to know that there are IIMs that offer five-year integrated MBA programmes for getting into IIM right after class XII. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore and Rohtak conduct its National Aptitude test (IPMAT) every year, which has now been joined by IIM Jammu, Ranchi and Bodh Gaya. The aptitude test facilitates admissions to their five-year integrated programme in Management, where around 20,000 students appear for the exams annually. The admission process is carried out in various stages, starting with the IPM Aptitude test (IPMAT), Written Ability Test (WAT) and Personal Interview (PI). Apart from IIM, there are various other institutes that also offer this five-year integrated programme, like NAL-SAR, Hyderabad, has recently started the course and it is also expected that Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is all set to launch this programme from this academic year. Why is it useful? A five-year integrated MBA programme is for class XII pass-out students who look forward to a career in business management. It stimulates students' managerial skills and knowledge based on ethical considerations. Students who wish to pursue an integrated MBA shall have an added advantage in terms of the syllabus as there is no repetition of courses or subjects. In the Integrated programme candidates need not appear for the entrance exam and selection process twice (at UG and PG level), hence saving one year that goes into preparation for entrance exams. A management course makes students acquainted with the tools and techniques strategically used in improving business practices and performance. A management aspirant has to clear the entrance exams to get into this course. Once the course is near completion, they



Ankit Kapoor
Co-founder & Director, Pratham Test Prep

can look out for employment profiles in the service sector, the manufacturing sector, IT sector, banking sector, etc. Students are aiming for a five-year integrated programme because it offers the following: ♦Contribute to the learning and introduce them to approaches for knowledge assimilation and skill acquisition. ♦Provide strong foundations of management, law, philosophy, and psychology to the young managers for all-around personality development. ♦It emphasises a more holistic thinking ability than just a process-driven approach to boost innovation and logical decision making. ♦It creates opportunities for gaining practical exposure in diverse decision scenarios, realities, and complexities as a part of their summer internships and live projects so as to develop deepened and contextualised understanding. ♦Nurturing the entrepreneurial aspirations of the students and guiding them towards tangible milestones during the programme.

Startups can only achieve success and reach a unique position when they move in the right direction. To provide them support with a growth mindset, business/startups incubators are gaining huge popularity across the globe. According to a US-based International Business Association – there are around 7000 business incubators worldwide. Usually, early-stage startups have limited resources and expertise to execute a billion-dollar business idea. That's where incubators play an integral role to provide the direction and supportive framework to innovate and take the business idea to

the market. From nurturing young entrepreneurs and their startups to providing useful resources including office space, R&D Labs, hands-on management training, marketing support and access to investors, business incubators help founders in many ways to bootstrap a startup. Idea validation Every startup founder tries his/her best to come up with a revolutionary business idea. They often consider the idea that can disrupt the market and aim for becoming one of a kind in the industry. However, every founder needs to be careful before launching

MINDIT

and validating the idea. They must follow an approach that can minimize risks and costs in setting up the business with a maximised success rate. Mentorship In order to build a sustainable and financially viable business, startup entrepreneurs need mentoring. Incubators that mentor startups often report a higher rate of success and attain a huge wealth of knowledge. They are provided with the benefits of increased productivity, problem-solving abilities and improved business performance. Networking opportunities Networking is the ability to find new customers, partners and investors to grow the business. Business incubators can gear the business growth for early-stage startups by fostering networks. Their potential to link with people or lab space to provide valuable support and connections to set up a

sustainable business. Workspace & pool of shared resources Unlike large enterprises or corporates, early-stage startups do not have deep pockets. They face challenges in renting out an office space or utilizing important resources. Entrepreneurs with the support of a business incubator can get access to a decent workspace where they can brainstorm and craft impactful business ideas. Support with fundraising strategies Early-stage startups after developing a viable business idea require funds. They are necessary for further expansion and scalability. Without a business incubator, it

becomes difficult for startup founders to reach potential investors and pitch their idea. On the other hand, business incubators have strong links with angel investors and venture capitalists and can help the founders in crafting a winning pitch and reaching out into investor meetings. Market estimates suggest – around 90 per cent of Indian startups fail within the first five years of their inception. Thus, support from business incubators can turn innovative business ideas into reality and increase the startup success rate. The writer is Dr Manisha Acharya, CEO, Center of Innovation & Incubation(CII)



