

OPINION 6

A FRESH IDEA ON
MAJORITY-MINORITY

WORLD 8

ZELENSKY TAKES CENTRE STAGE
IN US CONGRESS, PLEADS FOR HELP

MONEY 9

EVERY BLOCK TO
HAVE ONE FPO: MOS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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ENG BEAT
INDIA IN
WOMEN'S WC
12 SPORTChinese Min to visit
India amid LAC rowFirst visit in 2 yrs
since face-off in
eastern Ladakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major development amid ongoing tension at the border in Ladakh, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi is likely to visit New Delhi later this month. This will be the first visit by any Chinese Minister since the face-off began between the armies of the two countries at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) nearly two years ago.

Wang Yi is likely to hold talks on March 24 or 25 with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each of India and China are facing each other at some friction points at the LAC in eastern Ladakh. Both sides have held a series of diplomatic and military level talks since the stand-off began in May 2020 leading to a bloody brawl in June.

Twenty Indian soldiers, including the commanding officer, were killed. Nearly 40 Chinese soldiers reportedly died in the clash. Beijing is yet to confirm the exact number of casualties.

Against this backdrop, the



Chinese Minister's visit is an indication of a thaw in the tension between the two countries, sources said here on Wednesday.

While the situation at the LAC will obviously top the agenda, the two countries may also hold parleys on Quad. China has all along protested against this grouping comprising India, the US, Japan, and Australia to ensure peace and stability in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region, they said. The two Ministers may also take stock of the situation arising from the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

The proposal for Wang Yi's visit came from China, sources said, adding he will

arrive here after a visit to Nepal. He is also likely to tour Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, it was learned.

Elaborating upon the significance of the visit, sources said, so far both sides are engaged in parleys at the diplomatic and military levels. The 15th round of Corps Commanders of the two armies was held on March 11.

The two countries agreed to continue the process of dialogue to find ways for early disengagement of troops from the friction points in Eastern Ladakh. Jaishankar and Wang Yi had met in person in September 2020 and

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Pressure on Gandhis as demand
grows for 'collective' leadership

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prominent Congress leaders, including former Union Ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Anand Sharma, Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Chief Ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Shankar Singh Vaghela, and many more said the only way forward for the grand old party is to adopt a model of "collective" and "inclusive" leadership and decision making at all levels.

Sources said the feelings of the Wednesday meeting is likely to be conveyed by Azad to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are also expected to be present at the meeting.

The meeting between Azad and Gandhis would be of great importance amid the dissatisfaction of G-23 leaders about the work style of senior Congress leaders, especially the Gandhis.

Sources said Azad will present the final proposal of G-23 members before the party's high command. The G-23 will decide its future course of action after the meeting between Azad and Sonia Gandhi.

Late Wednesday night after a marathon four hours meeting, the dissident leaders issued a joint statement saying, "We believe that the only way forward is for the Congress to

adopt the model of collective and inclusive leadership and decision making at all levels. In order to oppose the BJP, it is necessary to strengthen the Congress party.

We urge the Congress party to initiate dialogue with other like-minded forces to create a platform to pave the way for credible alternatives for 2024."

The meeting was earlier scheduled over dinner at Sibal's residence but later Azad hosted it at his place because of Sibal's strong criticism of the Gandhis and his advice to them to make way for other leaders.

Sources said the venue was also changed because in the last meeting of the dissidents held at Sibal's residence, some Congressmen resorted to stone-pelting.

Besides the G-23 leaders, others like Mani Shankar Aiyar, PJ Kurein joined the meeting to work out a future strategy and dissect what went wrong leading to the grand old party's poll debacle in the just-concluded Assembly polls.

Others present were Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor and Sandeep Dikshit, Preneet Kaur (Lok Sabha member from Patiala and wife of sacked Congress leader and former Chief Minister Amardiner Singh), and former Haryana Speaker Kuldeep Sharma.

Continued on Page 2

Govt misusing FB,
Twitter to shape
narrative: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday alleged a reported "nexus between big companies, social media and the Government" and accused social media giants of "spreading venom and disinformation" to "hack democracy".

Speaking in the Lok Sabha during Zero Hour submission, the Congress leader said "global social media companies are not providing level playing field to all political parties" and quoted American publication *Wall Street Journal* to drive home her point that the "ruling party was being favoured" by the social media.

"There is a rising danger of social media being abused to hack our democracy. Global companies like Facebook and Twitter are used increasingly to shape political narratives by leaders, parties, and their proxies," said the Opposition leader.

Sonia urged the Government "to put an end to the systematic interference of



Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the second part of Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

Facebook and other social media in the electoral politics.

"We need to protect our democracy and social harmony regardless of who is in power," she said.

The Congress president also referred to an Al Jazeera report that has claimed that Facebook carried advertisements promoting the BJP or discrediting Opposition...

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SC upholds
Govt's OROP
formula, says
it's policy call

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that One Rank-One Pension (OROP) in armed forces is a policy decision of the Government and suffers from no constitutional infirmity.

The bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath said the Centre's policy decision of OROP is not arbitrary and it is not for the court to go into the policy matters of the Government.

The apex court directed that the pending re-fixation exercise of OROP which has not been done due to pendency of the matter before the court after the expiry of five years should be carried out from July 1, 2019, and arrears be paid to the pensioners in three months.

The court had reserved verdict on February 23 after a lengthy hearing in the matter for nearly four days.

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Former Defence
Secretary charged in
Agusta copter scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed a supplementary charge sheet in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland helicopter procurement scam against former Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma and four Indian Air Force personnel. Sharma later also served as Comptroller and Auditor General of India. He is probably the first CAG to have been charge-sheeted in a bribery case.

The agency filed the charge-sheet before a special court in Delhi after getting the sanction from the Government to prosecute Sharma, who was the Defence Secretary between 2011 and 2013 before serving as the CAG from 2013-2017.

Sharma also served as Joint Secretary (Air) in the Defence Ministry between 2003 and 2007. He is alleged to have been instrumental, along with other accused IAF officials, in reducing the requirement of service operational ceiling of the heli-



copters to accommodate AgustaWestland which was otherwise ineligible to participate in the tendering process. Besides this, he also allegedly allowed testing of a different model of AgustaWestland helicopter on foreign soil, sources said.

Besides Sharma, the CBI has named then Air Vice Marshal Jasbir Singh Panesar (now retired), deputy chief test pilot SA Kunte, the then Wing Commander Thomas Mathew and Group Captain N Santosh, officials said. Kunte and Santosh retired as air commodores.

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Police gun
down 2 rape
accused in
Guwahati

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Two persons, prime accused in the rapes of two girls of whom one has died, were gunned down by the Assam Police in separate incidents while allegedly trying to escape from custody, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

Both the accused were arrested on Tuesday, and they were being taken to their respective crime scenes in Guwahati and a tea garden in Udalguri for further investigation when both attempted to flee custody after midnight, Special Director General of Police GP Singh told reporters here. In the first incident in Guwahati, the accused allegedly attacked the police personnel who then opened fire at him. The accused was taken to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH), where he was declared brought dead.

Police said two women personnel were also hurt in the attack by the accused, but they were out of danger. P5

Mann creates history in land of martyrs

Takes oath as Punjab's 28th CM heralding a new revolution

MONIKA MALIK ■
CHANDIGARH/KHATKAR KALAN

History was made on Wednesday with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Bhagwant Mann taking oath as Punjab's 28th Chief Minister amid the call for heralding a new revolution. Taking oath of office and secrecy on the "land of martyrs" with the venue painted in basanti hue, Mann, in his first speech as the Chief Minister, appealed to the party workers and volunteers to remain "humble" and "modest".

Since Punjab's reorganisation in 1966, only the Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) had dominated the political scene in the State and this is for the first time that a third party Chief Minister has taken up the State's reins.

The AAP's resounding victory with 92 seats — a figure achieved for the first time by



AAP leader Bhagwant Mann with Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit during his oath-taking as Chief Minister of Punjab, at Khatkar Kalan, the birthplace of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, in Nawanshahr near Jalandhar on Wednesday

PTI

any individual party in Punjab — has perhaps heralded a new era in the country's politics with neither a national nor a regional party winning the


elections in Punjab. "The AAP Government belongs to each and every citizen of Punjab...We are also the CM for those who didn't vote

for us," he said after Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered him the oath of office and secrecy in a mega event held at Khatkar Kalan, the maternal ancestral village of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Nawanshahr district.

"Earlier, oath-taking ceremonies were held at palaces or the Raj Bhawan. But I chose to come here because we need to remember Bhagat Singh — not once or twice a year, but every day," said Mann, who was the only one to take oath during the ceremony, while ending his oath with "Inquilab Zindabad".

Mann pointed out that he had really got freedom now as the previous Governments, during the past 70 years blatantly, ignored the vision and dreams of our great martyrs like Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh.

Continued on Page 2


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Maha Govt refuses to make ‘The Kashmir Files’ tax-free

DY CM AJIT PAWAR SAYS IF THE BJP-LED CENTRE SO DESIRES, IT CAN GO AHEAD, MAKE FILM GST-FREE

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the decision by various BJP-ruled states, including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, to make Vivek Agnihotri-directed controversial film tax-free, the Maharashtra government on Wednesday refused to grant tax exemption to “The Kashmir Files”, a film based on mass killings and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s.

Making a statement in the State Assembly, Maharashtra Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar – who also holds the state Finance portfolio—said that the state government had no plans to follow the suit of the BJP-ruled states and grant tax exemption to the film “The Kashmir Files”. “If the Union

government so desires, it can grant tax exemption to “The Kashmir Files”. If the Centre does it, it will apply to the entire country,” he said.

Pawar’s statement came a day after the BJP MLAs raised slogans in the State Assembly demanding tax exemption for “The Kashmir Files”. BJP MLA Nitesh Rane had initially demanded tax exemption for the film. Subsequently, other BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to the Maharashtra government.

Alluding to the BJP’s demand for making “The Kashmir Files” tax-free, Pawar said: “You will remember that in the past we had granted tax exemption to films like Mission Mangal, Tanaji, Super 30 and Panipat.. If you look at the tax exemption, there are two components – 50 per cent of CGST and another 50 per cent of SGST. Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke in glowing terms about “The Kashmir Files”, it is in fitness of things that he announces tax exemption for the film”.

“If the Maharashtra government takes a decision, it is only our SGST and it applies only our state. If the Centre grants CGST exemption on the film, it will apply to the entire country. Why can’t he take such a decision for the entire country?,” Pawar asked.

Starring Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar, Mithun Chakraborty and Pallavi Joshi, The Kashmir Files has become a sensation at the box office. The film has already been declared tax-free in the BJP-ruled states like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Haryana and Bihar.

Given that Maharashtra is ruled by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) – comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, it is quite unlikely that the MVA government will ever grant tax exemption to “The Kashmir Files”, which is being seen by the Opposition as more of a propaganda film for the BJP in the run-up elections in Gujarat to be held later this year.

Air travel may get costlier as ATF price rises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air travel is expected to get costlier in the coming days as oil marketing companies on Wednesday raised the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices 18 per cent to record Rs 1,10,666.26 per kilolitre, all time high levels for the second time in March after international oil price surged to a multi-year high.

The increase – sixth straight this year – led to prices soaring past the Rs 1-lakh-per-kilolitre mark for the first time ever. Fuel retailers revise jet fuel prices on a fortnightly basis.

At present, fuel based expenses account for over 30 per cent of the overall operating cost of an airline. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) – the fuel that helps aeroplanes fly – was hiked by 17,135.63 per kl, or 18.3 per cent, to Rs 1,10,666.29 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification by state-owned fuel retailers.

International oil prices had climbed to a 14-year high of near USD 140 per barrel last week on fears of supply disruption following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Rates have since mellowed to around USD 100 per barrel. In Mumbai, ATF price soared to Rs 109,119.83 a kl and it costs Rs 114,979.70 in Kolkata. Jet fuel is priced at Rs 114,133.73 per kl in Chennai. Jet fuel, which makes up for almost 40 per cent of the running cost of an airline, has this year surged to new highs. The previous peak of Rs 71,028.26 per kl was recorded in August 2008, when international crude oil prices touched USD 147 per barrel. Brent crude oil on Wednesday was trading just above USD 100 per barrel.

ATF prices have increased every fortnight since the start of 2022. In six hikes beginning January 1, ATF prices have been increased by Rs 36,643.88 kl or almost 50 per cent.

Chargesheet filed against six Khalistani ultras by NIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against six Khalistani terrorists in Jalalabad, Punjab bomb blast case. The NIA filed the chargesheet against Sukhwinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh alias Gora, Ranjit Singh, all from Ferozepur, Parveen Singh from Fazilka besides Habib Khan (Pakistani national) and Lakhbir Singh Rode, a Pakistan-based designated terrorist.

They have been charged under various Sections of the Explosive Substances Act; Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act; Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code before the NIA Special Court, SAS Nagar, Punjab. The case relates to a bomb explosion in Jalalabad town of Fazilka district of Punjab on September 15, 2021 in which one person was killed.

CBI arrests Jamia Prof, 2 others for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday arrested a Professor of Department of Civil Engineering, Jamia Millia Islamia University and two others of a private company based at Okhla area here in a bribery of ₹1 lakh.

A case was registered against the accused on allegations that the said Professor Md. Khalid Moin, in conspiracy with representatives of different private builders, architect and middleman, was indulging in different activities for issuing structural stability certificates for projects after taking bribes. The CBI laid a trap and caught the Professor and two others while accepting and giving the bribe of ₹1 lakh, the agency said in a statement, adding, searches are being conducted at the premises of the accused persons. The arrested accused will be produced before the designated Court at Delhi. Besides Professor Md Khalid Moin, Prakhar Pawar and Abid Khan of Vyom Architect, Okhla Phase-3.

ED attaches assets worth ₹2.30 cr under PMLA


PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs 2.30 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a fraud case involving cheating the Institute of Engineers (India).

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated November 2, 2020 registered by Kolkata Police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against bank manager Samrat Paul and others for cheating the Institution of Engineers India. Paul, the then Bank Manager of Allahabad Bank, Bowbazar Branch and others who had allegedly cheated the Institute by getting funds over Rs 35 crore, transferred from the account of the Institution in the name of creating fixed deposits and then submitting fake/forged Fixed Deposit Receipts.

Mann creates history....

From page 1
“The day of February 20, 2022, would be ever remembered in the annals of Punjab polity as the people exercised



छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स फिल कोल बेनिफिकेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-घुटकू, तहसील-तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) के Expansion of Coal Washery From 2.5 MTPA to 5.0 MTPA (Heavy Media Wet Type) in existing area of 9.93 Ha. के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 20.04.2022 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे ग्राम-घुटकू स्थित हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल प्रांगण, तहसील-तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के आफिस मेमोरेडम F No. 22-25/2000-IA, III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालकसारी की प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु कार्यालय कलेक्टर बिलासपुर, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र बिलासपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सरपंच / सचिव कार्यालय, ग्राम पंचायत घुटकू, तहसील- तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.), डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, मुख्य वन संरक्षक, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (पश्चिम मध्य क्षेत्र), पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भू-तल, पूर्व विंग, नया सचिवालय भवन, सचिवल लाईन्स, नामपुर (महाराष्ट्र) एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर(छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)



छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स फिल स्टील एण्ड पावर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम- घुटकू व निरतु, तहसील-तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) के New DRI Kilns (2,31,000 TPA), Induction Furnace with matching LRF & CCM (Billets/Ingots)(99,000 TPA), Ferro Alloy Unit 2x9 MVA (Fesi-14,000 TPA/FeMn-50,400 TPA/SiMn-28,800 TPA/FeCr-30,000 TPA), Briquetting Plant-2000 Kg/hr, WHRB Based Power Plant-20 MW(2x8 MW), AFBC Based Power Plant-12 MW, Brick Manufacturing Unit of 30,000 Bricks/Day के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, बिलासपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 19.04.2022 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे ग्राम-घुटकू स्थित हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल प्रांगण, तहसील-तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के आफिस मेमोरेडम F No. 22-25/2000-IA, III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथासंशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालकसारी की प्रति (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु कार्यालय कलेक्टर बिलासपुर, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र बिलासपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सरपंच / सचिव कार्यालय, ग्राम पंचायत घुटकू / निरतु, तहसील- तखतपुर, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.), डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वायु विंग, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, मुख्य वन संरक्षक, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (पश्चिम मध्य क्षेत्र), पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भू-तल, पूर्व विंग, नया सचिवालय भवन, सचिवल लाईन्स, नामपुर (महाराष्ट्र) एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर(छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

their franchise without any influence and coercion, thus paving thr way to fulfil the dreams of legendary martyr,” he said. Beginning his first speech, laden with couplets “Jo Bole So Nihaal” and “Bharat Mata Ki Ja”, Mann said, “I am overwhelmed with this massive mandate given by the people of Punjab... I will have to be born many times to repay this debt. At the same time, we should be far more responsible now and not be arrogant because ‘pride hath a fall’.”

“Hukummat woh karte hain, jinke dilon par raaj hota

hai. Yunh kehne ko toh, murge ke sir par bhi taaj hota hai, (The ones who rule are those who rule hearts, crowns even rest on roosters’ heads),” said Mann while asking the party workers to exercise restraint on the social media against others.

Every word, every sentence in Mann’s “brief” speech had deep meaning. Apart from his assurances of fulfilling the people’s high expectations, the speech also included advice for the party workers.

Fully understanding the significance of getting such a massive mandate, Mann assured the people to start working as soon as he took over the Chief Minister’s chair.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Ms. Rajni Chopra Morillo** "claims to be owner and in possession of Entire Ground Floor of Property bearing no. 521, Shanti Niketan, New Delhi (hereinafter called the said property) by inheriting the said property from Late Champa Chopra by virtue of Will dated 26.02.2014. Said **Ms. Rajni Chopra Morillo** has agreed to sell the said Property to Mr. Harish Kumar and Said Mr. Harish Kumar has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients. **Standard Chartered Bank, Express Building, First Floor 9/10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, N.D. 2** All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence within 14 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company, Advocates and Solicitors
House No.7 (G/F), NRI Complex, N. Delhi-19 M. 9818399999

PROPOSAL INVITED FROM

Chartered Accountants/CA firm for conducting Statutory Audit of Shipra Srishi Apartment Owners Association, 15, Ahinsa Khand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P-201014 for the Financial Yr 2021-22. Interested Chartered Accountants or CA firms may submit their proposals with quotations on or before 27/03/22 at the email add- aoo.srishi@gmail.com, Phone:- 9650177221

CA/firms must have post qualification experience of more than 5 years. Audit experience of Apartment Association under UP Apartment Act will be preferred. Individual CA's or any CA of firm, SHOULD NOT have any association/relation with the accountant, internal auditor, AOA board members or any of the Apartment Owner of Shipra Srishi Apartment.

SCOPE OF WORK. The Apartment Association is managing the affairs of the common area & facilities of the Multi Story Apartment having 744 flats and the primary source of revenue is the collection of common area monthly maintenance charges from the Apartment Owners. Auditor shall be required to undertake the statutory tax audit of the books of accounts maintained by the board of association. The Audit fee will be minimum: **₹45,000/-** excluding Govt. taxes.

Sd/-SECRETARY

C.G. Police Housing Corporation, Raipur
H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG)
Phone No. 0771- 4020028

Tender No./B19,820 JCGPHC/Bldg/2022 Dated: 16/03/2022

TENDER NOTICE (2nd CALL)

Online Tenders are invited according to key dates for Construction of Tactical Intelligence Collection Centre for SIB Field Unit at Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Bastar, Narayanpur, Kanker, Forward Operational Base for STF teams in core Naxal area Basagoda, Distt. – Bijapur, Barsoor Distt. - Dantewada and left over work of P.S. Kerlapal, Distt. - Sukma Tender No. 95528 to 95536 which are available from 17.03.2022 (10:30am) to 24.03.2022 (17:30pm) in CGPHC Portal <https://leproc.cgstate.gov.in> along with other details.

Chairman Cum Managing Director

C.G. Police Housing Corporation, Raipur
H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG)
Phone No. 0771- 4020028

Tender No./B22,823/CGPHC/Bldg/2022 Dated 16/03/2022

TENDER NOTICE (1st & 2nd CALL)

Online Tenders are invited according to key dates for Construction of Central arms Reserve Store at 4th Bn. CAF at Mana, Distt. – Raipur, Police Station Building at Civil Line Bilaspur, Police Station Building at Vaishali Nagar Distt. -Durg, Police Station Building at Singhanpuri Distt. -Kabirdham and Instrumentation & Medical Store Building for Regional FSL Building at Bilaspur Tender No. 95036 to 95040 which are available from 17.03.2022 (16.00pm) to 04.04.2022 (17:30pm) in CGPHC Portal <https://leproc.cgstate.gov.in> along with other details.

