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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MARCH 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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SUNRISERS  
TO FACE  
RR IN IPL  
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# MLAs exchange blows in Bengal Assembly

Demand for discussion on Birbhum carnage stirs row, 5 BJP MLAs suspended for ruckus

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

War of words degenerated into fistcuffs inside the Bengal Assembly with the Trinamool Congress and BJP legislators on Monday exchanging blows over the Birbhum burning and mass murder case that left eight people dead last week. Another woman who sustained 65 per cent burn succumbed to her injuries on Monday morning taking the official toll of the dead to nine. A number of MLAs from both sides reported injuries in the scuffle in the Assembly. But TMC legislator Asit Majumdar had to be hospitalised with broken nose allegedly given to him by Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari.

The incident started when Adhikari demanded discussion over the Rampurhat violence and Speaker Biman Benerjee turned the request. Soon slogan-shouting BJP MLAs assembled near the Speaker's chair demanding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's statement in the House. The treasury bench too jumped into the mele.



Even as the two sides jostled — with the marshalls trying to separate them — blows started raining and Majumdar, an MLA from Hooghly district, suffered a blow on his nose. His spectacles broke and he was rushed to hospital and was admitted to the woodburn ward of the state-of-the-art SSKM Hospital.

"Being a senior man, I was requesting the two sides to calm down when Adhikari hit me and broke my glass and nose," Majumdar told the media with his nose bleeding. However, Adhikari who

along with other senior leaders took out a massive rally of the BJP supports in North Kolkata said he was only trying to pacify to the two sides and had in fact escorted his party men out of the House.

He alleged "the Government pushed in policemen in civil dress and made them manhandle us ... Had I not taken my MLAs out we would have been badly injured considering the past record of the TMC leaders and their party men."

BJP MLA Manoj Tigga later complained that he had

been beaten up by the TMC MLAs who tore his dress.

Later, the Speaker suspended Adhikari and four other BJP MLAs, including Manoj Tigga, Shankar Ghosh, Narahari Mahato, and Dipak Mahato for "misconduct".

"This is unprecedented in history of Bengal ... the Assembly is a place for decent exchange of views ... even heated exchanges often take place ... but this indecent conduct has denigrated the prestige and dignity of the House," the Speaker said.

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## Guv meets Shah, discusses situation

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday met Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi and discussed a host of issues regarding the political situation in Bengal. Sources said the Rampurhat mass murder case came up during the discussion.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Saumitra Khan on Monday demanded slapping of Article 355 in the State in view of the deteriorating law and order situation.

# Punjab parties oppose Central rules for Chandigarh admin staff

## Central Govt trying to snatch Punjab's rights on UT: AAP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Central Civil Service Rules will be implemented for all employees under Chandigarh Administration from April 1, the move has sparked massive criticism from Punjab leaders.

Leading the charge, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday declared that the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Government will fight strongly for its "rightful claim over Chandigarh".

Accusing the BJP-led Central Government of trying to usurp Punjab's rights over Chandigarh by announcing to impose the Central Service Rules over UT employees, State's Finance Minister and

senior AAP leader Harpal Singh Cheema alleged that the Centre is deliberately taking steps to take away Punjab's claims over its Capital, Chandigarh.

At the same time, the Shiromani Akali Dal, which had already opposed the move a day before as a "violation of the spirit of Punjab Reorganisation Act", on Monday requested Mann to call an all-party meeting to approach the Centre to stop its efforts to make Chandigarh a permanent UT.

Shah, during his Chandigarh visit on Sunday, had announced that the UT Administration's employees will now come under the Central Civil Services rules. Currently, Chandigarh employees are working under the Punjab Service Rules.

Though the decision is expected to bring big gains to the UT employees, like enhancement in their retirement age, and two-year child-

care leave for women employees, among others, the move has turned into a major controversy in Punjab with the political leaders, cutting across party lines, lashing out at the BJP-led Central Government for the dictatorial and anti-Punjab decision to take over Punjab's claims over Chandigarh.

As Punjab has been staking a claim on Chandigarh as its capital, the move is being seen as an infringement on its rights and a violation of the 1966's Reorganisation Act.

"The Central Government has been step wise imposing officers and personnel from other States and services in the Chandigarh administration. This goes against the letter and spirit of the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966. Punjab will fight strongly for its rightful claim over Chandigarh...(sic)," Mann tweeted on Monday.

Continued on Page 2

# Trade unions' bandh hits States

Banking services affected, staff from other sectors too didn't report for work

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The joint forum of central trade unions on Monday said that bandh-like situation prevailed in at least eight States due to the nationwide strike against various policies of the BJP-led Central Government.

"There is a bandh-like situation in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Assam, Haryana and Jharkhand," the forum said in a statement.

Banking services were impacted partially as major left wing bank employees did not report for duty in support of the two-day nationwide general strike called by central trade unions. The strike will continue on Tuesday.

According to the forum, agitations were held in many industrial areas across States like Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Security workers in Sikkim went on



Activists of Left Trade Unions block railway tracks at Jadavpur Station in support of the two-day Bharat Bandh called to protest against the Centre's policies allegedly affecting farmers and workers, in Kolkata on Monday

PTI

strike. Besides, workers in industrial areas in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir also joined the strike, it added. The forum said that around 50,000 employees picketed Central

Government offices at 300 places in Tamil Nadu and that staff from the income tax department also joined the nationwide protest.

Apart from the ten central trade unions — INTUC,

AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPE, UTUC — the joint forum also includes independent sectoral federations and workers' associations.

Continued on Page 2

# Society fees leave high-rise residents high & dry

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of residents living in high-rise apartments across Delhi and NCR have claimed they are being fleeced by realtors and caretakers of societies in the name of maintenance cost.

"Earlier, I was paying a rent of ₹7,000 in Delhi but after investing my life's savings here, I am paying ₹4,000 as maintenance charges, including fixed meter, diesel generator and inflated bill for electricity usage every month. As I have to pay a whopping ₹22,000 per month as EMI for my flat, I am left with nothing. And I was better off in my rented accommodation," said Ekansh Desaur, a resident of Stellar One society in Noida Extension.

Hardship faced by Ekansh is just the tip of the iceberg as residents of almost all the skyscrapers have similar problems to narrate.

The Pioneer visited many of the societies to speak with



residents to know their agonies. The daily has learned that a large number of residents are suffering in silence, bearing the harassment mooted to them by builders.

"The main compulsion is

that even after buying flats in these societies, residents have to run from pillar to post to get everything done," said Ekansh.

Another resident of the Amrapali Princely Estate, Noida Sector 76, Keshav

Dudani, said, "Maintenance of three bedroom-hall flat is around ₹2,100 per month but if you fail to pay this on the due date, the maintenance department starts knocking on your doors, pestering you with calls and might even threaten you. They say they will cut the electricity of your flat. They even charge late fee on per day basis. This is sheer harassment and should be stopped."

He said service of the society is very bad. "If there is any problem of water or electricity in the flat, we have to call the maintenance department again and again, but they show up according to their convenience.

Sometimes we have to manage our time according to the maintenance department as they tell us we can only visit at this time or your work will be done afterwards," he said.

A resident of Gardenia Glory, Noida sector 46, who did not wish to be named, said they live in a three bedroom-hall flat

and their maintenance amount of the flat is ₹4,100 per month. The facilities provided by the society are disgrace, as guards of the society are old and lazy. And according to the need of residents, there is shortage in housekeeping staff. If we call the maintenance department for any work like plumbing, etc, they make us wait for hours, sometimes for days and after that they try to make extra money by lying about the work and telling that this thing is not working. I will get you a new one it will cost this much extra which you have to pay.

"Stray dogs have made our life miserable in society. One cannot walk freely as the stray dogs have bitten many kids and adults in the society while they were just walking in the evening. No guard or maintenance staff does anything about the problem after so many complaints from the residents. The builders are acting like mafias," she said.

Continued on Page 2

# Oscar's 'Will moment': Smith slaps Chris Rock for joking about wife

Los Angeles: In a wild, viral moment, so improbable many thought it had to be scripted, Hollywood star Will Smith rushed up to the Oscar stage and slapped Chris Rock after the comedian cracked a joke about his wife Jada Pinkett-Smith.

Minutes later, the 53-year-old actor bagged the best actor Oscar for his role in "King Richard", making him the cynosure of attention good and bad at the 94th Academy Awards.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) distanced itself from the incident, likely to go down as amongst the most infamous in the Oscar's 94-year history, saying it does not support "violence of any form".

Rock, whose first reaction was to come up with another wisecrack, declined to press charges against Smith, according to a statement by the Los



Angeles Police Department.

"Wow. Will Smith just smacked the s\*\*t out of me," Rock, who was on stage to announce the best documentary feature award, said as millions watched the action live on their screens. In his emotional acceptance speech after winning the best actor trophy,

Smith referenced the incident and apologised to the Academy for what transpired earlier. However, he didn't name Rock or apologise to him.

"I want to apologise to the Academy. I want to apologise to all my fellow nominees," he said tearfully.

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## CAPSULE

### MUSLIM MAN KILLED FOR CELEBRATING BJP'S WIN

Gorakhpur: A 25-year-old Muslim man died after being beaten up allegedly by his neighbours in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district for participating in the BJP's election campaign and celebrating its victory in the recently-held State polls, police said on Sunday.

### NEPAL PM TO BE ON 3-DAY MAIDEN VISIT TO INDIA

Kathmandu: Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba would travel to India on Friday on a maiden three-day visit during which he would hold talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and other senior leaders to further strengthen the multifaceted, age-old, and cordial ties between the two countries.

### MILITANTS HURL GRENADE AT FORCES' CAMP IN J&K

Srinagar: Militants on Monday lobbed a grenade at a security forces' camp in Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir but there was no damage, officials said here.

### SC: RESPOND TO PIL ON HINDUS AS MINORITIES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday granted four weeks to the Centre to respond to a plea, which has sought directions for framing of guidelines for identification of minorities at the state level, contending that Hindus are in minority in 10 States.





# India to see high-profile visits

Amid Ukraine crisis  
UK Foreign Secy,  
Russian Foreign Min  
to come to New Delhi

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

As war is continuing in Ukraine, India will see a series of high-profile visits in the next few days starting with British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss and then Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov. It will be the first visit by a senior Russian minister to New Delhi since war began in late February.

India, so far, has abstained from voting against Russia in the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the issue. Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has tested positive for corona days ahead of a scheduled visit to India to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. His scheduled visit is from April three to

five. Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will also arrive here on April one for a three-day tour to hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visiting dignitary will also visit Varanasi.

The two leaders will review the current status of their long standing historical ties and explore ways to further enhance co-operation in the fields of power generation, connectivity, people to people contact and trade. The British Foreign Secretary will visit India on Thursday and is likely to discuss the ramifications of the Ukraine conflict with her Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.

Announcing the visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said Truss will hold consultations with Jaishankar on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Last few weeks have seen a flurry of visits to India of several Western leaders, including the foreign ministers of Austria, Greece and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. The visit will also serve to further

deepen our partnership across various sectors such as trade and investment, science, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate cooperation, education and digital communications," the ministry said in a statement in reference to UK minister's visit.

She will also participate in the inaugural edition of the India-UK Strategic Futures Forum, a track 1.5 Dialogue between the two countries. The relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in May last year during the virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson.

In the summit, the two sides adopted a 10-year roadmap to expand ties in the key areas of trade and economy, defence and security, climate change and people-to-people connections, among others. This will be the second visit of the UK Foreign Secretary to India since the virtual summit. Her visit will also provide an opportunity to assess the progress on the 'Roadmap 2030'. Russian

Foreign Minister Lavrov will visit Delhi later this week, sources said. Lavrov is likely to focus on strategic issues resulting from the war, as well as specific discussions on purchasing Russian oil, payment mechanisms and sanctions against Russian banks with Jaishankar.

The two sides are also likely to review any possible impact on the unhindered supply of weapons systems. They include the ₹50,000 crore S-400 missile system and production of AK-203 assault rifles in India. This deal is worth over Rs 7,000 crores.

The government indicated in Parliament last week that it is considering offers of discounted Russian oil and a special inter-ministerial group headed by the Finance Ministry is looking into the payments issues for Indian importers and exporters that arise from war and Western sanctions. Mexican Foreign Minister Ebrard will be in Delhi mid-week as well, while Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz will arrive ahead of Israel Prime Minister Benet's visit next Sunday.

## Delhi Cong prez criticises CM over fewer CCTV cameras in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar on Monday slammed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over installation of CCTV cameras in national Capital. Kumar alleged that CM is 'fooling' people with 'blatant lies' on various matters without batting an eyelid. "The another lie of CM Kejriwal was uncovered in Delhi Assembly, when Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, said that only 275000 CCTV cameras have been installed in Capital until, disproving Kejriwal's claim made earlier," he said. Kumar said that irony was that Health Minister Satyendar Jain contradicted claims of both Kejriwal and Sisodia when he said in January 2022 that only 133278 CCTV cameras were installed, which was "exact number" of CCTV cameras placed in Delhi.

## Release ₹1,500 crore by March 29 for construction of stalled Amrapali projects, SC directs banks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Bank of Baroda-led consortium of seven banks to effectuate disbursement of Rs 1,500 crore by Tuesday for the construction of stalled real estate projects of Amrapali Group. A bench of Justices UU Lalit and Bela M Trivedi noted that six banks -- Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Punjab and Sindh Bank and UCO bank -- have granted in-principle approval for disbursement of funds, while Indian Bank is expected to do so Monday evening. "We, therefore, direct all banks of consortium to effectuate funds disbursement by tomorrow, so that NBCC can put amount in use by March 31," the bench said. The National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) has been entrusted by top court with completing stalled projects of Amrapali Group.

## 2 minors raped in 2 days in Bengal dists

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Leaving ample indication of deteriorating law and order situation days after Rampurhat burning and mass murder case that left 9 people dead, different districts of Bengal has witnessed two rapes of minor girls in two consecutive days.

While the first incident took place on Sunday in Basirhat sub-division of North 24 Parganas where an 11-year-old girl was gang-raped by several persons in the second incident a 16-year-old victim at Chandipur in English Bazar Police Station of Malda district was raped by an alleged local Trinamool Congress leader on Monday. The brothers of accused in Malda work with the State police department and allegedly helped him flee spot, sources said.

The condition of the first victim is quite serious and she has been rushed to Kolkata.

## MLAs...

From Page 1

Attacking the Opposition leaders, he said, "They do not disturb the Prime Minister during his speech in Parliament ... but they have made it point to create ruckus inside this House every day ... Today things reached extreme ... The way they attacked women guards is very unfortunate. It would have been better had the incident not occurred... I have asked the secretary to take stock of material destruction." Calling Speaker's action of suspending Opposition MLAs undemocratic Adhikari said, "We will bring this issue up before Governor who is also custodian of House ... we have been suspended undemocratically though our MLAs were beaten up by TMC men ... if Speaker does not give us justice we will move High Court." In evening, the BJP took out a long procession in north-central Kolkata protesting "goonda raj" perpetrated by TMC regime in both districts and inside Assembly. Adhikari said his party would launch a Nabanna (State secretariat) march in April.



From left to right: Miss Universe Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu, Ritu Arora, chairperson, HWWA, Shikha Shrivastava, vice-chairperson, HWWA, Tuhina Sinha, regional head, VLCC, Mamta Rawat, vice-chairperson, HWWA at a welfare outreach event of ITBP's wives association for motivating martyrs widows during the paramilitary's Raising Day at Greater Noida

PNS photo

## Residents in high-rise...

From Page 1

Yogendra Singh Rathore, a resident of Gaur Sportswood, Noida Sector 79, said, "I shifted from Delhi to Noida hoping to live in a peaceful environment but after purchasing the flat, we have to pay maintenance of around Rs 6,100 per month. It feels like 'Apne hi ghar mein rent par reh rahe hai'. There are around 800-900 flats in the society and the minimum maintenance charge is Rs 6,100. There is no transparency in spending these funds for development or providing basic amenities."

Talking about suffering after taking possession in Supertech Eco Village 2, Noida Extension, Suresh Kumar said he is still struggling to get basic facilities done in the apartment.

"I have requested the builder many times to fix the seepage problem in the flat but even after several reminders, things remain unchanged. We cannot even use the washroom as water spilled in the bedroom attached to it due to the wrong slope.

They (builders) have attached maintenance charges with prepaid electric meters to force residents to pay the charges. The authorities need to intervene to lift us from such a pathetic condition," he said.

## Criminal Identification Bill allows convicts' bio samples

From Page 1

Opposition members tried to rake up the issue of the alleged involvement of Mishra's son in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence last October in which eight men, including four farmers, were killed during a protest against farm laws.

Mishra's son Ashish was arrested in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case and was released on bail later.

As Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury made certain remarks against Mishra, the Minister dared the Opposition leader to prove the allegations made by him.

"I would like to tell Adhir that I filed my nomination for the Lok Sabha in 2019. If there is even one case against me, if I have been to jail even for a minute, I will quit from politics," Mishra said.

The Opposition leaders had been demanding Mishra's removal from the Council of Ministers but it has now taken a back seat with the BJP's thumping victory in the UP Assembly polls this month.

The Minister, who was lying low for months has now, tabled the Bill in the House.

Mishra said the Bill will grant legal sanction to take body measurements and make investigation of crime more efficient and expeditious. He said the Law Commission too

had suggested changes to the law in 1980, but the recommendations were not acted upon for 42 years.

Opposition members Manish Tewari (Congress), Adhir (Congress), Saugata Roy (TMC) and NK Premachandran (RSP) forced a vote on the introduction of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill. The move was defeated as 120 members voted in favour of introduction of the Bill, while 58 members were against it.

Some members also said Union Home Minister Amit Shah should have been in the Lok Sabha to provide detailed information about the Bill.

The Bill seeks to enlarge the scope of the "measurements" that can be taken under the law as it will help in unique identification of a person involved in crime and help investigating agencies in solving criminal cases.

As per the old law only hand and footprints can be taken but now with this Bill biological features like iris and retina scan and other could also be taken by the police.

Tewari said the move to introduce the Bill was in derogation of both Article 20, Sub-Article 3 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India and, therefore, beyond the legislative competence of this House.

He said Article 20, Sub-Article 3 explicitly states that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself. Tewari feared that the words "biological samples and their analysis" mentioned in the Bill could lead to narco analysis and brain mapping. He said the implied use of force to take measurements violates the rights of prisoners.

## CTU's bandh...

From Page 1

The forum said that more than 20 crore workers from across the country came out to protest on Monday. It also claimed that many employees in banks and insurance companies did not report at their work places while those engaged in coal, steel, postal, oil, copper, telecom sectors also participated in the strike.

Electricity department workers went on strike in all the States, including Maharashtra where the Government had invoked ESMA, it said. Kerala State unions began strike from midnight of March 28 itself. Employees of railways and defence departments are reported to have organised demonstrations at more than one thousand places across the country, the statement added.

Transactions at many public sector banks were impacted as employees did not report for duty. Besides, there were delays in cheque clearances and Government treasury operations were also affected by the strike.

However, there was hardly any impact on the functioning of new-generation private sector banks and foreign banks. Even operations of the country's largest lender State Bank of India were by and large normal, according to the reports from

various regions.

Most of SBI employees and officers are not affiliated to unions that have given a call for the protest. The impact of the strike is prominent in eastern India as many branches of public sector banks were closed. All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBE) General Secretary C H Venkatachalam claimed. In the other regions, branches are open as officers are present but services have been impacted due to many employees participating in the strike, he said, adding that clearing operations were also affected because branches could not send the cheques for clearance.

Bank unions are protesting against the Government move to privatise two public sector banks as announced in Budget for 2021-22. They are also demanding an increase in interest rate on deposits and reduction in service charges. Besides AIBE, Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) and All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) are also part of the two-day strike call given by the joint forum of central trade unions and various sectoral independent trade unions to protest against Government's "anti-people economic policies and anti-worker" labour policies.

## Oscar's 'Will moment': Smith...

From Page 1

Smith also said he hoped the Academy will "invite" him back. The volatile exchange began innocuously enough. Rock, 57, decided to land a joke on Pinkett-Smith before announcing the best documentary feature winner. He said Pinkett-Smith could star in "G.I. Jane 2". Pinkett-Smith, who was seen rolling her eyes at the joke, currently sports a bald look due to alopecia, an autoimmune disorder. Actor Demi Moore had famously shaved her head when she starred in 1997 action-drama "G.I. Jane".

Smith, who was initially seen laughing at the joke, suddenly walked up to the stage and slapped Rock, a moment that evoked laughter in the immediate from some audience members who probably thought it was all part of the script.