Global Excellence Postgraduate International Scholarships at University of Dublin, Ireland This funding programme supports highly motivated and outstanding international students who want to pursue a post-graduate taught degree at Trinity College Dublin. Award: Up to 5000 euro Course Level: Postgraduate Eligibility: Applicants must be evaluated based on academic performance and the applicants' ability to contribute to the Trinity community as a whole Supporting documents: Trinity Offer Letter, 200-word statement on How I will contribute to our Trinity College Dublin community, submitted in Microsoft word document or pdf format and CV/Resume Admission requirements: Students must have to check the entry requirements of their chosen programme Language requirement: Applicants must meet the Northern Territory education provider's academic and English entry requirement How to apply: The student must have to take admission at the university. After that, students must email their applications to their Regional Officer. Subject line: your name + Trinity application ID + Global

Engineering Scholarships for International Students at City, University of London The funding program is available to excellent students who want to pursue master's degree programs for the academic year 2022-2023. Award: £2,000 Course Level: Master's Eligibility: Must hold a first-class honours degree or equivalent and students wishing to take up a place on any of the above courses in September 2022 Supporting documents: Candidates need to submit academic transcript – include certified copies of your academic records, CV and certificates Admission requirements: You need to meet the entry requirements for each qualification you plan to study Language requirements: Applicants from outside the home country will often need to meet specific English language requirements in order to be able to study at the university How to apply: Candidates must have to take admission to one of the Master's programs. After getting enrolled in the university, they must complete the SMCSE International Scholarship Application Form Application deadline: May 1, 2022

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT FINSTREET Location – Work From Home Stipend – ₹7,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/1cfff8 Deadline – March 16, 2022 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AT E-STUDYPAL Location – Work From Home Stipend – ₹7,000-10,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/9cfaac Deadline – March 16, 2022 INSIDE SALES AT POLESTAR Location – Work From Home Stipend – ₹10,000-20,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/5df9d4 Deadline – March 16, 2022 ANDROID DEVELOPMENT AT QUADB Location – Work From Home Stipend – ₹10,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/3768c9 Deadline – March 16, 2022 OPERATIONS AT AUTOMEN INDIA Location – Delhi Stipend – ₹20,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/74f9dc Deadline – March 16, 2022 UI/UX DESIGN AT MIM-ESSAY Location – Delhi Stipend – ₹12,500/Month Link – internshala.com/i/edd2b5 Deadline – March 16, 2022 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT ZYLOS TECHNOLOGIES Location – Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur Stipend – ₹10,000/Month Link – internshala.com/i/4c21b0 Deadline – March 15, 2022



IN BRIEF

OUTREACH & EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

The EqualHue initiative has launched a first-of-its-kind outreach and excellence programme, comprising youth tournaments, financial assistance and technical opportunities, to support girls and women in India who aspire to play cricket. The Equal Hue project, a movement focussing on gender equity in sport, was founded in 2020 by former India cricketer Snehal Pradhan, author Karunya Keshav and The Sports Law and Policy Centre. Equal Hue Cricket, conceived under the Equal Hue project, is a collaborative effort

involving the EqualHue team, GoSports Foundation and Meraki Sport & Entertainment. It is a pioneering initiative aimed at creating pathways for aspiring female cricketers from across the country, enabling them to start, stay in and succeed in the sport, while leaving a tangible impact on our country's socio-economic fabric. To coincide with Women's Day 2022, the initiative has launched a tri-pronged programme to: ♦Engage girls through Under-16 tournaments in 12 cities ♦Enable those aged 16-23 with scholarships to continue in cricket by offering need based financial assistance and career support, and ♦Enhance excellence

EXHIBITION ON SPACE DESIGN

The Design Village (TDV) organised a space exhibition by 5th-semester students of the Space and Interior Design course. The

themes of the exhibition were nature, varying from the tangible to the intangible, where students showcased their unique concept on the lines of Light, Movement, Sound, Patterns, Time and Emotion. Faculty members including the co-founder of TDV, Saurabh Gupta were also present.