Managing Director

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर			
ई-प्रोक्योरेंस निविदा सूचना			
Portal : http://leproc.cgstate.gov.in			
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत रेकॉर्डर सरल क्रमांक 01 हेतु दिनांक 24.03.2022 एवं सरल क्रमांक 02 से 05 हेतु दिनांक 29.03.2022 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।			
क्र.	वि.आ.सू. क्र / दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लाभ (लाख में)
1	259	उपसंभाग क्र. 01 बिलासपुर के अंतर्गत एयरपोर्ट पहुँच मार्ग लं. 1.00 कि.मी. ताला मंदिर पहुँच मार्ग लं. 1.50 कि.मी. गुमा कोहखड़ी मार्ग लं. 1.80 कि.मी. एवं नगपुर बसिया मार्ग लं. 1.60 कि.मी. में डामर नवीनीकरण। संभाग क्र. 01 बिलासपुर। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	165.21
2	260	उपसंभाग जाजगीर अंतर्गत खोखसा पहुँच मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/2 से 2/4(100मी.)= 1.30 कि.मी. जाजगीर गैशमपुर मार्ग 4/2-10.5/2-4, 6/2-10, 7/8-10.8/2-10.9/2 = 4.00 कि.मी. पहरीया गोवाबंद सलौगुड़ी मार्ग के कि.मी. 2/8 से 3/10 = 1.40 कि.मी. नैला जाजगीर मार्ग कि.मी. 2/8 से 3/10 = 1.40 कि.मी. खोखरा मार्ग घुटपुरा मार्ग कि.मी. 2/8 से 4/8(100मी.) 2.10 कि.मी. एवं तखनपुर पहुँच मार्ग कि.मी. 1/2से 1/8 = 0.80 कि.मी. में बी.टी. नवीनीकरण कार्य। चौथा संभाग चौपा। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	
3	261	उपसंभाग चौप के अंतर्गत (जगदल्ला) से स्थिनी मार्ग लं. 1.70 कि.मी. का निर्माण कार्य। चौथा संभाग चौपा। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	188.63
4	262	उपसंभाग चौपा के अंतर्गत विन्ध, बन्हीडीही के ग्राम सारागांव से बन्हीडीही मार्ग के कि.मी. 7/2 में जगडी नाला पर उच्च स्तरीय का पुल का निर्माण कार्य। चौथा संभाग चौपा। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	134.24
5	263	उपसंभाग चौपा के अंतर्गत विन्ध, बन्हीडीही के ग्राम गवावा से कड़ारी मार्ग के कि.मी. 1/4 में गुडवा नाला पर उच्च स्तरीय पुल का निर्माण कार्य। चौथा संभाग चौपा। द्वितीय आमंत्रण। चौथा संभाग चौपा। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	164.98
निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखे जा सकते हैं।			
R.O. No - 68794/4			अधीक्षण अभियंता
R.O. Date - 16/03/2022			लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर

Chinese Min...

From page 1
While the first meeting was on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Moscow, the second meeting took place in Dushanbe. The two leaders discussed the roadmap for reducing tension and speedy disengagement of troops from the stand-off sites. Ever since the LAC standoff began, the top leadership of India and China have participated in several virtual meetings of groupings such as the SCO and BRICS comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. However, there were rare one-on-one or bilateral meetings between India and China in the last two years. The talks at various levels have seen the withdrawal of troops from the north and east banks of the Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh in February last year.

Govt misusing FB....

From page 1
...parties during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls with an aim to increase the ruling party’s visibility on social media platforms, bypassing the law.

“Global companies such as Facebook and Twitter are being increasingly used to shape political narratives by leaders, political parties and their proxies,” said Sonia in her long submission during the Zero Hours. There were no interruptions from the Treasury Benches.

She also referred to a report published in the Al Jazeera and The Reporters’ Collective claiming that Facebook had offered BJP cheaper deals for election advertisements as compared to other political parties.

“These reports show a growing nexus between big corporations, the ruling establishment, and global social media giants like Facebook,” said the Congress leader.

SC upholds Govt’s.....

From page 1
The SC disposed of a plea filed by the ex-servicemen association seeking implementation of the ÖROP as recommended by the Bhagat Singh Koshyari Committee with an automatic annual revision, instead of the current policy of periodic review once in five years.

In the operating part of the verdict, Justice Chandrachud said that all pensioners who hold the same rank may not form a homogenous class while taking into account the Assured Career Progression and Modified Assured Career Progression. There is no legal mandate that pensioners who hold the same rank must be given the same pension as they do not constitute a homogenous class, the top court said.

The verdict came on a plea

filed by the Indian Ex-servicemen Movement (IESM) through advocate Balaji Srinivasan against the Centre’s formula of ÖROP. The SC had said that whatever it will decide, it will be on the conceptual ground and not on figures. The apex court had said, “When you (Centre) revise after five years, the arrears of five years are not taken into account. The hardships of ex-servicemen can be obviated to a certain extent if the period is reduced from five years to a lesser period”.

The Centre has said that when the revision takes place after five years, the maximum last drawn pay which has all the factors is taken into account with the lowest in the bracket and it is the golden mean which is being given. “When we framed the policy, we didn’t want anyone post-

Independence to be left behind. The equalisation was done. We covered the entire past 60-70 years. Now, to amend it through the court’s direction, the implications are not known to us. Anything with finance and economics has to be considered with caution. Period of five years is reasonable and it has financial implications also”, the government had said.

The clarification was given by the Centre after the top court had asked the government to clarify whether the statement made by the then Finance Minister on February 17, 2014, was based on any decision or recommendation by the Union Cabinet. On February 16, the top court had said that Centre’s hyperbole on the ÖROP policy presented a much “rosier picture” than what is actually given to the pensioners of the Armed forces.

Former Defence Secretary....

From page 1
Earlier, the CBI had also sought a nod from the Defence Ministry to prosecute these Air Force officials and the charge sheet comes after getting the requisite sanction, they said.

The case pertains to alleged bribery to swing a deal to procure 12 VVIP helicopters in favour of AgustaWestland which was ineligible as its helicopters did not meet the 6,000-meter operational ceiling parameter set by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The need for new helicopters to ferry VVIPs -- the President, the Prime Minister, the Vice President and the Defence Minister — was felt in 1999 when a proposal was moved to replace the fleet of Soviet-era Mi8s of the IAF.

The CBI has accused then IAF Chief S P Tyagi of recommending a reduction in the operational ceiling (maximum height at which a chopper operates) of the helicopters from 6,000 meters to 4,500 meters which brought AgustaWestland into the race, the CBI has alleged.

The IAF was strongly opposed to the changes but

when Tyagi became the chief, he recommended it, the agency has alleged.

This was allegedly done at the behest of Finmeccanica and AgustaWestland top executives who engaged the services of three middlemen — Christian Michel, Guido Haschke, and Carlos Gerosa - - who allegedly paid bribes to Tyagi and his cousins Rajiv, Sandeep and Julie, according to the CBI.

The agency has alleged that Michel’s firms received about 42.27 million Euros, approximately seven percent of the deal amount, from the companies as kickbacks to swing the ₹3,600-crore deal in their favour.

The bribes were allegedly routed through the companies of Michel and an advocate, Gautam Khaitan, in the form of multiple contracts through layered transactions to camouflage the payments and portray the bribes as genuine business deals.

The first chargesheet in the case was filed in September 2017 naming former IAF chief Tyagi and others followed by another chargesheet in September 2020 against Michel and others.

Pressure on Gandhis....

From page 1
Sources said the meeting was convened to apprise all the members of the G-23 about the decisions taken at the crucial Congress Working Committee meeting led by interim chief Sonia on Sunday.

Azad and Sharma apprised the other members of the developments at the CWC and the feelings they shared at the CWC platform on strengthening the party. The G-23 grouping has been critical of the party leadership and has been demanding organisational overhaul after they wrote a joint

letter to Sonia in 2020.

Sources said invitations were also extended to the Congress leaders who don’t constitute the bloc but feel changes are required, including at the leadership level, to revive its electoral fortunes.

The meeting comes a day after Congress chief Sonia sought the resignation of Congress presidents of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa following the party’s dismal performance there.

Sonia on Wednesday appointed Jitendra Singh to assess the post-poll situation of Uttar Pradesh and to suggest

organisational changes, while Ajay Maken got a similar assignment for Punjab.

Senior party leaders Jairam Ramesh and Rajani Patil will play the same role for Manipur and Goa, respectively, while Avinash Pandey will assess the post-poll situation in Uttarakhand.

Sibal, in his latest salvo targeting the leadership, had said the Gandhis should step aside and give some other leader a chance to revive the party, provoking a backlash from Gandhi family loyalists who accused him of speaking the language of the BJP and the RSS.

Mixed response to jab drive in Delhi

Covid vax for 12-14 year-old children

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

On the first day of the Covid vaccination drive for 12-14 year-old children, the national Capital saw a mixed response, with the vaccinators hoping for a better turnout during the weekend.

In South Delhi's Greater Kailash 1, not a single beneficiary had visited the Pahariwala Gurdwara vaccination centre till noon where empty chairs were seen lined up as frontline workers chit-chatted among themselves.

A dingy corner near the parking area of the Pahariwala Gurdwara served as the vaccination site for the young beneficiaries.

Asked about the response of the inoculation exercise on day one, vaccination officer Pradeep Kumar said that not a single dose has been administered so far. "No children in the 12-14 year age group have arrived yet at the centre. We opened the centre at around 9 am. A few children had come but they belonged to a different



A healthcare worker administers a dose of the Corbevax Covid-19 vaccine to a student, at a vaccination centre, in New Delhi on Wednesday. The inoculation of children in the age group of 12 to 14 years against Covid-19 started on Wednesday with the Corbevax vaccine

ent age group," said Kumar. Kumar blamed the lack of awareness among people behind the poor turnout. "Parents are not aware of this vaccination drive. Moreover, I feel it is a school day that its why no one has arrived. We are expecting students to come for vaccination on the weekend," he said. About 6-7 lakh

children aged 12-14 years are eligible for vaccination in the city, and the number would keep on increasing as days pass, official sources had said on Tuesday. The city Government has received 6,31,400 doses of the Corbevax vaccine, they had said, adding, training has been imparted to staff from all stakeholder

departments for the exercise. However, several other centres in South Delhi also saw a tepid response on Wednesday.

At the Kautilya Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya near Chirag Enclave, no one in the 12-14 years age group had been administered the vaccine till 1 pm. "There is a lack of awareness. Children in

schools are not aware of the programme. So we have asked the school to inform parents about it. Moreover, the COWIN system is not updated," Himanshu Kaushal, the vaccination officer said. The major issue with the vaccination is that each vial has 20 doses and to avoid wastage, 20 children must be present at a time so that doses can be administered within hours of opening the vial.

"Even if a few children arrive, we cannot administer the Covid-19 vaccine because at least 15 children are needed to open a vial," Kumar noted.

A similar reaction was echoed by an official at the Kautilya Government school vaccination centre where a child had arrived for the inoculation but had to be sent back as more beneficiaries were not present there. Several Covid Vaccination Centres across the 11 districts in Delhi have been identified for the inoculation exercise.

Despite its name mentioned in the list of centres, no vaccination camp was present at the SDMC School in Malviya Nagar. "There used to be a vaccine camp but it was shifted as the physical classes at the

school resumed and there were not enough classes," said an official. Meanwhile, at a centre in East Delhi's Dilshad Garden, several beneficiaries were administered the vaccines on day one. The CVC in-charge there said about 13 students had come for the vaccination till afternoon and most of them study in the same school.

Delhi on Tuesday reported 131 fresh Covid-19 cases and two deaths, while the positivity rate stood at 0.42 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department.

The Centre on Tuesday had released guidelines for Covid-19 vaccination of children between 12-14 years, and said only Corbevax vaccine would be used for the beneficiaries of this age group.

Two doses of Biological E's intramuscular vaccine Corbevax would be administered to the beneficiaries in the 12-14 years age group at an interval of 28 days, the guidelines said.

According to the Centre's guidelines, vaccination of 12-14 years would be conducted through dedicated inoculation sessions to avoid their unintended vaccination with any other Covid-19 vaccines.

6,587 kids get Covid vax first dose in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

A Covid vaccination camp has been started in Gurugram on the occasion of National Immunization Day on Wednesday for children in the age group of 12 to 14 years. The camps were started by the Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram Nishant Kumar Yadav, from the Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Jacobpura.

Yadav while boosting the morale of the students said: "This vaccine is being administered to increase your immunity so that you can face the global epidemic like Corona with strength."

Civil Surgeon Dr Virender Yadav, who was also present informed that under this campaign, about 85,000 children in the age group of 12 to 14 years

in the district would be vaccinated with the Covid-19 jab and on Wednesday around 6,587 children were administered the first dose. He said only children in this age group would be vaccinated with the Corbevax vaccine. Apart from online registration, beneficiaries can also get vaccinated by visiting the vaccination centre directly.

"Under the campaign, 82 immunization centres have been set up in the district comprising schools and health centres, while instructions have been given at all the centres to vaccinate the child only after checking the age-related documents," the Civil Surgeon said.

He stated that only those children who have completed 12 years of age on March 15, 2022, would be eligible under the campaign.

'Hijab ban systematic way to stop Muslim women from getting educated'

Uniforms should be inclusive of religious and social practices in a diverse country like India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several Muslim women student activists on Wednesday said uniforms should be inclusive of religious and social practices in a diverse country like India. They demanded that cases registered against those who participated in protests against the hijab ban be withdrawn.

Huma Masih, a student activist, in a press conference here said the hijab issue should have started a healthy debate on whether uniforms are inclusive.

"The hijab issue should have stirred a healthy discussion on the culture of uniforms. It should have started a discussion on whether uniforms are inclusive and democratic, but no one is talking about it," she said. Simra Ansari of Jamia Millia Islamia alleged that there are some people who do not want Muslim women to get education and are forcing them to choose between studies and

their identity.

"Whenever Muslim women have come forward to talk about their rights, there are some people from a specific ideology who have had issues. This (the hijab ban) is a systematic way to stop Muslim women from getting educated by forcing them to choose between their studies and identity." "Through this stage, I want to say that we will attain our right to get educated and also keep our identity. We will not choose," she said. Khalida Parveen, a social activist, said they were "disappointed" and "angry" over the court's decision.

"There is no guarantee that Muslim women, when they will go to a bank or some public place wearing a hijab, they will not be subjected to moral policing. If any untoward incident happens with them, who will be responsible? The Central Government talks about "Beti Bachao" but the State Government goes against it," she said. In its 129-page order, the High Court has held that hijab is not an essential religious practice and upheld the Karnataka Government's order banning the use of any cloth on the campus that could disturb peace, harmony and public order.

Delhi riots: Police oppose in HC bail plea of accused who pointed gun at policeman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has opposed in the Delhi High Court the bail plea of an accused, who allegedly pointed a pistol at a police head constable during the communal violence in the national capital's northeast area in February 2020, saying he has a criminal family history and the witnesses can be adversely influenced by him.

The police said accused Shahrukh Pathan can threaten and endanger the safety of prosecution witnesses and abscond, if granted bail, and can also hamper the process of investigation and may destroy the evidence.

The police made the submission in a status report filed before Justice Prateek Jalan while opposing the bail plea of Pathan. It claimed that the accused has no remorse for his illegal actions. The case relates to rioting, causing injuries to police personnel and gunshot injury sustained by one Rohit Shukla by an armed mob in the Jafrabad area in North East Delhi. The status report stated that "the accused has been keeping illegal arm and ammunition and has no remorse for his illegal act. His daring act of firing at a policeman and the public shows that if released on bail, he can repeat such a criminal act."

"It further said there are police and public witnesses who have identified him and from the criminal family history background and desperatenature of the accused, it can be evidently inferred that the witnesses can be adversely influenced by him.

The report said the statement of the eyewitnesses and seized CCTV footage establishes that Pathan was leading the mob and indulged in the act of rioting on February 24, 2020, during which he fired at the complainant and public from his pistol.

HC allows reopening of Nizamuddin Markaz during Shab-e-Barat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday allowed reopening of three floors of Nizamuddin Markaz, where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held in March 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and has remained shut since then, to enable devotees to offer prayers during Shab-e-Barat.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri removed the restriction of putting a limit of 100 people at one floor and said it has been agreed that the management of the mosque will ensure that Covid-19 protocols and social distancing will be followed while allowing devotees to enter the mosque to offer namaz.

While Delhi Police had imposed various conditions to be followed during the reopening of the markaz on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat, several of them were modified during the court hearing with mutual agreement between the police,

the Delhi Waqf Board and the management committee of the mosque. The court noted that the ground floor and three other floors of the mosque building will be opened at 12 PM one day prior to Shab-e-Barat, which is on March 18, and will be closed the next day at 4 PM.

The court, which was hearing an application by the Delhi Waqf Board seeking to open the mosque in view of Shab-e-Barat and Ramzan in March and April, listed the matter for March 31 to decide on the issue of reopening the mosque during Ramzan which will begin from April 2.

Regarding the condition imposed by the police that foreign citizens and OCI card holders will not be allowed inside the markaz premises and if some devotee of foreign origin or OCI card holder intends to offer namaz at Masjid Bangley Wali, his identity details along with ID proof will be taken by the management and submitted to the

SHO, the management said it a notice will put on the display board at the entry gate specifying this restriction. While the police, through advocate Rajat Nair, initially said no Tablighi activities will be permitted during the reopening period, it was later agreed between the parties that opening of the mosque will be restricted only for offering prayers.

The court was informed that CCTV cameras have already been installed at the entry and exit points of the premises and the management will ensure that there will be screening of devotees with hand held thermal scanners at the entry point.

As senior advocates Sanjoy Ghose and Rebecca John, representing Delhi Waqf Board and the managing committee of the mosque respectively, initially submitted that the police letter was silent on the arrangement to made during Ramzan, Nair said the modalities for that will be worked out after Shab-e-Barat.

Retired J'khand HC Judge is new Lokayukta of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

Retired Jharkhand High Court Judge Harish Chandra Mishra has been appointed as the Lokayukta of Delhi, according to a notification. The post of Lokayukta was vacant after the retirement of Rewa Khetrpal in December 2020. According to the notification dated March 15, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal appointed Justice (retired) Mishra as the Lokayukta. Mishra will hold office for a term of five years from the date of his joining.

Man stabbed to death inside park; 1 held

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

Three people allegedly stabbed a man to death inside a park in north Delhi's Roop Nagar area on Tuesday evening. Police said that one accused was nabbed by the locals while police teams are looking for remaining accused who are on run. According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, on Tuesday around 7 PM, police got information regarding stabbing in DDA park, Birla Mill, Shakti Nagar following which Emergency Response Vehicle

(ERV) was dispatched for spot. "Injured Sachin, a resident of Shakti Nagar, was shifted to Hindu Rao Hospital where he was declared brought dead. A case was registered on Wednesday under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) based on statement of one Ajay, a resident of Shakti Nagar," said DCP. "Ajay, deceased's uncle, stated that he, along with Sachin and other neighbours, was sitting inside the DDA park around 6.30 PM on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Sonu, Abhishek and Aakash came there and an altercation broke out between Sachin and Sonu," said the DCP.

80 legal consultants to improve quality of probe

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has empanelled over 80 legal consultants to improve the quality of investigation and help increase the conviction rate in the national Capital. According to Sanjay Singh, the Special Commissioner of Police, Licensing and Legal Division, 82 legal consultants will help the police in important criminal cases. "82 legal consultants for police districts & other units such as @CellDelhi @CrimeBrDelhi @EOWDelhi have been empanelled by

@DelhiPolice to provide legal assistance to IOs in important criminal cases in order to improve the quality of investigation & help increase the conviction rate," he tweeted. According to the police, the important cases include sensational and heinous cases having ramifications on law and order.

The Delhi Police was recently criticised for its probe related to northeast Delhi riots by a court. The city court acquitted a man of rioting and dacoity charges in July, noting that the prosecution "miserably failed" to prove its case.

Toll operators in Gurugram directed to provide necessary services on National Highways

STAFF REPORTER
■ GURUGRAM

The district administration of Gurugram directed the toll operators in Gurugram to provide all necessary services including emergency medical services, highway patrol units, operation and maintenance services for vehicles, dedicated lanes for emergency vehicles and toilets for commuters on the National Highway.