After going back to his seat, Smith shouted at Rock, saying, "Keep my wife's name out of your f\*\*king mouth!" Seated behind Smith was "Black Panther" star Lupita Nyong'o, who was captured on camera looking on in disbelief. Rock then said, "Wow dude. It was a 'G.I. Jane' joke." He also said, "That was the greatest night in the history of television." Smith was later "pulled aside" and spoken to by veteran star Denzel Washington and actor-filmmaker Tyler Perry during the

commercial break that followed, according to reports in sections of the American media. Rapper Diddy, who appeared next to introduce the segment on the 50th-anniversary celebration of "The Godfather", addressed the situation. "Will and Chris, we're going to solve that like a family. Right now we're moving on with love. Everybody make some noise," he said.

After that, Smith was announced as winner of the best actor trophy for playing Richard Williams, the father of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, in "King Richard". Reflecting on the 'Slagpate' incident that is now viral on social media platforms, the Hollywood star said "love will make you do crazy things". "Art imitates life."

I look like the crazy father just like they said about Richard Williams. But love will make you do crazy things," the actor said by way of explaining his anger. Smith then shared what Washington told him after the incident. "I'm being called on in my life to love people and to protect people and to be a river to my people... You got to be able to take abuse,

you got to be able to have people talk crazy about you. In this business, you got to be able to have people disrespecting you and you got to smile and you got to pretend like that's okay.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client DR RENU BINDRA W/O DR RAVI PARKASH, R/o Flat No 611, SARGODHA VIHAR CGHS Ltd., PLOT-13, SECTOR-7, DWARKA, NEW DELHI, is owner of Flat No.611, SARGODHA VIHAR CGHS Ltd., PLOT-13, SECTOR-7, DWARKA, NEW DELHI and original SHARE CERTIFICATE of the said property has been lost or misplaced by her and not traceable An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged on online portal of Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No 213154/2022 Dated 12-03-2022) Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest having any objection or found in possession of original SHARE CERTIFICATE may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone 9879693961 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice thereafter the user/holder shall be responsible for the use of the same.

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### Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mr. Ashwani Kumar is owner of Entire Built-up property no. RZ-A-3/96 (plot no 22) Land area measuring 50 Sq. yds. i.e. 41.81 Sq. mtrs. Out of khasra no. 41. Situated in the revenue estate of village Nasipur, Delhi State Delhi. area abadi known as Colony Block A-3, Gali no. 3, Durga Park, New Delhi 110045 vide Reinquishment deed dated 02.03.2022, executed by 1. Mrs. Sapna D/o Late Sh. Ram Khilawan 2. Mrs. Mamta D/o Late Sh. Ram Khilawan 3. Ms. Anjali D/o Late Sh. Ram Khilawan and Now, Mr. Ashwani Kumar S/o Late Sh. Ram Khilawan is intending to sell the above said property/Floor to Mr. Ram Ekbal Kumar. Further Mr. Ram Ekbal Kumar is mortgaging the above said property/floor with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates) Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, CO-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).



### CHANGE OF NAME.

I, have changed my name from Jinu Raj to Mavilayil Jinu Raj for all future purposes Mavilayil Jinu Raj S/o M.J. Raju R/o C-81-A, Sector-15, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar UP 201301.

PD(9167)C

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA  
WORKS DEPARTMENT  
Tender call Notice  
E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com  
B-1068  
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle/25-2021/22 Memo No. - Dt. .  
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as detailed in the table below:  
1. Nature of Work : Building Work  
2. No of Work : 1 No  
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)  
4. Class of Contractor : Special Class and Super Class  
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt. 04.04.2022 to 05.00 PM of Dt. 18.04.2022  
6. Last Date of receipt of tender : Dt.18.04.2022 up to 5.00 PM  
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.19.04.2022 at 11.30 AM  
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in> . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
OIPR-34127/11/0033/2122  
Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha

SPECIAL BRANCH  
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL  
NO. SB/Store/2022-25 (93), Bhopal, Dated 15-03-2022  
"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"  
E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-  
S. No. Name of Item (s) Qty. Tender Fees (Rs.) EMD (Rs.) Tender No.  
Paid Online Through [mptenders.gov.in](https://mptenders.gov.in)  
1 Data Work Station Server 1 1,000/- 40,000/- 1st Tender  
2 SAN Switch for existing Technical Hardware 1 2,000/- 30,000/- 1st Tender  
3 Server Room Development equipment 1 3,000/- 1,50,000/- 1st Tender  
4 Analyzer Display Monitor 7 1,000/- 15,000/- 3rd Tender  
5 Boom Barrier 5 2,000/- 20,000/- 3rd Tender  
1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.  
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))  
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>  
4. Tender Schedule :  
No. Tender Activity Date & Time  
i Submission of written queries - through e-mail: [sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in](mailto:sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in) 07/04/2022 up to 1700 hrs.  
ii Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries 08/04/2022 at 1200 hrs.  
iii Bid Submission Start Date 18/04/2022 at 1000 hrs.  
iv Last date of online e-Tender submission 02/05/2022 up to 1700 hrs.  
v Bid will be opened on 04/05/2022 up to 1700 hrs.  
vi Demonstration from  
For Item No. 1 to 3 11/05/2022 at 1200 hrs.  
For Item No. 4 & 5 12/05/2022 at 1200 hrs.  
A.I.G. of Police  
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal  
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654  
G-24386/21 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

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Implementation of Ghar-Ghar Ration Yojana  
AAP: Stopped in Delhi but will implement in Punjab

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP-led Central Government kept trying to "impede" the implementation of the 'Ghar-Ghar Ration Yojna' in the national Capital, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday and announced that the scheme would be implemented in Punjab by the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP Government. Elaborating upon the issue, he said, "Under the 'Ghar-Ghar Ration Yojna' the Punjab Government will properly pack all your rations and deliver it to your doorstep with complete dignity.

The underprivileged section of the society will greatly benefit from the scheme. I am sure it will be implemented very soon now that it has been formally announced."

"Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has made a great announcement today that ration will be delivered to the very doorstep of the people,

and it will immensely benefit the poor. And, I feel, it will have an impact on people across the country," he said.

"We have also been trying hard to implement it in Delhi for the last four years. We had done everything for it," he said.

But the BJP Government at the Centre has been trying to "impede" the implementation of this policy in Delhi which is not right, he said.

"The time for this idea (doorstep delivery policy) has come. They won't let it get implemented in Delhi, but it will be implemented in Punjab. And, the whole country will see. All people of this country will demand it. It will see implementation across the country," he claimed.

He cited the model of Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinic to buttress his claim, saying such clinics are being set up at many places in the country. What is being implemented in Delhi, is getting replicated in various other States.

Earlier in the day, Mann

announced the rollout of the doorstep ration delivery scheme in his State, saying the poor will no longer need to stand in queues as good quality ration would be delivered at their doorstep.

However, the scheme will be optional for the eligible beneficiaries, he said.

At the briefing, Kejriwal said even after 75 years of Independence, people have to stand in long queues, face hardship and take leave to collect ration even though, the time has come now when pizza and other goods are being delivered just by calling on the phone.

In the last few years, the "work of Delhi" had been "stalled" like in the implementation of the Mohalla Clinic scheme earlier, Kejriwal alleged and asserted that his Government, however, implemented it.

He charged that the CCTV camera project was also stalled by the Centre and work related to schools and hospitals was also being stalled.

Assembly passes Censure Motion against Adesh Gupta



Speaker Goel suspends three BJP MLAs briefly amid AAP pandemonium

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Monday passed a Censure Motion against Delhi BJP president Adesh Kumar Gupta for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Speaker Ram Niwas Goel also suspended three BJP MLAs -- Anil Bajpai, Jitender Mahajan and Ajay Mahawar -- for a brief period amid a vociferous protest by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over Gupta's remarks.

Bajpai, Mahajan and Mahawar were told to leave after they stood on the benches even as the Speaker requested them to sit down.

Following this, the proceedings of the House were adjourned for 15 minutes, for the second time since the House first met in the morning. Earlier, as soon as the MLAs assembled in the morning, AAP legislators entered the Well of the House shouting

slogans over the BJP leader's alleged remarks against Kejriwal. "A Censure Motion needs to be brought in the House against the Delhi BJP president for his derogatory remark against the Chief Minister. The Leader of Opposition should tender an apology," AAP MLA Mohinder Goel said.

The Speaker accepted the Censure Motion by Goel after the House reassembled around noon and it was passed by voice vote. "We are good people. Our volunteers are shareef (virtuous). Otherwise, such remark deserve a beheading," Goel said. He dared Gupta to make similar remarks against Chief Ministers of BJP States. Leader of Opposition Ramvir Bidhuri said, "If any indecent words have been used by anybody, I condemn it."

"If there is any truth in the allegation against Adesh Gupta, I will apologise to the Delhi Chief Minister with folded hands. But if the Delhi BJP president has condemned any leader of our party, Mohinder Goel will have to apologise in the House," he said. The Speaker asked Bidhuri to show him the video of the remarks later, and allowed the three suspended BJP MLAs to re-join the House proceedings.

‘AAP Govt gave permanent jobs to 233 Kashmiri Pandits’

Money made from 'The Kashmir Files' should be used for the welfare of displaced community: Manish Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday said that the huge amount earned from 'The Kashmir Files' film should be used for the welfare of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits and rebuilding their homes.

Speaking in the Delhi Assembly, he said that the pain of the community should be felt by the people and not "be sold in crores." "The huge

earnings from this movie should be either put into a new welfare foundation or existing foundations working for the Kashmiri Pandit community." "The Kejriwal Government gave permanent jobs to 233 Kashmiri Pandit teachers. They struggled for survival in Delhi for 25 years but the BJP leaders didn't even meet them.

The BJP has been in power at the Centre and Kashmir for eight years but did not help them," he said. Sisodia further said that the BJP spent 32 years playing politics over Kashmiri lives and is now promoting 'The Kashmir Files'.

He demanded rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits immediately. "I have not been able to watch the film, as I was busy with the (Delhi) Budget. So I cannot comment on the quality of the film.

But, it's fine that a film has been made on the suffering of the Kashmiri Pandit community, and it should be seen by everyone. But, their pains should be felt by other people, and not be sold in crores," Sisodia said. The controversial film, directed by Vivek Agnihotri and starring Anupam Kher and other veteran actors, has triggered a raging debate on the exodus and subsequent sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits and grossed over Rs 200 crore at the box office.

Recently, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said in the Assembly that the film should be put on YouTube for free so that everyone could watch it. The BJP in Delhi has been demanding that the film be made tax-free in the national Capital.

Speaker nixes BJP's plea to allow condemnation motion to be passed against Arvind Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP legislator Vijender Gupta's plea to allow a condemnation motion to be passed in the Assembly over Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's remarks on the Kashmiri Pandits exodus was rejected by the Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Monday.

Gupta had moved the condemnation motion and demanded an apology from Kejriwal, terming his remarks on the exodus "insensitive."

In the motion, Gupta stated that Kejriwal's remarks on March 25 in which he called the movie 'The Kashmir Files' a "lie" has hurt the sentiments of Kashmiri Hindus worldwide. Opposition members staged

a protest when the motion was rejected. Gupta was marshalled out while the rest of the Opposition walked out in protest. Goel did not allow a dialogue on the issue saying that he cannot allow a discussion on a film in the Assembly. "Films are fictions. I will not accept a discussion on them in the House. I cannot allow a discussion on a film in Assembly," he said.

Massive fire at Ghazipur landfill, efforts on to douse



Delhi fire personnel trying to douse the flame after the fire breaks out at a dumping yard in Ghazipur, on Monday

Environment Min orders DPCC to submit report within 24 hours as smoke envelops area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A massive fire broke out on Monday at the dumping yard of east Delhi's Ghazipur area leading to a huge cloud of smoke enveloping the region and neighbouring areas. Officials said that no casualty has been reported and the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said that a call was received regarding the fire in

Khaata at Ghazipur around 2.30 PM following which nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot to bring the blaze under control and efforts were on to douse the flames, adding that it may take a few more hours.

A thick blanket of smoke was seen at a section of the dumping yard, where the fire broke out. Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to submit a report on the incident within 24 hours.

In April last year, the DPCC had imposed a fine of Rs 40 lakh on the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) after a blaze at the Ghazipur landfill site. Fires at

the landfill are known to worsen pollution levels in the area.

Such incidents had been reported from the Ghazipur landfill in the past, too, which indicates "lack of measures taken and vigilance observed by the EDMC to prevent such episodes," an official said.

AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar talked about the latest fire incident at Ghazipur in the ongoing Budget Session of the Delhi Assembly and demanded action against the guilty officials.

He also blamed East Delhi BJP MP Gautam Gambhir for incident, saying residents of his Kondli Assembly constituency were forced to inhale poisonous smoke caused by the fire.

Transgender's body with injury marks found in bushes

Gurugram: The Gurugram police recovered a body of a transgender with injury marks on his head and face in the Sector-29 area on Monday. The deceased was identified as 32-year-old Milan Shiekh a resident of West Bengal, who was transgender. According to police, the deceased's nephew alerted them about the incident. On this, a team of Sector-29 police station reached the spot and recovered the body lying in a pool of blood in a bush in front of Leisure Valley Park in Sector 29. A team of forensic experts also visited the spot and collected evidence and information about the deceased.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that after an argument someone hits the victim with a stone to hide identity and to destroy evidence. The police are probing matter," Sanjeev Balhara, Assistant Commissioner of police (DLF) said. SR

PICTALK



Employees of the UCO Bank raise slogans in protest during the 'Bharat Bandh', a two-day nationwide strike supported by the All India Bank Employees Association over the Government's plan to privatise public sector banks and the Banking Laws Amendment Bill 2021, in New Delhi on Monday

Sisodia pays surprise visit to school

Dy CM visits Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya to check progress of academic activities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



through various classroom activities. They have been able to concentrate on their studies in a better way after attending these sessions. To provide guidance to students for making informed career choices, students at SKV, Pandara Road are being provided assistance by

experts through 'Career Conclave'. Education and Vocational Guidance Counselors (EVGC) at the Conclave are providing career as well as educational related counseling to students of Class 12. This Career Conclave is also open to students of nearby

government schools for career counseling. SKV students also added that they have been able to learn many new things with help of Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC) and Business Blasters Program, which was very different from routine subjects.

19-year-old DU student injured after rock slab falls on her foot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered an First Information Report (FIR) after a 19-year-old Delhi University student was injured when a rock slab fell on her foot at an under-construction underpass in south Delhi.

Police said that the incident took place on March 23 and the case was registered against the driver of a road roller engaged at the under-construction Benito Juarez Marg underpass.

The construction of the underpass is being carried out by the Public Works Department. Sana Cheyl Felix, who studies at the Jesus And Mary College here, was crossing the underpass with her friends when a road-roller hit the rock slab that fell on her

foot.

According to a senior police official, the case has been registered under sections 279 (rash and negligent driving) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code against the driver of a road roller.

Felix alleged that there was no barricade or signage at the underpass. An immediate response was not available from the PWD.

Meanwhile, the message on the fundraising platform accused the authority, the construction group and the person operating the road roller of "unacceptable irresponsibility". At the time of filing the report, over ₹3.82 lakh had been raised, according to the Milap.In.

Police bust fake call centre in Jamia Nagar

8 men held for duping foreigners by posing as Amazon, PayPal tech support team

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has busted a fake call centre and arrested eight people for allegedly duping foreign nationals by posing as members of the technical support team of Amazon and PayPal.

Police said that the call centre was running in Delhi's Jamia Nagar area. According to Esha Pandey, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, after receiving a tip-off about fake international call centre, the

police conducted a raid at the premises. "The accused tried to escape but they were later arrested. Two accused, including owner of call centre, were apprehended from their residence. Further investigation is underway to nab associates of the accused," said DCP.

"The accused told the police that they ran the centre to earn a quick buck. The accused disclosed that they had duped several people, mostly US citizens, by posing as executives of Amazon Inc and PayPal," said the DCP.

Elaborating upon their modus operandi, the accused told police that they managed to get fake ads of technical support containing their virtual toll-free numbers, displayed on top of the browsed pages.

3 fresh dengue cases reported in a week, tally reaches 72 this year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With three fresh cases of dengue reported in a week in the national capital, the total number of people infected with the vector borne disease has reached 72 this year.

According to a report released by the civic agencies on Monday 12 cases of malaria and 14 cases of chikun-

gunya also reported this year. Concerned over the cases of vector-borne diseases, Commissioner of the South Corporation Gyanesh Bharti has issued advisory on prevention and control of vector borne diseases. He called for prevention of mosquito breeding at source. The Commissioner asked head of departments of various agencies including Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC),

Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Police, Public Works Department (PWD), and Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to nominate the nodal officers to ensure preventive measures. "This year, there is a need to concentrate more on Educational Institutes colleges and schools as they were closed due to corona crisis and now they are reopening.

The designated nodal officer of these institutes must ensure that there is no artificial water collection in open grounds, roofs of buildings, flower pots etc. Also, overhead tanks should be emptied, covered and locked. Unused vehicles like school/college buses should be covered and parked in covered spaces to prevent water collection inside," Bharti said. Bharti has requested all the heads of all agencies to

ensure that the water tanks or containers placed overhead and others area are kept properly covered with lid and overflow pipe or air vent are covered with wire mesh. Collection of stagnant water should not be allowed inside or around office premises and if the same does take place a little quantity of kerosene, petrol and diesel may be put in such stagnant wastewater collection. Unused or broken

bottles, plastic cups, pots and tyres etc. that can hold water should not be left in the open. Bharti also requested the heads of offices to nominate their nodal officers to ensure compliance of advisory and proper prevention and control of waterborne diseases by eliminating breeding of mosquitoes across their complex. "The Delhi Municipal Corporation by laws 1975 on Malaria and

other vector-borne diseases provides for an action on failure to take specified preventive measures. The failure is punishable. On detection of repeated breeding, besides legal notice, challan, Police complaint may be lodged under section 269 of Indian Penal Code," he said. Bharti has called upon Resident Welfare Associations, Market Association and general public to take preventive mea-

sures failing which the outbreak of dengue and chikungunya may become uncontrollable. He has sent a advisory to all offices of Central, State Government, CPWD, PWD, DDA, Delhi Police, Delhi Jal Board, DMRC. Registrars of all universities and deemed universities in Delhi, all associations of professionals and all associations of traders, chambers of commerce.



# Govt foiling price rise debate: Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition members on Monday accused the Government of running away from a debate in Parliament on the issue of price rise, including the hike in fuel costs soon after the recent assembly elections. Several MPs were on their feet raising the matter in Rajya Sabha, but the House was adjourned within minutes of the start of the day's proceedings.

The opposition parties alleged that the way they were not allowed to raise the issue during the Zero Hour was unprecedented. However, later some members raised their concerns on price rise during the debate on the Finance Bill.

"Truly extraordinary that at a few minutes past 11 AM, as soon as Opposition MPs got up to raise issues concerning price rise and trade union strike, the Hon'ble Chairman adjourned the Rajya Sabha instantly.

Clearly, the Modi Sarkar wants no discussion or debate," Congress leader and chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh said outside the Parliament.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien took to Twitter, "Shocker. Every member of opposition was in their seat. Yet RS adjourned till 12 noon. Zero Hour Washed out. BJP running away from discussion on price rise. BJP don't want Parliament to run. Show TV footage: country will know truth. Hon. Chairman, Sir. You are an honorable man."

Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi alleged that the Government was running away from a debate on the issue that concerned every Indian. "While the prices of petroleum products were being raised every day after the elections were over, parliamentarians are not even allowed to raise the issue," she told outside the Parliament.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu adjourned the house



shortly after it met for the day at 11.00 am when the Opposition members protested when he did not admit notices given by some members on the issue of price rise. "I have gone through the notices. I have decided not to admit them," Naidu said. Later the upper house functioned normally and the members took the opportunity to attack the Government on price rise during a discussion on the Appropriation Bill, 2022.

Alleging financial irregu-

larities by the YSRCP-led dispensation in Andhra Pradesh during the debate, TDP MP Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar appealed to the central Government to impose financial emergency in the state. "I appeal to the Government to do the needful and save the people of Andhra Pradesh from the financial anarchism of the State Government and secure their future, if necessary...By imposing financial emergency in the state of Andhra Pradesh," Kumar said.

# DPSUs will continue to make weapons for us: Govt to House

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday assured Parliament that the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) will continue to play a key role in manufacturing weapon systems and there is no question of weakening them.

Making this assertion in the Rajya Sabha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also said the Government is taking all steps to strengthen these units with equity support, clearing their liabilities and placing high level orders.