ONLINE COURSE IN PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

The Kellogg Executive Education at Northwestern University has launched a 36-week online PG Certificate in Product Management. It has been launched to meet the increasing demand for trained product managers who can align

all the stakeholders involved in developing and marketing a product while ensuring customer and commercial success for their products. This is the second executive education programme from Kellogg.

PROGRAMME FOR FIRST-GEN WOMEN LEARNERS

The upGrad, Asia's higher Edtech company, in a remarkable move to support India's women learners with the best education avenues, launches 100 per cent Vidya Shakti Scholarships. To encourage women to pursue learning and employment opportunities, the scholarship aims to offer quality higher education to the first generation and tribal

women learners, women from the Armed force & Police force, female NGO workers, female journalists across tier 2 cities and beyond, and female wards of Defence & Police personnel, along with the blue-collared women candidates across Bharat. Spearheaded by Dr Sanjay Kumar of upGrad, the company has partnered with 10+ renowned NGOs including, SEWA Bharat, Vidya Poshak, Telangana

Social Welfare Residential Degree College and Anvarat Foundation among others, for the inaugural batch of women candidates in less-privileged circumstances who have been nominated for the scholarship programme based on their meritocracy. They will be offered programmes across Data Science and Digital Marketing disciplines as per their preferences.

STATE OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM SECTOR

The Sanskriti School of Tourism and Hospitality organised webinar on Development and challenges in the hospitality and tourism sector after pandemic. The hospitality and tourism sector is considered the backbone for economic growth, especially in developing countries and it is one of the worst hit sector during

pandemic. The webnair was aimed to assesses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in India's hospitality and tourism sector by addressing essential aspects such as current conditions and challenges as well as future perspects. Professor Ratan L Sahu (Principal, Dewan IHM, Meerut) was the keynote speaker of the webinar.

EXHIBITION ON FIVE-CENTURY-OLD UNIQUE CRAFT KHETA

Textiles Ministry Secretary Shri Upendra Prasad Singh, inaugurated the first ever exhibition on five-century-old unique craft KHETA at National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi that will be open to public till April 3, 2022, 10 am to 5 pm. The exhibition of embroidered (quilted) products in textile gallery of Crafts Museum showcases

a live display of the craft by Shershabadi women, workshops for educational Institutions to learn the craft, Expert Talk(s), Film screening/Audio visual sessions providing insights into the long history and culture of Shershabadi community and as well as sale of Kheta Products from the Museum Shop. The key objective of the exhibition is to establish Kheta as a unique embroi-

dery and cultural identity of Shershabadi community, paving way for getting Geographical Indication (GI status), and encouraging economic empowerment of Shershabadis through skill practice and conservation in the villages. It is organised by Zameen Astar Foundation (ZAF) and Azad India Foundation (AIF) in partnership with Crafts Museum, New Delhi.

Oz, Pak 1st Test ends without result

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Opening batter Imam-ul-Haq hit a century in each innings for Pakistan as Australia could bag only four wickets on a docile pitch in the drawn first test on Tuesday.

Imam followed his 157 in the first innings total of 476-4 declared with an unbeaten 111 in his first test since November 2019.

Imam's opening partner, Abdullah Shafique, also prospered to record his maiden test hundred and was unbeaten on 136 when Pakistan finished the fifth and final day on 252-0 in its second innings, leading by 269 runs.

Both teams mutually agreed to end the game with an hour remaining.

Shafique hit 15 fours and a six in his 242-ball knock while Imam was more watchful in raising his hundred and faced 223 balls, hitting seven fours and two sixes.

The second opening stand between Imam and Abdullah surpassed Pakistan's previous best against Australia in 1964 when Khalid Ibadulla and Abdul Kadir combined for 249 in



Karachi.

Shafique and Imam also became the first Pakistan opening pair to share a century stand in each innings against Australia after combining for 105 runs in the first innings.