These directions came after a monthly meeting of the road safety committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Gurugram, Nishant Kumar Yadav on Wednesday in Gurugram. According to the district administration officials, with multiple ongoing constructions of highways across the country in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the Indian Roads



Congress 13 has specified a list of emergency services to be provided by the private concessionaire to ensure the safety of citizens and the smooth flow of traffic. The following services are to be provided by the concessionaire at each toll plaza: Highway patrol units: The concessionaire is required to operate Highway Patrol Units to constantly patrol each stretch of 50 KMs of the highway. These units will be active 24x7 to help citizens in distress,

clear obstructions on the highways, cordon off areas with obstructions and divert traffic. Each vehicle shall also contain protective equipment and traffic management such as gas cutters, fire extinguishers, gumboots, rubber gloves, first aid kits, signages for diversion of traffic, traffic cones and barricades. Emergency Medical Services: Each toll plaza will have a medical aid post set up by the concessionaire, along with ambulance (s) well

equipped with first aid and emergency life support services. The ambulance should have at least two trained and certified paramedics (one paramedic staff and one trained nurse with knowledge of first aid) along with a trained driver so that the response time is not more than 20 minutes.

Crane services: The concessionaire shall also provide a crane of adequate capacity (minimum 20 MT) at each Toll Plaza location (s) with all necessary equipment so that it can reach site of incident within 30 minutes and clear the obstructions. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) centre: All concessionaires are required to establish an O&M centre at toll plaza or at any other location along project highway, the land for which will be acquired by the concessionaire. This centre shall house the

main control room, storage space for equipment, parking space for crane and other big vehicles, and a general garage.

The guidelines also state that all vehicles deployed by the concessionaire for emergency services shall be equipped with a GPS based Vehicle Tracking System so that it can be integrated with the 112 Emergency Response System.

The District Road Safety Committee, Gurugram discussed all aforementioned provisions in detail. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDM) to meet the concessionaires of toll plazas in their respective jurisdictions to ensure that all notified emergency services are provided at all toll plazas 24 x 7, and these services adhere to the notified quality standards.

G'gram doc, chemist held for running sex determination racket

STAFF REPORTER
■ GURUGRAM

A doctor and a chemist were arrested on Wednesday for running a sex determination racket from their Delhi and Gurugram clinic. The arrest comes following a raid conducted by the health departments of Gurugram and Nuh.

According to the police, Civil Surgeon, Nuh, Kuldeep Singh, received a tip off that a man named Devender was involved in illegal sex determination tests with the help of a doctor. Following this information, a team of the health departments of Gurugram, Nuh and the Gurugram Police was constituted. A decoy patient was prepared and the doctor, Rajeev Bhatia a resident of Sushant Lok of Gurugram

and the chemist Devender Kumar a resident of Panipat, were nabbed red-handed from the Huda City Centre Metro Station in Gurugram. The police have also recovered an ultrasound machine from their possession. Police said the doctor was already booked in a case of the same nature earlier. During questioning, the accused disclosed

before the police that they used to take Rs 70,000 to 75,000 for conducting illegal determination tests and abortions. A case has been registered against the doctor and the chemist under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994; Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 at Sector-29 police station in Gurugram.

Manoj Tiwari demands AAP Govt release fire inquiry reports

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

Following the recent fire incident in National Capital, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Northeast Delhi Manoj Tiwari on Wednesday demanded that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government release inquiry reports on causes of fires in city. Seven people, including three children and a pregnant woman, were killed in a massive blaze that gutted shanties in Northeast Delhi on March 12. Tiwari said hutment dwellers are dying because of fire but Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is not conducting any thorough inquiry on the causes. "I urge the Delhi government to make inquiry reports of fire incidents public and give compensation to poor people," Tiwari said.

PM hails vax drive; terms it science-driven

India on tenterhooks as Covid cases rise globally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

As Covid-19 vaccination for children aged between 12 and 14 years begun on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed India's efforts and termed the country's inoculation drive 'science-driven' and 'people-powered', and that the country is in a much better position to fight the deadly pandemic but people must continue taking all the necessary precautions.

Taking to Twitter, the Prime Minister urged youngsters in the age group 12-14 years to get Covid vaccination and those above 60 to get precautionary dose. The day one saw tepid response.

Asserting that India's vaccination drive, which is the largest in the world, is science-driven, PM Modi said, "India has administered over 180 crore Covid vaccine doses, including over 9 crore doses in age group 15-17, over 2 crore precaution doses." Highlighting the journey of India's vaccination drive, Modi

said, "We began work to create vaccines in early 2020, to protect our citizens and strengthen our fight against the pandemic." "India sent vaccines to several nations. Its vaccination efforts have made the global fight against COVID-19 stronger.

We are in a much better position to fight Covid pandemic, we have to keep following all precautions," the Prime Minister added.

Modi further said, "The manner in which our scientists, innovators and the private sector rose to the occasion is commendable. In late 2020, I visited three of our vaccine manufacturers and got firsthand details of their efforts to protect our citizens," he said.

In January 2021, India began its vaccination drive for doctors, healthcare and front-line workers, he noted, adding that the aim was to ensure those at the forefront of the fight against Covid get proper protection at the earliest.

The Centre on Tuesday had released guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination of chil-

dren between 12-14 years, and said only Corbevax vaccine would be used for the beneficiaries of this age group. Two doses of Biological E's intramuscular vaccine Corbevax would be administered to the beneficiaries in the 12-14 years age group at an interval of 28 days, the guidelines said.

According to the Centre's guidelines, vaccination of 12-14 years would be conducted through dedicated inoculation sessions to avoid their unintended vaccination with any other COVID-19 vaccines.

Centre to get 'Corbevax' at ₹145; cheapest in world

The pricing of the Covid-19 vaccine 'Corbevax' for those aged 12 and 14 has been set at ₹800 in the market before taxes. However, it will be sold to the government at a cut price of Rs 145, the cheapest in the world, said sources. **PNS**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

As many countries like Hong Kong, New Zealand and South Korea besides China are reporting a sudden spurt in Covid-19 cases, India--which is reporting decline in infections-- is keeping its fingers crossed with experts adopting a wait and watch policy while cautioning the public to not to let its guards down.

BA.2, the sublineage of Omicron also known as the 'stealth variant' which had accelerated the third Covid wave in India, is now causing havoc in many pockets in the East Asian region as well as in the European nations like the UK and Germany.

For instance, South Korea is battling fresh Covid-19 outbreaks as the country registered record infections with over 4,00,000 cases in a day while China recorded 3,290

new Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, including 11 severe cases. Similarly, cases in New Zealand were on rise with 19,542 new community cases of Covid reported on Wednesday.

In contrast, in India, Covid cases have shrunk to around 2,000 in the past few days. However, Dr NK Arora, chairman of India's Covid-19 Working Group of NTAGI, said that Indians should not take the disease "for granted" because new variants can occur any time.

"Any kind of complacency at this time will not be good just because the Omicron wave has subsided so early. We cannot take it for granted and presume that nothing will happen in the future. New variants can occur at all times," said Dr Arora. "Any kind of complacency at this time will not be good just because the Omicron wave has subsided so early. We

cannot take it for granted and presume that nothing will happen in the future. New variants can occur at all times," he added. Dr Rahul Bhargava, Hematologist, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, too said that the virus is very unpredictable and the present variant is very infectious."

Even if we are seeing fewer cases here, people should continue to adopt covid-appropriate behavior. Increased vaccination coverage has also helped in preventing infection severity." Over 180 crore vaccines have been administered in India so far.

In India, according to a modelling study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, the fourth wave of Covid-19 is imminent in India and may start around June 22 and peak from mid-to-late August. The study led by Sabara Parshad Rajeshbhai, Subhra Sankar Dhar, and

'PM-CARES for Children' to benefit 4,302 applicants

New Delhi: Of the 8,973 applications received for support under the 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme, as many as 4,302 children who were orphaned during the pandemic have been approved as eligible for benefits. Responding to a question in Rajya Sabha, Women and

Child Development Minister Smriti Irani gave state/UT, gender and age-group wise details of such children. According to data, 212 children aged 0-6 years, 1670 children aged 6-14 years, 2001 children aged 14-18 years and 418 young adults aged 18-23 years have received approval.

Shalabh of IIT Kanpur's Department of Mathematics and Statistics shows that severity of fourth wave will depend on emergence of a possible new coronavirus variant, and vaccination status across country. The Indian researchers noted that there is always a fair chance that a possible new variant of coronavirus may have an intense impact on the

whole analysis. "The characteristics of BA.2 and BA2.2 look similar and since BA.2 has already been the dominant strain in the country, I do not see a reason why India should worry," said Anurag Agarwal, director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in Delhi.

Caretaker CMs meet PM, hope to continue second term in office

DEEPAK K UPRETI
■ NEW DELHI

Caretaker Chief Ministers of Goa and Manipur Pramod Sawant and N Biren Singh respectively met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday amid indications that they may retain their posts in the states.

For his part, their Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath, who is to take up the baton for the second time in the state, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and also held meetings at the BJP headquarters to discuss the list of state ministers in the UP cabinet. Shah is the observer for UP. Unlike Manipur, Goa is witnessing a tussle between Sawant and former state minister Vishwajit Rane whose wife Deviya is also an MLA in Goa assembly. Rane, 50, is son of Pratap Singh Rane, a former Goa Chief Minister. Sawant, 48, seemingly, has a favourable backing from the central party leadership. "Our party is grateful to the people of Goa for blessing us yet again

with the mandate to serve the state. We will keep working for Goa's progress in the times to come," Modi said after meeting Sawant.

Sawant was accompanied by the BJP Goa desk in-charge CT Ravi and state unit president Sadanand Shet Tanavade during the meeting with the Prime Minister. Modi also tweeted after meeting Manipur CM and congratulated him on the party's stupendous victory, asserting that it is committed to working even harder to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Manipur.

Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Narendra Singh Tomar have been named observers for Manipur and Goa respectively. Besides Goa and Manipur, BJP leadership has also to zero-in-on the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand where caretaker CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has lost his own election after leading the party to a second-successive run in the state. Union minister Rajnath Singh and party MP Meenakshi Lekhi has been appointed observer for Uttarakhand.

CAPSULE

UNION GOVT CLEARS IDENTIFICATION OF PRISONERS BILL' TO KEEP CRIMINAL DATA

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a Bill to allow use of latest technology to maintain records of convicts and those held for crimes. The proposed 'Identification of Prisoners Bill' seeks to replace British-era Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, which would be repealed.

LOKTANTRIK JANATA DAL TO MERGE WITH RJD: SHARAD YADAV

New Delhi: Former Union minister Sharad Yadav announced on Wednesday that his party Loktantrik Janata Dal will merge with Rashtriya Janata Dal on March 20 as part of his efforts to unite various offshoots of erstwhile Janata Dal.

SC ALLOWS 50% SEATS FOR NEET QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

New Delhi: In a major relief to Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court on Wednesday permitted it to continue with counselling for 2021-22 to allocate 50 per cent super-specialty seats in government medical colleges to NEET-qualified in-service candidates.

PARLIAMENT PANEL FOR SIMPLIFYING ADOPTION NORMS

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel has recommended that adoption process in country be simplified, noting that while number of registered prospective adoptive parents is 26,000, the number of children who are legally eligible for adoption is 2,400, including 900 with special needs.

SC to hear after Holi plea seeking permission to wear hijab in classrooms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to list for hearing after Holi vacation pleas challenging Karnataka High Court verdict which dismissed petitions seeking permission to wear hijab inside classroom saying it is not part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith. The bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana took note of submissions of senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for some students, that urgent hearing was needed keeping in mind upcoming examinations. "The urgency is that there are many girls who

have to appear in examinations," the senior lawyer told bench which also comprised Justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli. "Others also mentioned, let us see... We will list after vacations. Give us time," the CJI said. Some petitions have been filed against full bench High Court verdict on case in which it was held that wearing hijab is not a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith under Article 25 of Constitution. The high court dismissed the petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi, seeking permission to wear Hijab inside classroom.



Students play with colours to celebrate Holi festival in Delhi on Wednesday

RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

Govt has no plan to privatise Rlys: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said the Government has no plans to privatise the Indian Railways and opposition parties' contention in this regard is hypothetical. Replying to a discussion on demands for grants for the Railway Ministry for 2022-23 in Lok Sabha, the Minister also said the Railways has resolved the recent "misunderstanding" with regard to recruitment in a sympathetic manner. "There is no ban on recruitment...Recruitment is going on for 1.14 lakh vacancies," he said while responding to various issues raised by MPs during the discussion. Lok

Sabha later approved the demands for grants for the Railways with a voice vote. During the discussion, several MPs had accused the Government of trying to privatise the Railways.

"It is only a hypothetical point...The track belongs to Railways, stations belong to railways, engines belong to railways, trains belong to railways, signalling systems belong to railways...(there is) no talk of privatisation...No plans to privatise Railways," the Minister asserted. Vaishnaw also stressed there was no plan to privatise freight corridors either. The Railways will continue to fulfill social obligations, he said, adding Rs 60,000 crore subsidy is provided on passenger fares. He further said if the social obligation is

taken out, the operating ratio -- a key parameter to gauge performance of an entity -- of the Indian Railways will be about 85 per cent. However, it is currently little below 100. Replying to issues related to the proposed bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, he said 99.7 per cent of the land acquisition in Gujarat segment has been completed, and 750 pillars have been constructed. The work on the bullet train project is progressing at a rate of 8 km per month, which will be increased to 10 km a month. "Who says bullet trains cannot run on Indian land," he said, while questioning contention of TMC. "It is shameful that those who talk about 'maa, maati, manush' have no faith in 'maa, maati, manush'...We must have faith in our own engineers.

1.5L road fatalities a year in India, highest globally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over deaths due to road accidents, the government on Monday said India records the highest number of fatalities in the world numbering 1.5 lakh every year. Plans are afoot to make roads safe by removing black spots on national and state highways, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said in the Rajya Sabha.

Elders also flagged the issue of rising number of cancer cases in India and called for effective and speedy measures to check this issue. A demand was also made for removal of GST on cancer medicines.

Fielding questions on the issue of accidents, Gadkari said, "This is a very unfortunate subject. As many people do not die in war or Covid. Every year 1.5 lakh people die, we are the highest in the world. We have to work on it." Gadkari also said it was unfortunate that 65 per cent of those dying every year were in the 18-45 age group.

He informed the house the government will soon implement a Rs 7,500-crore scheme with the help of the World Bank to address the problem and reduce accident-prone and black spots on national and state highways.

Asserting that the government is sensitive to the issue, he said "We have urged the World Bank to implement this programme across the country. We will soon get cabinet approval on this scheme."

The minister pitched for creating awareness, observance of rules, and improving road engineering and automobile engineering.

He sought the support of people including NGOs and educational institutions for creating awareness about road accidents.

He said states such as Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh have helped reduce road accidents by around 50 per cent, while in places like Dadra and Nagar Haveli and

Nagaland accidents have increased by 47 and 40 per cent respectively. Elders expressed concern over the rising cases of cancer in the country and suggested various measures, including regular check-up camps in rural areas and mandatory warning on processed meat packets, to tackle the disease.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Mahesh Poddar (BJP) demanded that cancer warning should be made mandatory on packets of processed meat in line with tobacco products.

He said the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) had announced in 2015 that consumption of processed meat and red meat may cause cancer. Poddar also said the country could witness as high as

16 lakh cases annually by 2025. He suggested that in line with tobacco products, the government should make cancer warning mandatory on processed meat packets as well.

Rewati Raman Singh (SP) too expressed concern over the rising cases of cancer, saying about 1,400-1,600 people are losing their lives due to the disease everyday.

Congress member L. Hanumanthaiah demanded that a special grant should be given to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru to establish of a full-fledged proton therapy facility.

He said the institute needs Rs 550 crore to set up the facility, and it is only seeking Rs 230 crore under special grant from the central government. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said the MPs can contribute to the institute.

Vandana Chavan (NCP) expressed concern over instances of misinformation during health crisis situations, and demanded that the government should develop a credible platform that provides "fast, accurate, authentic information" that is easily understandable.

Kind Attention Rail passengers!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

On the occasion of "HOLI" festival on **18.03.2022 (Friday)** following arrangements have been made regarding working of reservation offices in Delhi Area PRS

- Skeleton services will be available from 08:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs. at (i) **IRCA Reservation Complex**, (ii) **Delhi/PRS & (iii) Hazrat Nizamuddin/PRS**. These PRS Locations will function as usual in the Evening shift. (14:00 to 20:00) hrs.
- (i) **Sarojini Nagar** (ii) **Lajpat Nagar** (iii) **Okhla** (iv) **Karkardooma** (v) **Delhi Shahdara** (vi) **Adarsh Nagar** (vii) **Kirti Nagar** (viii) **Tughlakabad** (ix) **Shakur Basti** (x) **Rohini** (xi) **All India Institute of Medical Science** (xii) **Ghaziabad** (xiii) **Noida** and (xiv) **Subzi Mandi**, Computerized Passenger Reservation offices will remain closed in the Morning Shift (08:00 hrs. - 14:00 hrs.) All these PRS Locations will function as usual in the Evening shift.
- (i) **Parliament House** (ii) **Press Club of India** (iii) **Railway Board/PRS** facility will remain closed for the whole day.
- PRS counters will remain closed on 18.03.2022 (Friday) in the **Morning shift** on the occasion of HOLI at following locations over Delhi Division i.e. **Anand Vihar Terminal (PRS), Sahibabad, Naya Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Palam, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Narela, Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Mansa, Rohtak, Bahadur Garh, Nangloi, Shamli, Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Khatauli, Deoband, Baraut, Gohana, Pataudi Road, Jhajjar, Greater Noida & Mahem Town**
- Current Reservation counters at New Delhi (Pahar Ganj & Ajmeri Gate Side), Delhi Main, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar & Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Stations** will work at usual timing.

RailMadad Helpline No. **139**

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Union Territory of Jammu&Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) SPL. SUB-DIVISION GANDOH

SHORT-NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NITNo. 56 of 2021-22 Dated 11.03.2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on %age rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Union Territory, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work.
S.No. 1 Name of Work :- Construction of chain link fabric fencing 79.7 Kanal land of Degree College Kilhotran., **Est. Cost (Rs in lacs) :-** 81.80, **Cost of documents in shape of Try receipt :-** 1500/-, **EMD :-** 163600/-, **Time Of Completion :-** 02 Months, **M.H. Work :-** Hr. Education, **Class of Contractor :-** A
S.No. 2 Name of Work :- Construction of B/wall in Km 1st RD(500-600) on Rishi morh to Khanpura road to protect School Building at Mithanchi, **Est. Cost (Rs in lacs) :-** 4.83, **Cost of documents in shape of Try receipt :-** 600/-, **EMD :-** 9660/-, **Time Of Completion :-** 01 Month, **M.H. Work :-** State Sector, **Class of Contractor :-** A & DEE
S.No. 3 Name of Work :- Construction of B/wall in Km 1st RD(700-800) on Rishi morh to Khanpura road., **Est. Cost (Rs in lacs) :-** 16.30, **Cost of documents in shape of Try receipt :-** 600/-, **EMD :-** 32600/-, **Time Of Completion :-** 01 Month, **M.H. Work :-** State Sector, **Class of Contractor :-** A, BEE, CEE & DEE
Position of Funds :- Available
Status of AAA :- Accorded

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:
1. Date of publishing of Tender Notice :- 11.03.2022
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- From 11.03.2022 0900Hrs to 22.03.2022, 1800Hrs
3. Bid submission Start Date :- 11.03.2022 1600 Hrs
4. Bid Submission End Date :- 22.03.2022, 1800 Hrs
5. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) :- 23.03.2022.2022 at 1100 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Spl. Sub-Division Gandoh.

No. DIP/J-14285/21
Dated:- 14.03.2022

Sd/- (Er. M.K. Vikram)
Executive Engineer

'ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT'

Applications are invited for 'One Station One Product' for setting up Stall / kiosk at Panipat Station

- The period for setting up of the stall/kiosk will be 15 days.
- A token fee of Rs. 500 for 15 days shall be charged.
- The following can participate viz. Artisans/Potters/Craftsmen/Craftswomen/Weavers through local Self Help Groups (SHG), NGOs, Co-operatives dealing with the identified products.
- Open lottery/ Public draw to be done in case large number of applications are received.
- The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.
- Space and infrastructure at the station for this scheme will be provided by Railways.
- Application should be addressed to Station Superintendent/Panipat and last date of submission of applications is 23.03.2022 up to 11:00 Hrs and same will be opened thereafter.

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2 rape accused gunned down by Assam Police

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Two persons, prime accused in the rapes of two girls of whom one has died, were gunned down by Assam Police in separate incidents while allegedly trying to escape from custody, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

Both the accused were arrested on Tuesday, and they were being taken to their respective crime scenes in Guwahati and a tea garden in Udalguri for further investigation when both attempted to flee custody after midnight, Special Director General of Police G P Singh told reporters here. In the first incident in Guwahati, the accused allegedly attacked the police personnel who then opened fire at him. The accused was taken to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH), where he was declared brought dead.

GMCH Superintendent Abhijit Sharma said he was brought to the hospital around

1 am with four bullet injuries in his body.

"He had no heart beat when he was brought here. We have kept his body in the morgue and will hand it over to his family after conducting post-mortem examination," Sharma said.