The Minister gave this assurance when asked during Question Hour about the role of PSUs in weapons manufacturing and opening the

Defence sector for the private sector.

"Our Government is strengthening all DPSUs with equity support. We are also clearing their committed liabilities so that our DPSUs do not weaken in any manner."

He also informed the House that about "80 per cent orders are given to DPSUs even today. There is no question of weakening the DPSUs."

Earlier, the Minister of State for Defence Ajat Bhat said the Defence sector is driven by high-end technology and innovation and production orders are given to DPSUs too, even as foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed in areas where the country does not have expertise and capacity.

The Government is taking

steps to make the country self-reliant in the Defence sector. Therefore, the Government has split the Ordnance Factory Board into seven new public sector units (PSUs), he said.

Bhat said the country is benefitting from the opening of the Defence sector to private firms. The FDI inflow in Defence and aerospace, which stood at ₹1,382 crore during 14 years from 2001, rose to ₹3,343 crore in the ongoing seven years of the Modi Government.

He also said the Vajpayee Government opened up the Defence sector for the private sector in 2001. During the next 10-15 years only 215 licences were issued while in the last seven years of the Modi

Government 353 licences were granted for Defence production, the Minister said.

Responding to a supplementary query on lower investment after the FDI was opened in Defence, the Minister said, the Government has made a list of 209 items in order for the country to become self-reliant.

He said the next fiscal, 68 per cent of the capital procurement budget has been set aside for domestic industries.

On steps taken to boost domestic production, Bhatt said the Government has formed two Defence industrial corridors, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. India is exporting to 72 countries and figures in top 35 Defence exporting nations in the world.

# SpiceJet flight collides with pole at IGIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A SpiceJet flight on Monday collided with a pole at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national Capital on Monday, causing damage to both the plane and the pole. The collision occurred during pushback, that is, when the aircraft was being moved from the passenger terminal to the runway. None of the passengers were injured and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has begun an investigation into the matter.

The Boeing 737-800 aircraft of SpiceJet was being pushed back Monday morning when its right wing hit the

lightning pole in the apron area of the airport. The flight was headed to Jammu from IGI airport at 9.30 am before its right wing hit the pole, damaging the aileron - a hinged part on the trailing end of the wing that helps steer the plane. The aircraft had to return to the bay.

In a statement, a SpiceJet spokesperson said, "On March 28, 2022, SpiceJet flight SG 160 was scheduled to operate between Delhi and Jammu. "During push back, the right wing trailing edge came in close contact with a pole, causing damage to aileron. A replacement aircraft has been arranged to operate the flight," he said.

# NSE case: Delhi court allows CBI to collect handwriting samples of ex-CEO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Monday allowed the CBI to collect the handwriting sample of former managing director and chief executive officer of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna in connection with the NSE co-location case. Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal also extended officer (GOO) Anand Subramanian in the case. The arrest was made in the case related to the co-location scam, the FIR for which was registered in May 2018, amid fresh revelations about irregularities at the country's largest stock exchange.

The court recently dismissed the bail application of NSE's former group operating officer (GOO) Anand Subramanian in the case. The arrest was made in the case related to the co-location scam, the FIR for which was registered in May 2018, amid fresh revelations about irregularities at the country's largest stock exchange.

# Navy to commission its 2nd reconnaissance air squadron

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to its long range maritime reconnaissance especially in the Indian Ocean region as China is adopting an aggressive stance there, the Indian Navy will on Tuesday commission its second reconnaissance air squadron comprising a fleet of P-8I aircraft.

The air squadron 316 will be commissioned at the INS Hansa, a naval air station near Dabolim in Goa, in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff R Hari Kumar, officials said here on Monday.

The Indian Navy Air Squadron (INAS) 316 will operate the Boeing P-8I multi-role long-range maritime

reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, they said. Four planes form part of the new squadron. India already has eight such planes procured in 2013 and stationed at INS Rajali in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.

The new squadron is being raised amid growing concerns over China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean Region. The P-8I aircraft is powered by twin jet engines and can be equipped with air-to-ship missiles and torpedoes.

The INAS 316 has been christened 'The Condors' after one of the largest flying birds in the world. The insignia of



the squadron depicts a Condor searching over the blue expanse of the sea.

The INAS 316 will operate the second batch of four additional P-8I aircraft, adding teeth to the armour of the Indian Navy, to deter, detect and destroy any threat to the nation in the Indian Ocean Region, officials said.

Last month, Boeing delivered the 12th Poseidon-8I mar-

itime patrol aircraft to India. The fleet is being operated by the Indian Navy primarily to carry out surveillance in the Indian Ocean region.

The P-8I is an integral part of the Indian Navy's fleet and has surpassed 35,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013. The aircraft, with its superior maritime surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and operational readiness, has proven to be an important asset to the Navy.

The Indian Navy was the first international customer for the P-8 aircraft.

The aircraft is also operated by the US Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force and the Royal Norwegian Air Force.

# 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' will help students: Pradhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday said that the fifth edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on April 1 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will help lakhs of students "boost the self-confidence" ahead of the annual exams they are to take within a month's time.

After the exams were affected during the two years of covid pandemic in the country, Pradhan sought the "support of all the stakeholders" of society to streamline and put back on fast track the education of the country as move towards implementing the new National Education Policy.

"The 5th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' will be held on 1st April 2022. This participatory outreach program will have PM Modi interact with exam (board) aspirants (students). Keeping covid restrictions in mind, only one thousand students of Delhi NCR, UP, and Haryana are invited to the programme. The Pariksha Pe Charcha will help boost the self-confidence of the students, especially the new generation. I seek the support

of all the stakeholders of society, especially youngsters, students, parents and teachers," Pradhan said addressing a Press conference.

Highlighting the impact of the pandemic on the exams, the Minister said that it compelled the exams to be conducted in the online mode, however, the exams "should be conducted under the invigilation" since the COVID situation in the country is proceeding towards normalcy.

"There is a dialogue between the students and the Prime Minister. Its importance has increased this time. In the post-Corona phase, exams will be held. We were compelled to make exams online and sometimes offline in the past two years due to the impact of COVID-19. But it is the notion of the educational experts that the exams should be conducted under invigilation. The situation is proceeding towards normalcy due to the cooperation of society and vaccination," he said.

"All educational institutions, all the medical colleges functioning under the Health Ministry, Nursing schools, other educational institutions



run under the Central Government and the educational institutions run in their partnership in the states. The Pariksha Pe Charcha event will be organised in all of such places," the Minister added. Pradhan further informed that he has written a letter to the Chief Ministers and Governors as part of the outreach efforts for the event and hoped that every state will participate.

"In the next one or two days, we will reach out to the Chief Ministerial and Ministerial levels. The Secretary is contacting the states on the administrative level on part of the bureaucracy. I have written to the Chief Ministers and the Governors on the matter. We believe that all the states will participate," he said.

Asked if the West Bengal

government has responded to the Minister's letter, he said, "I believe all the state governments should respond to it. What problem can one have with this? I expect everyone's response."

The Minister also informed that the students will be brought to the Governor's House in the states and the event will be streamed live. The Prime Minister had conceptualized the unique interactive programme in which students, parents, teachers across the nation and also from overseas interact with him to discuss and overcome the stress emerging out of examinations.

An online creative writing competition was conducted in December-January to select participants. Around 15.7 lakh participants had registered for the creative writing competition. 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' has been organized successfully for the last four years by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. The first three editions of Pariksha Pe Charcha were held in New Delhi in a town-hall interactive format. The fourth edition was held online on April 17, 2021.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream projects, Sagarmala, is running behind schedule even as the cost under pillar 'Port Modernisation' has shot up by ₹20,000 crore — from ₹2,59,817 crores to ₹2,61,052 crores.

Data shared with a parliamentary panel by the Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways to the Committee, revealed that under the Sagarmala Programme, there are 802 projects worth investment of ₹5.54 lakh crores for implementation during 2015 to 2035, out of which 181 projects worth ₹94,712 crores have been completed and 223 projects worth ₹2.11 lakh crores are under implementation. 398 projects worth ₹2.48 lakh Crores are under various stages of development.

The Parliament Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, headed by MP TG Venkatesh, wanted to know as to how many projects under the Sagarmala Programme have been delayed, what are the issues for the delay, and what is the cost escalation as a result of these delays.

The ministry informed that there are four categories of projects namely, New Ports, Modernization of Major Ports, Modernization of Non-Major ports and Ship Repair Projects fall under this pillar.

The Committee said in its report tabled in Parliament on Sagarmala Project, that it is disappointed to note that though the concept of Sagarmala programme was approved in 2015, and nearly eight years later only half of the projects for ship repairs are under implementation stage and not even one has been completed and suggested that a dedicated mechanism should be put in place for effective coordination and monitoring of PPP projects in the Sagarmala programme.

However, nearly a year afterwards, only one more additional project has been completed leading to a total of 77 completed projects while 36 projects at major ports and 15 projects at non-major ports are under implementation.

As per the Ministry, of the 175 projects worth ₹75,064 crores at major ports, 76 projects worth ₹21,928 crores have been completed and 36 projects worth ₹12,600 crores are cur-

rently under implementation under, which is considered as a dream project.

"A total 242 projects under Port modernization of Non-Major ports and Ship Repair Project, at cost of ₹2,61,052 crores have been undertaken for implementation by 2035. Out of these 242 projects, 77 projects worth ₹26,968 crores have been completed," it said.

The Ministry informed the Committee that the Sagarmala Programme has a dedicated pillar for Port Connectivity consisting of 208 projects in total worth ₹1.36 lakh crores being undertaken by various implementation agencies. Out of these 208 projects, 56 projects worth ₹19,489 crores have been completed and 69 projects worth ₹84,360 crores have been awarded and are currently under implementation. A total 91 port-rail connectivity projects worth ₹75,215 crores have been taken up by the ministry with Indian Railways, Major Ports, and Maritime Boards, out of which 34 projects worth ₹10,393 crores have been completed and 57 projects are in various stages of development and implementation.

# Ayush Ministry hailed for innovative measures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary panel has hailed the Union Ayush Ministry for initiating a string of innovative measures including emphasis on integration of traditional alternative medicines in the National Health Mission (NHM) and establishing the system with growing numbers of people reposing their faith in its efficacy.

"The Committee appreciates that the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 had strongly advocated mainstreaming the potential of AYUSH system in a pluralistic system of Integrative healthcare and re-emphasizing the need for integrating AYUSH in the National Health Mission, research and education," said the panel headed by Rajya Sabha MP Ram Gopal Yadav.

However, the panel in its report submitted in Parliament recently, felt that given that the percentage of budgetary estimate with respect to GDP has been gradually increasing with 0.009 percentage in 2016-17 to 0.015 per cent in 2022-23, realization of the vision of Ayush sector contributing to 7.7 per cent of GDP by 2047 seems to be a distant dream.

Hence, the Ministry should

systematically move ahead for strengthening the Ayush system through a series of measures that need to be undertaken...must be adequately funded and schemes meticulously executed so as to realize the full potential of Ayush Systems, said the panel. The importance of Ayush Systems, particularly in Covid times, is highly appreciated with rising popularity of these systems and their increasing acceptance as an economical and effective system of medicine, the panel added.

Talking about the targets under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), the panel said that the mechanism envisages better access to AYUSH services through increase in number of AYUSH Hospitals and Dispensaries, ensure availability of AYUSH drugs and trained manpower. The parliamentary committee also took note of the fact that as per the NAM, there is a paradigm shift in the recent past in the approach from disease management towards achieving wellness.

The AYUSH systems advocate holistic wellness approach aiming at prevention of diseases and promotion of health and wellbeing. The Government has kept target to upgrade 12,500 Health and

Wellness Centres (HWCs) through States/UTs in Centrally Sponsored Scheme mode and under the broad umbrella of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) in a phased manner by 2023-24 with a financial outlay of ₹3399.35 crore.

"The Committee has been given to understand that the Ministry had projected a demand of ₹800.00 crore for NAM and it is heartening to see that it has been allocated the same amount in BE 2022-23. The Committee is pleased to note that demand for enhanced funds was due to demand of States/UTs for strengthening Ayush health facilities in their respective States/UTs.

Stating that the 36 States/UTs, a total of 487 Ayush Co-located facilities are at District Hospitals level, 2811 at CHCs level and 7452 at PHCs level, the panel noted that, "Maximum number of AYUSH co-located facilities are in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. It is also noted that Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Kerala have NIL Ayush Co-located facilities at all the three levels of District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs. Bihar has AYUSH co-located facilities only at District Hospitals level while Gujarat has Co-located facilities only at PHCs level."

# 22 RS MPs seek PM's intervention for financial support to patients of rare diseases

**Cutting across party lines, the MPs wrote to Modi, seeking an urgent meeting with him about saving the lives of several young patients, diagnosed with life-threatening rare disease conditions**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coming to the rescue of several patients of rare diseases, a group of 22 MPs from the Rajya Sabha has sought urgent intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide immediate financial support to such persons under Government's Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme to save their lives.

The RAN was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below the poverty line and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality hospitals or institutes or other Government hospitals.

Cutting across party lines,



the MPs wrote to Modi, seeking an urgent meeting with him about saving the lives of several young patients, diagnosed with life-threatening rare disease conditions, classified under Group 3(a) in the National Policy for Rare Diseases.

"We would like to seek a meeting with you urgently to discuss the life threatening risks that many of the young patients, primarily children, are facing and the impending loss of lives due to the lack of immediate support for their treatment," the letter read.

The MPs noted that despite

several pleas to extend the Umbrella Scheme of RAN as a special, one-time provision for treatment of these patients before March 31, 2022, these patients and their caregivers have been left with no option but to wait for the inevitable.

The members expressed concern that the non-utilisation of the budgetary allocation under RAN before March 31, 2022, would not only lead to a fund lapse, but also deprive many of these eligible patients from seeking life-saving treatment to their conditions, for which the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)

approved therapies are already available in India since long.

The group includes Congress MPs Vandana Chavan and Fauzia Khan and RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, among others.

According to the parliamentarians, even after almost a year of the crowd funding platform being set up, only a meagre amount of ₹1.16 lakh has been raised so far, as a result of which not a single patient has been put on treatment. Over 250 Group 3 patients have registered their applications on the portal seeking treatment support, out of which 50 patients are in urgent need of support to start their treatment, they said.

Making a fervent appeal to the prime minister, the group of 22 MPs wrote, "We would also like to draw your attention that the eight designated Centers of Excellence (CoEs) designated under the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 had together sought immediate financial support of ₹22 crore to provide immediate life-saving treatment to a priority list of 35 patients, mostly children, diagnosed with Group 3 conditions".

## IN SHORT

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ESTIMATES INCREASE IN FROOT PRODUCTION

**New Delhi:** The latest advance estimates, released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday, showed an increase in production of fruits while a decrease in output of vegetables, spices, flowers, medicinal plants and plantation crops over previous year.

The estimates showed that horticulture production in 2021-22 is pegged to be 334.64 million tons (MT) which is an increase of about 14.13 million tons (4.4 per cent) over that achieved in 2019-20. Fruit production is estimated to be 102.9 MT for the year 2021-22 compared to 102.5 MT in 2020-21. The production of vegetables is estimated to be 199.9 MT compared to 200.4 MT in 2020-21.

### DISCONTINUE 'SURE VISION': CCPA

**New Delhi:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed discontinuation of 'Sure Vision' advertisements and imposed a penalty of ₹10 Lakh over false and misleading claim. The authority passed the order against Sure Vision India regarding misleading advertisements for its product "Sure Vision" which claims that "Sure Vision improves eyesight naturally; Eliminates eye strains; Exercise the ciliary muscles; World's best unisex correction apparatus".

### CONG MP PRESENTS 20 REPORTS IN RS

**New Delhi:** Under Congress MP Anand Sharma, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs presented 20 Reports which included 4 Reports on subjects, 6 Reports on Demands for Grants, 9 Action Taken Reports, and 1 Report on the Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill 2019. The Committee dedicated 108 hours and 33 minutes in 47 meetings. Sharma's tenure in Upper House is coming to end on March 31.

### 3 BJP RS MPS GIVE NOTICE OF PRIVILEGE

**New Delhi:** Three BJP members of Rajya Sabha on Monday gave notice of privilege against Dola Sen of Trinamool Congress over her comments on the Chair for allowing Rupa Ganguly of BJP to speak on the Birbhram Rampurhat incident during Zero Hour last week. Rakesh Sinha, Sudhanshu Trivedi, and Rupa Ganguly moved the breach of privilege motion, and sought action against Sen.



# Hindus as minorities: SC gives Centre 4-week time on PIL

‘Hindus in minority in 10 States’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted four weeks to the Centre to respond to a plea, which has sought directions for framing of guidelines for identification of minorities at the State level, contending that Hindus are in minority in 10 States. A bench of justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh posted the matter for hearing on May 10 and asked the Union of India to place its stand on record on a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought two weeks time, saying that he had not gone through the affidavit filed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The ministry in the affidavit has told the top court that state governments can declare any religious or linguistic community, including Hindus, as minority within the said state.

Responding to the solicitor general's submission, the bench said, "The reply appears to be seen in the newspapers."

To this, Mehta said, "In some of the PILs, the pleadings even before coming to the law officers, find their way to the media. Some PILs have that peculiarity."

The apex court noted Mehta's submission that he needs time to place the Centre's stand on record, and adjourned the matter.

"Solicitor General submits that couldn't place his stand on record as he has not vetted the affidavit even though it may have appeared in the newspapers. He requests four weeks time... We grant four weeks to



the Centre. Rejoinder to be filed two weeks thereafter," the bench said.

The ministry has also submitted that matters concerning whether followers of Hinduism, Judaism and Bahaism can establish and administer educational institutions of their choice in spirit of the TMA Pai Ruling," the plea said.

The apex court in the TMA Pai Foundation case had held that the state is well within its rights to introduce a regulatory regime in the national interest to provide minority educational institutions with well-qualified teachers in order for them to achieve excellence in education.

Quoting Article 30 of the Constitution, the plea said that minorities whether based on religion or language shall have the right to establish-administer educational institutions of their choice. The petition said that denial of minority rights to actual religious and linguistic minorities is a violation of the rights of minority enshrined under Articles 14 and 21 (no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law) of the Constitution. The apex court had earlier allowed a plea seeking transfer of cases from several high courts to it against the Centre's notification to declare five communities -- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Parsis -- as minorities and tagged the matter with the main petition.

"In alternative, direct and declare that followers of Judaism, Bahaism and Hinduism, who are minorities in

Ladakh, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Kashmir, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab and Manipur, can establish and administer educational institutions of their choice in spirit of the TMA Pai Ruling," the plea said.

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# Yogi, Akhilesh sworn in as MLAs in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday took oath as the member of legislative Assembly in Lucknow. Yogi Adityanath is a first time MLA as he previously had been a member of the legislative council in the state during his first five-year tenure as Chief Minister.

Yogi is also a five-term MP from Gorakhpur Lok Sabha constituency.

Samajwadi Party chief and leader of opposition Akhilesh Yadav also took oath as an MLA.

He is also a first time MLA. He was an MLC during his stint as the chief minister of the state during 2012-17. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Akhilesh Yadav wished each other. Yogi patted Akhilesh Yadav on his back.

Akhilesh Yadav also shook hands with Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Later, talking to the media, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath welcomed all the newly elected MLAs. "UP assembly, the biggest state assembly of India, is ready to welcome all the newly-elected MLAs."

I hope that all the MLAs will make a firm resolve to contribute in the development of the state as per the Constitution," Yogi said.

The chief minister said, "I am confident that all the MLAs would abide by the dignity and the traditions of the assembly and ensure peaceful conduct of



the proceedings of the House." Barring a few, almost all the newly-elected members of the 18th Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha were administered oath of office by Pro Tem Speaker Ramapati Shastri and four other panel members.

Along with Pro Tem Speaker Ramapati Shastri, Governor Anandiben Patel had nominated Suresh Kumar Khanna, Jai Pratap Singh and Mata Prasad Pandey to administer the oath to the MLAs.

Shastri took oath as pro tem speaker on Saturday.

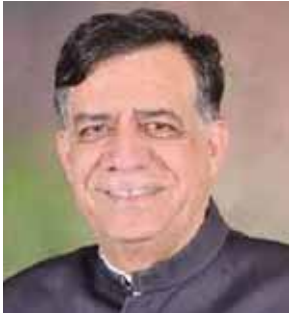
Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the chief minister of the state by Governor Anandiben Patel in a jam-packed Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Friday last week.