It was a tough start for Australia to resume playing test cricket in Pakistan after 24 years on a benign Pindi Cricket Stadium pitch which didn't offer any lateral movement to the visitors' three frontline pacers or

turn to ace spinner Nathan Lyon. Lyon bowled 78 overs and conceded 236 runs for the solitary wicket of Shafique in the first innings. Australia's innings was wrapped up in the first four overs of the day when it was all

out for 459 after resuming on 449-7. Left-arm spinner Nauman Ali took a career-best 6-107 on the grassless pitch to give Pakistan a 17-run, first-innings lead.

The 35-year-old Nauman, playing in his eighth test, picked up two of the last three wickets. The tailenders added only 10 runs off 19 balls as Nauman bettered his previous best figures of 5-35, which he took on debut against South Africa last year.

Shafique and Imam accelerated in the middle session as Australia resorted to Lyon and three part-time spinners without any success.

Abdullah raised his century in four hours off 183 balls in the last session when he tucked Cameron Green to fine leg for a single.

Imam took half an hour more to complete back-to-back hundreds by lofting part-time spinner Travis Head over mid-off for two.

The second test begins in Karachi on Saturday. Lahore stages the final test from March 21-25. The test series will be followed by three one-day internationals and a one-off Twenty20 in Rawalpindi.

Afghan opener Gurbaz likely replacement of Roy in Gujarat Titans

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Titans will in all likelihood be replacing Jason Roy with Rahmamullah Gurbaz, the hard hitting Afghan opener, for the upcoming Indian Premier League.

Roy had pulled out of the IPL as he didn't want to stay in the bubble for a prolonged period.

Apart from having a 150-plus career T20 strike rate as an opener, Gurbaz is also a handy keeper which makes him a multi utility player. The most exciting aspect is the 20-year-old's ability to clear the ropes with 113 sixes in 69 career T20 games.

He has played 9 ODIs and 12 T20Is in his short but exciting career so far.

Gujarat Titans are yet to officially announce Gurbaz as a replacement as they await the BCCI green light. But, it is understood that the team think-tank has taken extensive inputs from premier spinner Rashid Khan, who has also been



Gurbaz's senior in the national team.

Gurbaz's entry could also solve another issue for Titans and that's the keeping crisis.

Matthew Wade will only be available in the second week of IPL and the only other keeper in the roster is Wriddhiman Saha, whom they may be compelled to play despite not such great T20 record in recent times.

Gurbaz's entry might lessen the worry of head coach Ashish Nehra and captain Hardik Pandya.

Gurbaz has been a sought after name in franchise cricket having played for Multan Sultans and Islamabad United in Pakistan Super League, Kandy Tuskers in Lanka Premier League and Khulna Tigers in Bangladesh Premier League.

All round Australia cruise to 7-wicket win over Pakistan

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Opener Alyssa Healy starred with the bat after Australian bowlers produced a clinical display as the six-time champions coasted to a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Tuesday.

Australian bowlers struck at regular intervals, save a fine 99-run partnership between skipper Bismah Maroof (78 not out) and all-rounder Aliya Riaz (53), to restrict Pakistan to 190 for six after skipper Meg Lanning decided to field.

The Australian batters, led by star wicketkeeper Healy (72), who scored a scintillating half-century, then batted comfortably to notch up their second win of the tournament with 15.3 overs to spare.

Australia, who defeated England in their campaign opener, thus moved to the top of the table while Pakistan. Continued to languish at the bottom. They had lost to India in their tournament-opener.

Chasing 191 for the win, Healy and Racheal Haynes (34) shared a 60-run stand to provide a steady start to Australia.



Some sub-par fielding by Pakistan gave the two openers a reprieve each with their catches going down.

Haynes, who scored a century in Australia's opening game against England, stayed aggressive but her run-a-ball knock was finally put to an end by spinner Nashra Sandhu (1/30).

Healy and Lanning (35) continued the onslaught with Pakistan bowlers having no answer to the pair with Australia edging closer to victory. Healy brought up her 14th half-

century in only 55 deliveries. She hit seven boundaries in her stay at the middle.