Police said that two women personnel were also injured in the attack by the accused, but they were out of danger.

The accused, who was absconding since the mother of the girl filed a complaint with the police on March 8, was arrested on Tuesday from Dampur area in Kamrup district. The 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped at a hotel in Guwahati by five men, two of whom had assaulted her on an earlier occasion too, police had said.

As per the complaint lodged by the minor's mother, two of the five culprits, who had first sexually assaulted the girl on February 16 and video-graphed it, allegedly threatened

to leak the clip if she revealed the matter to anyone.

On February 19, however, the accused, promising to delete the video, met the girl again in another hotel, and along with others forced themselves on her.

A search operation is underway to nab the other accused, police added.

In the other incident, the accused had allegedly raped and killed an eight-year-old girl in a tea garden in Udalguri district on March 10 and the child's body was recovered the next day, Singh said.

The accused was arrested from a factory in Changsari area in Kamrup district and he attempted to escape following which he was shot dead by the police.

The special DGP said that the police has taken strong steps against organised crimes on the direction of the Chief Minister's Office and the rate of crime has declined considerably.

Govt: Nearly 1.44 L illegal foreigners identified on basis of Assam Accord till Jan 31

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Nearly 1.44 lakh illegal foreigners have been identified in Assam till January 31 this year, on the basis of the Assam Accord inked in 1985, and the authorities have deported around 30,000 of them, the state government informed the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

The definitions of 'Asomiya janagan' (Assamese people), 'khillonjia' (indigenous) and 'adi basinda' (original inhabitants), as mentioned in the Accord, are yet to be determined, it said. Assam Accord Implementation Minister Atul Bora, in reply to a question by AGP legislator Ramendra Narayan Kalita, said 1,44,077 illegal foreigners have been identified in the state till January 31, 2022, on the basis of the Assam Accord.

Out of them, 30,014 have been deported to their country of origin, the minister said.

According to the Assam Accord, signed on August 15,

1985, all foreigners who came to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, and stayed illegally would be detected and steps would be taken to deport them.

On the progress of fencing along the India-Bangladesh border in Assam, the minister said 98.35 per cent of work has been completed.

The fencing work on a 4.35 km stretch in Karimganj sector has not been completed due to issues raised by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and discussions are on to resolve the matter, he added.

Assam shares a 263 km border with Bangladesh.

Bora also said the State Government, after consultation with the Centre, is in the process of forming a legal experts' panel to deal with the constitutional and legal aspects that may arise for implementation recommendations of a high-level committee that was formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

UP may extend free food grain distribution till 2024

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government is likely to extend the free food grain distribution scheme till May 2024 when the next Lok Sabha elections will be held.

The scheme is scheduled to end this month.

The Food and Civil Supplies department has sent the proposal to the state government and a decision is likely after the Holi festival.

The free food grain distribution scheme was first launched after the first lockdown was imposed following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in March, 2020. Under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, the Centre provides five kilograms of rice or wheat free of cost to every poor person every month in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially the scheme was to be implemented till November 2021. The UP government in December 2021 extended the free food grains distribution programme to provide free



food to the poor in the state to March 2022. The programme has been launched under the National Food Security Act.

During the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out a free food distribution scheme that benefitted 80 crore poor people. The scheme in UP benefitted nearly 15 crore people.

The UP government has already decided to give free LPG cylinders to the poor ahead of Holi. Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of LPG consumers among all the states

in the country.

According to the Food and Civil Supplies department, the number of LPG consumers with subsidised connections in the state is over 4.27 crore. In 2014, UP had just 1.67 crore LPG consumers and this number increased to 4.26 crore in August, 2021.

The UP government even during COVID-19 pandemic provided LPG connections to the poor and the needy. Nearly 19 per cent of the total Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries in the country are from UP.

3 LeT ultras who killed Sarpanch shot dead

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the two-day long visit of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, starting from March 18, a joint team of security forces gunned down three Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists involved in the recent killing of Sarpanch Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Srinagar on Wednesday.

During his stay in Jammu the Union Home Minister Shah is expected to chair a high level security review meeting in the wake of fresh targeted killing of public representatives in the Kashmir valley. Shah is also scheduled to attend the Raising day function of CRPF in Jammu along with top brass of the para military forces on March 19.

According to a police spokesman, several police teams were on the look out for the terrorists behind the targeted killing of a public representative in Khonmoh. The operation was launched by the joint teams after receiving a

specific input about the presence of terrorists in the Nowgam area of Srinagar past midnight.

While the security forces were laying cordon around the suspected cluster of houses in the Nowgam area the terrorists opened fire on the security forces around 2.05 a.m. The terrorists were hiding in a three storey house A soldier of the Indian army was also injured in the continuous exchange of firing and grenade lobbying by the terrorists.

According to official sources, the first terrorist was neutralised around 8.30 a.m and the remaining two were neutralised around 9.15 a.m on Wednesday. According to a police spokesman, the slain terrorists have been identified as Adil Nabi Teli resident of Galchibal Chandhara, Pampore, Shakir Ahmad Tantray resident of Ronipora Shopian and Yasir Ahmad Wagay resident of Kujer Frisal, Kulgam.

As per police records, the



killed terrorists were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) and active since year 2021. They were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attack on Police/SF and civilian atrocities. Police said these three terrorists were also planning to attack security forces on the National Highway.

According to police records Adil Teli along with his associates was also involved in killing of Inspector Pervaiz Ahmad Dar at Menganwari Nowgam on 22/06/2021, killing of Javaid Ahmed Malik at

Lurgam Tral. Besides, he was also involved in a grenade attack on a joint party of Police & CRPF at Barbarshah Srinagar in which one civilian was killed and three civilians were injured. Similarly, terrorists Shakir Ahmad & Yasir Ahmad were also involved in several terror crime cases including killing of ASI Mohammad Ashraf near PS Bijbehara, Anantnag on 22/12/2021. Security forces have recovered 01 AK rifle, 03 AK Magazines, 14 AK rounds, 02 Pistols, 04 Pistol Magazines, 06 Pistol rounds from the site of encounter.

Pak handlers pushing terrorists into J&K to harm civilians, disturb peace, says DGP

PTI ■ JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Wednesday said Pakistani handlers were pushing terrorists into the Union Territory to harm civilians and disturb the prevailing peaceful atmosphere.

Over the past two weeks, the evil designs of terrorists once again came to light when they targeted panches and sarpanches. The sinful acts of harming and killing innocent people evoked strong condemnation from all quarters," the police chief told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Kishtwar district. The DGP, along with Additional DGP of Jammu Mukesh Singh, visited Kishtwar to inaugurate a cricket tournament being hosted by the police department in the memory of Deputy Superintendent of Police Aman Thakur who laid down his life in an encounter with terrorists in south Kashmir's Kulgam in February 2019.

2 held for trying to sacrifice kid on Holi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of killing of a 7-year-old boy due to superstition of getting wealth through human sacrifice in Chitrakoot, another similar case was reported from Noida where two people, who allegedly kidnapped a seven-year-old girl to "sacrifice" her for an occult practice on Holi, were arrested on Tuesday and the child was rescued, police said.

One of the accused, a neighbour of the child, was finding it hard to get married and had consulted an occultist, who suggested to him the method to please the gods in order to get married.

The occultist had been identified but was at large, the police said.

The child, who lived in Chhijarsi village and had gone missing last Sunday, was rescued from Baghat district, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Noida) Harish Chander said.

He said the locals in Chhijarsi, which falls under

Sector 63 police station limits, had launched a search immediately but the child could not be found after which they approached the police.

"An FIR was registered promptly under Indian Penal Code Section 363 (missing). Searches were launched while over 200 people were tracked through CCTV footage for their connection with the incident after which the two accused were zeroed in on and arrested through manual inputs," Chander said.

Those held have been identified as Sonu Balmiki and his associate Neetu while three more people, including occultist Satendra, are at large, he added. The officer said the arrested accused do not have any criminal history but they frequently consumed liquor.

"Sonu, who lived in the same neighbourhood, was unmarried. He contacted Satendra, who told him that if a human being was sacrificed, he would get married.

Subsequently, this child was kidnapped and the accused said they could have sacrificed the child on Holi," DCP Chander told reporters.

"Due to police's efforts, the child has been rescued safely. The two main accused have been arrested while three others involved in the incident and are absconding will soon be held," he said.

Chander said a sister of Sonu lives in Baghat district and the child was kept there and they had planned to sacrifice her in Baghat.

Commissioner of Police Alok Singh announced a Rs 50,000 reward for the police team involved in cracking the case, DCP Chander said.

Further legal proceedings in the case were underway, the police said.

Meanwhile in a shocking incident, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by three persons, including a juvenile, when she went to a field near her house in Etah district, police said on Wednesday.

Didi promises safe career to Ukraine-return medical students

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday promised "safe career" to junior medical students who had returned from war-torn Ukraine offering them opportunity to pursue their courses in private medical colleges of Bengal on concessional rates.

Even as experts questioned the legality of the proposal Mamata said the 2nd year students (in Ukrainian colleges) could forgo one year's seniority and join from 1st year.

"If a student wants to study in 1st year, we can facilitate that in medical colleges in our state. In that case students would not lose a year because in Ukraine they have six years' course..." She also said that "if any student wants to continue classes in Ukraine, my government will facilitate online classes and



offline practical classes at private and state-run colleges."

She also offered internship to the senior students in Government and private hospitals subject to the National Medical Commission's clearance. Saying that the State Government had one-third seats reserved in private colleges," Mamata said the students could avail of that facility.

"All private medical colleges have one third seats reserved under the state quota, where students may study at Government rates," Mamata

said, adding the students would get the education free as the Government would bear fifty per cent cost and the private college authorities would pay remaining course fee under corporate social responsibility.

Mamata who met 391 medical students who had returned from Ukraine said that she would take up the matter with the NMC and assured "if they do not understand our point then we will definitely press for it... I will take you all with me to Delhi in that case to make your concerns heard."

Mamata promised a similar concession for the engineering students too. The Chief Minister said she had deputed two senior IAS officers to coordinate on the issue adding the "students of other states too will be accommodated in the scheme subject to permission from the NMC."

Experts however doubted

the legality of Banerjee's promise saying such assurances could pose legal tangle for the Government. A senior doctor from a State-run medical college wondered how the Ukraine-returned students could bypass the foreign medical graduate examination.

"Every year hundreds of such students appear for this exam where clearance level is very low ... may be 15-20 per cent ... in that case the pass-outs who are still appearing for the exams will immediately move the court questioning the new move," the doctor said.

He said the students who fail to find a place in Indian colleges through NEET move out to other countries like Ukraine ... "now if these students get an entry through backdoor on the pretext of award or such extraordinary situation then it will open a legal."

Make arrangements for medical students, Mamata writes to PM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to make arrangements for the medical students who had to return from war-ravaged Ukraine so that they did not have to lose their academic sessions.

Requesting the Prime Minister to make arrangements so that the medical students could pursue their studies in Indian colleges the Chief Minister on Wednesday wrote, "Sir, this is an unprecedented war situation that calls for an extraordinary solution." She

wrote to the Prime Minister that the students from Bengal who were eligible for internship would be accommodated in Government medical colleges and would be given stipends "at par with the other candidates." Asking the Prime Minister to prevail on the National Medical Commission — erstwhile the Medical Council of India — so that the medical students reading in different years could be accommodated "at the equivalent level in private medical colleges... these medical colleges may be allowed to increase the equivalent number of seats" by relaxing the requisite guidelines.

Agitation against Kerala's silver line Rail project intensifies

Govt deploys armed cops for land survey

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The agitation against the Semi High Speed Silver Line Project linking capital city of Thiruvananthapuram with the northernmost town of Kasaragod is getting intensified by the day as revenue officials accompanied by armed policemen have started laying the survey stones as part of acquiring land for the 529.45 km long project. Described as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's dream project to counter the Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project of the Centre, the land acquisition process has run into trouble as massive crowds are staging demonstrations across the State against Government officials deputised to lay the survey stones. On Wednesday the situation turned violent as the police resorted to use of force to help the officials to do their duty. Many Congress and Muslim League leaders were injured in the scuffle with the cops across the State. A total of 1,383 hectare land is being acquired for the project out of which 1,200 hectare land is with private people. "The 1200 hectare land belongs to minimal, small and medium farmers who will end up in the streets once the land is acquired for the Silver Line Railway," said John Peruvanthanam, environmentalist. Heart wrenching scenes were seen at Chengannoor on Tuesday as revenue officials charged into the hutment of 65-year-old Thankamma, demolished the stove built of bricks and laid the survey stone right on top of the stove. Thankamma, a casual farm labourer, fell unconscious while the officials executed the job and left the place.

"I don't have anywhere to go and I do not know how I'll cook meals for my ailing son," lamented the lady. John said she was just one of the 25,000 persons who would lose their livelihood and hutments because of the luxury rail line.

Though the CPI, a constituent of the ruling LDF had declared its opposition to the project, by Tuesday evening the party leadership has mellowed down as the CPI(M) parted with one Rajya Sabha seat to its poor cousin.

"The resistance by BJP too is fizzling out by the day as the Centre has given silent approval for the project despite the Kerala BJP's reservation against it," said C R Neelakantan, the engineer-turned-environmentalist who is in the forefront of all agitations against ecologically hazardous projects. Neelakantan wondered why the Railway Ministry was not rejecting the proposal though it knows that the Silver Line Rail is detrimental to the State.

He pointed out that the Union Government was aware of the environmental issues arising out of the Project. "The Centre could have said a big No to the project if they were concerned about the plight of the poor. The truth is that the Narendra Modi government has bought peace with the CPI(M) in lieu of the latter calling off the agitation against the Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train project. The Marxists are silent about it though they had held all India agitations against it," said Neelakantan. He said the Kerala BJP's decision to field Metroman E Sreedharan would not make any difference. "There are many hitherto untold angles to this mission. The in-principle approval for the project was obtained projecting it as an elevated project. But in the DPR it was changed to at grade construction in major portions of the alignment. The consultants who had prepared the DPR had mentioned in the report that the most suitable track supporting structure for Silver Line may be the elevated type when considering the topographical and hydrological nature of Kerala. Due to intermittent rains throughout the year, At-grade construction is likely to take more time. Moreover, the change over has necessitated building massive retaining walls and compound walls," said Neelakantan.

Pune airport to get swanky new integrated terminal building by Aug 2023

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The new integrated terminal building with a built-up area of 7,50,000 square feet, a capacity to handle 16 million passengers per annum (MPPA) and with world-class facilities being constructed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will be thrown open to air passengers by August 2023.

Being constructed at the cost of Rs. 475 crore, the new integrated terminal building will reduce the congestion during the peak hours at the airport. "More than 55 per cent of the work has been completed and construction of the new building is likely to be completed by August 2023," an official statement put out on behalf of AAI said.

The existing terminal building with built-up area of only 22,300 sq meters has the capacity to handle up to seven million passengers per annum (MPPA). The AAI has undertaken the work for construction of the state-of-the-art New

Terminal with a massive built up area of more than 5,00,000 sq.ft. The new terminal integrated with the existing terminal, will have a built-up area of 7,50,000 Sq.ft. with passenger handling capacity of 16 MPPA.

According to the statement, the swanky new integrated terminal building (including old building) will be centrally air conditioned with provision of 10 passenger boarding bridges, 72 Check-in Counters and In-line Baggage handling system.

The building will be an energy efficient building with Four-Star GRIHA rating. Provision of 36000 sq. ft. space for F&B and retail outlets has been reserved for refreshment/pleasure of the passengers. A huge canopy on the city side of the existing building & new building together will give a magnificent look to the air-



port from the city side.

The strongest intention of the project for the new terminal building is the search for unity and continuity between the old and the new.

Stretching over 360 meters in length, the Verandah is a unifying façade that not only provides protection from sun and rain but also serves as a grand urban fresco telling the story of rich social, historical, artistic and immaterial culture of Pune and Maharashtra.

The fascia of the public area below the great Verandah is supported with beautiful Maratha arches and decorated columns with a finish of local dark stone which is common-

ly seen in most of the heritage structures around Maharashtra. The new forecourt garden design is directly inspired by one of the most recognisable landmarks of Pune — The Shaniwar Wada Gardens.

To give a permanent solution to the parking issue, a multi level car park — ground plus three storeyed & two basement floors, with a cost of Rs. 120 crore is also under construction and is likely to be commissioned by July 2022.

The multi-level car parking will have capacity for parking of 1024 cars and will be connected to the departure area of the existing building with a sky bridge with provision of staircase, escalators & elevators at building side for dropping/ going up. During his recent visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the significance of modern infrastructure and transport facilities for Pune city, which has reinforced its identity in the fields of Education, Research & Development, IT and Automobile.

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GUNJAN SHRIVASTAVA

In a country like India whose culture is as diverse and varied as the people who make up its population, art is an invaluable part of its social currency. Passed down from generation to generation, India’s folk art is the secret ingredient that forms the epicenter of the country’s rich heritage and serves as a looking glass into bygone eras. Whether it’s the delicate art of Dhokra which dates back to the Mohenjadar civilization, the intricate silver and gold zari work in Varanasi’s Banarasi Sarees, or the 2000-year-old technique of block printing - each form tells a very distinct tale of history, created with a skill that is ancestral and almost genetic. But over the years as India has industrialized with technology breeding the era of hyper-consumerism, local art and artists have felt the struggle to balance the precarious act of sustaining tradition and making a living. With everything from fast fashion to fast art, decades of



skill and exquisite craftsmanship have taken a backseat, overshadowed by machine-made products created with the sole purpose to satiate immediate wants that are instigated by what’s trending. Further aggravating the scenario is the growing insurgence of globalization with foreign influences stealing the limelight from local talent. And while it may seem that India’s illustrious legacy of distinctive rural art forms could have soon been left for the archives - initiatives like Make in India, the National Handicraft Development Programme, and many such programs like this have put the focus back on local creations and production. Addressing inherent challenges that range from insufficient funds, a lack of a proper institutional framework to low penetration of technology needs to be highlighted, with efforts first beginning through heightened awareness. Given the vast nature of this network, the need for national and even international exposure is critical to the survival of rural art. And to some extent progress has been made with savvy netizens as well as social media leading the charge with trends like #VocalForLocal. In fact, initiatives like AD Design Show’s ‘Power to the Karigar’ - which highlighted artisans like Ramzubhai Kumbhar who from his humble village in Ahmedabad is keeping the 8,000-year-old tradition of Kutch pottery alive - brings these almost forgotten art forms back into the spotlight. Technology too presents unique opportunities for rural art to gain a global platform. With eCommerce leading the charge, artisans now have the opportunity to present their creations to a wider audience from the comfort of their own hometowns. This of course is not possible without creating an infrastructure that enables them to access these connections. Deeper internet penetration and access, as well as basic training and upskilling, could lead to a future of budding ‘artpreneurs’ in every pocket of the country. Inciting foundational and sustainable change requires the creation of a multitude of business opportunities, as well as financial support to these communities. This is where institutional level or even on a privatized level, skill developments programs play a vital role. It’s the age-old adage of ‘teach a man to fish’. While most of these artisans operate in an almost seasonal and informal work environment if grass-root level business training is provided these local artists have a chance to gradually build a career of their own and generate a steady source of income. A key takeaway from these initiatives and observations is that to nurture India’s thriving rural art scene, mobilization on an individual, institutional and private level needs to become a core priority. This community, which is an integral part of India’s social construct, must be empowered with the necessary tools and exposure to seize control of their trade’s future as well as their own.

(The writer is a professional artist, educator, art critic and co-founder of You Lead India Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Deconstructing the Purvanchal vote



RAMESH K SINGH

The Samajwadi Party’s MY (Muslim-Yadav vote) was pitted against the BJP’s MY (Modi-Yogi combination) in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections

Uttar Pradesh, the biggest state of the country, has several regions. The geographical, demographic and even political natures of these regions are different as they are closer to their adjoining states. Purvanchal (eastern UP) is one of the six regions, biggest one, by and large, close to Bihar and various border districts have ‘roti-beti’ relations with the adjoining State. Like Bihar, it is also one of the most backward regions where religion and caste factors always have a play in elections. Even in the latest assembly elections in UP, the domination of these factors were clearly visible.

The impact of Bihar’s famous MY (Muslim-Yadav) factor, which played a crucial role in all recent polls, was also seen in UP, helping the Samajwadi Party (SP) emerge as a big challenge to the ruling BJP, which has changed all poll equations since 2014 with the emergence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was an election in which Upper Castes enthusiastically supported Modi and a sizable part of non-Yadav OBCs shifted to the BJP as it played its social engineering card effectively under the leadership of Amit Shah.