A total of 52 ministers had taken oath as ministers, including two deputy chief ministers.

Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak had taken oath as the deputy chief ministers of the state.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has won 275 seats in the Uttar Pradesh assembly and its allies in the state have also registered impressive performances.

# Satish Mahana to be new Speaker of UP Assembly



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party's senior MLA Satish Mahana is all set to be elected unopposed as the Speaker of the 18th Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Mahana filed his nomination papers for the Speaker's post on Monday and no Opposition party filed nomination against him.

The deadline for filing nomination was 2 pm on Monday.

Mahana, accompanied by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, filed his nomination papers before Returning Officer Pradeep Kumar Dube, who is principal secretary of UP assembly secretariat.

Raja Bhaiya of Jansatta Dal was among the proposers.

The result will be declared on Tuesday.

Mahana was state minister for industrial development in the first term of the Yogi Adityanath government.

Satish Mahana, who has won his eighth assembly election this year, represents Maharajpur assembly constituency in Kanpur.

# Nexus between babus, dealers in J-K illegal arms licence case: ED

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has seized "incriminating" documents that allegedly indicate transactions between weapon dealers and bureaucrats in issuance of illegal arms licences in Jammu and Kashmir between 2012-16.

The agency, which is probing the case under the anti-money laundering law, said it had launched raids against some IAS and Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers, junior government officials and arms dealers on March 24 across the Union territory.

Searches have been conducted at 11 locations, including residential premises of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Rajeev Ranjan (former DC, Kupwara), KAS officers Itrat Hussain (former DC, Kupwara) and Ravinder Kumar Bhatt (former ADC, Kupwara), and former judicial clerks at arms section in DC office, Kupwara Tariq Ather and Gajan Singh, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in a statement.

The residential premises of six arms dealers of Jammu and Kashmir, including Amarnath Bhargava (Varun Armoury), his brother Mukesh Bhargava (Bhargava Gun House), Surjeet Singh (Deshmesh Armoury), Mohinder Kotwal (Mohinder Kotwal Arms & Ammunition), Manohar Singh (Swaran Arms & Ammunition), and Devi Dayal Khajuria (Khajuria Arms) were also searched, it said. Cash worth Rs 1.58 crore, 1.76 kg gold valued at about Rs 92.30 lakh and "digital exhibits" have been seized.



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TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites online bids from Manufacturers only through e-tendering for procurement of following items :-

Tender Specification Number	Particulars of material for Procurement	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender fee (incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Date of Pre Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/764	11 KV & 33 KV Strain Hardware Fittings (T&C) Type	90.87	5900/-	07.04.22 3.00 PM	21.04.22 3.00 PM
MD/MK/04/765	100 KVAR & 200 KVAR, 11 KV Capacitor Units	86.72	5900/-	08.04.22 3.00 PM	22.04.22 3.00 PM

Other details and full tender document would be available on our Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. website <https://mptenders.gov.in> very shortly.

M.P. Madhyam/104164/2022 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SDPO City East, vide communication No. 4469-70/SDCEJ dated 17.03.2022 has intimated that on 06.03.2022 one Arif Ayoub S/O Mohd Ayob R/O Village Chhajila, Tehsil Mankote District Poonch A/P House No. 36 Channi Rama GTB Nagar, Jammu lodged a written complaint at PP Narwal that his minor nephew namely **Kamran Choudhary** has been missing since 03.03.2022. Accordingly, case FIR No. 70/2022 U/S 363 IPC got registered at P/S Bahu Fort. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of missing **Kamran Choudhary S/O Mohd Fareed R/O Village Kasabali Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch** is being published with the consent of his legal heirs for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts/ present locations, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers

Description Roll:-


Name : Kamran Choudhary S/O Mohd Fareed

Address Address : Village Kasabali Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch A/P House No. 36 Channi Rama GTB Nagar, Jammu

Age : 14 years

Height : 4' 5"

Complexion : Wheatish



Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578

2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000

4. SP City South:- : 0191-2430002

5. SDPO City East : 01912474700

6. Landline of P/S Bahu Fort : 0191-2475133

Sd/-

DIP No: DIP/J-14856/21 For Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu

Dated : 26.03.2022

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SHO P/S Bus Stand Jammu intimated that on 22.03.2022, one un-identified male dead body was recovered from B.C Road Jammu near KC Chowk. Accordingly, an Inquest proceeding U/S 174 Cr. PC vide DDR No. 03 dated 22.03.2022 was initiated at P/S Bus Stand, Jammu and dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMC, Jammu. For the identification of unidentified male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll:-


Name of deceased : Unknown male

Age : 50 years

Height : Approx. 5 ft 6 Inch

Colour : Wheatish

Dress : Yellow and blue Sweater and black colour pent



Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578

2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000

4. SP City North : 0191-2547038

5. SDPO City North : 0191-2566621

6. P/S Bus Stand : 0191-2566499

Sd/-

No: DIP/J-14854/21 For Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu

Dated: 26.03.2022

# Mukhtar taken from Banda jail for court hearing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst apprehension of threat to the life of don-turned-politico Mukhtar Ansari expressed by his family members, the incarcerated don was brought for appearance at the MP/MLA court in Lucknow and later sent back to Banda jail on Monday.

Ansari was taken out of Banda jail in an ambulance early Monday morning and was brought to Lucknow by road for hearing in the court.

He was earlier brought back from Ropar in Punjab, and lodged in Banda jail.

His son and newly-elected MLA, Abbas Bin Mukhtar Ansari, said that he feared that his father might be harmed in transit.

"I do not understand why he is being shifted without prior information. We came to know that preparations for shifting my father to a Lucknow court started late Sunday night," he said.

Interestingly, the Vajra vehicle attached with Ansari's security fleet also developed some technical snag soon after leaving Banda district jail.

The escorting personnel somehow got it repaired but finally left the vehicle and proceeded to Lucknow in another vehicle.

Meanwhile, in another significant development, the Barabanki police registered a case against former Bahujan Samaj Party MLA and jailed don Mukhtar Ansari under the Gangsters Act on Sunday.

As per details received, 12 other aides of Ansari were also

booked by the police in connection with a case related to the use of an ambulance to transport Ansari to and from the Punjab jail.

Circle Officer (City) in Barabanki, Aatish Kumar, confirmed that investigations were underway in the case.

The police have named 12 persons from Mau, Ghazipur, Lucknow and Prayagraj for registering an ambulance against a false address and for using it to ferry Ansari to and from Punjab jail.

All the accused in this case have been arrested.

The ambulance (UP 41 AT 7171) was registered on forged paperwork and was used to transport Mukhtar Ansari from a Ropar prison to a Mohali court.

The UP police probed the case in March 2021 and found that the vehicle was registered in Barabanki.

Further investigation revealed that the vehicle was registered in the name of Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital and Research Center owner Dr Alka Rai.

It surfaced that Ansari's colleagues Rajnath Yadav and Mujahid went to Dr Rai to get

her signature on forged papers. Even the fitness test had not been done since 2017.

The police also claimed that the ambulance was used to carry firearms by Ansari's gang.

A charge-sheet was filed against all of them under sections 419 (cheating by personation), 420 (forgery), 471 (fraudulently or dishonestly using documents as genuine), 467 (forgery of valuable security), and 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) of the Indian Penal Code as well as Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Subsequently, Dr Alka Rai, Dr Sheshnath Rai, Rajnath Yadav, Anand Yadav of village Sarwan, Surendra Sharma, Mohd Shahid, Firoz Qureshi, Afroz alias Chunnun, Zafar alias Chanda, Salim, Mohd Suhaib Mujahid and Mohd Jafri alias Shahid were accused in the case along with Ansari.

A native of Yusufpur in Mohammadabad (Ghazipur) Mukhtar Ansari is a former MLA from Mau and is facing more than 50 criminal charges across the country.

The ex-MLA has spent time in prisons in Ropar, Ghazipur, Mau, Agra and Lucknow on charges of extortion.

His gang is listed in Uttar Pradesh's records as IS (inter-state) gang 191 and his assets have been seized under Section 14A of the Gangsters Act and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act. Ansari, his family and his cronies have lost properties worth Rs 390 crore as a result of recent actions initiated by UP Police.

# Maha Mins booked for brandishing swords

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A Monday against Maharashtra Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad, Textiles Minister Aslam Shaikh, and others for allegedly brandishing swords at a function in suburban Bandra, a Mumbai Police official said.

The alleged incident occurred on Sunday night at the Rang Sharda Bhavan in Bandra during the event to welcome Congress minority cell chairman Imran Pratapgari, the official said.

According to the official, the FIR was registered after the police took cognisance of the incident. Sections of the Bombay Police Act and the Arms Act are invoked in the FIR, he said. In video and pictures of the event which have gone viral, Shaikh, Gaikwad and Pratapgari can be seen brandishing swords. BJP functionary Mohit Kamboj, however, claimed that the police registered the FIR on his complaint.

"FIR Registered By Mumbai Police Against Minister Aslam Sheikh, Minister Varsha Gaikwad and Others Congress Leaders On My Complain Yesterday Of Bandra Sword Incident ! Satyameva Jayate !" he tweeted.

Further investigation is underway, the police official said.

Gaikwad is the MLA from the Dharavi Assembly constituency in Mumbai.

# Yogi orders probe into killing of Muslim for celebrating BJP win

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered an inquiry into the brutal murder of a Muslim man in Kushinagar for celebrating the victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in the Assembly polls.

Earlier, a Muslim woman was thrown out of her house in Bareilly and her in-laws threatened to divorce her as she voted for the BJP against their wishes.

Expressing grief over the incident here on Monday after the victim succumbed to his injuries on Sunday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered an impartial probe into the incident and stern legal proceedings against those involved in the killing.

He also announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the family of the victim.

Two persons have been arrested in this connection, the Kushinagar police claimed on Monday.

Reports said that the victim, Babar Ali, who was thrashed on March 20 last in Kathargarhi, died during treatment in Lucknow and when his body reached the village on Sunday, his family members refused to perform the last rites and demanded the arrest of the killers.

However, local MLA PN Pathak and other officials reached there, and finally the family agreed to bury Ali's body.

Police said Ali was targeted allegedly by his neighbours for apparently participating in

the BJP's campaigning and celebrating its victory in the assembly polls.

On a complaint filed by the victim's wife, Fatima Khatoun, police registered a case against Azimullah, Arif, Salma and Tahid on March 21 and arrested Arif and Tahid.

As per reports, Ali campaigned for Pathak, a BJP leader, during the assembly election and on the day of victory, he not only burst crackers but also distributed sweets. His neighbours became very angry, threatened him with dire consequences and on March 20, they surrounded him in his house and started beating him up with sticks, police said.

When he climbed to the roof of the house, to save himself, they threw him down from there, the police said.

Ali's brother Chande Alam and Fatima told reporters that they went to the police and other officials several times to get protection from their neighbours but no one cared.

Pathak said that the culprits would not be spared and stern action would be taken against them.

# Maha Home Minister dismisses reports that CM Thackeray upset with him

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Home Minister and NCP leader Dilip Walse Patil on Monday said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was not upset with him, as claimed in certain quarters, over his reply to BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis' allegation that Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was hatching a conspiracy to frame some leaders of the Opposition party.

Speaking to reporters here after he met with NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Walse Patil said Thackeray is not upset with him over any issue.

He said on the contrary Thackeray called him and congratulated him (over his reply to Fadnavis). During the recently-concluded budget session of the Maharashtra legislature, Fadnavis had said the MVA was hatching a conspiracy to frame some BJP leaders, including himself, in false cases.

Walse Patil had in the Assembly announced a criminal investigation department (CID) probe into the matter.

Thackeray reportedly expressed his displeasure over the issue in the cabinet meeting held last Wednesday.



## Going places

### ‘Investment migration’ is attracting rich Indians to citizenship in advanced economies

A high net-worth individual is no longer a prisoner of geography. Thousands of Indian millionaires left India seeking citizenship abroad since 2019 and many more are making inquiries about migration programmes as we speak. A 2022 World Migration Report released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs says lakhs of Indians who went abroad in recent years have either renounced their Indian citizenship or are trying not to return home. The migration slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic but is picking up pace once again. Three distinct patterns distinguished Indian migration till recently. Most students going abroad to study would try to find a job and settle down there. Unskilled or semi-skilled workers would migrate to the Gulf countries, preferring to stay there and repatriate dollars home. Professionals, of the Information Technology variety, spearheaded the brain drain in the last decade. It is the turn of high net-worth individuals now. They migrate for reasons over and above quality of life and money-making. Today, rich Indians migrate for a combination of reasons that is bundled into the concept of investment migration. These programmes give them the opportunity to increase the sovereign equity of the countries they prefer to migrate to. The rich Indian brings in money as investment and adds to the foreign country’s public finances without adding to the country’s debt. In turn, the country gives the rich Indian citizenship, a standard of life and the opportunity to diversify his or her investments. It is a win-win situation for both.

The rich Indians look for another criterion as well: The “power of the passport”. It is the latest factor to influence social inequality because it favours only the rich. The power of the passport is determined by the number of countries it has visa-free access to. A Singaporean passport gives such access to 192 destinations, Germany and South Korea 190 each and Spain, 189. The Portuguese passport allows one access to the Schengen States. Prosperous Indians prefer shifting to countries which have a combination of investment migration as well as the widest visa-free mobility options. If you have money to invest abroad, even if you come from a lower-middle or lower income country, you automatically score high points for migration and you do not suffer the ignominy of being deemed a high-risk person in terms of security, asylum and overstay. The not-so-rich applicants do not enjoy this privilege. Geo-politics and geo-economics are bringing the first world closer as far as freer movement of the affluent is concerned. Rich people from a handful of countries with faster economic growth potential, like India, are adding to this highly mobile neo-nobility. Several advanced economies already recognise the benefits of having investment programmes that trade incoming wealth legacies for residence, citizenship and mobility for the incoming investors. For a country like India, this means a drain of both human resource and capital wealth.



Army personnel perform ‘Mallakhamb’ during the Mendhar Fest 2022, in Poonch

PTI

## The smackdown

### Could the Will Smith-Chris Rock saga have unfolded differently if one of them were white?

The Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, was on Monday witness to high-strung nerves and enough drama to make it worthy of being used as a proper action sequence in a Hollywood potboiler. The setting was the giving away of trophies to winners at the 94th Academy Awards to honour the best talent in films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021. However, away from the performers and technicians, what stole the limelight was a spontaneous slap which actor Will Smith let fly swiftly and which landed on the jowl of comedian Chris Rock, who was the presenter for the evening. Here’s how the incident unfolded in a series of fast-paced sequences: Rock was presenting the best documentary prize at the awards gala with a short comedy routine when he cracked a joke comparing the tightly cropped hair of Will’s wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, to actor Demi Moore’s appearance in the film *Gl Jane*, suggesting that she appear in a sequel. For the record, Jada, who is also an actor, suffers from alopecia, and publicly revealed her diagnosis in 2018. Will stormed up the Oscars stage and struck Rock across the face for the joke.

The moment immediately went viral and left stunned viewers questioning if it had been scripted by the Academy bosses or genuine. Will, a nominee for the best actor award for the biopic *King Richard* which he subsequently won, immediately returned to his seat alongside Jada, shouting profanities along the way. However, the clamour and suspense for clarity was only growing until it dawned upon those present in the theatre that it was not a put-on show since whatever the situation, the Academy wouldn’t have allowed swearing at its ceremony that was being telecast live to millions of viewers across the globe. The audiences were dazed, of course, but the million-dollar question remains that would the incident have passed off as coolly had one of the participants in the sequence been white, and the other of colour? But the show went on after a bit of fumbling by Rock and a few seconds of pontification during a commercial break by Denzel Washington, Tyler Perry and Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs. It’s this kind of reverse bias, discrimination and prejudice that turns on its head the entire argument of being equal and civil to fellow humans. Hopefully, all parties will learn from the episode.

# Takeaways from Birbhum killings

It appears that India is a half-sovereign State; the concept was innovated by a German jurist on international law in the 18th century

The gruesome killings at Rampurhat in Birbhum district can be seen as another link in the chain of half-sovereignty that has reigned in our country for long. The US Declaration of Independence in 1770 was the first document to enunciate sovereignty as an essential element of the new State. The French Constitution of 1791 stated: “Sovereignty is one, indivisible, unalienable and, imprescriptibly, it belongs to the nation; no group can attribute sovereignty to itself nor can an individual arrogate it to himself.” The concept was first thought of by Jean Bodin of 16th century France to signal the progress from feudalism to nationalism.

Birbhum is not the only district affected by violence. The Government recently stated that there still are 40 districts affected by Maoism; in 2005, it stood at over 200 districts. On Independence Day that year, the Maoists had killed Andhra MLA C Narsi Reddy. Only two weeks earlier, seven persons were butchered in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, again by Maoists. Leave alone civilians, even police could not enter sub-divisional towns in the affected areas.

What is happening in West Bengal is not accidental as it has been the policy of the Congress, the Left Front and Trinamool Congress to encourage infiltration, and thus expand their vote bank. Had it not been so, how would these parties explain their support to the IMDT Act in Assam and being unhappy at its having been struck down as *ultra vires* by the Supreme Court? Assam was the first State to enact a law of this kind whereby the onus was on the complainant to prove that an immigrant was guilty of having become one through infiltration; not the other way around as in all other States. Such laws cannot survive or even be promulgated in a sovereign country.

Birbhum has understandably set off a discussion in the print media as to whether the bureaucracy is letting the country down. There is no doubt that the country’s bureaucracy has



substantially become subservient to the Ministers. To an extent it is because of human temptation for comfort of work and ease of promotion. There is, however, another factor which is that the bureaucracy’s ethos is outdated. From the British era Indian Civil Service, they learnt to believe that they are not servants but owners of the country.

They, however, forgot that now the owners are the citizens and not the Ministers or their political parties. Moreover, the administrative services bureaucrats began with the belief that they are administrators or enforcers of rules and procedures. Over the years, recently more so, there has been rising consciousness with regard to development. When a people want development, the politicians will hurriedly offer or at least promise *vikas*. This becomes a call to the IAS officers to act like managers who are expected to try and create surpluses from the local economy for material growth. In a way, the officer, now ideally a manager, has to move from his focus on procedures to profit or surplus in order to make his district more modern and altogether better. The responsibility for law and



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WEST BENGAL IS NOT ACCIDENTAL AS IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THE CONGRESS, THE LEFT FRONT AND TRINAMOOL CONGRESS TO ENCOURAGE INFILTRATION, AND THUS EXPAND THEIR VOTE BANK

order must be shifted entirely to the police service officers. With the progress of technology and its machinery, the work of maintaining law or order is easier than before.

In fact, all officers (IAS, IPS or otherwise) would have to reorient their focus. They should all try to bend towards becoming development managers from the erstwhile administrative officers. This is a change from a static vocation to a dynamic approach. The politicians must also change their functioning; they cannot talk of development and behave like old times when connecting with people and collecting election funds were sufficient.

The bureaucrats are permanent and career-long rulers while the politician is quite frequently a bird that passes after a five-year term. The former should take up responsibility for the long term and reformist aspects of governance. The Congress has always been pro-Muslim. This is clear from the fact that wakfs and Muslim personal law still remain untouched collectively; the wakf properties represent the biggest urban landlords in India, say, up to six lakh acres. The demand for Taj Mahal by the UP Sunni Wakf Board and

that for Bibi ka Maqbara at Aurangabad by the Maharashtra Wakf Board is baseless as it is on the ground that these contain *qabrs*. A sovereign State should nationalise all its properties.

Similarly, Muslim personal laws continue to be sacrosanct and above the purview of the Constitution. Contrary to the Supreme Court’s view, the Muslim community now appears to have set up Sharia courts known as Darul Qaza in a number of States to adjudicate on matters concerning marriage, divorce, etc. There are, therefore, two systems of law and justice functioning in the country — one Muslim and the other Indian.

The evident conclusion would be that India is a half-sovereign State. This concept was innovated by a German jurist on international law, JJ Moser, who lived in the 18th century. India has some attributes of sovereignty, like its belonging to the nation and not to any individual. But between the Sharia and wakf, sovereignty is shared and not absolute.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### INDIA MUST HAVE THE ‘RIGHT TO PLAY’

Sir — There is no denying that sports goes a long way in shaping our lives. Be it developing leadership, dedication and hard work, or just simple principles of respecting fellow humans, sports has become an integral part of one’s life. But the important question is how effectively the ‘fundamental right’ or the ‘right to play’ is currently employed in India (*‘Right to sports’*, March 28)? Not long ago, cricket icon and Rajya Sabha member Sachin Tendulkar, who wants the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill to be amended to include the Right to Play, raised this issue in Parliament.