However, spinner Omaima Sohail (2/39) managed to get rid of the Australian skipper in the 22nd over and Healy at the start of the 28th but till then the damage was done and Ellyse Perry (26 not out) and Beth Mooney (23 not out) had no trouble taking Australia over the line.

Earlier, skipper Maroof and all-rounder Riaz rescued Pakistan from

a precarious position to guide them to a respectable total.

With Pakistan teetering at 44-4 after 13 overs, the duo began its rescue act, sharing a 99-run stand for the fifth wicket before Riaz was trapped leg before in the 45th over.

It was Pakistan's highest partnership at an ICC Women's World Cup. Maroof, who has returned to play six months after giving birth, was in particular impressive, sending the ball to the fence eight time during her unbeaten 122-ball stay as she ensured Australia would have to score at almost four runs per over to remain unbeaten at the tournament.

She celebrated her half-century by pointing her bat towards the pavilion where her seven-month-old baby Fatima was present.

Experienced seamers Megan Schutt (1/43) and Ellyse Perry (1/27) and medium pacer Nicola Carrey (1/36) picked up a wicket apiece for Australia while spinners Alana King (2/24) and Amanda-Jade Wellington (1/25) also contributed.

Maroof and Riaz didn't score quickly to begin with and played with extreme caution to put together a memorable stand.

Sindhu, Srikanth enter second round of German Open

PTI ■ MUELHEIM AN DER RUHR (GERMANY)

Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and World Championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth registered contrasting wins to advance to the second round of the USD 180,000 German Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Tuesday. Seventh seed Sindhu trounced Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan 21-8 21-7 in a lop-sided contest after Srikanth, seeded 8th, saw off France's world no 39 Brice Leverdez 21-10 13-21 21-7 in 48 minutes. It was Sindhu's 15th win over the world no. 11 Thai player, while Srikanth too extended his head-to-head count over Leverdez to 4-0 after this victory. Sindhu, a 2019 world champion, will meet either Spain's Beatriz Corrales or China's Zhang Yi Man next, while world no. 11 Srikanth will take on China's Lu Guang Zu.



Srikanth, who was forced out of the India Open Super 500 event in January after testing positive for COVID-19, has a 2-0 record against world no. 27 Chinese.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Sai Pratheek K and N Sikki Reddy, however, endured a difficult time against top seeds Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai of Thailand, going down 19-21 8-21 in their opening

match. Sindhu was playing in a different gear against Busanan, who failed to pose any threat to the Indian during the 32-minute match. It was a complete domination from the Indian as she moved to 11-4 in no time and soon earned the bragging rights. The second game was also not too different as from 7-5, Sindhu marched ahead and shut the door on her rival without much ado.

PSG and Madrid wait on Mbappé and Kroos for decisive 2nd leg

AP ■ MADRID

With some star power likely missing, Carlo Ancelotti and Mauricio Pochettino will have tinkering to do for the decisive encounter between their Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain sides in the Champions League round of 16 on Wednesday.

Kylian Mbappé is doubtful for PSG because of a left-foot injury, while Madrid is likely to be without Toni Kroos because of a muscle problem.

Madrid, which lost the first leg 1-0 thanks to Mbappé's stoppage-time winner in Paris, is certain to be without Casemiro because of a suspension and may not also count on a fully fit Federico Valverde after a bout with the flu.

Setting up the midfield will be no easy task for Ancelotti, as Casemiro plays a key role in keeping the Spanish team balanced. The absence of Kroos would hurt the team more offensively than defensively, as the German veteran helps the team transition into attack. Kroos returned to training but a decision on whether he will play likely won't be made until Wednesday.

Young Frenchman Eduardo Camavinga will likely go into the midfield alongside Luka Modric and possibly Valverde, who missed the Liga game against Real Sociedad last weekend. The 19-year-old Camavinga played well in that match, scoring a superb opening goal in the 4-1 victory that increased Madrid's lead in the



league. He had Casemiro by his side, though, which will not be the case against PSG.