Though SP’s MY got a good support from unhappy people of different sections, it could not match the rival camp because of another MY combination -- of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with his clean image, speedy development works and his religious card and the charisma of Modi. The caste-community-based MY failed to match the reach of Modi-Yogi who not only adopted aggressive campaigning but also succeeded in mobilising their supporters to vote. A slight decline in polling percentage despite resentment in a section helped the ruling party not only keep an upper hand but also increase its polling percentage. Various social welfare schemes of the central and state Governments had provided maximum benefits to the poor, resulting in a sharp shift of a sizable vote-bank of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) to the ruling camp. This new addition of votes has imbalanced all the poll strategies and expectations of the SP camp.

Besides, by the time the opposition identified the real battlefield, it was too late. Its aggressiveness in the last two phases when Purvanchal went to the poll could not make any change as the BJP had already won the battle without giving any time to the rivals to take an advantage from the agitation of farmers and incidents of Lakhimpur and others. In most of the places, despite spending their huge energy, the rivals failed to encash on such tragic incidents, whether it was Umbha (Sonbhadra) or Gorakhpur in this region where the BJP made a clean sweep winning all four and nine seats of these districts, respectively.

UP has six main regions and out of these Purvanchal is the biggest one with 102 assembly seats followed by Awadh



DESPITE THE MISSING CHARISMA OF THE MODI-YOGI COMBINATION IN MANY DISTRICTS, THE NDA MADE A CLEAN SWEEP IN VARANASI, MIRZAPUR, SONBHADRA, DEORIA, GORAKHPUR AND KUSHINAGAR DISTRICTS CLINCHING ALL EIGHT, FIVE, FOUR, SEVEN, NINE AND SEVEN SEATS, RESPECTIVELY

(The writer is Chief of Varanasi Bureau, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)



(90), Western UP (76), Central UP (64), Ruhelkhand (52) and Bundelkhand (19). The Bhojpuri-speaking Purvanchal has mainly two belts of Varanasi and Gorakhpur with 61 and 41 assembly seats of three divisions each, comprising 10 and seven districts respectively. As present political bases of Modi and Yogi are there, the departure of the Om Prakash Rajbhar-led SuheldevBharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) from the NDA prior to parliamentary elections in 2019 and entry into the SP camp prior to this assembly polls did not make any decisive change, though its impact were clearly seen in some districts with sizable population of Rajbhars (a sub-caste of OBC). BJP tried to boost UP Minister Anil Rajbhar but he did not have time to go outside of his own constituency (Shivpur in Varanasi) where he was contesting against Arvind Rajbhar, son of SPSP chief.

In Ghazipur, BJP lost all seven seats, though in 2017, NDA won five seats with two of its then alliance partner SBSP. In Basti, BJP won just the seat of Harraiya, losing all other four whereas five years ago, NDA bagged all five seats. It also managed to avoid going blank in Mau where in 2017, the party had bagged three out of four seats. Former minister Dara Singh Chauhan, contesting this time as SP candidate, won his seat despite changing it, from Madhuban to Ghosi.

In comparison to Gorakhpur, the BJP received an invisible chal-

lenge in Varanasi region as it lost all 10 seats in Azamgarh and fared poorly in Ballia and Jaunpur. In Ballia, both of its ministers, Anand Swaroop Shukla (Bairia) and Upendra Tiwari (Phaphamau), faced defeat while yet another minister Sangeeta Balwant (Ghazipur Sadar) met the same fate.

In Ghazipur, three female candidates of BJP won in 2017 but this time, they all were defeated. The other two were Alka Rai (lost to SP’s Sibghatullah Ansari, brother of alleged mafia don Mukhtar Ansari, in Mohammadabad) and Sunita Singh (lost to former minister OP Singh of SP in Zamania). Not only Sibghatullah but also Mukhtar’s son Abbas Ansari (Mau) won. Mukhtar’s elder brother Afjal is an MP (Ghazipur).

Despite the missing charisma of Modi-Yogi in many districts, the NDA made a clean sweep in Varanasi, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Deoria, Gorakhpur and Kushinagar districts clinching all eight, five, four, seven, nine and seven seats, respectively. It maintained its tally in Chandauli, Bhadohi and Maharajanjan winning three, two and four seats out of four, three and five constituencies respectively.

The BJP has received a shock in the Varanasi region where it was second largest party after SP, claiming 23 against 26 of SP out of 61 seats. Even NDA was second with 29 against 31 of SP camp whereas in 2017, NDA had won

41 (BJP 34) while SP bagged 12. However, in Gorakhpur region the picture was different as the NDA won 34 seats (BJP 30) out of 41 while SP camp six (five SP itself). In the entire region, NDA won 63 seats (BJP 53) out of 102 while SP camp 37 including 31 by SP. Besides, the region also saw the sole win of BSP (from Rasra in Ballia) and one out of two by Indian National Congress (INC) from Pharenda (Maharajanjan).

Among six divisions of Purvanchal, the poorest performance of NDA was in Azamgarh claiming just three out of 21 (zero in Azamgarh, one in Mau and two in Ballia) whereas in 2017, it had claimed nine (one, three and five respectively). In Basti, NDA just opened its account in Basti and won three out of five in Siddharth Nagar. Its best shows were in Vindhyachal division (maintaining last tally of 11 out of 12, losing just Bhadohi seat to SP) and Gorakhpur (winning 27 out of 28 including all seats of Gorakhpur, Deoria and Kushinagar districts) and lost just one to INC in Maharajanjan. However, a mixed result of NDA was seen in Varanasi, winning all the eight seats in Varanasi, retaining three out of four in Chandauli, claiming four in Jaunpur (five in 2017) and facing defeats in all seven seats in Ghazipur. Overall, the NDA won 15 seats out of 28 in the division whereas five years ago, it had claimed 21 seats. The SP camp increased its tally from six to 13.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE HAVE DECIDED TO CONTEST HIMACHAL ELECTIONS FULL THROTTLE. WE WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO PEOPLE THERE.
— DELHI HEALTH MINISTER SATYENDER JAIN



THE NEW ENTRANT WILL FIND IT HARD TO MAKE AN IMPACT... VOTERS HAVE ALWAYS REJECTED A THIRD PARTY IN HIMACHAL.
—HIMACHAL BJP CHIEF SURESH KASHYAP

Telangana a prospective State for AAP expansion?

The people are vexed with the listless politics of the three mainstream parties based on mere sound and fury

Aam Admi Party (AAP) has a window of opportunity in Telangana. Though there are three major parties at present in Telangana vying for attention, the people are not enthused with any of them. AAP will be a fresh breeze which will be welcomed by principled politicians and workers. People in general are passive spectators of the listless politics based on sound and fury.

For instance, Revanath Reddy, president of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), alleges that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR) of Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) has secret understanding with Narendra Modi in spite of the ballistic way KCR has been bombarding Prime Minister



RAMACHANDRA MURTHY KONDUBHATLA

(The writer is a senior journalist and Editor, primepost, a news website based out of Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal.)

Narendra Modi and the BJP, at least till March 10 when results of five assembly elections were announced. Bandi Sanjay, president of Telangana BJP, says TRS and the Congress are in league. KCR attacks the BJP leaders in State and at the centre and ignores the Congress leaders. That is his way of saying that the Congress is not a party in serious contest and the fight is going to be between TRS and the BJP. Name-calling and hurling abuses have become the norm of political discourse in the State. The game of one-upmanship has been going on without real problems being discussed or sorted out. Sanjay says KCR will go to jail on corruption charges. Revanath Reddy asks Sanjay what is preventing the latter from asking



the CBI to investigate the charges of corruption against KCR. Revanath Reddy himself was caught on camera offering currency notes to a TRS MLA for voting in favour of a TDP candidate in MLC elections. The widely publicized ‘vote for note case’, in which Revanath is accused number one, is pending in the court.

Senior leaders who have

been with the party all their life detest Revanath Reddy, who defected from TDP, being made the chief of the party. Revanath, on the other hand, is young and dynamic in his own way. He has been assiduously cultivating the senior leaders over the months after taking over the reins of the party. The BJP is mostly Hyderabad centric. The party won by-elections in Dubbaka in 2020 and Huzurabad in 2021 owing to the personal image of its candidates - Raghunandan Rao and Etala Rajendra - respectively aided by failure of the Congress. In Nagarjuna Sagar by-election in 2021 a tall leader of the Congress party Jana Reddy was defeated by Bharat, young son of Nomula Narasimhaiah whose death caused the

by-poll. In Huzurabad, the Congress candidate lost his deposit.

The Congress’ track record of the past two years shows its leader indulge in rhetoric without performing. But the party commands more than 20 per cent of votes in Telangana even today. With less percentage of votes, the BJP gives the impression that it is the main rival to the TRS. It is because of intensive political activity taken up by the saffron party which has committed cadres and unstinted support of the national leadership. The BJP also has factions but the writ of the central leadership runs unlike in the Congress whose high command does not look at the State leaving everything to Manikkam Tagore, an MP from Tamil Nadu and AICC

General Secretary, in charge of Congress affairs in Telangana.

While the TRS has recently appointed presidents of district units and geared up the party machinery, it has groups and infighting. KCR is a very strong leader who does not brook indiscipline. Money has become central to politics. TRS has unlimited resources. BJP can get funds from Delhi. The Congress high command appointed Revanath Reddy as president of TPCC because he can mobilize funds.

The intellectuals and professionals who fought for Telangana State were left high and dry by KCR who had encouraged defections from the Congress and the TDP after 2014 and 2018 elections and accommodated in his cabinet even those who vehem-

ently opposed statehood movement. People who have left background, cannot think of joining the BJP, have no respect for Congress, who believe in rule of law and value-based politics are waiting for a new party to arrive. The YSRTP launched by YS Rajasekhara Reddy’s daughter Sharmila Reddy has not found acceptance yet since she is basically considered a person from Andhra Pradesh.

It is here that AAP is being mentioned in private discussions. Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts have some 30 Assembly constituencies where AAP stands a good chance. People who are fed up with corrupt, deceitful and boastful politicians appear as though they are looking for principled and creative politics.

Zelenskyy takes centre stage in Congress, pleads for help

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is addressing the US Congress, the actor-turned-war-time leader's latest video speech as he uses the West's great legislative bodies as a global stage to orchestrate support against Russia's crushing invasion.

Lawmakers rose and gave him a standing ovation when Zelenskyy appeared on the large video screen.

Zelenskyy's livestreamed appearance on Wednesday into the US Capitol is part of his very public strategy, in which he has invoked Winston Churchill, Hamlet and the power of world opinion in his fight to stop Russia.

Nearing the three-week mark in an ever-escalating war, Zelenskyy has used his campaign to implore allied leaders to "close the sky" to prevent the Russian airstrikes that are devastating his country. It has also put Zelenskyy at odds with President Joe Biden, whose administration has stopped short of providing a no-fly zone or the transfer of military jets from neighbouring Poland as the US seeks to avoid a direct confrontation with Russia.

Instead, Biden will deliver his own address following Zelenskyy's speech, in which he is expected to announce an additional \$800 million in security assistance to Ukraine, according to a White House official. That would bring the total announced in the last week alone to \$1 billion. It includes money for anti-armor and air-defense weapons, according to the official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Appearing in his now-trademark army green T-shirt as he appeals to world leaders, Zelenskyy has emerged as a heroic figure at the center of what many view as the biggest



20K evacuate besieged port in Ukraine as Kyiv is hit

AP ■ KYIV

Nearly 20,000 civilians fled Mariupol by way of a humanitarian corridor on Tuesday in the biggest evacuation yet from the besieged Ukrainian port city, while Russian forces stepped up their bombardment of Kyiv.

On the diplomatic front, a top Ukrainian negotiator, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, described the latest round of talks with the Russians as "very difficult and sticky" and said there

security threat to Europe since World War II. Almost 3 million refugees have fled Ukraine, the fastest exodus in modern times.

The Ukrainian president is no stranger to Congress, having played a central role in Donald Trump's first impeachment. As president, Trump was accused of withholding security aid to Ukraine as he

were "fundamental contradictions" between the two sides, but added that "there is certainly room for compromise." He said the talks will continue Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, another aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ihor Zhovkva, struck a more optimistic note, saying the talks had become "more constructive" and that Russia had softened its stand by no longer airing its demands for Ukraine to surrender.

pressured Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on political rival Biden. Zelenskyy is speaking on a giant auditorium screen to many of the same Republican lawmakers who declined to impeach or convict Trump, but are among the bipartisan groundswell in Congress now clamoring for military aid to Ukraine.

Russian official is upbeat on Ukraine talks

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says a "business-like spirit" is emerging at talks with Ukraine that are now focussed on a neutral status for the war-torn country.

"A neutral status is being seriously discussed in connection with security guarantees," Lavrov said Wednesday on Russian channel RBK TV.

"There are concrete formulations that in my view are close to being agreed."

UK PM calls on world to wean off Russian oil, gas

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared a mission to build an international coalition against Russia and wean off dependence on its oil and gas exports in protest against the conflict with Ukraine, as he embarked on a visit to the Gulf region on Wednesday.

Johnson is scheduled to meet with leaders in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh for talks on energy, regional security and humanitarian relief as part of what Downing Street

described as the UK's efforts to galvanise global action on the crisis in Ukraine.

The leaders are expected to discuss efforts to improve energy security and reduce volatility in global energy and food prices amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis.

"The brutal and unprovoked assault President Putin has unleashed on Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences for the world, well beyond Europe's borders," Johnson said ahead of his visit.

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E-mail id- medha.haradhan@icicibank.com; mahesh.shah@icicibank.com.

US Senate approves resolution probing Putin for war crimes

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Senate unanimously approved a resolution seeking investigations of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his regime for war crimes over the invasion of Ukraine.

The bipartisan measure from Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., says the Senate strongly condemns the "violence, war crimes. Crimes against humanity" being carried out Russian military forces under Putin's direction. It encourages international criminal courts to investigate Putin, his security council and military leaders for possible war crimes.

"These atrocities deserve to be investigated for war crimes," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The measure was approved swiftly and without dissent late Tuesday as lawmakers in Congress continue to muscle a bipartisan show of force against the Russian war in Ukraine.

First introduced almost



two weeks ago, the Senate resolution would not carry the force of law, but is another example of Congress providing the Biden administration political support to take a tough line against Putin's aggression.

Last week, US Vice President Kamala Harris embraced calls for an international war crimes investigation of Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, citing the "atrocities" of bombing civilians, including a maternity hospital.

The resolution approved by the Senate has been embraced by senators from both parties, Republicans and Democrats.

2 Fox journalists killed in Ukraine

AP ■ NEW YORK

A veteran videographer and a 24-year-old Ukrainian journalist working for Fox News were both killed when their vehicle came under fire outside of Kyiv, the network has said, Pierre Zakrzewski, 55, and Oleksandra "Sasha" Kuvshynova were travelling Monday in Horenka with Fox News reporter Benjamin Hall, who remains hospitalised.

"Today is a heartbreaking day for Fox News Media and for all journalists risking their lives to deliver the news," the network's CEO, Suzanne Scott, said in a staff memo on Tuesday.

On Sunday, documentary filmmaker Brent Renaud, another veteran of covering war zones, died when Russian forces opened fire on his vehicle in Irpin, also outside of Kyiv.

The death of three journalists in a short span underscores the dangers faced by people chronicling the war in Ukraine, even those with extensive experience reporting from conflict zones. The dangers for journalists seem to be increasing by the day.

China tests rocket engine for future space lab launches

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has launched a high-thrust oxyhydrogen rocket engine in preparation for the upcoming launches of space station lab modules, its maker said on Wednesday.

The engine that completed a 520-second test has been designed for the core stage of the Long March-5 carrier rocket series to be used to launch two lab modules of China's orbiting Tiangong space station this year, Xinhua news agency reported. The rocket engine developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation will undergo over 20 more experimental tasks to further test its performance, the company said.

'Pak 9/11 mastermind could be spared death'

PTI ■ NEW YORK

US prosecutors have started negotiating a plea deal with Pakistani terrorist and 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and four others currently lodged in the Guantánamo Bay detention camp, a move which could result in the commutation of their death sentence to life imprisonment, according to a media report.

The New York Times' report said the plea deal would undoubtedly disappoint, if not enrage, death-penalty advocates among the victims' family members.

The unprecedented terror attack on September 11, 2001



destroyed the twin towers of the iconic World Trade Center (WTC) in New York, killing nearly 3,000 people, including many Indians.

The report said other family members, including those troubled by the role of the US torture in the case and the delays, might see it as a fitting conclusion.

महात्मा गांधी चित्रकूट ग्रामोदय विश्वविद्यालय
चित्रकूट सतना, (म.प्र.)
नैक द्वारा 'A' ग्रेड प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय

अभिरुचि आमंत्रण

विश्वविद्यालय के दूरवर्ती एवं सतत् शिक्षा केन्द्र द्वारा संचालित पाठ्यक्रमों के लिये अध्ययन सामग्री को चार चतुर्थांश स्वरूप में तैयार किया जाना है। जिसके लिये तकनीकी अर्हता रखने वाली फर्मों से अभिरुचि प्रस्ताव mptenders.gov.in के माध्यम से आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं, जिस पर इस संबंध में विस्तृत शर्तें एवं जानकारी उपलब्ध है। पोर्टल पर प्रस्ताव दिनांक 30.04.2022 समय 5.00 PM तक स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। इस संबंध में कोई भी संशोधन या विस्तारण केवल पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होगा एवं इसकी सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं की जायेगी।

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APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 19.04.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 39,53,370/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLRHN00238791, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 09.03.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 10.03.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from KAPIL BAJAJ, SHAMMA BAJAJ and PARVEEN.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 22,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,20,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 32180585427 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0009995), having its branch at CAG Branch, Mumbai (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)
FLAT NO- 606, SIXTH FLOOR, LIBERATE TOWER, OMAXE NORTH AVENUE, VILLAGE SANKHOL & BAHADURGARH, SECTOR-15, DISTT. JHAJJHAR, BAHADURGARH, HARYANA-124510

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.auctionfocus.in.
Date : 12.03.2022
Place : JHAJJHAR

Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Amid diplomacy, Russian forces try to crush Ukraine defences

AP ■ KYIV

Russia's military forces blasted Ukraine's capital region and other major cities Wednesday as they tried to crush a Ukrainian defence that has frustrated their progress nearly three weeks after invading. With Russia's ground advance on Kyiv stalled despite the sustained bombardment, a glimmer of optimism emerged that talks between the two sides could make progress. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said negotiations would continue and Russia's demands for ending the war were becoming "more realistic."

Russia rained shells on areas around Kyiv and within the city, where a building erupted in flames after being hit by shrap-

nel. Zelenskyy said Russian forces had been unable to move deeper into Ukrainian territory but had continued their heavy shelling of cities. British and U.S. Intelligence assessments supported the Ukrainian leader's view of the fighting.

"Efforts are still needed, patience is needed," he said in his nightly video address to the nation. "Any war ends with an agreement." A senior US defence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon's assessment, said the Russians were using long-range fire to hit civilian targets inside Kyiv with increasing frequency but that their ground forces were making little to no progress around the country. The official said Russian troops were still about 15 kilometers (9 miles)

from the center of the capital.

Zelenskyy was preparing to make a direct appeal for more help Wednesday in a rare speech by a foreign leader to the US Congress. Meanwhile, defence ministers from NATO member nations planned to meet in Brussels on Wednesday.

Developments on the diplomatic front and on the ground occurred as the number of people fleeing Ukraine amid Europe's heaviest fighting since World War II passed 3 million.