Other similar voices suggested not only the ‘right to play’ is not efficiently and effectively used in India, but as well the support from the Union Government in seeing it implemented has been minimal. It is the Government’s duty to come together and make the fundamental right to sports a reality. The Government should encourage sports by creating enabling conditions and improving public health and education infrastructure at the most basic level. In fact, UNICEF has been championing the cause of ‘right to play’ as fundamental to the health and growth of children globally.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### WAR DOESN’T BENEFIT ANYONE

Sir — There’s a huge amount of loss to any country due to war in terms of financial losses besides to the citizens of that country. The most relevant reason for the Ukraine-Russia war is not to include Ukraine in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato), which was started in 1949. Earlier, the number of countries in Nato was 12, and now it has increased to more than 30 countries. War does not produce any positive result, it just hinders countries’ progress in all respects. These days, a war has been going on between Russia and Ukraine for several days.

Both the countries are suffering a lot, since any war does not bring any kind

## Outlook for tourism industry



Tourism in India is economically important and is growing rapidly. India is a land of diverse cultures and a variety of customs and rituals. India has been acknowledged as a destination for spiritual tourism for domestic and international tourists. After a two-year hiatus in the tourism industry, there has been an increase in the demand for comfortable living among Indian consumers due to increased spending. The travel market in India is estimated to reach \$125 billion by FY2025, up from an estimated \$75 billion in FY2020. The

Ministry of Tourism launched the NIDHI portal to understand the geographical spread of the hospitality sector, its size, structure and existing prospects in the country.

NIDHI will serve as a common data repository for the tourism and industry departments of the Ministry of Tourism. It will help the Central and State Governments to provide more acceptable support and services, including policies and strategies. The launch of several branding and marketing initiatives by the Government of India such as ‘Incredible India!’ and ‘Atithi Devo Bhava’ has provided a focused impetus to the growth. The Government of India has also issued a new category of visas, Medical Visa or M-Visa, in the context of encouraging medical tourism in the country. The administration is working to accomplish one per cent share in international tourist arrivals by 2020 and two per cent share by 2025.

Ruchika Pareek | Jaipur

of benefit to any country and it certainly is not the solution to any problem. The solutions are possible only through dialogue. The loss to life and property both the countries suffer in a war take many years to compensate. Every country is directly or indirectly a part of this war. The US, by imposing sanctions on Russia, has also imposed restrictions on itself against buying anything from Russia. Therefore, war should never happen.

Poonam Boyat | Ujjain

### WHAT GOOD ARE HARTALS FOR?

Sir — Now there’s a two-day nationwide strike called by the joint platform to protest against a number of Government policies affecting workers, farmers and the common man. The big question is was it successful? Did the protesters achieve their goal? The rhetoric we often hear after a *hartal* is that it was “total” and “successful”. Most often we hear this said by the strike’s organisers and lead-

ers who thump their chests that people’s “support” made the strike highly successful. But we, the common people, know exactly what happened: It wasn’t because everybody supported the demonstrators but because of the fear of life and property.

The remedy for eliminating *hartals* is that the public members should boldly protest by coming out on the streets, go to work, come what may and protest *en masse* against those who obstruct our right to live without fear. The Kerala High Court had a few years ago ordered to pay a huge compensation to a petitioner who was a victim of a strike called by a political party. It is the duty of the State to safeguard its citizens. Maybe the political parties also need to seriously think before organising useless *hartals*.

M Pradyu | Kannur

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

The new Govt’s first decision is dedicated to 15 crore poor people.

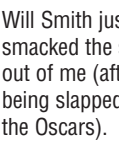


UP Chief Minister — Yogi Adityanath



The western countries need more courage in helping Ukraine fight (the Russian invasion).

Ukraine President — Volodymyr Zelenskyy



Will Smith just smacked the s\*\*t out of me (after being slapped at the Oscars).



Hollywood comedian — Chris Rock



I’ve no doubt that Rishabh could be international captain in years to come.

Australia ex-skipper — Ricky Ponting

Many congratulations to Manish Sisodia for presenting the ‘Rozgar Budget’ for Delhi.



Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



FIRST COLUMN

UKRAINE: LESSONS FOR TAIWAN AND CHINA

Xi is unsure what sanctions China might face if it invades Taiwan



GWYNNE DYER

Almost a month in, China is still being extremely coy about its attitude towards the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The regime is acutely aware that there are many parallels between the Russian-Ukrainian relationship and the Chinese-Taiwanese one, and that the Russian attempt to conquer Ukraine is failing, or at least stalled. It's only recently that Russia's President Vladimir Putin began denying that Ukraine is a real nation, but that has been Beijing's position with regard to Taiwan from the start. For 73 years, ever since the Nationalist regime lost the Chinese civil war in 1949 and retreated to Taiwan, it has been the risk of a war with the United States that has deterred the victorious Chinese Communists from invading the island and finishing the job. But that threat may be a paper tiger, for there is no actual alliance between Taiwan and the United States. Like Ukraine,



Taiwan gets many expressions of sympathy and support from Washington, and even fairly advanced weapons (although Taiwan has to pay for them), but it does not have a promise that the US Navy will stop a Chinese attack across the Strait of Taiwan, or indeed that the United States would use force in any way to defend Taiwan. While the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan was still underway last August, US President Joe Biden, seeking to reassure various friends and allies, said "We made a sacred commitment...that if anyone were to invade or take action against our NATO allies, we would respond. Same with Japan, same with South Korea, same with - Taiwan." That cheered many people in Taiwan - but later in the same day a senior American official, speaking 'not for attribution', said that "US policy has not changed." The United States didn't even bother with ambiguity in the case of Ukraine, making it clear from the start that it would not offer any military resistance to a Russian conquest of Ukraine. This is perfectly sensible when your potential adversary has nuclear weapons - but China does too, so the lesson for Beijing is that the US won't really fight for Taiwan either. That is certainly the conclusion that President Tsai Ing-wen's government in Taipei will draw from recent events, so she will be shopping urgently for state-of-the-art weapons to defend Taiwan with. Given the current mood in the US Congress, she will probably be able to get them. Yet it's unlikely that Xi Jinping's advisers will be urging him to seize this moment to attack Taiwan, because what he sees in Russia is a brother autocrat, Vladimir Putin, who took a similar gamble and is facing a humiliating defeat. Putin's miscalculation has been so monumental that he may even lose power over it. There are two elements in Putin's catastrophe that Xi will suspect might also apply to any attempt by him to seize Taiwan by force. The first is just that his inexperienced armed forces, ordered to carry out an amphibious invasion of Taiwan, one of the most complex military operations in the book, may prove to be, like the Russians, simply not up to the task. The other thing Xi can't be sure of is what kind of sanctions China might face if it invaded Taiwan. Nobody knows, including the players themselves, but China is hugely exposed to any interruption of international trade, and domestic circumstances are not propitious either. There would certainly be a surge of patriotic enthusiasm if Xi ordered the invasion of Taiwan this year, but he should wait a bit and watch what happens to another dictator who launched a stupid, unwinnable war and got his whole country cancelled.

*(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Time to revisit the three farm laws



UTTAM GUPTA

When farmers get dozens of options to sell, plain common sense says that they are bound to get a good deal in every respect, including a good selling price

While, staying the implementation of the three contentious farm laws, the Supreme Court (SC) had set up a Committee to recommend the way forward. The committee submitted its report on March 19, 2021. Even as the SC action on the report was pending, on November 19, 2021 Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced repeal of the laws even while-maintaining that these lawsare beneficial to small and marginal farmers who are in a majority. Now, in a startling revelation, Anil Ghanwat, a member of the committee has revealed that around 85.7 percent of the 73 farmer organizations, representing more than 33 million farmers,had supported the laws. This should prompt the government to revisit the laws. Meanwhile,let us look atthe Committee's recommendations:

First, claiming that the three laws would be beneficial for farmers, the committeehas averred their repeal or long suspension "would be unfair to the silent majority" who supported the reforms.The observation could not have been more apt.

Under the extant arrangements, farmers can sell their produce only in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee or APMCs mandi (marketplace notified under the State APMC Act) wherein the commission agents (known asarthiyas) and the licensed trader/buyer rule the roost. The duo ensure that the farmers get a low price, face rejection, weighed less, delayed payment, etc. Levies such as market fee, arthiyas' commission and rural development cess (RDC) further reduce their net-back.

The capacity of APMCs being woefully low, the small farmers are forced to sell most of their produce inthe so-called private local markets at 'throwaway' prices. Though legally barred, these sales happen because the buyers are none other than the arthiyas and licensed traders in the mandi who have the blessings of corrupt bureaucrats and politicians (in many cases, they or their kinalso masquerade as traders); hence they don't face any legal action.

The three central laws gave farmers umpteen opportunities to sell their produce in outlets other than APMC mandis by legitimizing sales to private traders, processors, aggregators, exporters and so on. When farmers get dozens of options to sell, plain common sense says they are bound to get a good deal in every respect including a good price. They don't have to pay any levies for selling at non-APMC platforms and can save on transport cost in case the buyer picks up from their doorsteps.

In times, when the demand is buoyant, they can get a fair slice of the gain resulting from higher price. For instance, the steep increase in the international price of wheat following Ukraine crisis is expected to yield a bonanza of about US\$ 5 billion on the export of wheat from India. Had the three laws been in force, the farm-



WITH GUARANTEED STATE PURCHASE OF WHEAT AND RICE GONE, FOR DECIDING WHAT TO GROW, FARMERS WILL BE GUIDED SOLELY BY THE DEMAND PATTERN. THIS WILL HELP IN CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND RESULTANT ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS. THERE WILL ALSO BE HUGE SAVING IN SUBSIDY DUE TO SAVING IN HANDLING, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION COST

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



ers would have got a good slice of this windfall which under the extant dispensation will be cornered mostly by traders/exporters.

Secondly, the committee has suggested that the States may be allowed flexibility in implementing and designing the three farm laws albeit with the Centre's approval.

Here, it may be pertinent to recall in 2017, the Modi Government had passed a Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Law. It contained provisions to give more options to farmers for selling their crop and greater flexibility to traders such as 'single pan-State licence' for buying from anywhere in the State. But the model law has remained a mere showpiece as a majority of the States showed no interest.

In early 2020, in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked the States to suspend certain provisions of their APMC laws for three months to make way for purchase of farmers' produce directly from their doorsteps by large buyers such as processors, millers, exporters, cooperatives, individual traders and so on. Only four states viz. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka responded by making amendments in their APMC laws.

Clearly, leaving it to the states won't help.The way forward is for the Centre to resurrect its law, which allowsit to regulate inter-State trade and intra-State tradeand enable an entity to buy specified farm commodities - under entry 42 of the Union List and entry 33 of the Concurrent List -directly' from

farmers anywhere in the country, even outsideAPMCs.

Thirdly, the committee has opined that the farmer unions' demand to legalize MSP was not based on sound logic and was infeasible to implement. However, its concurrent suggestion to give freedom to States to make MSP legal is anomalous. When the idea is illogical for the Centre how can it work for the state?

Put simply, a legal guarantee implies, if an entity say, private trader is found paying a price less than MSP, he can be jailed. No one will ever take that risk. The ball does not stop here. The state will have to buy at MSP every grain of what the farmers offer for sale. This purchase obligation will have to cover all crops and not limited to 23 crops already under MSP regime.This can make the state bankrupt, overstrain the limited handling and storage facilities, increase wastage manifold and embarrass India at the WTO (World Trade Organization) as food subsidy to farmers balloons.

Neither the Centre nor the States should take the idea on board.

Fourthly, the committee has proposed discontinuation of the extant open-ended procurement policy; instead, it wants a cap on procurement of wheat and rice commensurate to the needs of the Public Distribution System (PDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA). It has also mooted giving freedom of choice to beneficiaries of PDS/NFSA to choose cash transfers equivalent to MSP + 25 percent for every kilogram of grain entitlement or get it in kind. The proposal makes sense.

Initially the system intended to procure quantity needed to meet PDS needs plus a strategic buffer. But thanks to vote bank politics (guaranteed purchase at ever increasing MSP helps in elections), this has become an end in itself.

This has put the country on a dangerous trajectory viz. swinging cropping pattern towards wheat and rice, adverse environmental consequences, burgeoning stocks, increasing wastage and ballooning subsidy. Things must be set right by taking committee's recommendation on board.

As for the second part, the government should consider giving subsidy under direct benefit transfer (DBT) to 'all' beneficiaries. It may put Rs 125 a month on wheat (@Rs 25 per kg for 5 kg) in a beneficiary's account. Including Rs 10 from her pocket, she can buy 5 kg wheat from the market @ Rs 27 per kg by paying Rs 135.

Under DBT, there is no rationale for continuing with PDS though fair price shops (FPSs) can continue - like any other trader - to sell grains at market-based price. With guaranteed state purchase of wheat and rice gone, for deciding what to grow, farmerswill be guided solely by the demand pattern. This will help in crop diversification and resultant environment benefits. There will also be huge saving in subsidy due to saving in handling, storage and distribution cost.

As for remunerative price to farmers,resurrection ofthe three central laws will enable them sell their produce at all non-APMC platforms and get a price of their choice (this could be even be higher than MSP).

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THIS BUDGET WILL GO ON TO BRING RELIEF FROM INFLATION AND PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT IN DELHI. WE MUST INCREASE OUR WORKFORCE.

— CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL



THE GOVERNMENT IS PRAISING ITSELF FOR GIVING PEOPLE BORING WATER SUPPLY RATHER THAN YAMUNA'S DRINKING WATER.

— DELHI BJP CHIEF ADESH GUPTA

# Congratulations, Madam Speaker of Uttarakhand

Ritu Khanduri has solemnly affirmed that she will adhere to the highest standards of parliamentary practices and conventions

A pleasant surprise in Uttarakhand is the election of the first woman Speaker of the State Assembly. It is a happy augury that in male-dominated politics despite all eulogies to 'matrishakti' and the rhetoric of 'gender justice', the assembly, with barely eight women MLAs out of 70(5.6%), has elected Ritu Khanduri, a second time MLA, as the Speaker.

Khanduri has solemnly affirmed that she will adhere to the highest standards of parliamentary practices and conventions. The duties of the Speaker are many and challenging. The Speaker has to ensure that the business of the Assembly is conducted smoothly in an orderly manner. This is possible if adequate opportunities are given to the members of all



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

*(The author is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha and a member of Delhi Bar Council. The views expressed are personal.)*

sides, with especial consideration to the opposition. I recollect once there was a simmering discontent against Speaker Shivraj Patil in the Congress party as they alleged that he allowed disproportionately more time to the opposition. Shivraj Patil made it known to the Congress high command that as Speaker he was duty-bound to accommodate the opposition to uphold the neutrality of his office and the matter got buried there.

As guardian of the rights and privileges of the House, it's Committees and the members, the Speaker must display complete neutrality, impartiality and independence. Once elected, the Speaker belongs to all party politics and shuts active party politics and all sides of the House or to none. The Speaker has "neither eyes



to see, nor tongue to speak, except as the House is pleased to direct" the Speaker, as William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons, famously said, way back in 1642.

As presiding officer, the Speaker has inherent regulatory powers to maintain order and decorum in the House, to give rulings and make observations which ought not be assailed inside or outside the House, such being the faith in his neutrality. Neutrality and

impartiality are the hallmark of his office. Besides, the Speaker has outreach functions to foster wider conversations and engagement of the legislature with the 'people' -the members are elected to serve. The catalogue of the attributes of an ideal Speaker is long and demanding. Henry John Temple, British Prime Minister in the nineteenth century asked the editor of 'The Times', London to list the essential qualifications for speakership. The editor listed them thus -- imperturbable, good temper, tact, patience, and urbanity; a previous legal trainingif possible, absence of bitter partisanship in his previous career, the possession of innate gentlemanly feelings which involuntarily command respect and deference; and personal digni-

ty in voice and manner'. It's a tall order!

However, Speakers like G.V. Mavalankar, Sardar Hukum Singh, N. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, K.S. Hedge, Rabi Ray, Shivraj Patil and Somnath Chatterjee, Meira Kumar displayed remarkable neutrality, independence and objectivity and commanded immense respect.

Ritu Khanduri, reared and fostered in strict discipline, (being the daughter of General (Rtd.) B.C. Khanduri) and endowed with good temper, urbanity, dignity of voice and bearing, would expectedly display neutrality and nonpartisanship in her rulings and decisions, a commitment she held out on assuming the office of the Speaker. When she says, 'Order, Order', may there be

order in the tempestuous disorderly Assembly. When members raise 'a point of order', may her rulings and observations and her finesse of conduct quell any doubts or misgivings. It's a matter of grave worry that our state Assemblies hold too few a sittings and transact still lesser business due to frequent uproars and politics of obstruction. So much is spent on the conduct of elections, on the establishment of the Assembly and on the salaries and pension of the legislatures, yet the sittings are abysmally few and far between.

Debates and discussions are critically essential for the health and vigour of democracy. According to the oft-iterated resolutions of the presiding officers (POs) conferences of India, smaller assemblies

should hold a minimum of sixty sittings and bigger assemblies and Parliament hundred sittings in a year with a view to securing accountability of the executive to the legislature- the cornerstone of our republican Constitution. The POs at their conference at Jaipur in 2011 recommended amendment to Articles 85 and 174 so as to make it mandatory. On an average, the Lok Sabha meets for 79 days in a year. But its valuable time is lost in uproars and obstructions and forced adjournments. It's of course for the Union Government which could, given its successful resolve of constructing a new parliament building, hopefully bring out such an amendment as a lasting contribution to the strengthening of the edifice of our parliamentary democracy.



# Zelenskyy seeks peace ‘without delay’

AP ■ LVIV

Ukraine could declare neutrality and offer security guarantees to Russia to secure peace "without delay," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said ahead of another planned round of talks - though he said only a face-to-face meeting with Russia's leader could end the war.

In an interview with independent Russian media outlets, Zelenskyy stressed that Ukraine's priority is ensuring its sovereignty and its "territorial integrity" - preventing Russia from carving up the country, something Ukraine and the West say could now be Moscow's goal.

But, Zelenskyy added: "Security guarantees and neutrality, non-nuclear status of our state - we are ready to go for it."

The Ukrainian leader has suggested as much before, but rarely so forcefully and the latest remarks come as the two sides said talks would resume Tuesday.

Russia has long demanded that Ukraine drop any hope of joining the western NATO alliance, which Moscow sees as a threat. Zelenskyy said that the question of neutrality, which would keep Ukraine out of NATO or other military alliances, should be put to Ukrainian voters in a referendum after Russian troops withdraw.

Zelenskyy has also long stressed that Ukraine needs security guarantees of its own as part of any deal.

"We must come to an agreement with the president of

the Russian Federation, and in order to reach an agreement, he needs to get out of there on his own feet ... And come to meet me," he also said in an interview that Russia barred its media from publishing.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday that the two presidents could meet, but only after the key elements of a potential deal are negotiated.

"The meeting is necessary once we have clarity regarding solutions on all key issues," Lavrov said in an interview with Serbian media.

He accused Ukraine of only wanting to "imitate talks," but said Russia needed concrete results.

In an overnight video address to his nation, Zelenskyy said Ukraine sought peace "without delay" in talks due to get underway in Istanbul.

That location was agreed after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday, the Turkish leader's office said. Negotiators are expected to arrive Monday.

Earlier talks, both by video and in person, have failed to make progress on ending a more than month-old war that has killed thousands and driven more than 10 million Ukrainians from their homes - including almost 4 million from their country.

With Russia's offensive stalled in many areas, its troops have resorted to pummeling Ukrainian towns and cities with rockets and artillery in a grinding war of attrition. Fierce fighting has raged on the out-



skirts of Kyiv, but Russian troops remain miles from the city center, their aim of quickly encircling the capital faltering. In Stoyanka village near Kyiv, Ukrainian soldier Serhiy Udod said Russian troops had taken up defensive positions and suffered heavy losses.

He said "probably they thought it would be like Crimea," which Russia annexed in 2014.

"But, here it's not like in Crimea. We are not happy to see them. Here they suffer and get killed."

A fiercer than expected Ukrainian resistance - bolstered by weapons from the US and other Western allies - has been credited with bogging Russian forces down.

But Zelenskyy has made increasingly exasperated pleas for Western countries to do more, including sending fight-

er jets, accusing political leaders on Sunday of lacking courage. Countries from the NATO alliance have been hesitant to give Zelenskyy some of the more powerful equipment he's begged for, for fear of triggering a much wider war.