Madrid's midfield issues will likely make it easier for Lionel Messi, who gets another

good chance to finally come through with a big performance for PSG and live up to his status after joining from Barcelona. He will take over most of the spotlight if Mbappé

can't play after getting hurt in Monday's training session.

Initial medical exams showed the injury wasn't serious, but PSG said he was undergoing treatment and his fitness would be reassessed closer to the match.

Mbappé, who has been linked with a move to Madrid when his contract expires at the end of the season, has been in stellar form with 24 goals and 17 assists in all competitions.

He was suspended at the weekend when PSG lost at Nice 1-0 in the French league. Pochettino used former Madrid forward Ángel Di María along with Neymar in attack, and Di María is likely to play again if Mbappé can't make it. The Argentine played under Ancelotti in the coach's first stint

with Madrid.

Pochettino is set to be without former Madrid defender Sergio Ramos and Spaniard Ander Herrera because of injuries, and Achraf Hakimi, another former Madrid player, was listed as doubtful. Ramos will make the trip to the Spanish capital despite not being available. Ancelotti can't count on suspended left back Ferland Mendy, with veteran Marcelo likely taking over for him.

Madrid eliminated PSG at this stage in 2018 en route to winning the title for the third year in a row, although the French club came out on top in the two previous knockout encounters between the teams.

Madrid is the record 13-time European champion, while PSG is seeking its first

Champions League trophy.

A crowd of 60,000 - the biggest since the coronavirus pandemic started - is expected at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, which remains below its full capacity because of renovation work.

Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappé injured his left foot during training two days before the team travels to Real Madrid for a Champions League game. The French league club said Mbappé, who scored a stoppage time winner in the first leg of the round of 16 against Madrid, was hurt during Monday's training session but that initial medical exams were reassuring.

PSG said Mbappé received treatment and that his fitness will be reassessed on Tuesday.

Vintage car drive to celebrate international women's day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrating the International Women's Day in a unique way, a special vintage car drive was organised on Faridabad-Gurgaon road on Tuesday. The drive witnessed 15 women driven vintage and classic cars, jeeps, 10 women driven vintage and classic bikes manufactured up to 1972.

The Rosmerta Women's Day Drive was organised by Rosmerta Technologies Limited and Heritage Motoring Club of India. Atul Anand, group president, Rosmerta Technologies, said, "Through this event, we aimed to celebrate womanhood and recognize the extraordinary acts of women."

■ PRAVIN THIPSAY

Last month I began the series 'Champion born this month' with a game played by the oldest living Chess Grandmaster Yuri Averbakh of Russia, who recently celebrated his 100th Birthday on 8th February this year. This month I am extremely delighted to make a story on the Grandmaster who influenced the world most-- none other than the legendary Robert James (Bobby) Fischer [born 9th March 1943].

Bobby Fischer's journey through his complex life has always been a matter of great curiosity to everyone, even to those outside the Chess fraternity. His sudden rise & phenomenal conquests, his controversial views & interviews, his strange decisions in professional & personal life, in fact, his everything has been subject discussion, analysis & criticism all over the world. Due to his introvert nature, Fischer interacted with people only when absolutely necessary, and therefore, his personal life and true personality will always remain a mystery. However, clever and tactful journalists were able to get a lot of information on Fischer's ideas and views because he never avoided a question and always replied what

Remembering a genius called Fischer

he believed to be correct.

Though Fischer had undergone only the basic school education of 2.5 years, he was more knowledgeable and well informed than most of the contemporary Chess players and organisers. He was able to solve complex arithmetic and logic based puzzles in a no time, something that always amazed the elite of the American society. Studies made in U. S. A. and Europe reveal that Fischer's I.Q. was above 180 points, higher than that of a genius.

Despite Fischer's eccentric nature, his contribution to Chess (in particular) and Sports, (in general), has been far beyond his Chess moves and games. His approach to Chess was absolutely professional and he did not shy away from facing any challenges that crossed his path. He strongly believed in ethics and strictly adhered to them. Though Fischer considered the 'Soviets' to be his enemies, he was the first Western Chess player to learn Russian in order to study the intricacies of the Soviet Chess School. Not only did he master the Soviet Chess School better than Soviet masters,



Fischer even expanded the horizon of the Soviet Chess Strategy considerably. In words of five times world champion Mikhail Botvinnik "Fischer added 'time element' to Chess Strategy".