The artillery shrapnel that hit the 12-story apartment building in central Kyiv on Wednesday obliterated the top floor and ignited a fire that sent plumes of smoke over the area, according to a statement and images released by the Kyiv emergencies agency.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
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पत्रांक- 1096 / निविदा-01 / 2021 ति 16 / 03 / 2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E- Tendering)
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 23/03/2022 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee In Lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1.	Provincial Divisig, PWD Ranikhet Construction of Kaihergoan Jagoi Shiv Mandir to Krishi Vigyan Kendra Motor Road with Bridge in Sult Constituency of District Almora Under CM Ghosana 53/2021 (Length 2.00 Km Motor Bridge Span 84 Meter)	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	₹ 20.00 Lakh	60 Days	18 Months	Category "A" & above (Road & Bridge Works)
2.	Construction Division PWD Almora C/O 30M. Span Steel Girder Bridle Bridge near Rasiyara Village Over Mansa River in Someshwar Constituency	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	₹ 4.40 Lakh	120 Days	15 Months	Category "B" & above (Road & Bridge Works)
3.	Construction Division PWD Almora C/O 36M. Span Steel Girder Bridle Bridge Over Sai River in Village Dalmori near Dwarahat Someshwar Motor Road in Someshwar Constituency under C.M.Ghosna 149/2020	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	₹ 6.95 Lakh	60 Days	18 Months	Class A & Higher in Bridge work.
4.	Construction Division PWD Kapot C/O 42M. Span Steel Girder Bridle Bridge Over Ghumti Khaale River in Village Ghumti and Namti Chetabagar in Kapot Constituency distt- Bageshwar Under State Sector.	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	₹ 3.32 Lakh	120 Days	15 Months	Category "B" & above (Bridge Works)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/ Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	S 0000462	SATYA DEV DUGGAL (Deceased Shareholder) SANDEEP DUGGAL (Claimant)	4088	1252971	1253020	50
			4089	1253021	1253070	50
			77513	3583807	3583839	33
			143448	5788970	5789019	50
			143449	5789020	5789035	16
2	SRF0023588	ZORAWAR INDER SINGH KALRA	884798	8304510	8304529	20
			884798	14510630	14510654	25
			884798	16857044	16857063	20
			884798	16857064	16857068	5
			884798	16857069	16857070	2
			884798	24876836	24876855	20
			884798	24876856	24876860	5
			884798	24876861	24876862	2
			21386	1902051	1902100	50
			124822	5244900	5244924	25
3	K 0001662	KAMLA SETH	317615	16058423	16058472	50
			317616	16058473	16058482	10
			317617	16058483	16058484	2
			317618	16058485	16058486	2
			466615	24078215	24078264	50
			466616	24078265	24078274	10
			466617	24078275	24078276	2
			466618	24078277	24078278	2
			90023284	6735810	6735849	40
			90023285	6735850	6735861	12
4	D 0001945	DHANPAT RAI ARORA (Deceased Shareholder) VIJAY KUMAR ARORA (Claimant)	49119	2678801	2678825	25
			60024	2897425	2897435	11
5	A 0002714	ANJALI NAGPAUL	102073	4275927	4275944	18
			301436	15713049	15713098	50
			301437	15713099	15713108	10
			301438	15713109	15713110	2
			301439	15713111	15713112	2
			450436	23732841	23732890	50
			450437	23732891	23732900	10
			450438	23732901	23732902	2
			450439	23732903	23732904	2
			90150614	10389330	10389379	50
			90254420	2596951	2596960	10
			90254420	6145930	6145969	40
			90254421	2596961	2596975	15
			90254421	4094674	4094685	12
6	SRF0137290	ASHOK PAREEK	669619	49369937	49369986	50
			669620	49369987	49370036	50

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/ objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for **SRF LIMITED**
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary

Place : Gurugram
Date : 16-03-2022

Every block to have one FPO: Kailash Choudhary

New Delhi: Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary has said every block in the country will have one Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) and around 4,000 FPOs have already been set up.The minister was speaking at a FICCI seminar held late Tuesday on "Jaago Kisan Jaago" awareness programme to celebrate the World Consumer Rights Day. The government has approved and launched a scheme of 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' till 2027-28 with a total budgetary outlay of Rs 6,865 crore.

According to a statement issued by FICCI, Choudhary emphasised on the need to connect farming with new technology.

He said farmers need better seeds, lower cost of production, storage facilities and market access.

Choudhary highlighted various steps taken by the government for the growth of agriculture sector like increase in the ministry's budget, neem-coated urea, nano fertiliser and the launch of e-NAM portal, among others.

Further, he said 10,000 FPOs are being formed countrywide to aid farmer groups

"Farmers need better seeds, lower cost of production, storage facilities and market access"

jointly undertake several post-production activities.

"4,000 FPOs are already set up," he said adding "every block will have one FPO."

Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs & Culture, said weather and market access are two vital areas that need special attention of every stakeholder.

R G Agarwal, Chair of the FICCI Committee on Crop Protection and Chairman, Dhanuka Group, said the biggest challenge before the country is rising population and reducing land availability for farming.

"We need precision agriculture today," he said and stressed on the need for sensitising farmers to new technology and innovation. "Farmers need knowledge more than subsidy today," Agarwal added.

Agarwal also spoke about the increasing importance of pesticides and other plant protection equipment in farming and the need for genuine bio-stimulants. He alluded to sev-

eral spurious bio-stimulants in the country harming farmers.

Talking about the need for plant protection, P K Chakrabarty, Member, ASRB, Ministry of Agriculture and Former ADG (PP), ICAR, said 20-40 per cent of production is lost due to improper or no plant protection.

He said this amounts to Rs 90,000 to Rs 100,000 crore in value terms. "If we avoid this loss, we will save an amount almost equal to our agriculture budget," he said.

Chakrabarty also stated that India is the fifth largest seed market globally on the back of 49 crop research institutes of ICAR, 45 all-India coordinated projects, 77 state agriculture universities and a robust partnership with the private sector.

A K Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), DARE - Indian Council of Agricultural Research, underscored various tech-led initiatives that the government has taken in reaching out to farmers.

He said that more than five crore farmers are registered on the mKisan portal and they receive regular updates, and Kisan call centres address 20,000 calls every day. **PTI**

Gadkari launches India's 1st green hydrogen fuel-cell EV Toyota Mirai

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday launched India's first green hydrogen-based advanced fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV), Toyota Mirai, and said this is the first-of-its-kind project in India that aims to create an ecosystem for such vehicles in the country.

Speaking at the event, Gadkari said FCEV, powered by hydrogen, is one of the best zero-emission solutions.

It is completely environment-friendly with no tailpipe emissions other than water, the road transport and highways minister said.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor claimed that Toyota Mirai is powered by a hydrogen fuel cell battery pack and capable of providing a range up to 650 km in a single charge, with a refuelling time of five minutes.

In Japanese, the word 'Mirai' means 'future'.

Gadkari said green hydrogen can be generated from renewable energy and abundantly available biomass.

He noted that the introduction and adoption of technology to tap into the green hydrogen's potential will play a key role in securing a clean and affordable energy future for India.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), along with the International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT), is conducting a pilot project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced FCEV Toyota Mirai, which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Power Minister R K Singh and Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey were also present at the event. Gadkari had previously said he will also start using the Toyota Mirai. The company said Toyota Mirai was launched in 2014 and was one of the world's first hydrogen fuel electric vehicles."Now, we are proud to introduce the second generation, with a 30 per cent increase in range, better handling and sharper styling," Toyota said. **PTI**

Sensex soars 1,040 pts, Nifty nears 17k as bulls regain footing

Mumbai: Equity indices roared back to life on Wednesday after a day's pause on across-the-board buying, in tandem with a sharp rebound in world stocks amid hopes of a breakthrough in Russia-Ukraine talks.

A strong recovery in the rupee added to the momentum, while investors also awaited the US Federal Reserve's policy announcement later in the day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 1,039.80 points or 1.86 per cent to finish at 56,816.65. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 312.35 points or 1.87 per cent to 16,975.35.

Ultratech Cement was the top performer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.69 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance.

Only two counters closed in the red -- Sun Pharma and PowerGrid, dipping up to 0.35 per cent.

Global equities clambered up after Ukraine said there is possible room for compromise in talks with Russia, even as the Russian forces intensified its bombardment of Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia's demands were becom-



ing more realistic. Both the countries are likely to hold talks again on Wednesday.

"Ease in FII selling and crude prices is adding strength to the domestic trend. Positive global cues and strong bounce back by the Chinese market in anticipation of stimulus supported the trend.

"The world equity market has stabilized factoring in a 25 bps hike by US Fed, an in-line policy outlook, will be a relief to the market and we may see a drop in volatility," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, markets will first react to the US Fed meeting outcome in early trade on Thursday.

"We recommend booking some profits on the rise, citing

immediate hurdles around the 17,150 zone and focusing on identifying opportunities in sectors that are trading in sync with the benchmark," he noted.

All BSE sectoral indices notched up gains, led by realty (3.66 per cent), metal (2.56 per cent), basic materials (2.55 per cent), consumer durables (2.13 per cent) and auto (2.09 per cent).

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices spurred as much as 1.80 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong and Shanghai closed with healthy gains. Chinese markets stabilised after Beijing signalled support for US-listed Chinese stocks.Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading significantly higher in mid-session deals. **PTI**

Gold declines ₹216; silver up by ₹200 Rupee spurts by 41 paise to close at nearly 2-week high

New Delhi: Gold prices slipped by Rs 216 to Rs 51,279 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday on the back of a decline in the precious metal's prices overseas and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 51,495 per 10 grams.In contrast, silver jumped Rs 200 to Rs 67,827 per kg from Rs 67,627 per kg in the previous trade.In the international market, gold traded 0.18 per cent lower at USD 1,914 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 24.80 per ounce.

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Spot gold prices for 24 carat gold at Delhi fell by Rs 216 with decline in global gold prices along with rupee appreciation."

The rupee spurted by 41 paise to close at a nearly two-week high of Rs 76.21 against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking positive domestic equities and Asian currencies ahead of the US Federal Reserve's decision on interest rate hike."Gold prices continue to tumble on US FED speculation over rate hike with inflation at 40 year high," he said. **PTI**

Mumbai: The rupee spurted by 41 paise to close at a nearly two-week high against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking positive domestic equities and Asian currencies ahead of the US Federal Reserve's decision on interest rate hike.

FII inflows into capital markets and crude oil prices retreating to USD 99 per barrel level boosted the rupee sentiment, forex traders said. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 76.40 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 76.19 and a low of 76.44.

The rupee settled at 76.21, registering a rise of 41 paise over its previous close of 76.62.

"Rupee appreciated against US dollar taking cues from stronger Asian currencies and risk-on moods. Forex markets are little tepid ahead of Wednesday's Fed decision while US 10-year bond yields retraced after touching 2.20 per cent, the highest level since 2019," said Dilip Parmar,

Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. The US Federal Reserve likely to raise rates by 25bps, as well as penciling further such hikes this year amid higher inflation. Spot USDINR could find support in the range of 76 to 75.70, while resistance is around 76.70, Parmar added.

"The Indian rupee appreciated against the US Dollar in line with gains in the Asian currencies and equities ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy statement," said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

The US dollar traded marginally weaker in Asian trade as risk appetite improved after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said peace talks with Ukraine were not easy but there was hope for a compromise.

According to Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd, the Indian rupee has been able to nudge higher

largely in line with the optimism seen in markets and renewed inflows in domestic equities.

"Sentiments have improved amid hopes that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is likely to be resolved through diplomatic negotiations. Another key factor favouring the recent bout of appreciation in the domestic currency is the sharp retreat in crude oil prices from multi-year highs," Sachdeva said.

Crude prices have given up most of the geopolitical risk premium to drift lower even below the USD 100 per barrel mark, as the tensions have eased.

Markets are now looking forward to headlines around the US Fed's first interest rate hike in three years and the guidance on future tightening. Besides, cues from the resurgence of COVID cases in China will steer the rupee-dollar exchange rate, Sachdeva said.

"Rupee traded strong as relatively less outflow from

FII's and weak crude prices below USD 99 helped the rupee trade stronger towards 76.30 compared to 76.55," said Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

The undertone of the US Fed's statement will be keenly watched. Any hawkish stance shall add pressure on rupee and 76.75 will be tested again, whereas any dovish comments shall support rupee towards 76.00, Trivedi said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.38 per cent to 98.72.

Crude oil for the Indian basket fell sharply by around 12 per cent to USD 112 per barrel as the benchmark Brent crude traded at USD 100.24 per barrel, up by 0.33 per cent.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 1,039.80 points or 1.86 per cent higher at 56,816.65, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 312.35 points or 1.87 per cent to 16,975.35. **PTI**

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मेरी मुवकिलता विषया परती की प्रमाण कुमार निवासी DDA Flat Q-487, विसहाद गार्डन, CNG पम्प, दिल्ली 110095, के द्वारा जेन साभागर को सूचित किया जाता है की उपरोक्त DDA Flat, जिसकी मेरी मुवकिलता कानूनी समुक्त रूप मे पूर्ण मालिकाना हक रखती है। जो की मेरी मुवकिलता के प्रति समुक्त कुमार द्वारा उपरोक्त समुक्ति को अवैध रूप से बेचना चाहता है यदि कोई व्यक्ति इस समुक्ति का क्रय विक्रय मेरी मुवकिलता की अनुमतीबिना मे करता है तो वह इस अवैधिक नुकसान का स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा और किसी भी कारणसे रूप से मेरे से जुड़ाव न होवे।

सुदेश कुमार जेठवा (अवैधकेत)

सुनिम कोर्ट

मो 9310274512

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client ASHOK KUMAR S/O SHRI DWAN CHAND R/O JANTA FLAT NO. 44, GROUND FLOOR, SECTOR-15, BLOCK-F, POCKET-19, ROHINI, DELHI Allottee of JANTA FLAT NO. 44, GROUND FLOOR, SECTOR-15, BLOCK-F, POCKET-19, ROHINI, DELHI. The Original Demand Cum Allotment Letter has been **Lost/misplaced**. An F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station Crime Branch Delhi. Vide F.I.R.No. 221936/2022 Dated: 15.03.2022 Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write contact with above address/Mobile no. 9871870555 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person(s) claiming any right, interest, objection within respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Janta)(H) DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW

Ministry of Finance
(Department of Consumer Affairs)
6001 University Road
Near Namdas Seta Mandir Lucknow-226007
(Lucknow District Court, Lucknow, India)
S.A. No. 220/2017

NOTICE

Between: Sanjeev Kumar Singh Vs. Applicant Respondents:

F Punjab National Bank & Others

To: (1) Sh. Rajaj Hi-Tech Construction Pvt. Ltd., A-55, 56, Shop No. LG-5, Lower Ground floor, 6001 University Road, Near Namdas Seta Mandir, Lucknow-226007
Gall No. 17, Madhu Vihar, New Delhi-11009
Whereas the above said case has been made on Application under section 17 (1) of the SARFESI Act, 2002, copy of S.A. is herewith enclosed.

Take notice that you are hereby required to appear before Presiding Officer of this Tribunal on 25th day of April 2022 at 10.30 A.M. in the forenoon in person or by a pleader/Advocate to show cause, why the said S.A. should not be allowed failing which the said S.A. will be heard and determined by the Tribunal on the 7th day of March 2022. Enclosed: As above

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that the Managing Committee of the Chhokra CGHS Ltd. Plot no. 8 Sec-23, Dwarka New Delhi-77 had resolved to send the name of Sh Sandeep Dass M.S. No. 342 to Registrar of Cooperative Societies for clearance of his membership and allotment of flat to him. Any person having objection to the same may submit his objections to the MC within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of the Notice failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection to the recommendation of his name.

PRESIDENT/SECRETARY
Plot No. 8, Sector-23, Dwarka, New Delhi-77

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clientess Smt. Chhaya Basak wife of Sh. Nil Kamal Basak resident and the absolute owner of Flat No. 15003, Tower No. 18 Block Durian Managun Mywoods, Plot No. GH 04, Sector C Greater Noida West G.B. Nagar (U.P.) has severed all relationships with her daughter Smt. Shilpi Basak @ Mitthu due to her offensive behaviour and ill temperament. She has declared/dismown her daughter from the said property. Anybody dealing with Ship Basak will do so at her/his/their own risk and responsibilities and my clientess will not be responsible for any acts and deeds or dealing with Smt. Shilpi Basak.

Subhash Chandra Chakrabarty (Advocate)
Flat No. C-2041, Windsor Paradise II, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad 201017

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205

E-Tender Enq. No. 355/P-1/EMP-W-11908 Dated 10.03.2022
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Ropnagar invites E-Tender ID No 2022_POWER_82818_1 for Providing and laying 20 mm thick open graded Premix Carpet including tack coat with seal coat on roads of Nuhoon Colony at GGSSTP, Ropar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 15.03.2022 05.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/690/2021/12777 **RTP-05/22**

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205

E-Tender Eng. No. 356/P-1/EMP-W-11917 Dated 11.03.2022.
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Ropnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022_POWER_82690_1 for Collection & Preparation of Coal and Biomass pellets, Collection of Ash, Gas, Oil, Pollution Monitoring Samples and other Miscellaneous Works of D.M. Plant at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 15.03.2022/ 05.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/688/2021/12759 **RTP-03/22**

347 FDI proposals received from countries sharing land border with India; 66 approved

New Delhi: As many as 347 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals, worth about Rs 75,951 crore, have been received by the government from countries sharing land border with India since April 18, 2020, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. Out of 347, 66 proposals have so far been granted approval by the government and 193 cases have been rejected or closed or withdrawn, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

"Since 18th April, 2020, 347 FDI proposals have been received by the government from countries sharing land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country..The value of investments proposed in the aforementioned proposals received by the government is approximately Rs 75,951 crore," he said.

In April 2020, the government had made its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments from countries that share land border with India to curb opportunistic takeovers of domestic firms following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Countries which share land border with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and

Afghanistan. As per that decision, FDI proposals from these countries need government approval for investments in India in any sector.

The 66 approved proposals are from sectors including automobile (7), chemicals (5), computer software and hardware (3), pharma (4), education (1), electronics (8), food processing (2), information and broadcasting (1), machine tools (1), petroleum and natural gas (1), power (1), services sector (11).

The total value of investments of these 66 proposals aggregated to Rs 13,624.88 crore.

In another reply, Parkash said a decision has been taken to develop a platform for data exchange among all modes of operators.

Accordingly, Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) has been designed by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd (NICDC), under the guidance of NITI Aayog.

"So far, the platform has been integrated with 24 systems of six ministries including Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Directorate General Foreign Trade and Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) through 78 application programming interface (APIs)," he added. **PTI**



Women toss flower petals on each other during celebrations of the Holi festival, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday

PTI

BBB recommends Alok Choudhary for SBI Managing Director post

New Delhi: The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) on Wednesday recommended the name of Alok Kumar Choudhary for the post of managing director of State Bank of India.

The headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institution also recommended A Manimekhalai, Ajay Kumar Srivastava and Swaroop Kumar Saha for MD position of Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank, respectively.

The Bureau interviewed 21 candidates and based on their performance selected Alok Kumar Choudhary for the position of managing director of SBI, BBB said in a statement.

Choudhary, who is deputy managing director (Finance), will replace Ashwini Bhatia who has been appointed a whole time member of Sebi.

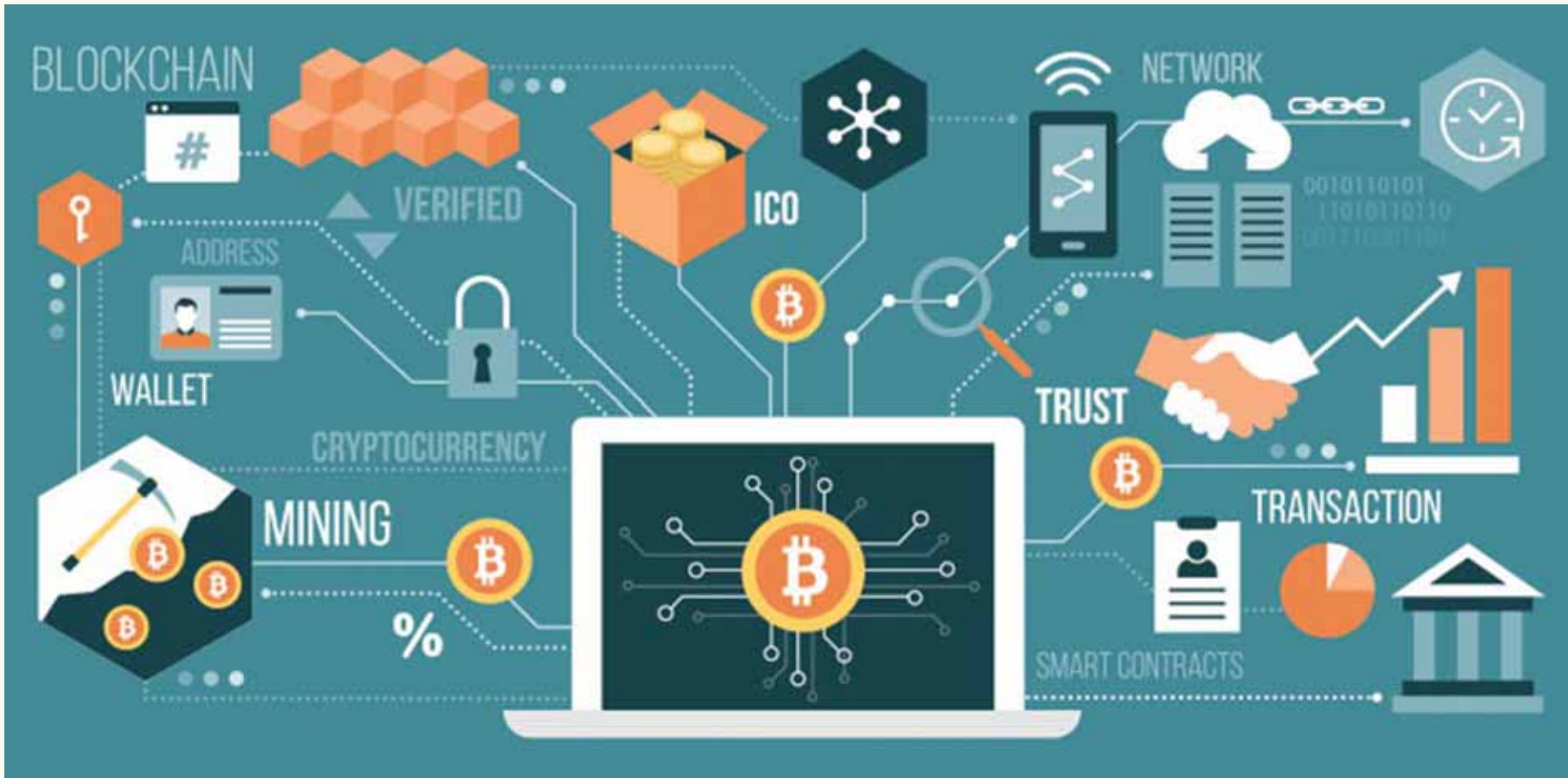
Prior to this, he was chief general manager of Delhi region for three years.