In fact, Russia's invasion has most Americans at least somewhat worried that the US will be drawn directly into the conflict and could be targeted with nuclear weapons, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

It shows a level of anxiety echoing the Cold War era.

Moscow now says its focus is on securing the entire eastern Donbas region, which has been partially controlled by Russia-backed separatists since 2014. A high-ranking Russian military official on Friday said that troops were being redi-

rected to the east from other parts of the country.

Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, accused Russia of seeking to split Ukraine in two, making the comparison to North and South Korea.

"The occupiers will try to pull the occupied territories into a single quasi-state structure and pit it against independent Ukraine," Budanov said in a statement released by the Defense Ministry. He predicted that guerrilla warfare by Ukrainians would derail such plans.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has banned reporting on troop and equipment movements not announced or approved by the military. Journalists who violate the law could face three to eight years in prison.

The law does not differentiate between Ukrainian and foreign reporters.

## 160,000 remain in Mariupol, says Mayor

AP ■ LVIV

Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne has quoted the mayor of Mariupol as saying that around 160,000 people remain in the besieged port city, and that a "humanitarian catastrophe" would ensue if more evacuations are not possible.

Vadym Boychenko said Monday that Russian forces were preventing civilians from evacuating from the city and had been turning back some who tried to make it out.

The city, which had a pre-war population of more than 400,000, has seen some of the worst conditions since Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. Russian forces have pounded the city, and scores of civilians have been unable to escape, with no access to essentials and cut off from communication with the shelling of cell, radio and TV towers.

## Joint EU team to probe Ukraine war crimes

AP ■ THE HAGUE

European Union judicial coordination agency Eurojust says it has helped Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine to establish a joint investigation team to probe war crimes, crimes against humanity and other crimes committed in Ukraine.

The Hague-based agency said Monday that the three nations signed an agreement on Friday establishing the team. Eurojust says it provided legal and technical support.

Eurojust says the main aim of the team is to "support the gathering of evidence and its swift and secure exchange between partners, as well as the transmission of information and evidence."

## Erdogan urges ceasefire in call with Putin

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stressed the need for a cease-fire in Ukraine in a telephone call Sunday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Erdogan's office said.

Erdogan also called for an improvement to the humanitarian situation in the region, according to the statement.

The two leaders agreed the next meeting between Russian and Ukrainian

officials should be held in Istanbul, the statement added, without giving a time frame.

Meanwhile, a member of the Ukrainian delegation that's in talks with Russia said Sunday that the two sides have decided to meet in person beginning on Monday. However, Russia's chief negotiator said the in-person talks would begin on Tuesday. Neither said where the talks would be held.

## Officials clarify Biden's comment

AP ■ BERLIN

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says that neither NATO nor US President Joe Biden aim to bring about regime change in Russia.

Biden said of Russian President Vladimir Putin during a speech on Saturday that "this man cannot remain in power."

The White House and other US officials rushed to clarify that Biden wasn't actually calling for Putin to be toppled.

Asked during an appearance Sunday on ARD television whether Putin's removal is in fact the real aim, Scholz replied: "This is not the aim of NATO, and also not that of the American pres-

ident."

Scholz added: "We both agree completely that regime change is not an object and aim of policy that we pursue together."

Asked whether Biden made a dangerous mistake with his comment, Scholz replied: "No." He said that "he said what he said" and Secretary of State Antony Blinken also had clarified that he wasn't talking about regime change. Scholz last month announced a big increase in German defense spending.

On Sunday, he confirmed a report by the Bild am Sonntag newspaper that the government is considering acquiring a missile defense shield along the lines of Israel's "Iron Dome."

# Holocaust survivors flee from Ukraine to Germany for safety

AP ■ FRANKFURT

When the bombs started falling on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, last month, Tatyana Zhuravliova had a horrible déjà vu: the 83-year-old Ukrainian Jew felt the same panic she suffered as a little girl when the Nazis were flying air attacks on her hometown of Odesa.

"My whole body was shaking, and those fears crept up again through my entire body - fears which I didn't even know were still hidden inside me," Zhuravliova said.

Her eyes welled up with tears as she remembered how she hid under the table from the bombs during World War II, and eventually fled with her mother to Kazakhstan when the Nazis and their henchmen started massacring ten of thousands of Jews in Odesa.

"Now I'm too old to run to the bunker. So I just stayed inside my apartment and prayed that the bombs would not kill me," Zhuravliova, a retired doctor, told The Associated Press on Sunday.

But as Russia's military attacks on Ukraine become even more brutal and demolished residential apartment

blocks, she realized that she had to flee again if she didn't want to die. So Zhuravliova accepted an offer from a Jewish organization to bring her out of Ukraine to safety.

In an unexpected twist of history, some of the 10,000 Holocaust survivors who had been living in Ukraine have now been taken to safety in Germany - the country that unleashed World War II and organized the murder of 6 million Jews across Europe.

Zhuravliova was part of the first group of four Jewish Holocaust survivors evacuated from Ukraine by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also referred to as the Claims Conference. The group represents the world's Jews in negotiating for compensation and restitution for victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs, and provides welfare for Holocaust survivors around the globe. A second group of 14 Holocaust survivors, many of them ill and bed-ridden, were brought out of Ukraine on Sunday. The Claims Conference is working with its partners, among them the American Jewish Joint Distribution

Committee, or JDC, to get as many Holocaust survivors out of Ukraine as possible.

Around 500 Holocaust survivors in Ukraine are especially in need of help because of their ailing health - their evacuation is a top priority, says the JDC.

It's a highly difficult and complex operation to transport such frail people out of Ukraine, where constant shelling and artillery fire make any evacuation very dangerous. It involves finding medical staff and ambulances in numerous war zones, crossing international borders and even convincing survivors, who are ill and unable to leave their homes without help, to flee into uncertainty again, this time without the vigor of youth.

However, the risks of staying behind are also very high. This month, 96-year-old Boris Romanchenko, who survived several Nazi concentration camps during World War II, was killed during an attack in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

It is not known if any other survivors have been killed in the war in Ukraine, but several have had their homes hit by shelling, says Amos Lev-Ran from the JDC.

# Nuclear fears in US amid Russia-Ukraine war: AP-NORC poll

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Russia's war on Ukraine has most Americans at least somewhat worried that the U.S. will be drawn directly into the conflict and could be targeted with nuclear weapons, with a new poll reflecting a level of anxiety that has echoes of the Cold War era.

Close to half of Americans say they are very concerned that Russia would directly target the U.S. With nuclear weapons, and an additional 3 in 10 are somewhat concerned about that, according to the new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Russian President Vladimir Putin placed his country's nuclear forces on high alert shortly after the Feb. 24 invasion.

Roughly 9 in 10 Americans are at least somewhat concerned that Putin might use a nuclear weapon against Ukraine, including about 6 in 10 who are very concerned.

"He is out of control, and I don't think he really has concern for much of anything but what he wants," said Robin

Thompson, a retired researcher from Amherst, Massachusetts. "And he has nuclear weapons."

Seventy-one percent of Americans say the invasion has increased the possibility of nuclear weapons being used anywhere in the world.

The poll was conducted before North Korea test-fired its biggest intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday but also shows 51% of Americans saying they are very concerned about the threat to the U.S. Posed by North Korea's nuclear program. An additional 29% expressed moderate concern.

Fear of nuclear war has been a fact of life for decades. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has published its "Doomsday Clock" since 1947, showing a theoretical countdown to nuclear annihilation. The latest update, in January, put the time at 100 seconds to midnight - unchanged since 2020, but still closer than ever to Armageddon.

It's difficult to measure the public's degree of fear over time because polls use different methodologies or pose questions in different ways.

# Ukraine war threatens food supplies in fragile Arab world

AP ■ BEIRUT

Layal Aswad was already exhausted by Lebanon's devastating two-year economic collapse. Now, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine sends food and energy prices soaring even further, she finds herself struggling to put food on the table for her family of four.

"Even bread is not something we take for granted anymore," said the 48-year-old housewife, standing recently in a supermarket aisle in front of gallons of cooking oil whose prices had risen to an all-time high.

From Lebanon, Iraq and Syria to Sudan and Yemen, millions of people in the Middle East whose lives were already upended by conflict, displacement and poverty are now wondering where their next meals will come from. Ukraine and Russia account for a third of global wheat and barley exports, which countries in the Middle East rely on to feed millions of people who subsist on subsidized bread and bargain noodles. They are also top exporters of other grains and the sunflower seed oil that is used for cooking.

Even before the war in Ukraine, people in countries

across the Middle East and North Africa were not getting enough food to eat. Now with trade disruptions spurred by the conflict, more commodities are becoming either unaffordable or unavailable.

"Put simply, people cannot afford food of the quality or quantity that they need, with those in conflict- and crisis-affected countries ... At greatest risk," said Lama Fakih, Middle East and North Africa Director at Human Rights Watch.

A similar set of circumstances led to a series of uprisings starting in late 2010 known as the Arab Spring, when skyrocketing bread prices fueled anti-government protests across the Middle East, noted Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

"When prices jump, and poor people cannot feed their families, they will be on the streets," Georgieva remarked Sunday at the Doha Forum, a policy conference in Qatar.

In Iraq and Sudan, public frustration at food prices and a lack of government services erupted in street protests on several occasions over the past several weeks.

"People have a right to

food, and governments should do everything in their power to protect that right, otherwise we risk not only food insecurity but the insecurity and instability that gross deprivation on this scale could trigger," Fakih said.

The war also has sparked concern that much of the international aid upon which so many in the Arab world depend will be diverted to Ukraine, where more than 3.7 million people have fled the war, Europe's largest exodus since World War II.

"For the millions of Palestinians, Lebanese, Yemenis, Syrians, and others who live in countries experiencing conflict, catastrophic economic meltdowns, and increasing humanitarian needs, this would be equivalent to shutting down critical life support," states an analysis released by Carnegie Middle East experts last week.

In Syria, 14.6 million people will depend on assistance this year, 9% more than in 2021 and 32% more than in 2020, Joyce Msuya, the United Nations' assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and deputy emergency relief coordinator, told the U.N. Security Council in February.

# Nepal PM to travel to India on Friday on maiden 3-day visit

PTI ■ KATHMANDU



strengthen the multifaceted, age-old, and cordial ties between Nepal and India," the ministry said.

During the visit, Prime Minister Deuba will hold delegation-level talks with his Indian counterpart and also meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Prime Minister Modi will host a luncheon in honour of his Nepal counterpart.

During his stay in New Delhi, Prime Minister Deuba will also address a gathering of business leaders. He is also scheduled to visit Varanasi before wrapping up his trip on April 3.

# Opp tables no-trust motion against Imran in Pak Parliament

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was tabled on Monday in the National Assembly by Leader of the Opposition and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, setting in motion the process in the lower house to remove the embattled cricketer-turned-politician from office.

As the much-anticipated session began after a two-day recess on Monday, Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri asked the members of the Parliament, who are in favour of the motion, to stand up to that their numbers could be counted.

Sharif first moved a resolution to allow tabling of the no-confidence motion in the National Assembly, the lower house of bi-cameral parliament, which was approved by 161 yes votes.

It was followed by tabling of the no-confidence motion by Sharif, capping the first phase of the constitutional procedure.

Since the voting should be held between 3-7 days, Deputy Speaker Suri who was chairing the session in the absence of Speaker Asad Qaidar, prorogued the session until 4 pm



March 31, when it would reconvene for debate and voting.

Prime Minister Khan needs 172 votes in the house of 342 to foil the bid. Since Khan's allies with 23 members are still not committed to support him and about two dozen lawmakers from within the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf have revolted, the situation was still fluid.

Khan was meeting Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid, a key ally, while opposition was scheduled to hold a massive rally in the capital, as both side claims having numbers to succeed.

The country plunged into uncertainty on March 8 after the combined opposition submitted the motion with the National Assembly along with

a requisition to the speaker to summon the session within mandatory 14 days.

Though the session was called on March 25, three days after the deadline, the speaker refused to allow the motion to be tabled.

Talking to media, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said that the no-confidence resolution would be decided by March 31, adding that Prime Minister Khan was not going anywhere.

"People must shun the idea that Imran's politics is teetering on the brink, especially after his 'great' rally in Islamabad a day ago," he said, and termed the move as "a conspiracy to weaken Pakistan".

Rashid repeated what Khan said on Sunday while addressing a rally in Islamabad

that an international conspiracy was afoot to topple his government. However, in response to a question Rashid said he has no idea about the letter that Khan had referred to in his speech.

In a massive show of strength ahead of the crucial no-confidence motion against his government, Khan on Sunday addressed a mammoth rally in the national capital where he claimed that foreign powers were involved in a conspiracy to topple his coalition government.

Addressing the rally of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party (PTI) titled 'Amr Bil Maroof' (enjoin the good) and billed as a "historic" event at Parade Ground in Islamabad, Prime Minister Khan said foreign elements are using local politicians and money to "mend the country's foreign policy" and asserted that he has a letter as 'evidence' to support his claims.

Rashid also said that the Prime Minister had rejected his proposal to call snap elections, dissolve the Punjab Assembly and impose governor's rule in Sindh. He also said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had permission of Islamabad's administration to hold a rally in the capital on Monday.

# Shanghai starts China's biggest COVID-19 lockdown in 2 years

AP ■ BEIJING

China began its most extensive coronavirus lockdown in two years Monday to conduct mass testing and control a growing outbreak in Shanghai as questions are raised about the economic toll of the nation's "zero-COVID" strategy.

Shanghai, China's financial capital and largest city with 26 million people, had managed its smaller previous outbreaks with limited lockdowns of housing compounds and workplaces where the virus was spreading.

But the citywide lockdown that will be conducted in two phases will be China's most extensive since the central city of Wuhan, where the virus was first detected in late 2019, confined its 11 million people to their homes for 76 days in early 2020. Millions more have been kept in lockdown since then.

Shanghai's Pudong financial district and nearby areas will be locked down from Monday to Friday as mass test-

ing gets underway, the local government said. In the second phase of the lockdown, the vast downtown area west of the Huangpu River that divides the city will start its own five-day lockdown Friday.

Residents will be required to stay home and deliveries will be left at checkpoints to ensure there is no contact with the outside world. Offices and all businesses not considered essential will be closed and public transport suspended.

Already, many communities within Shanghai have been locked down for the past week, with their housing compounds blocked off with blue and yellow plastic barriers and residents required to submit to multiple tests for COVID-19. Shanghai's Disneyland theme park is among the businesses that closed earlier. Automaker Tesla is also suspending production at its Shanghai plant, according to media reports.

Panic-buying was reported on Sunday, with supermarket shelves cleared of food, beverages and household items



# Sensex, Nifty rebound on banking, oil, gas gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty reversed early losses to close higher by 0.40 per cent on Monday helped by buying in index heavyweight Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Bharti Airtel amid gains in global equities.

After falling 537.11 points to a low of 56,825.09 in morning trade, the 30-share BSE barometer staged a recovery in afternoon trade and climbed 231.29 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 57,593.49. As many as 20 Sensex stocks closed with gains while 10 declined

The broader NSE Nifty recovered 69 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 17,222 with 29 of its constituents ending in green.

Bharti Airtel rose the most by 3.4 per cent among Sensex stocks. Axis Bank rose by 2.13 per cent, ICICI Bank by 1.59 per cent and SBI by 1.44 per cent.

Reliance Industries rose by nearly 1 per cent, helping the barometer recover from losses. IndusInd Bank rose by 1.33 per cent, Bajaj Finserv by 1.09 per cent while Kotak Bank and HDFC Bank also advanced.

FMCG major ITC jumped 1.54 per cent while Hindustan Unilever rose by 1 per cent.

Among losers, Nestle fell the most by 1.83 per cent, HDFC by 1.58 per cent and HCL Tech by 1.41 per cent. Dr Reddy dropped 1.4 per cent, Asian Paints by 0.64 per cent and Wipro by 0.59 per cent due to profit booking.

Shares of multiplex chains PVR and Inox Leisure Ltd spurted after the two companies announced a merger deal to create the country's largest multiplex chain with over 1,500 screens.

PVR shares rose by 3.06 per cent to Rs 1,883.50 at close. Inox Leisure Ltd hit the upper circuit limit of Rs 563.60 before closing at Rs 522.90, up by 11.33 per cent over the previous close. "Benchmark indices reversed early morning losses on positive



global cues," according to S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities.

"Even though the Ukraine war and the consequent crude spike impacted markets initially, the war is not impacting markets much now. The major headwinds for markets in 2022 will continue to be the high US inflation and Fed tightening," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE small-cap index declined 0.53 per cent and mid-cap gauge dipped 0.40 per cent.

"Markets once again witnessed sideways movement but finally managed to end on a higher note because of sharp gains in banking and oil & gas stocks," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Among BSE sectoral indices, oil and & gas (up 1.07 per cent), bank (1.01 per cent), energy (0.97 per cent) and telecom (0.73 per cent) were the major gainers.

"Mixed global cues combined with a lack of any domestic trigger are causing volatile swings in the index. However, the rotational buying in select index majors is helping the benchmark to hold at higher levels," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Equity exchanges in Tokyo and Seoul settled lower, while Hong Kong and Shanghai ended higher. Stock exchanges in the US also ended on a mixed note on Friday.

European markets were trading with gains as investors weigh the developments of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 3.46 per cent to USD 116.3 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 1,507.37 crore on Friday, according to the stock exchange data.

# ₹ rises by 8 paise to 76.16 against \$ as crude oil declines

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 8 paise to 76.16 against the US dollar on Monday, supported by positive domestic equities and a fall in global crude oil prices.

However, a strengthening American currency overseas and concerns over renewed foreign capital outflows capped the gains in the domestic unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 76.36 but entered positive territory later in the session. It witnessed an intra-day high of 76.15 and a low of 76.38.

The rupee traded at 76.16 at 1530 hrs, registering a rise of 8 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled at 76.24 against the US dollar.

"Rupee has been oscillating between 76 and 76.50 for the last six trading sessions. Even after a stronger dollar index, the rupee manages to add gains amid lower crude oil prices, higher equities and corporates dollar selling.

"The fate of the rupee will be decided by the price action of crude oil and risk sentiments. Spot USD/INR is expected to trade in the range of 76 to 76.50 this month," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.32 per cent to 99.13.



Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell sharply by 3.56 per cent to USD 116.35 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 231.29 points or 0.40 per cent higher at 57,593.49, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 69 points or 0.40 per cent to 17,222.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they sold shares worth Rs 1,507.37 crore, according to stock exchange data.

Overseas investors have pulled out a net Rs 1,14,855.97 crore from the Indian markets in the current year so far, amid heightened geopolitical tensions and inflation concerns.

Foreign portfolio investors have sold domestic equities worth Rs 48,261.65 crore so far this month, taking the year-to-date tally this year to a massive Rs 1,14,855.97 crore, according to depositories data.

# Govt's total liabilities rise 2% to ₹128.4L cr in December quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's total liabilities rose to Rs 128.41 lakh crore in December quarter from Rs 125.71 lakh crore in the three months ended September 2021, according to the latest public debt management report.

The increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.15 per cent in October-December 2021-22.

In absolute terms, the total liabilities, including liabilities under the 'Public Account' of the government, jumped to Rs 1,28,41,996 crore at the end of December 2021. As of September 30, the total liabilities stood at Rs 1,25,71,747 crore.

The report released by the finance ministry on Monday said public debt accounted for 91.60 per cent of the total outstanding liabilities in December quarter compared to 91.15 per cent at the end of September.

Nearly 25 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years.

The ownership pattern of the central government securities indicates that the share of commercial banks stood at 35.40 per cent at end-December 2021, lower than 37.82 per cent at end-September 2021.

"Share of insurance companies and provident funds at end-December 2021 stood at 25.74 per cent and 4.33 per cent, respectively. Share of mutual funds was 3.08 per cent at the end of quarter December 2021 as against 2.91 per cent at the end of quarter September 2021.

Share of RBI went downward at 16.92 per cent at end-December 2021 from 16.98 per



cent at end-September 2021," it said.

The central government issued dated securities worth Rs 2,88,000 crore as against Rs 2,83,975 crore in Q3 of FY21, while repayments were at Rs 75,300 crore, it said.

During the quarter, it said, yields on government securities hardened across the curve.

On domestic front, it said, market was largely disappointed by discontinuation of Government Securities Acquisition Plan by the RBI in third quarter.

The spread of Omicron variant of coronavirus to most parts of the country led to apprehension of additional borrowings as well as higher retail inflation also affected the sentiments.