In some of his uncommon opinions, (not shared or accepted by the contemporary Chess masters), Fischer often showed greater insight, depth and wisdom than others, particularly in judging the masters in the past. For example, while the world looked at Wilhelm Steinitz as father of modern Chess strategy, Fischer

considered Paul Morphy to be a much greater strategist, theoretician, visionary and even a practical player. Modern Chess playing engines have now proven that Paul Morphy's way of playing Chess was the right one but what is remarkable is that Fischer sensed it over six decades ago, that too, when there were no Chess playing engines.

Fischer sensed the importance of good health, fitness and stamina very early in life. He was probably the first Western player who really played with optimal mental and physical energy throughout the game.

Like most of the gifted players, Fischer, too, believed in maintaining the originality and independent thinking in Chess games. Though he did work a lot preparing openings, he didn't believe in taking help of trainers, consultants or 'seconds'. In fact, Fischer is the only world champion in modern times who didn't have a practice partner or a trainer. In his last interview (2005), Fischer had expressed displeasure about the modern ways of playing. His objection "Today's Chess is mainly Prearrangement" was aimed

against excessive opening preparation by modern players (variations analysed before the game with help from computers, trainers & assistants) which hampered their originality and creativity. However, Fischer didn't hesitate to use ideas of 'patzers' (unskilled players) played even in 'skittles' (blitz), if he found them good. He had absolutely no ego, a fact which helped him play objectively in all positions. Fischer was very astute in judging his opponents and always succeeded in his taking his opponents 'out of book' (out of the path well known to them).

Though Fischer stopped playing tournament Chess immediately after becoming the world Champion (1972), he continued to study Chess seriously and was keeping himself updated with the latest techniques throughout his lifetime. The 1992 Fischer-Spassky match reveals that Fischer had mastered the 'closed Ruy Lopez', a particular area which had undergone fundamental strategic changes in the late 1970s due to invaluable contributions by Anatoly Karpov -- Fischer's successor to the

world Chess throne.

Fischer rarely made mistakes in Chess annotations and comments even in his bad days spent in asylum or jail. He had simply developed the 'sixth sense' in Chess.

Fischer always fought for conducive atmosphere and fair conditions to Chess players and got several positive changes made in the Chess world. Some of Fischer's inventions, such as the concepts of 'Fischer Chess Clock' and 'Fischer Random Chess' are practised regularly now. In fact, the 'Fischer Clock' has become an integral part of modern Chess. Fischer always saw Chess Players as ambassadors of the game and himself lived as one till his last breath. That Fischer's sad demise should occur when he was 64 years of age, is perhaps destiny's unique way of acknowledging him as the perfect Chess player.

Today I have chosen a comparatively unknown victory by Bobby Fischer -- a game which has been considered a 'true modern classic' by top players, but has gone unnoticed by the commoners as it doesn't involve flashy sacrifices. The ease

with which Fischer scored over a former World Chess Champion -- Vassily Smyslov -- in the game is indeed unbelievable. The game teaches us a lot about all three phases of the game -- Openings, Middlegame and Endgame.

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.b3 e6!

This move, with the idea of developing King side Knight at 'e7', looks like loss of a 'tempo', but it has a complex strategic purpose.

5...Nf6 6.Bb2 0-0 was the usual continuation then.

6.Bb2 Nge7! 7.Na4?!

White decides to exchange the dark Bishops immediately, ignoring the development 7.Nf3 was called for but after 7... 7...d5 Black has complete equality.

7...Bxb2 8.Nxb2 0-0 9.e3

White plans to strike at the centre with d2-d4 but Black is already well set to seize initiative.

9...d5! 10.cxd5 Nxd5! 11.Ne2

Realising that he is lagging behind in development of King side pieces, White hurries to finish the development, hoping to castle quickly. However, things are already difficult for him.

11...b6! 12.d4?

White panics and tries to simplify the position with...