The final decision on the appointment will be taken by

the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

BBB is headed by former Department of Personnel and Training Secretary B P Sharma.

The Prime Minister, in 2016, approved the constitution of BBB as a body of eminent professionals and officials to make recommendations for appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs). **PTI**



The expedited advancements in digital technology have generated new security concerns regarding data privacy. Data security can be done by the implementation of strong and authenticated cryptographic key protection mechanisms. At present, corporations and governments are increasingly relying on Blockchain for the aforementioned concerns.

Blockchain, using cryptology has enabled many features that have contributed to ensuring data privacy. Moreover, the ease of managing data by storing them in blocks and connecting them by chains; prohibiting tampering has led to its increased adaptation in the startup ecosystem.

How blockchain contributes towards ensuring data privacy

In recent times, blockchain has been at the forefront in ensuring data privacy. The system of blocks and chains to store data makes it extremely difficult for the hacker to tamper. Majorly due to security, Blockchain has been increasingly adopted by corporations around the world; both—incumbent and upcoming. As 81 of the world's top 100 public corporations have employed blockchain technology for effi-

Streamline startup needs

Ease of managing data by storing them in blocks and connecting them by chains; prohibiting tampering has led to its increased adaptation in the startup ecosystem, says NISHANT BEHL

cient functioning and service mechanisms. It is anticipated to reach a market size of \$67.4 billion at a CAGR of 68.4 per cent between 2021-26.

Validation and encryption

The most famous data-leak saga of Facebook (Meta), had raised a mammoth amount of security concerns. However, Blockchain efficiently addresses such concerns. It is encrypted due to the structure of data constituting inherent secure qualities. Which contributes to efficient and proper validation. Smart contracts can be used with this technology to assure the happening of a particular validation whenever any specific criteria are fulfilled.

Safe & resistant

With the potential to secure important data, the blockchain prevents fraud and illicit fraud. It ensures an end-to-end secured network that

cannot be altered; making it difficult to hack. It encodes data and limits the access to handle privacy issues so that nobody can read or change stored data. Hence, data immutability is one of the basic features of this technology which offers a whole new set of security.

Traceability

A paper trail verification is done by blockchain at each stage of an asset's excursion. This enables easy verification of products in areas that are affected by fraud and forgery. It permits authentic data exchange with customers. The traceability of data can also disclose any type of flaw in the workings of the organisation or procedures.

Blockchain is one of the significant headways of the 21st century. It is forecasted that the world would be spending \$11.7 billion on blockchain solutions and revenue capacity of the global blockchain



Nishant Behl
Founder, Expand My Business

technology market to reach \$20 billion by 2024. Additionally, it is the startups that have effectively introduced and led to the adaptation of the tech among the masses.

Blockchain streamlining necessities for startups

Blockchain has humon-

gous potential in the tech advanced world. This potential is being leveraged by startups in providing effective services to consumers. Moreover, last year, blockchain-based startups raised \$4.4 billion in funding which is bound to grow exponentially in the coming period due to these key parameters.

Improves security

The decentralised structure used in blockchain technology has proven to be of great value. The high level of security provided through a distributed ledger system is convenient in setting up a safe and secure data web. This makes meddling and tampering with the data stored impossible. Financial startups such as Wazirx, CoinDCX, Bitpay etc. are using blockchain to ensure secure transactions.

Increases speed and efficiency

The business-related conventional and heavy paper-

based works can be streamlined and automated with the help of blockchain, and transactions can be done speedily and more efficiently. A single digital ledger is responsible for keeping the records and sharing them with other parties. Thus, clearing and settlement can be done at once. For instance, Amazon Web services - AWS.

Enhances transparency

Blockchain technology has offered more transparency in businesses.

All the network participants share the same documentation because of the decentralised structure of the technology. The property of public verifiability enhances transparency and accuracy in the delivery process among all the stakeholders. The supply chain of Walmart is based on the blockchain to ensure transparent service delivery and Amazon in retail operations.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

Cesar Chavez

UG AND PG IN FASHION STUDIES

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London offers undergraduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management. The Institute offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education and strives to groom the next generation of designers and design thinkers at its state-of-the-art campus in New Delhi.

Website: www.iiad.edu.in

Admissions Process:

IIAD Entrance Test

Last date to apply: April 2, 2022

Exam Date: April 9 and 10, 2022 (Online), April 9, 2022 (Offline)

FULL TIME MBA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow is delighted to be able to offer a number of MBA Scholarships for September 2022.

Scholarships will be awarded on a monthly rolling basis from the end of April 2022 and the final date for consideration will be 31 August 2022, so early application is advised.

The Scholarships of between £7-15,000 will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate in their Scholarship application, MBA programme application and interview, excellent academic performance; significant professional/managerial/leadership experience and career development and who will contribute to the overall academic, cultural and experiential profile of the programme cohort.

Number of scholarships:



Up to 20

Subject: Accounting and finance, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Human resource management, Marketing, Business, Strategy and organisation, Hospitality and tourism, Management, Management science

Value: Between £7,000 and £15,000 dependent on experience.

Help with: Tuition fees

Deadline: August 31, 2022

Eligibility: MBA

Scholarship and programme applications are invited from exceptional candidates who are prepared to act as ambassadors for the Strathclyde FT MBA.

Who can demonstrate through their ideas outlined in their application and interview how they would contribute to bring the class together through teamwork to create community, from the outset, in order to achieve the ultimate learning (and social) experience for the group as a whole.

Leadership/management skills or potential, overall quality of the application and financial need will also be considered.

UG COURSES AT AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY

The Augustana University of Sioux Falls (South Dakota), ranked in Top 10 in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report 2022 and second in the Nation for Post-Graduate Employment by Zippia.com (recruitment firm), has announced scholarships up to USD 25,000 per year for undergraduates programmes commencing fall 2022 across a wide range of programmes on offer at the university.

Homegrown apps to elevate your life View to the future

Here are a few tech-backed startups which are charging ahead in their niche, ventures which are worth noticing for not just what they do but also for the promises they hold in bettering life for the collective

Indian startups aren't rare occurrences anymore. Thus, a venture or two popping up in the startup ecosystem don't intrigue us much unless they are worth the watch. Along with the rest of the world we see many Indian startups unfolding in the wave of digital transformation we're experiencing pre, during and post-pandemic. From networking and gaming to education, nutrition, finance and medicine, we're seeing digital startup platforms offering convenient smart solutions like never before.

Here we've put together a few tech-backed startups which are charging ahead in their niche; ventures which are worth noticing for not just what they do but also for the promises they hold in bettering life for the collective.

KOPPR APP

Koppr is all about helping young adults attain financial freedom. A platform that provides personalised financial service and sound advice, Koppr is an expert-led community where users are given guidance so as to enable them to make smart financial decisions. Koppr especially centres around tailoring personalised solutions to financial woes faced by millennials and young adults in the country. With a mission to help young adults gain financial independence for realising their dreams and ambitions, Koppr



also understands the prevalence of unique financial issues as per an individual and thus provides unique offerings based on requirement.

Koppr strives to offer comprehensive solutions all along a young adult's financial journey. Koppr provides expert insight and guidance on a range of financial matters faced by millennials and empower them to borrow, invest, spend and protect their finances in the smartest way possible.

TUMMOC APP

The first ever made-in-India transit app, Tummoc provides real-time, data-driven multi-

modal public transportation information for a hassle-free commute. With a vision to enhance desirability and accessibility of public transportation, Tummoc houses an all-in-one transit solution. Integrating both private and public MaaS (Mobility as a Service) under its roof, the app provides various actionable information for public transportation such as timing, availability, contactless adaptable ticketing options, first and last-mile information, etc., all the while providing employment opportunities for last-mile partners.

Tummoc comes as a right fit for a place like India with its extensive and intricate public

transport network which are priced reasonably well but not the most desirable in terms of convenience and accessibility. Tummoc aims to bring a shift in the way people access public transit by becoming a pioneer in enabling smart commuting in the country. It also encourages stakeholders in gearing towards a greener transportation by implementing carbon emission tracking and driving tree-planting among other initiatives.

PHYTHEALTH APP

PhytHealth is India's foremost AI technology-driven digital physiotherapy. A digital tele-rehabilitation platform, PhytHealth helps in pain management, stabilisation, strengthening, providing proper treatment at every stage of recovery—all at the comfort of your home. PhytHealth addresses an extensive range of ailments right from prevention to various chronic pain management and post-surgical recovery. Digital physiotherapy offers treatment plans for all musculoskeletal and muscular issues, which are not only clinically proven solutions but also designed for optimum convenience which patients can access via their smartphones.

PhytHealth applies computer technology to engage patients with the right physio care including proper Musculoskeletal

Medicine (MSK) and effective therapy practices. It also helps in maintaining ergonomic postures along with providing assistance in assessing and modifying routine activities to prevent pain aggravation.

BRANCH APP

A personal finance startup, Branch offers AI-enabled customization of financial service and is already among the top lenders around the globe. What sets this financial platform apart from the crowd is the simplicity and swiftness in providing loans. Branch has done away with the chivvies and hassles found in traditional financial institutes where borrowers usually find themselves being drowned in long drawn loan processes. At Branch, borrowers can obtain loans in as little as under two hours. The application process is a matter of seconds but that's not all. The best thing about this AI-backed platform is that borrowers don't have to stress about collaterals and credit scores which are often checkpoints that a lot of people fail to cross in a traditional lending scene.

With machine learning, Branch uses an algorithmic approach to ascertain credit worthiness of an applicant. And customers won't have to step an inch out of their comfy shack because all the loan processes are done over their smartphones.

The world we live in is full of contradictions and challenges. It has its blessings and its boons.

The modern world has significant advancements in technology, medicine and transport. But we are surrounded by excess everywhere – our population is exploding, there is overabundance of visual mélange, things are over-designed and overused, extra focus is on the excess, while the affluence is ostentatious, simultaneously there is overconsumption of our spaces; to add to this, we have a habit of obsessively hoarding clothing and possessions and are indeed crumbling under all that clutter.

India needs a lifestyle and architecture diet: We need to hold back in order to navigate through these unusual times. We need to become more resilient and more authentic in order to not get swayed by every fad that comes along. It is a good moment to look at what has stood the test of time.

Rationalised decision making: As contemporary Indian architects, we are deliberately designing spaces with sensory deprivation, as we feel that if we are able to provide that in our chaotic urban context, we have built a haven for our clients, a breather for the dwellers, a visual oasis for the city.

This modern and minimal architecture approach gives maximum power to the spatial quality of space making. It rejects decoration and promotes rationalized decision making, making architecture long-lasting and versatile. And therefore, it is hard to do. It may be unfathomable but to be restrained is tougher to practice than it seems. Simple rules apply in space making as they apply in living one's life. To get rid of the excess and focus on the

essential. It is hard to choose. It doesn't mean sacrificing things, but truly prioritizing them.

Conscious living: This focus makes us purposeful as we garner what is truly important to us, in Japanese organizing consultant Marie Kondo's terms—what sparks joy and what doesn't.

Yes, in Japan, you do have professional tidying experts because less is still more! Simple and clear. Less cluttered is more freedom.

Being minimal and simple is a state of mind, a way of living that add more meaning to one's life—a true luxury, in today's world of distractions and complexity.

On every project, we attempt to bring this notion of conscious living into architecture and design. We prioritise the 'essence' of space making and focus on light, volume, ventilation and materials. We choreograph a conversation between these tools to create meaningful relationships within the space, to reveal the innate character of architecture.

Contextualising is perhaps the most important element of design. It dictates how one treats the space. From climate to site, design decisions are made in tandem with these vital elements to create purity in architecture.

One practices restraint. There is a certain austerity and ascetic quality in this approach. It requires courage and has almost become a luxury. Luxury is conscious living. Luxury is the ultimate privacy. Luxury is collectibles—that tell a story. Luxury is originality. Luxury is about creating experiences.

If we want to live in the modern world, we must take the luxury of being able to live simply.

The writer is Mridu Sahai, Partner at Studio Archohm

Collection inspired by various facets of life

PNS ■ NOIDA

Fashion & Women are the heart and soul of our society and International Women's Day is the moment and occasion to celebrate women. To show and extend their support, Satyam Fashion Institute's graduating students designed their collection inspired by various facets of life and the roles that women play. Women

love to dress well and exhibit their personal style through clothes. The collection was versatile and comfortable yet stylish, keeping in mind the working women of today.

Marking the celebration of International Women's Day & dedicating the true spirit of womanhood TRIP-TYCH 2022 was a gala evening of 15 shows by the very talented students of Satyam Fashion Institute

(SFI). Their collection was creative, stylish, and fashionable. The students are all set to conquer the world of fashion with their 15 different themes drawing their inspiration from nature and the environment. The collection was designed using natural fabrics like cotton, linen, and silk, making the fashion industry more sustainable. The students graduating from Fashion Design, Textile Design and Post

Graduate Diploma in Fashion Design together put on a great show. The show was recently held at Satyam Fashion Institute; sector 62 Noida was choreographed by Rachna Sikka.

It provided a platform to showcase the attire designed by the graduating batch from scratch under the supervision of show organisers Dr Vandana Jaglan, Principal, and Dr Neetu Malhotra, HOD SFI.

IIT Kanpur successfully concludes ed-tech hackathon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the recently held ed-tech Hackathon 2022, under the banner name TIDE 2.0 organized by Startup Incubation & Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur, MK Yadav, the founder of AI testified won the first prize for best innovators in India under the technology segment.

Tide 2.0, which is supported by the Government of India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology provides financial and technical

support to students, innovators, and startups with an idea across healthcare, deep tech, IoT, AI/ML, and other similar domains. AI Testified, a startup incubated at IIT Kanpur is a unique platform that blends Artificial Intelligence into the school education system and UPSC exam preparation. Being India's pioneering AI-driven test platform, it is highly beneficial in understanding and overcoming weak areas among the school-going students, UPSC aspirants, and those preparing for various

competitive examinations. Recently the leading tech platform has also signed various MoUs namely with the Delhi Government & Delhi Police pertaining to the capacity building and service training. "AI Testified is not only beneficial for school-going kids but also helps to create a continuum of support for education after school, for various entrance examinations, competitive exams and capacity building exams conducted at Corporate and Government levels. AEKA (name of the assess-

ment engine) considers various parameters to identify the weakness of the students and generates customized tests for each student in an endeavor to convert the areas of improvements to areas of strength," says MK Yadav, CMD, AI Testified.

Various amendments have been made in the education sector, and some of them being new changes, AI Testified has assumed more importance, which will help in better learning and analytical applications of concepts.

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Atletico Madrid drove the final nail in the coffin of a miserable season for Manchester United as Renan Lodi's header sent the Spanish champions into the Champions League quarter-finals with a 1-0 win at Old Trafford to progress 2-1 on aggregate.

The Brazilian full-back headed in unmarked at the back post four minutes before half-time to end United's last chance of silverware this season as their drought without a trophy since 2017 goes on.

United now face an uphill task just to get back into the Champions League next season as an under-performing squad filled with star names sits fifth in the Premier League.

Atletico's own struggles to break into La Liga's top four this season have shown up their limitations.

But the experience of Diego Simeone's men in the Champions League knockouts shone through as they comfortably saw the game out to reach the last eight for the sixth time in the last nine seasons.

Cristiano Ronaldo had consistently been the scourge of Atletico in the Champions League, twice landing the ultimate blow in final defeats to Real Madrid and scoring a hat-trick for Juventus to overturn a 2-0 first leg deficit at this stage three years ago.

However, Simeone's men finally got one over on the 37-year-old as he failed to have any meaningful impact on the tie.

Anthony Elanga came off the bench to salvage a 1-1 draw for United in the Spanish capital three weeks ago and the



Man United knocked OUT

Atletico Madrid beat Red Devils 1-0 at Old Trafford to win 2-1 on aggregate & reach Champions League quarterfinals

Swedish teenager was unlucky not to put the hosts ahead in the tie on 13 minutes.

Diogo Dalot's low cross picked out Elanga and his goal-bound effort rebounded off Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak's head to safety.

Atletico had been penned inside their own half for the opening 15 minutes, but posed a threat every time they man-

aged to string a few passes together on the counter-attack.

Rodrigo De Paul's long-range effort forced David de Gea into a stunning save at full stretch.

Joao Felix had scored five times in his previous five games, including Atletico's goal in the first leg, finally starting to deliver on his 120 million euro price tag.

The Portuguese had the ball in the net again at the end of a slick Atletico move that cut through a leaden-footed United defence, but Marcos Llorente was flagged offside from Koke's pass before he squared for Felix to apply the finishing touch. United did not learn their lesson as they were again easily opened up down their left for the decisive goal.

The home fans were still screaming for a foul on Elanga in the Atletico half when the visitors fed the ball forward to Felix, whose backheel found Antoine Griezmann and his cross picked out the unmarked Lodi to head home.

Atletico resorted to the tried and tested tactics of Simeone's reign in the second half as they were happy to sit on

Benfica stun Ajax with Nunez goal

AP ■ AMSTERDAM

Darwin Nunez headed home in the 77th minute as Benfica stunned Ajax to reach the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday, winning the second leg of their last-16 tie 1-0 in Amsterdam to advance 3-2 on aggregate.

The Portuguese side had not managed a single attempt on target until Uruguayan striker Nunez beat goalkeeper Andre Onana to Alex Grimaldo's free-kick and headed in to silence the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Ajax, who had dominated the first half, could not recover from that blow and go out while two-time European Cup winners Benfica look forward to Friday's draw for the quarter-finals.

Having sent Barcelona packing in the group stage, they will now appear in the last eight for the first time since 2016.

The Dutch side's star striker, Sebastian Haller, had been hoping to score in an eighth consecutive Champions League game this season having netted a remarkable 11 goals in his first seven appearances in the competition.

Yet he was upstaged by the 22-year-old Nunez as

Benfica's own prolific forward found the target for the 26th time in all competitions since the start of the campaign.

A swashbuckling Ajax side had won all six games in the group stage before twice leading against Benfica in the first leg in Lisbon only to have to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Haller, who has 32 goals in total this season, had scored at both ends in that game and he had the ball in the net in the seventh minute here only for the effort to be ruled out because Dusan Tadic was flagged offside in the build-up.

Erik ten Hag's prolific side, who are top of the Dutch Eredivisie, looked at their best in the first half but could not find a way through as Steven Berghuis blasted over on the volley from just inside the box.

Ryan Gravenberch then unleashed a superb shot that was tipped over by Benfica goalkeeper Odiseas Vlachodimos, and they did not look as threatening in the second half.

Instead they found themselves behind for the first time in the tie as Nunez struck, and a Benfica team who lie third in the Portuguese league, 12 points behind leaders Porto, held on to join the cream of Europe's elite in the last eight.



their lead and were not unduly troubled by a United side lacking in ideas.

Ralf Rangnick made the brave call to withdraw Bruno Fernandes 23 minutes from time as he emptied his bench in search of an equaliser with

Paul Pogba and Edinson Cavani among those thrown on.

But set-pieces were the hosts' only source of danger as Oblak produced a superb save to deny Raphael Varane before getting back off the floor to trap

Ronaldo's acrobatic follow-up effort.

Those proved to be United's final efforts on target as the visitors held firm, allowing Simeone to sprint down the touchline in celebration at full-time.



Chennai chosen to host 44th Chess Olympiad

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Legendary Viswanathan Anand says it's a proud moment for Chennai and the chess fraternity in the country as the capital city of Tamil Nadu has been chosen to host the Chess Olympiad, later this year.

The 44th Olympiad, which was supposed to take place in Moscow, was shifted out of Russia in the aftermath of its invasion of neighbouring Ukraine on February 24.

The prestigious event is tentatively scheduled to be held between July 26 and August 8.

State Chief Minister M K Stalin himself announced the news on Twitter late on Tuesday night after Chennai was awarded the right to host the prestigious event for the first time ever.