The yields on the 10-year benchmark security increased from 6.22 per cent at the end of September quarter to 6.45 per cent at the end of third quarter, thus hardening by 23 basis points during October-December, it said.

However, the yields were supported by decision of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent, to continue with accommodative stance during Q3 FY22.

# ₹95.85 cr recovered from 11 crypto exchanges for GST evasion: Finance Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Monday informed the Lok Sabha that Rs 95.86 crore has been recovered from 11 cryptocurrency exchanges for evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The total amount includes penalty and interest. Zannai Labs (WAZIRX), Coin DCX, CoinSwitch Kuber, Buy Ucoin, UnoCoin and Flitpay were among the exchanges that were involved in GST evasion cases.

Others were Zeb IT Services, Secure Bitcoin Traders, Giottus Technologies,

Awlencan Innovations India (Zebpay) and Discidium Internet Labs, according to the Finance Ministry. In a written reply to Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said 11 cases of evasion of GST by crypto currency exchanges have been detected by Central GST formations. Evasion of Rs 81.54 crore was detected and Rs 95.86 crore was recovered (including interest and penalty), he said. As per the reply, Rs 49.18 crore was recovered from Zannai Labs (WAZIRX), Rs 17.1 crore from Coin DCX, and Rs 16.07 crore from CoinSwitch Kuber.

# Reveal password of your Bitcoin wallet to ED, SC tells crypto scam accused Ajay Bhardwaj

New Delhi: In another development, the Supreme Court asked a cryptocurrency scam accused Ajay Bhardwaj to disclose the username and password of his Bitcoin wallet to the Enforcement Directorate and cooperate with the investigation in the money laundering case against him. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said that subject to Ajay Bhardwaj, accused of running "multi-level marketing scheme" of Bitcoin making full disclosure, his interim protection granted by the court will continue.

# Sumant takes over as Assocham president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ReNew Power's founder chairman and CEO Sumant Sinha has taken over as the president of Assocham, the industry body said on Monday. SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh has become the new senior vice-president of Assocham. "During my presidency, my Assocham colleagues and I will work closely with the government on fulfilling the visionary goal of our Prime Minister Narendra

Modi for India to become Aatmanirbhar over the Amrit Kaal of the next 25 years, culminating in the centenary year of our independence," Sinha said.

# ASSAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS ULUBARI: : GUWAHATI

## Notice Inviting e-Tender

Assam Police Headquarters invites open tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturers or authorized distributors/dealers for supply of 5 nos. of Hand Held X-Ray Imaging System to Assam Police.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement portal, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the portal shall submit their tender on-line on the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> with non refundable tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand) to be paid online only. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-

Inspector General of Police (Admin), Janasanyog/C/13963/21 Assam, Ulubari, Guwahati

# 'Housing prices may go up 15% on rise in construction cost'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Realtors' body CREDAI on Monday said the cost of construction has gone up by 20-25 per cent, mainly during the last 45 days, due to steep rise in prices of raw materials like steel, and builders will be forced to increase property prices from next month by an average 10-15 per cent.

CREDAI-MCHI, the Maharashtra chapter of CREDAI, demanded that the central as well as state governments consider giving relief to the industry by reducing stamp duty and GST rates, besides allowing input tax credit (ITC) to developers.

The association said it would not advise member developers to stop construction works as of now, but if the price rise continues then builders would have no option but to halt works at project sites and

defer purchase of raw materials.

Recently, CREDAI-NCR had issued a statement that it was considering stopping construction works and also halt purchase of raw materials.

"Steel prices have gone up from Rs 35-40 per kg to Rs 85-90 per kg. Cement prices have gone up by around Rs 100 per bag. Fuel and transportation costs have gone up. This has resulted in an increase of 20-25 per cent in the overall construction cost," CREDAI-MCHI President Deepak Goradia told reporters in a press conference.

Association's secretary Dhaval Ajmera said the construction cost has gone up by Rs 400-500 per square feet, primarily in the last 45 days, affecting the affordable housing segment the most.

He demanded that the Maharashtra government con-

sider reducing the stamp duty from 5-6 per cent to 3 per cent to mitigate the impact of sharp rise in raw material prices, which have gone up due to the geo-political situation.

Ajmera also sought reduction in the GST rate of 18 per cent on raw materials like cement. He demanded ban on exports of cement and steel for a short period.

He said the developers should be allowed to claim ITC. Stating that developers are operating on very small margin or no margin, Ajmera said developers would be forced to hike prices of their apartments from next month onwards.

The price rise could happen by an average 10-15 per cent, he added.

"Some of the measures that are currently being considered include raising the prices of the unsold inventory which has not been delivered, by 10-15 per

cent to cover the rising input costs.

"This move will not only impact the 2,773 projects which were approved by MCGM (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai) in 2021 but many more to the extent of 2,60,000 units over the course of the next three years," CREDAI-MCHI said in a statement. Meanwhile, commenting on the rise in raw material prices, Colliers India CEO Ramesh Nair said this could lead to price escalation especially for under construction projects.

# 'Fleet Card-Fuel on Move' by IAF for speedy fuel supply

NEW DELHI: With the objective of ensuring speedy supply of fuel to sustain operational tempo, IAF in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has introduced a 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' for its varied fleet of vehicles. Describing it as a leap forward in fuel supply chain management, officials said here this innovative initiative provides a paradigm shift to the logistics management of fuel. Availability of 'Fleet Card' will permit the IAF convoy to refuel at any

IOCL fuel stations, increasing the pace of movement and reducing the lead time for readiness at operational locations across the nation. Chief of IAF VR Chaudhari launched the scheme here on Monday at the Western Command. He complimented team of the Command and the IOCL for this initiative that has enhanced the operational preparedness and capability of the IAF. Western Air Command was earmarked as lead agency for its implementation and execution. PNS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publicly notified that the Plot No. F-52, Sector-56, Noida has been allotted in the name of Prakash Narain Mehrotra S/o Bishan Narain Mehrotra R/o 6, Jagriti Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi, had sold the said plot, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:-

A GPA was executed in favour of Som Nath Gulati S/o Shri Jeevan Dass Gulati R/o 1397-B/3, Para Mohalla, Rohtak Haryana executed at SR Sadar, Gautam Budh Nagar vide Book No. IV/Volume No. 483 on pages 16-17 at Document No. 5142 dated 22.5.1987 and Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above plot goes in favour of Monika Dandia W/o Shri Rakesh Dandia R/o 36, Pocket-E, Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi-110091 if any one/above partners has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Credit Company Limited, That Mrs. Sudeesh Yadav is owner of Property (Plot No.B-42A, area measuring 157 sq. yds, out of Khewat / Khata No.2969/2932, Rect No.52, Kda No.12/25, in the residential colony known as Sai Kirti Phase-II, New Palm Vihar, Sector-11/0A, Situated at Revenue Estate of Village Chaurma, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana) (the said property), by virtue of Sale deed dated 02.05.2019, having registration No. 1294, executed by Mr. Mohan Singh and Mr. Gopal Singh through attorney Mr. Dwain Singh Yadav. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take Loan facility from Fullerton India Credit Company Limited against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner of the said property, its sale (Mortgage) litigation, & any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 206, Third Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mori Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company, That Mr. Gauri Shankar is claiming owner /attorney holder of Property bearing land measuring 30 sq. Yds, out of Khata No. 325, Situated in the area of Village Garmi Ghonda Gurgaon Khadar, Delhi, (the said property) by virtue of GPA, Agreement and will all dated 07.03.1997, executed by Mr. Hans Raj. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mr. Sandeep Kumar who is taking Loan from Fullerton for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner /attorney holder over the said property, its sale (Mortgage) litigation, & any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 206, Third Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mori Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O. "UJJAWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax : 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
Website : www.ujvn.com

**RO No. 101 Tender Notice Dated : 28.03.2022**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Pathri Power House, Bahadrabad, Hardwar invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:-  
1. Tender No.: 39/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 - Construction & Fabrication of Electric Fencing and other associated works at 500 KwP Solar PV Plant, Pathri.  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 9.95,500/- (GST Extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 29.03.2022  
Last date for submission of tender: 20.04.2022, up to 16:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M&G)**  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

1 Name of work with its location	Ro-girdering of Bridge No- 245 (1x18.3m) North & South on DLI-GZB in the section of AXEN/Sp/Br/bridge/TKJ
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 7998026.31
3 Amount of Earnest Money	Rs.160000.00
4 Completion period of the work	(10) Ten Months
5 Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 19.04.2022 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
6 Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Tender Notice No: 32-W-BR-245-DSA-2022 Date : 26.03.2022  
657/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005  
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Anju Srivastav/ Dhananjay Kumar/ LBNOD00002841393	Flat No C-103, 1st Floor, French Apartments, Plot No Gh-07B, Sector-16B Greater Noida (west), Noida/ March 22, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 26,34,754/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Rupinder Kaur/ Manish Kumar/ LBFDB00002382038	Plot No-3075, 1st Floor, Block-J, Sainik Colony Ext.No.-2, Sector-49, Faridabad, Haryana/ March 23, 2022	June 16, 2021/ Rs. 39,18,186/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Prem Beniwal/ Lakhpat Singh/ LBFDB00002361547/ LBFDB00002361549	Flat No-B-602, 6th Floor, The Golf Enclave Cghs Ltd, Plot No. GH-27, Sector 21c, Part III, Faridabad, Haryana/ March 23, 2022	October 16, 2021/ Rs. 83,08,376/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Gaurav Khanna/ Rajesh Khanna/ Asha Khanna/ Sai Gaurav Associates P Ltd/ Ritu Khanna/ LBDL00002318846	Flat No-S012 Ground Floor, Block-S, Select Homes Sector-90, Gurgaon/ March 23, 2022	June 24, 2021/ Rs. 2,17,44,602/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Nikhil/ Nimisha Ahuja/ LBNOD00002958474	Appartment No-1501, 14th Floor Tower-K, Godrej Summit, Sector-104, Gurgaon Haryana/ March 23, 2022	August 16, 2021/ Rs. 1,60,93,683/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Rajbir Singh/ Meena/ Aquilite Impex Private Limited/ LBFDB00005076082	Plot No-823, Ground Floor Sector-B, Greenfields, Sarai Khawaja, Faridabad Haryana/ March 23, 2022	August 16, 2021/ Rs. 1,41,25,012/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Jnanendra Kumar Jena/ Kalpana Jena/ JTK Logistics Private Limited/ Jitendra Kumar Jena/ LBFDB00002422249	Flat No 502 5th Floor Tower-C1 Diplomatic Greens Sector-110A And 111, Gurgaon Haryana 122001/ March 23, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 1,11,41,273/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Vikram Paul/ Banita Paul/ LBNOD00002263659	NGP-174, DLG New Town, Heights 17th Floor, Tower-P, Sector-90, Gurgaon/ March 23, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 1,11,41,273/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Jnanendra Kumar Jena/ Kalpana Jena/ JTK Logistics Private Limited/ Jitendra Kumar Jena/ LBFDB00002422178	Flat No 801 8th Floor Tower A3 Diplomatic Greens Sector-110A And 111, Gurgaon Haryana 122001/ March 23, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 89,71,340/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Ajay Kumar Khanna/ Prem Prakash/ LBGUR00004072552/ LBGUR00004072563	Plot No- 2167, Sector 7D, Faridabad/ March 23, 2022	August 30, 2021/ Rs. 29,79,161/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Puneet Kumar Sharma/ Seema/ LBNOD00001720913	House No- 135, Sector- 37, Urban Estate, Faridabad, Faridabad/ March 23, 2022	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 20,55,363/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Deepak Khandelwal/ Deepthi/ LBFDB00002993646/ LBGUR00005336276	Unit No. 21, Lower Ground Floor, Centrally Air Conditioned Building Charmwood Plaza In Eros Garden Colony, Suraj Kund, Faridabad, Haryana/ March 23, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 23,84,731/-	Delhi/ NCR
13.	Sumeet Suri/ Pali Suri/ LBFDB00001184102/ LBFDB00001198548/ LBFDB00001426566	122, Block-1, Sunrise Tower Cghsgh-7, Sec-45, Faridabad, Haryana, Faridabad/ March 23, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 15,52,575/-	Delhi/ NCR
14.	Krishna Kumar/ Mukesh Kumar/ LBFDB00002892673	Plot No- B 103, 1st Floor, Sec- 82 Floridaa Group, Housing Scheme Bhatola Faridabad/ March 23, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 15,16,051/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : March 29, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited



DOCYARD

DR CHANDNI TUGNAIT

MD (A.M) Psychotherapist, Life Alchemist, Coach & Healer, Founder & Director

GATEWAY OF HEALING



## Incorporate alone time in your life



Social connections are important for physical, mental and emotional well-being. While it is important to nurture our connections and relationships, it is also important to carve out some alone time to boost one's mental health. Alone time is a great stress-buster and also aids in nurturing creativity, energy and personal exploration. Many people can't simply switch off. This means that they are constantly thinking about work, their relationships, or social events even when they are not in the presence of other people. These thoughts can make them feel stressed and anxious which is why it is important to engage in alone time.

Alone time is the period when one person is in isolation from others. While some people may enjoy alone time because it gives them privacy, others may choose to indulge in solo activities like reading a book or taking a walk because it provides them an opportunity to reflect on their life. Moreover, it brings a sense of peace and calm; a boost to mental health. While many feel that this may be true for introverts who need alone time in order to recharge after social interactions, studies have shown that not getting enough alone time affects the mental health even if you are an extrovert. Being constantly around other people can make us feel stressed, anxious or experience a burnout. Also, being alone is not the same as being lonely.

**While some people may enjoy alone time because it gives them privacy, others may choose to indulge in solo activities like reading a book or taking a walk because it provides them an opportunity to reflect on their life**

- ◆ Feeling more distracted than normal

Often, as an escape from reality, people end up scrolling through social media for 3-6 hours daily, most of which is mindless, in a quest to shut the chatter in their head. This is not the 'alone time' to opt for. Instead choose activities that help you strengthen the connection with self such as journaling, dance, music, meditation, cooking, sketching, colouring, walk in nature, self-care activities, reading and researching. Although the natural tendency is to feel that I am very busy and don't have the time for myself, it is important to make a decision and set that time out to boost not just the mental health but overall wellbeing and relationships.

**Some ways to incorporate alone time in your life**

- ◆ Schedule a time for it - Plan and schedule the alone time. Make sure people around you know that you aren't to be disturbed during this time. Honour your commitment to self.

- ◆ Develop the right mindset - Don't view 'alone time' as a to-do; instead, tap into the joy of indulging in alone time from time to time.

- ◆ Create a safe space - Create a quiet & comfortable space to enjoy your time alone.

- ◆ Practice Mindfulness - Be aware of the present moment without worrying about pending tasks or what others are thinking. Immerse fully in your connection with yourself.

- ◆ Moderation is the key - Setting 15-30 minutes daily or every alternate day is good enough to receive benefits from the practice. Do not get carried away for hours at length (as a tool to escape from reality).

Being alone with the right mindset and in the right way rejuvenates and energises mind, body and being just as much as being with a supportive community—a healthy mix of both is pivotal for sound mental health. This would not only refresh you but also boost productivity, energy, confidence and creativity. Opt for what works the best for you and in case you feel you are unable to get respite from the chaos of everyday life despite your attempts at healthy 'alone time', seek help from an expert.

## SUMMERCOOLER

**CUCUMBER WATER:** Without water, your body will not function correctly. A person should drink six to eight glasses of water each day. We all know we should drink water throughout the day, but plain water might get dull after a while. Cucumber adds a layer of taste that encourages you to drink more. If you're attempting to lose weight, switching to cucumber water instead of sugary sodas, sports drinks, and juices can help you eliminate calories



## Early evaluation is essential

During a woman's menstrual cycle, the texture & consistency of breast tissues may change thereby making the breast tender. They also undergo modifications with age, says DR ANJALI KUMAR

With the cases of breast cancer rising increasingly in India as compared to the western countries, it's evident that we need to take care of our breasts similar to the way we look after other organs of the body.

According to the World Health Organization, in 2018, approximately 627,000 women died from breast cancer globally—that is approximately 15 per cent of all cancer deaths among women.

So, a breast lump is no doubt a serious condition and could be the initial symptom of breast cancer. But at the same time, it is important to remember that all breast lumps are not cancerous. Particularly in younger women, breast lumps may be an indicator of a benign condition.

However, one should get it evaluated by a doctor if you feel a new lump or if the breast tissue feels different from the regular texture.

**How does breast tissue normally feel?**

Our breasts are a combination of tissues which vary in texture and consistency.

These may be fatty, glandular and connective tissue. During a woman's menstrual cycle, the texture & consistency of these tissues may also change thereby making the breast tender. Breast tissues also undergo modifications with age.



**DR ANJALI KUMAR**  
Sr Consultant Gynaecologist & Obstetrician and Founder, Maitri Woman's Health

**When to see the doctor?**

- ◆ You find a new breast lump or thickening that feels different from the surrounding tissue
- ◆ There is a change in the size, shape or appearance of the breast
- ◆ Breast pain stays for a longer time ie more than one menstrual cycle
- ◆ There is some change in the skin near the breast, such as itching, redness, scaling or puckering
- ◆ The nipple has become little inverted or there is abnormal discharge from the nipple

**Procedures to evaluate a breast lump**

Your doctor might ask you to get some tests done in order to confirm the diagnosis of the breast lump.

**A BREAST LUMP IS NO DOUBT A SERIOUS CONDITION AND COULD BE THE INITIAL SYMPTOM OF BREAST CANCER. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT ALL BREAST LUMPS ARE NOT CANCEROUS. PARTICULARLY IN YOUNGER WOMEN, BREAST LUMPS MAY BE AN INDICATOR OF A BENIGN CONDITION**

**These include:**

- ◆ Mammogram
- ◆ Breast Ultrasound
- ◆ Breast MRI
- ◆ Breast Biopsy

**Follow-up after breast lump evaluation is essential**

If the breast lump isn't cancerous, your doctor will decide whether you need short-term monitoring with clinical breast exams or repeat breast imaging. You may have to see the doctor again in two to three months. The doctor will monitor again if there have been changes in your breast.

If the diagnosis is in question or the clinical breast exam and the mammogram show areas of suspicion, but the biopsy reveals benign tissue—you'll be referred to a surgeon or other specialist for further consultation.

If the breast lump is cancerous, you'll work with your doctor to create a treatment plan. The stage and type of breast cancer will decide the further treatment procedure. Generally, surgery is performed if the lump is proven to be cancer. The surgeon before performing the surgery will explain appropriate surgical options and provide you with the information necessary to make this decision. You may have several consultations with other physicians for additional treatment, including radiation therapy and chemotherapy or hormone therapy.

## Eradicating and eliminating danger



As clinicians, we witnessed how the disease manifested in a vaccinated and in an

unvaccinated individual. These vaccines didn't only save lives but also protected millions, says DR J A JAYALAL

When the coronavirus pandemic struck the country in 2020, very little was known of the contagion. All we knew was that it was highly contagious. Our first priority was to safeguard our frontline healthcare workers, who were at a high risk of contracting the infection. The Indian Medical Association worked closely with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Union Ministry of Health, to formulate protocols the doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare workers could use to manage the patients to protect themselves. Then we worked on guidelines to treat patients effectively with whatever therapies and drugs we had at that time.

Early on, the country realised that to deal with a pandemic of this magnitude, it needed to develop a potent vaccine to protect its population. And in less than a year, the country developed and produced vaccines for its people.

The Government decided to first immunise the healthcare workers on priority. It was a matter of great pride for us when the government recognised the healthcare community's efforts in fighting the pandemic in the absence of a potent drug or therapy.

Indeed, healthcare workers were at the greatest risk of contracting the disease while treating their patients. But initially, there were concerns within the medical fraternity regarding the safety of these vaccines as they were developed in such a short time.

But IMA had immense faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, scientists, and the country's stringent regulatory mechanism. In fact, India, which is known as the pharmacy of the world, has a glorious history when it comes to developing vaccines. The country has eradicated and eliminated various deadly and debilitating diseases with the help of vaccines.

Across India, we, the healthcare workers came forward and took the vaccine. We took it as an opportunity to show our trust and confidence in the system, and we decided to become an ambassador for the vaccines, developed because of the dedication and relentless efforts of our scientists.

A year on, it has been proved that our trust was not misplaced. The vaccines have saved millions of lives by reducing the severity of the disease. As clinicians, we witnessed how the disease manifested in a vaccinated and in an unvaccinated individual. These vaccines didn't only save lives but also protected millions from the severe after effect of COVID-19.

Today, ninety-eight percent of adults in the country have received at least one dose of vaccine, more than 70 per cent of children between age 15 and 18 have got their first dose.