"Thank you sir for making Chennai all about chess ! A proud moment for all of Indian and Chennai chess community. Chennai Chess ... always has a nice ring to it. The efforts

of @aicfchess and @FIDE_chess in working together so swiftly is to be commended," Anand wrote, reacting to Stalin's tweet.

"Delighted that the Chess Capital of India is set to host the 44th Chess Olympiad! A proud moment for Tamil Nadu! Chennai warmly welcomes all the Kings and Queens from around the world! #ChessOlympiad2022," Stalin wrote.

World chess federation FIDE tweeted, "Chennai is home to legendary @vishy64theking, and it hosted the 2013 World Championship Match, where Magnus Carlsen was first crowned World Champion, defeating Vishy Anand."

The former world champion reacted to that too, writing, "Like we say Vanakkam Chennai !!!"

Anand had also sent a letter to the FIDE in which he said that it was a sense of personal pride to see the country being a host to one of the top events in the calendar.

China replace North Korea in FIFA women's U-17 WC in India

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

China will feature in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in India from October 11 to 30 as it was named on Wednesday as replacement of North Korean team which has pulled out of the age-group showpiece.

The AFC's Women's Football Committee had on October 14 last year decided that in the case of withdrawals from the FIFA competitions, the next highest ranked team from the



respective qualification events would represent Asia accordingly.

"The AFC notes the inability of the DPR Korea Football Association's national age-group teams to compete in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 and FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022 respectively," the Asian Football Confederation said on Wednesday.

"China PR, who finished third in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Thailand 2019, will

join Japan and host India as the AFC's three representatives at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 scheduled to take place from October 11 to 30."

Australia, who finished fourth in AFC U-19 Women's Championship in 2019, will replace North Korea and join Japan and South Korea as Asia's three representatives at the 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Costa Rica, which will be held from August 10 to 28.



Man City would be good fit for Haaland: Sammer

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Borussia Dortmund advisor Matthias Sammer has spoken openly about the possibility of Erling Haaland moving to Manchester City amid reports Wednesday that a clause in the striker's contract would have to be actioned before April 30.

Haaland is contracted to Dortmund until 2024, but German daily Bild claimed Wednesday that Haaland could leave for 75 million euros (\$82 million) at the end of this season if the Norwegian triggers the release clause.

Sammer, a former player and coach at Dortmund, plays a key role in the club's hierarchy. Speaking as a TV pundit for Amazon Prime on Tuesday, he said Haaland would thrive under City's Spanish coach Pep Guardiola. "They will both benefit from each other, because Pep of course has certain ideas, which I was allowed to experience for three years," said Sammer, who has advised Dortmund since 2018.

Gurjant returns for Argentina tie

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Midfielder Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh is expected to make his senior debut after being included in the 22-member Indian men's hockey squad for the double-leg FIH Pro League tie against Argentina even as striker Gurjant Singh has also returned to the set-up from a brief injury lay-off.

The match against the world number six side will be played on March 19 and 20 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Rabichandra, who was part of the Indian junior men's squad at the FIH Junior World Cup, will be the lone new face in the squad announced by Hockey India on Wednesday.

In a few changes in the main squad, goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak has replaced Suraj Karkera while Amit Rohidas and Jugraj Singh have replaced Mandeep Mor and Dipsan Tirkey in the backline.

Mumbai City FC head to Abu Dhabi for ACL campaign

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC will travel to Abu Dhabi for a two-week training camp as part of preparations for their maiden AFC Champions League campaign.

"Mumbai City FC will set up base in Al Forsan, where the first team squad will prepare before the Islanders head to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for the group stage of the 2022 AFC Champions League, which is scheduled to begin from April 8," a media statement issued by the club said on Wednesday.

Before being crowned the ISL champions in the 2020/21 season, Mumbai City FC also finished at the top of the table and lifted the League Winners' Shield, thus becoming only the second Indian club to secure participation in



Asia's biggest club football competition. Drawn in group B in the

Al Jazira (UAE), Al Shabab (Saudi Arabia), and Air Force Club (Iraq).

Head coach Des Buckingham said that the Islanders now have time to acclimatize to the conditions.

"After a six-month season living in a bubble in the ISL, the players have had a small break in the past days. We now turn our attention to preparing as well as possible in Abu Dhabi, taking the positives from the league campaign and building on the learnings," said Buckingham.

"We have a very young squad here and the experiences gained, combined with a fresh mindset will help us focus on our next objective for our continental campaign ... For what's going to be an important experience and historical moment for the club," the head coach added.

Badosa, Swiatek reach Indian Wells last 8



AP ■ INDIAN WELLS

Spain's Paula Badosa kept her Indian Wells SWTA title defense on track on Tuesday, holding off determined Canadian Leylah Fernandez to reach the quarter-finals in the California desert.

Badosa, seeded fifth, saved five of the six break points she faced and kept last year's US Open runner-up under pressure -- converting three of her 12 break chances. "Today

was very tough," said Badosa, who lifted the trophy last October in a tournament moved from its usual March date because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Leylah is an amazing player, very fast and good timing. I knew I had to fight and serve very well. I think I did that the entire match."

World number four Iga Swiatek, the highest-ranked player remaining in the women's field, rallied from a set down for

a third straight match to book her quarter-final berth, beating crafty German veteran Angelique Kerber 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Swiatek, the 2020 French Open champion, is coming off a title in Doha last month, but the 20-year-old admitted it took her a while to figure out how to tackle Kerber - another former Grand Slam champion.

"Truth be told, I wasn't really sure what my tactics should be, if I should be more aggressive or play more patient game," she said. "But at the end I think I made the right decision in right time, in right moments of the match."

Swiatek next faces American Madison Keys, who beat British qualifier Harriet Dart 6-1, 6-4.

Former world number one Simona Halep of Romania, seeded 24th, swept into the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 26th-seeded compatriot Sorana Cirstea.

Halep, a two-time Grand Slam champion is in the quarters for the fifth time at Indian Wells, where she lifted the trophy in 2015.

Halep will play Petra Martic for a place in the semi-finals. Croatia's Martic beat Liudmila Samsonova 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

Sixth-seeded Maria Sakkari of Greece advanced with a victory over Australian qualifier Daria Saville, who was trailing 4-1 when she retired with a left thigh injury. Sakkari will play Elena Rybakina, who beat Viktorija Golubic 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

All Grand Slams to use 10-point tiebreaker in final set

AP ■ LONDON

All four Grand Slam tennis tournaments will now use a 10-point tiebreaker when matches reach 6-6 in the final set.

The Grand Slam Board announced the trial move, taking effect immediately, on behalf of the Australian, French and US Opens and Wimbledon on Wednesday.

"The Grand Slam Board's decision is based on a strong desire to create greater consistency in the rules of the game at the Grand Slams, and thus enhance the experience for the players and fans alike," it said.

The Australian Open already uses the 10-point tiebreaker. The French Open, which begins May 22, was the only major to not use a deciding tiebreaker. Wimbledon had employed a seven-point tiebreaker from 12-12, and the US Open used a seven-point tiebreaker from 6-6.

Djoker, Russian players expected to compete at French Open

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic will be allowed to play at the French Open even if he is not vaccinated against Covid-19 as long as the coronavirus situation in France remains stable, organisers said Wednesday.

Russian tennis players, including top-ranked Daniil Medvedev, will also be admitted to play in the tournament but as neutral athletes because of the war started by their country in neighboring Ukraine.

Organisers said there is nothing at the moment preventing Djokovic from defending his title at the clay-court Grand Slam. France this week lifted measures requiring the need to wear face masks in most settings and allowing people who aren't vaccinated back into restaurants, sports arenas and other venues.

"At this stage there is nothing to stop him returning to the courts," French Open director Amelie Mauresmo said at a news conference.

Djokovic was deported from Australia in January after a legal battle over whether he should be allowed to enter the country, forcing him to miss the Australian Open. He told the BBC last month that he was willing to miss upcoming Grand Slam tournaments as well if they required him to get vaccinated.

Djokovic has won the French Open twice and has a total of 20 major titles, one short of the record held by Rafael Nadal after the



Spaniard won this year's Australian Open.

French tennis federation president Gilles Moretton said that although Djokovic is now free to play, French authorities might be forced to introduce new restrictions if the virus situation deteriorates before the tournament starts on May 22.

"It is not up to us," Moretton said. "Today there is a little virus that is going around. We are quite confident that the lights are green, but we are all cautious about what has happened over the last two years."

INCONSISTENT INDIA LOSE TO ENGLAND

Defending champions beat Mithali's side by 4 wickets to register first win in the tournament



PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

An inconsistent India paid the price for a shoddy batting effort but England infused new life into their title defence with a four-wicket win in a league-stage game of the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Wednesday.

Inconsistency returned to haunt Indian batters as they were bundled out for 134 by England, who chased down the target in 31.2 overs to record

their first win in the tournament after a hat-trick of defeats.

India got some runs on the board, thanks to previous game's centurion Smriti Mandhana, who top-scored for the side with a 35-run knock while wicketkeeper batter Richa Ghosh made 33. With wickets falling intermittently, England bowled out India in 36.2 overs.

England also made a stuttering start to their chase as they lost both their openers -- Danni Wyatt (1) and

Tammy Beaumont (1) -- cheaply with the scoreboard reading four for two in the third over.

Wyatt was first to depart in the second over, courtesy a sensational diving catch by Sneha Rana off medium pacer Meghna Singh (3/26).

Veteran Jhulan Goswami, the highest wicket-taker in the history of the tournament, then trapped Beaumont in the second over after India went for the review. It was 250th wicket for the pacer in ODIs.

England skipper Heather Knight (53 not out) and Nat Sciver (45 off 46) then steadied England innings, playing cautiously to reach 34 for 2 in 10 overs. While Knight played a captain's knock by anchoring the chase, Sciver took the attack to the Indian bowlers, hitting as many as eight boundaries during her entertaining knock, in which she pulled off some pull shots.

With just 135 required for a win, what England needed was a decent

partnership after the early blows and Knight and Sciver provided that by sharing 65 runs for the third wicket.

Sciver's innings was cut short by Pooja Vastrakar. It was a soft dismissal and against the run of play as Sciver spooned a length ball to Goswami while looking to work the ball on the on-side.

Amy Jones (10) then stitched a 33-run stand for the next wicket with Knight before the former fell to a stunning backward running catch by India vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur at mid-on off Rajeshwari Gayakwad's bowling. By then it was all over for India by then as England needed just 32 more runs.

The Indians picked up two more wickets in the 30th over before England completed the formality.

Meghna dismissed Sophia Dunkley (17) and Katherine Brunt (0) within a span of three balls in identical fashion -- caught behind by wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh.

Earlier, in sharp contrast to India's performance against the West Indies in their last match when they rode on centuries from Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur to post 317 for 8, their highest total in the history of the showpiece event.

Charlie Dean (4/23) was the pick of the bowlers for England while Anya Shrubsole also chipped in with two wickets as the Indians failed to build partnerships.

Despite defeat India kept their third place in the eight-team standings. They have four points from two wins and as many losses. England have moved to sixth from seventh with two points from four matches.



Our top order hasn't fired, admit Mithali & Jhulan

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

India captain Mithali Raj and senior pacer Jhulan Goswami on Wednesday said top-order batters haven't been performing to the level that is expected of them but expressed hope that they would make amends soon in the ongoing ICC Women's World Cup. "We definitely didn't have partnership at the top of order, despite getting what we wanted after losing the toss. The thought of putting 200+, the match could have gone either ways," Raj said after the loss that came just after a massive win over the West Indies in the previous match in which Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur scored hundreds.

"Every game as a fielding

unit we are doing well and we hope to continue to do that. Batting is a concern but we'll try to address that in the next match, we are playing a team that hasn't lost to anyone," she added about the clash against mighty Australia next.

The view was echoed by Goswami in the post-match press conference.

"Honestly speaking, at this moment, yes our top order, the way we are thinking, they haven't fired but I am sure you will have to be positive about that, because they have done really well in the past," she said.

"...The way we have been thinking, they have not batted, but I am very much hopeful they are going to come back hard in the next game," Goswami added.

Bumrah breaks into top 5 in Test rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Fresh from his maiden Test five-wicket haul at home, Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah jumped six spots to fourth but struggling star batter Virat Kohli slipped to ninth in the latest ICC rankings released on Wednesday.

Bumrah, who returned with eight wickets in the Day/Night second Test against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru, climbed past Shaheen Afridi, Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee, James Anderson, Neil Wagner and Josh Hazlewood in the Test rankings for bowlers.

Former captain Kohli, who continued his struggle with the bat and could not convert his starts, dropped four places, but managed to remain inside the top-10 just ahead of Rishabh Pant who remained static at 10th.

Kohli scored 45 in the opening Test in Mohali, while in the



second Test he had scores of 23 and 13. India skipper Rohit Sharma, however, held on to his sixth position to be the best-placed Indian in the batting charts.

The in-form Shreyas Iyer was rewarded for his match-winning 92 and 67 against Sri Lanka as he took a giant leap, advancing 40 spots to be on 37th position in the batting chart.

Sri Lanka Test captain Dimuth Karunaratne jumped up to a career best No 3 after his fighting 107 in the second innings in Bangalore. In the all-rounders' table, Ravindra Jadeja was displaced from the No 1 position as West Indies' Jason Holder reclaimed the top spot.

In the bowlers' ranking, Mohammed Shami climbed up a spot to displace fellow countryman Ravindra Jadeja to 17th. Pat Cummins, Ashwin and Kagiso Rabada have retained the top three spots among the bowlers.

Babar, Rizwan tons save PAK in Karachi

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan captain Babar Azam hit a career-best 196 before the tailenders hung in to escape with a draw in the second Test against Australia on Wednesday.

Veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon grabbed three late wickets to finish with 4-112 but Pakistan vice captain Mohammad Rizwan thwarted Australia with an unbeaten 104 off 177 balls to guide Pakistan to 443-7 in a sensational last hour on the final day.

No 9 batter Nauman Ali successfully defended 18 balls without scoring and saw off the last eight overs with Rizwan after Pakistan had slipped to 414-7.

With 13 overs left in the game, Lyon made inroads into Pakistan's lower order when Babar gloved a catch close to the wicket after defying Australia with his knock off 425 balls over 10 hours.

Left-hander all-rounder Faheem Ashraf edged a low catch in the slip off Lyon's next delivery and Sajid Khan also offered a tame catch to Smith before Rizwan and Nauman batted patiently.



Debutant legspinner Mitchell Swepson (0-156) had provided Australia with another chance with 19 balls left in the game, but Usman Khawaja dropped a low catch off Rizwan at short extra cover.

Rizwan raised his deserved century by hitting Lyon for two boundaries on either side of the wicket in the penultimate over before running a single to reach the three-figure mark.

Babar's marathon effort, during which he hit 21 fours and a straight six, was the highest ever by any captain in the fourth innings of a test match and surpassed Michael Atherton's 185 not out against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1995. Babar shared two solid stands on the last day, adding 228 runs with Abdullah Shafique (96) and then, after losing Fawad Alam in the second session, batting with Rizwan to add further 115 runs.

It was a remarkable escape by Pakistan at the fortress of its Test venues - the National Stadium - when it was out for 148 in the first innings on the third day against the reverse swing of Mitchell Starc and conceded a massive 408-run lead.

Hardik bowls at NCA, passes Yo-Yo test

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Injury-ravaged India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has got the all clear to lead Gujarat Titans in the upcoming IPL after a general assessment at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru where he bowled and also passed the 'Yo-Yo' Test comfortably.

The BCCI is checking on all its centrally contracted players -- injured or otherwise -- before the IPL and Pandya's performance, during his two days at the NCA, can also be seen as a good sign for Indian cricket.

"Let's make it clear. Fitness test clearance is only for those who are coming back from injury. In case of Hardik, it was about getting a general fitness assessment going into the gruelling IPL season," a BCCI source said.

"He is an asset and one needed to check his current fitness standards," he added.

In fact, in his fitness assessment module, the NCA team didn't even mandate him to bowl but the all-rounder apparently "insisted" on it to show that he is on track to make a comeback into the Indian team.

"He didn't need to bowl at NCA but he has bowled for considerable time and in the range of 135 kmph. On the second day, he crossed the Yo-Yo test with flying

colours with a 17-plus score which is much above the cut-off level," the source said.

SHAW FAILS 'YO-YO' TEST

However, as per information received one player, who would be slightly disappointed with his current fitness status is out-of-favour opener Prithvi Shaw.

The former U-19 World Cup winning captain, who is not a part of the central contract was also at the NCA to provide an update on his fitness status and the result wasn't exactly satisfactory.

The current Yo-Yo test qualification score is 16.5 for men and it has been learnt that the Mumbai opener has scored less than 15.

"These are just fitness updates. Obviously, it doesn't stop Prithvi from playing for Delhi Capitals in IPL. It's just a fitness parameter and not the be all and end all," the source said.

"Look, he has played three Ranji matches back-to-back. Once you play three first-class games on the bounce, the fatigue can also affect your Yo-Yo score," he added.

PANT, AXAR JOIN DC

Skipper Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Axar Patel were among Delhi Capitals players who have joined the squad here ahead of the upcoming IPL season beginning on March 26.

"Pant, Axar Patel, KS Bharat, Prithvi Shaw, Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav assembled at the team hotel in Mumbai," a media statement issued by the franchise stated.

It said batter Prithvi Shaw, all-rounder Shardul Thakur and left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav "will undergo a mandatory 3-day quarantine before stepping out of their rooms."

Will be big achievement to interact with Ponting: Dhull

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's U-19 World Cup-winning captain Yash Dhull is excited at the prospect of interacting with Delhi Capitals head coach and former Australian captain Ricky Ponting in the upcoming IPL season, saying it would be a "big achievement" for him.

"This is my first time in the IPL and I am giving my 100 percent in everything that I am doing," Dhull, who was picked by Delhi Capitals for the upcoming IPL season, said.

"I am looking forward to interacting with Rishabh bhaiyya (Pant) and David Warner. I am also very excited to meet Ricky Ponting. He has been a great player and



a great human being. It will be a big achievement for me to interact with him," the 19-year-old Dhull said.

Meanwhile, Vicky Ostwal and Ashwin Hebbar made their first foray into the training camp of an IPL franchise in Mumbai.

Maharashtra's left-arm spinner Ostwal said he was keen to get tips from senior pro and India all-rounder Axar Patel.

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Excited to share the dressing room with Ravichandran Ashwin, young Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Riyan Parag said he wants to "pick the brains" of the ace Indian off-spinner in the upcoming IPL.

Ashwin has been one of the star additions to RR's squad as he was bought by the inaugural IPL champions for ₹5 crore after an aggressive bidding war with Delhi Capitals.

Playing his fourth season for the Royals, the 20-year-old Parag said he is eagerly looking forward to work with Ashwin.

"That will definitely be Ashwin... If not the best ever, he's like one of the best off-spinners

going around in the world," said Parag, a spin bowling all-rounder said.

"I'll definitely try to carry a red ball with me in the tournament so that I can get a few tips.

"But even with the white ball, I think if I can pick his brains on the varieties and all the mysteries. I think my white-ball bowling is going to be much better after the season," he added.

Jharkhand reach Ranji Trophy quarters

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Jharkhand sealed their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal berth here on Wednesday but not before making a mockery of their knock-out fixture against minnows Nagaland.

In pursuit of giving their young batters some "practice" for the quarterfinal which is slated about three months from now, the Saurabh Tiwary-led side ended up scoring a match aggregate of 1297 runs.

Jharkhand, who had batted first in the match, had already sealed their last-eight berth after taking a massive 591-run first innings lead but did not enforce a follow-on against the northeastern side, who were all out for 289 in their first innings. Resuming the fifth and final day on 132/2 in their second innings, with an overall lead of 723 runs, Jharkhand



called off the proceedings much to the delight of Nagaland bowlers midway into the second session. Just when their first innings double-century Kumar Kushagra got out for 89 (104 balls; 9x4, 3x6) in the third ball of the 91st over, both the teams shook hands.

Jharkhand made 417/6 in

their second essay, an overall lead of 1008 -- the highest in the history of First-Class cricket. The match witnessed three centuries and one double ton from Jharkhand batters and on the final day, overnight batter Anukul Roy followed up his first innings 59 with a brisk 159 (164b; 14x4, 7x6).

Riyan Parag wants to pick Ashwin's brains in IPL 2022



The all-rounder from Guwahati already has 30 IPL matches under his belt, and is ready to make the most of his fourth season in the league.

"I started my IPL journey at the Royals, and I'm delighted that I was bought back. I know there were four teams involved in the bidding and it was nice to see that because that means I've been doing something right,"

said Parag, who was bought back by RR for ₹3.80 crore.

"I think a lot of people will tell you this, the role that I play is the toughest one in T20 cricket, batting at 6 or 7, finishing off games. "I know I haven't produced as many performances as I would have liked, but I think now I understand myself much better as a player and understand what my strengths are.