Soon, the vaccine will be given to younger children. We are already giving them to pregnant and lactating women. And on the IMA's request, the Government began providing precautionary doses to the healthcare workers and the elderly.

The writer is Former President, Indian Medical Association

## Excess of it can be unhealthy

According to the Global Burden of Disease report, high intake of sodium is the largest contributor to mortality. DR ANJALI NAKRA tells us more

Salt has been used by humans for thousands of years. It is available from sea water, mineral deposits (under the earth), surface, saline lakes, and springs. It was not easily available, and was such a precious commodity in ancient times, that it was used as a currency or was bartered. It even had a role in India's fight for freedom.

Salt has been used to flavour and preserve food. Today, availability of salt is ubiquitous and is available cheaply. In most countries it is available with iodine added to it.

**Why is it important?**

Salt is essential for maintaining the water and electrolyte balance in humans. It has sodium and chloride, which are essential for human life. Like all food ingredients, too less or too much—both are harmful for health. In the last few decades, the amount of salt used has increased manifold.

**Recommended intake**

The recommendations are 2300 mg or 5 grams (1 teaspoon) of salt daily. The American heart association recommends 1500 mg daily or 3.8 grams of salt for health and prevention of disease.



**Dr Anjali Nakra**  
MBBS, D O, Diplomate LM Lifestyle Medicine Physician Founder: Path to Health Clinic Certified World Obesity Federation Secretary: Indian society of Lifestyle Medicine (ISLM)

Children less than 1 year of age should not be given salt. It has been found that average consumption of salt is much higher in most countries. In India, various studies have given an estimate of twice the levels as compared to WHO recommendations.

mentations.

According to the Global Burden of Disease study published in Lancet, high intake of sodium is the largest contributor to mortality and second most important factor for DALYs (disability adjusted life years).

An estimated 2.5 million deaths could be prevented each year if global salt consumption were reduced to the recommended level.

**Where is my salt?**

- ◆ Processed and comfort foods
- ◆ Added to home food
- ◆ Occurs naturally in food
- ◆ Added as table Salt

**How does it affect?**

Increased salt intake increases inflammation and metabolic stress-oxidative stress.

It has been linked to high blood pressure.

Arteries: Excess salt causes damage to the lining of the arteries and makes them stiffer.

Heart: Prolonged high salt intake increases the size of left ventricle, one of the chambers of the heart.

Kidneys: Salt load on kidneys leads to improper functioning,

leading to an imbalance of many more minerals.

Brain: It affects the blood circulation, and adversely affects many neuronal circuits in the brain.

Skin: Increases inflammation in the skin and causes sodium deposits in the skin.

Bones: Decreases bone mineral density and mineral content of bones, including calcium.

These effects on the arteries and other organs are independent of the damage caused by high blood pressure. Dietary salt is an independent risk factor for strokes and dementia too.

There is a 17 per cent increase in cardiovascular events for every 1000mg/day increase in sodium intake. Increased salt intake during adolescence contributes to increased risk of high blood pressure.

The effect of high salt intake varies for individuals, sex and even some races.

Research has shown that it's not only the amount of salt but the ratio of salt to energy intake, which is important, recommendations should also factor in this.

## INBRIEF

**Pediatric orthopedic cases have increased due to lack of activity**

Since the advent of COVID-19, Dr Shubhang Aggarwal, Orthopaedic & Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon, NHS Hospital, Jalandhar said he has been seeing a lot of pediatric orthopedic cases like excruciating pain in neck and back in his OPD. He said such issues have seen a rise by 50 per cent.

The doctor blamed the wrong body posture behind the substantial increase in the multiple skeletal issues in the kids.

"Increased screen exposure in kids has not only made them physically unwell but also it's also affecting their mental health. It has been seen that these kids suffering from neck and back issues mostly have wrong sitting postures coupled with almost no physical activities," he says.

Pediatric orthopedic cases increased by 50 per cent due to lack of activity, poor posture during online classes. Most of them are overweight, have lack of stamina, going through anxiety and attention deficit disorder. Parents should come up with ways to engage their child both in studies and doing physical activities," he says.

In the past, the cases of neck and back stiffness were observed in working adults but this time a lot of kids are experiencing this issue. It's essential to observe some precautionary measures.



# N Macedonia game 'matter of life & death'

AP ■ PORTO

Portugal's World Cup play-off against North Macedonia on Tuesday is a "matter of life and death", said Cristiano Ronaldo ahead of the game.

Manchester United star Ronaldo is hoping to qualify for a fifth World Cup with Portugal and secure another chance to lift the trophy for the first time at the age of 37.

The winners of the match in Porto will book a spot at this year's finals in Qatar.

"The team is quite confident, I feel all the players are ready," Ronaldo told a press conference on Monday.

"For us, this game is a matter of life and death, we are aware of its importance and I take this opportunity to appeal to the supporters to give us incredible support tomorrow."

Portugal would have likely been expecting to face Italy in the play-off final, but the European champions slumped to a shock 1-0 home defeat by North Macedonia last week.

The Macedonians also claimed a surprise away victory over Germany earlier in the qualifying campaign.

"We're playing North Macedonia and of course people think it's going to be an easier opponent," admitted Ronaldo.

"From my point of view it's going to be an extremely tough game because if the Macedonians are here it's because they deserve to be."

"North Macedonia are a very organised team, but if Portugal are at their best, they beat any team



**Portugal would have likely been expecting to face Italy in the play-off final, but the European champions slumped to a shock 1-0 home defeat by North Macedonia last week.**

in the world."

Ronaldo, the all-time record goalscorer in international football, will be 41 by the time of the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

But the Portugal captain would not say if Qatar would be his last opportunity to play at football's showpiece event.

"The one who will decide my future is me," he said.

"If I want to play more, I play, if I don't want to, I don't play. Period."

Portugal coach Fernando Santos has previously hinted that he will step down from the role if his team fail to qualify for the first time since 1998.

"If we think that, theoretically, the Macedonians are weaker, we are on the wrong track, it's the worst possible scenario," said the 67-year-old, who has been Portugal boss since 2014 and led them to Euro 2016 glory.

"We have to face North Macedonia as we would have faced Italy."

## North Macedonia have '90 minutes to fulfil' WC dream



AP ■ SKOPJE

The North Macedonia players have "90 minutes to fulfil" the "dream of a whole country" said key midfielder Elif Elmas ahead of Tuesday's 2022 World Cup play-off against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

North Macedonia travel to Portugal in the hope of claiming a second notable scalp, having eliminated European champions Italy last Thursday, and reaching their first ever World Cup finals.

"Frankly this might be one of the most difficult and most exciting matches for all of us," said Elmas on Sunday.

"We have 90 minutes to fulfil our childhood dream, not only ours, but of the whole country."

"Simply, we have to know that we can't miss this chance and we have to 'burn' on the pitch in order to get to Qatar."

North Macedonia are bidding for a fourth successive away victory but face

a Portugal side which will feature an extra-motivated Ronaldo, who at 37 is unlikely to have another chance of appearing at football's quadrennial global showpiece.

"We beat a giant like Italy, but still have one more step towards the World Cup. We dream of a victory on Tuesday," said winger Ezgjan Alioski.

"We do not want to mess something up in Ronaldo's career, but we believe that we can win against Portugal."

Portugal and North Macedonia have played each other just once before, producing a goalless draw in a 2012 friendly.

Despite the stiff challenge ahead, North Macedonia's capital Skopje has been buzzing with football fever in the wake of last week's win.

"Portugal is a very good team and Macedonia will have a very difficult task. We all want Macedonia to win and to be part of the World Cup," Skopje resident Boban Ilijevski told AFP.



# Unbeaten German boss Flick welcomes Dutch test

AP ■ MUNICH

Germany head coach Hansi Flick is relishing the chance to see his team take on fellow European giants the Netherlands in a friendly on Tuesday.

The four-time World Cup winners are hoping to extend an eight-match winning streak since Flick took over in September, with this year's finals in Qatar coming into focus.

The game in Amsterdam is the first time the Germans will meet a former major tournament winner since losing to England in the last 16 of Euro 2020 last June.

"We have the necessary respect for a (Dutch) team who play really good football and have top players," Flick said Monday.



"They have enormous quality and are a yardstick for us. We have good players and want to put in our own good performance."

Flick wants his young team to gain "more confidence in our own strengths" eight months before the World Cup kicks off.

An experimental side, with Bayern Munich's Jamal Musiala, 19, starting in midfield, brushed aside Israel 2-0 in a friendly Saturday.

Chelsea forwards Kai Havertz and Timo Werner scored in Sinsheim before Bayern's Thomas Mueller hit the post with a late penalty.

Flick will bolster his starting line-up in Amsterdam, with Manuel Neuer returning in goal and Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger at centre-back. Musiala is "definitely a consider-

ation" to start again, said Flick.

Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich -- who called Flick during Monday's press conference -- is not an option as he awaits the birth of his child. Of course, he's torn, he always wants to play, but this is the best decision," said Flick.

The Dutch are unbeaten since their last-16 loss to the Czech Republic at Euro 2020 and beat Denmark 4-2 last Saturday. Tottenham winger Steven Bergwijn scored twice and created goals for Nathan Ake and Memphis Depay.

Dutch coach Louis van Gaal said Freiburg goalkeeper Mark Flekken will start against Germany, having impressed in the Denmark victory.

"He can open up the game so we can keep playing," said van Gaal.

## Mancini hints he will stay Italy boss despite WC disaster

AP ■ ROME

Roberto Mancini dropped a big hint on Monday he will stay on as Italy coach despite the Azzurri failing to qualify for the World Cup for a second successive time.

The European champions were stunned by North Macedonia in Thursday's qualification play-off semi-final for this year's tournament in Qatar, sparking talk he could resign in the aftermath of perhaps Italy's worst-ever defeat.

However, although he wouldn't openly confirm that he would stay at the helm, on Monday Mancini spoke about the team and the future using the first-person plural "noi", or "we".

"I've spoken with the (Italian Football Federation) president (Gianluigi Grava) in the last few days, I think we're on the same page on pretty much everything," Mancini told reporters ahead of Italy's friendly with Turkey in Konya on Tuesday.

"We will speak about it again in the coming days, we'll see each other again after this match. Then we'll take our time to talk about what can be improved for the future. That's it."

Names including 2006 World Cup-winning captain Fabio Cannavaro and Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti were touted after Italy's 1-0 defeat in Palermo last week.

Mancini, who took over in May 2018 after Italy failed to reach that year's World Cup, has a contract which runs until the 2026 tournament co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

After Thursday's defeat team captain Giorgio Chiellini and Grava both said they wanted Mancini to continue, and the 57-year-old all-but made a public bid to stay on as boss.

When asked what would push him to remain in his post, Mancini smiled and made very clear his enthusiasm for managing a team which he is convinced would have been a contender in Qatar had they qualified.

"I'm still young, my aim is to win a European Championship and a World Cup, and for the World Cup we will need to wait a bit," he said.

"I like my job. I think I can still have fun and do something special with the boys."

He was backed up on this occasion by Leonardo Bonucci, who was unavailable for the match with North Macedonia but has been at the heart of a team which up to the Euro 2020 final had played enjoyable football and broken winning streak and matches unbeaten records.

"I think what the coach has given us in these past three years was unique. He created a depth of feeling between the team, staff and management that we've rarely experienced at (national training centre) Coverciano," Juventus defender Bonucci said.

"Anyone who has been involved on the pitch, the dressing room or had anything to do with the coach wants only to carry on with him."

## Lewandowski, Ibrahimovic seek WC place as Poland, Sweden clash

AP ■ CHORZOW

Either Robert Lewandowski or Zlatan Ibrahimovic will miss out on the chance to play at the 2022 World Cup when Poland and Sweden clash in Tuesday's play-off.

The winners in Chorzow will go into Friday's draw for the World Cup group stage.

It could be the final chance to play at a World Cup for Swedish striker Ibrahimovic, who will be 41, and Poland's Lewandowski, who will be 34, when the finals kick off in Qatar this November.

"A World Cup without Zlatan is not a World Cup," said Ibrahimovic.

The veteran has endured an injury-blighted season and last played a full 90 minutes for his club AC Milan in January.

Sweden coach Janne Andersson said Monday that Ibrahimovic "is a weapon for us" as a substitute, but "can't play the whole game".

In contrast, Bayern Munich's Lewandowski is in stellar form having scored 50 goals for club and country this season.

The Poland captain, a back-to-back winner of FIFA's best men's player award, took part in training Sunday after suffering a knee knock last week and is set to start in Chorzow.

There will be an element of seeking revenge for hosts Poland, who lost 3-2 to Sweden in their final Euro 2020 group game last year.

Sweden's winning goal by Viktor Claesson in stoppage time in Saint Petersburg knocked Poland out in the group stage.

"We won last summer, so they (Poland) will no doubt be hungry for revenge," said Sweden playmaker Emil Forsberg.



Forsberg.

"It would be great to give them another slap in the face."

Sweden are unhappy that Poland qualified automatically for the play-off final after being handed a bye when UEFA banned their semi-final opponents Russia over the

invasion of Ukraine.

"The principle of playing under the same conditions, i.e. winning two matches to reach the World Cup finals, should apply," said Swedish FA general secretary Hakan Sjostrand.

The same night Poland

drew a friendly away to Scotland last Thursday with Lewandowski rested, Sweden needed extra time to squeeze past the Czech Republic 1-0 in their play-off semi-final.

Robin Quaison scored the winner for Sweden in the 110th minute in Stockholm.

## Bajrang's leg defence is not weak, it's just his style of play: Coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Contrary to the popular opinion that Bajrang Punia's leg defence is a major shortcoming in his game, Sujet Maan, the new personal coach of the star grappler says the wrestler looks vulnerable only because of his attacking style and all he needs to do is to convert the moves into points.

Bajrang's leg defence has been a major talking point in the last three years, especially in run up to the Tokyo Games, where he won a bronze medal.

His coach Shako Bentineidis also worked on the same but Bajrang, 28, never made the desired progress, something which irked the national federation and eventually the Georgian was removed from his support staff.

However, Maan, who started working with Bajrang from January this year, says Bajrang's leg defence is not as weak as it is thought of.

"A lot of people opine that his leg defence is weak but that's not the case. It's a style. In cricket, the aggressive batters go for their shots and in the process they run the risk of losing their wicket. In Bajrang's case when he plays attacking game, he appears vulnerable in his leg defence," Maan told PTI in an interview.

"It's not that we are not working on his leg defence. We are trying that even if the rivals get hold of his legs, he wriggles out of it with solid defence."

One of the main reasons for his leg-defence struggle has been linked with his training and competition on the soil (dangal) in his formative years. The wrestlers usually adopt a high stance during 'dangals' but when it comes to competition on the mat, the strategy does not work.

Many traditional wrestling stars like Jassa Patti, one of the famous and most successful dangal wrestlers in the country could not succeed on mat, struggling to win bouts even in National championships.

Maan agrees that the training and competition style in early years

could be a reason for whatever issues he has in his leg defence.

"On the mat you need to compete more on low and middle stance while in the Dangal, the wrestler maintains high stance. Habits are difficult to change, especially when it becomes muscle memory."

Maan said he has been a part of the national camp and has observed Bajrang's game whenever he was there. He and Bajrang, recently, watched the wrestler's bouts from the 2019 World Championship, 2018 Asian Games, the 2021 Asian Championship videos and he is sure that going forward, adding more aggression to his style should help him.

"He needs to be aggressive and attack more. Attack is the best defence. The change he needs to make is he should attack but must not end up losing points or fail to score despite taking the risk."

"If he is managing to grab legs of his opponent, he must convert that move into points, that's what we are working on," Maan who won four Asian Championship medals, including a silver in 2004, said.

Talk about the 2024 Paris Olympics and Maan quickly points that they "don't have much time on our hands to prepare."

But why? "Asian Championships is approaching and then there is one Ranking Series event. In August we have CWG which will be followed by the Asian Games, so there is not much time that we have. We have short-term targets before the Paris Games."

"This year our main target is Asian Games and if we succeed it would mean that we are at peak."

Has anything changed in Bajrang's training style since Bentineidis left?

"I have devised a plan for him. When Bajrang is not competing, he is focussing on heavy training, including weights, long duration runs, power training and endurance training. When competition is near we are focussing on speed and bouts."





the pioneer

## INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

2022

12

I think T20 format has to be played with lot of fearless mindset and that sort of characters are there in RR team this year. So we would just like to go out there and express ourselves

—SANJU SAMSON

## Royals, SRH aim for winning start

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

Sunrisers vs Royals  
Live from 7:30 pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

For the first time in 15 years, the Rajasthan Royals, who won the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League, look like a side that can go down the wire and win the tournament. The Jaipur-based franchise under Sanju Samson's leadership has made some interesting buys in the mega auction that took place in Bengaluru last month. They strengthened the Indian core by adding the likes of senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and a host of youngsters in the form of Devdutt Padikkal, Prasidh Krishna and Navdeep Saini, who have already made a name for themselves at the highest level.

Among the overseas recruits, they have Jos Buttler, who was one of the three players retained by the franchise along with Sanju and young opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal. And they roped in the services of West Indies U-19 World Cup-winning skipper Shimron Hetmyer, South African Rassie Van der Dussen, Kiwi all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and fast bowler Trent Boult, to name a few.

The addition of all these big names in Rajasthan makes them a balanced side which has a number of match winners. Over the years, RR started as an underdog because of the lack of good Indian players, but this time, the team at Sanju's disposal has every element that makes it one of the top contenders for the title.

But the battles are not won on paper, and the Royals' first test will be against 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad. The Orange Army has also made some significant changes after the departures of David Warner and Rashid Khan. The overseas duo weren't retained and will ply their trade for a new team from this year onwards. SRH looks a bit weak as compared to others, but with an inspirational leader in Kane Williamson, it would be foolish to count them out. They have signed West Indies wicket-keeper batter Nicholas Pooran for ₹10.75 crore and will expect him to make a big impact. They also have Washington Sundar, Rahul Tripathi, Romario Shepherd, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T Natarajan, Kartik Tyagi, and Abhishek Sharma in their ranks.

The clash between the two former winners will be played on Tuesday at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium in Pune, which will host the first match of this year's edition.



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rahul Tewatia blasted an impactful 40 off 24 balls after Mohammad Shami's sensational new ball spell to set up a five-wicket win for Gujarat Titans against Lucknow Super Giants in the battle of IPL debutants here on Monday.

Deepak Hooda (55 off 41 balls) and Ayush Badoni (54 off 41 balls) smashed quick-fire half centuries to help Super Giants recover to a respectable 158/6 after Shami (3/25) blew away their top-order.

Needing 68 off the last 30 balls, Titans were up against it but Tewatia (40 not out), David Miller (30 off 21) and IPL debutant Abhinav Manohar (15 not out off 7) pulled off a memorable win for their team with two balls to spare.

In pursuit of 159, Gujarat were down and out at 78/4 before Miller and Tewatia forged a match-winning 60 run-stand off just 34 balls.

They were brutal on Deepak Hooda, as they fetched 22 runs in the 16th over, with each hitting one six and one four. And then Tewatia hammered a six and two fours in the next over, where Gujarat amassed 17 runs, to bring down the equation to 29 from 18 balls.



Avesh removed Miller in the 18th over to raise his side's hopes, but Manohar and Tewatia, who hit five boundaries and two maximums, saw the team home.

Skipper Hardik Pandya (33) and Matthew Wade (30) forged 57 runs for

the third wicket to take the innings forward after two early losses.

Earlier, Hooda and IPL debutant Badoni, who had endured plenty of struggles in the past three years, took Super Giants to a respectable score after Shami reduced them to 29 for

four.

But then Hooda (55) and Badoni (54), took the onus on themselves and resurrected the Lucknow innings with an 87-run-stand off 68 balls.

Hooda struck six fours and two sixes in his 41-ball knock while

Badoni hammered four boundaries and three maximums in his 41 ball innings.

After Hooda was trapped in front of the wicket by Rashid Khan (1/27) in the 16th over, Badoni, who is a product despite the system, upped the ante and played shots at will. Badoni hit the likes of Rashid Khan and Lockie Ferguson for a six and that should stay in his memory for life.

Lucknow lost captain KL Rahul (0) on the first ball of the game as Shami had him caught behind with a beauty. PTI Shami then cleaned up Quinton De Kock (7), who missed a drive, in the third over as Lucknow was reeling at 13/2.

Lucknow were in all sorts of trouble at 20/3 as Evin Lewis (10) was dismissed, courtesy a stunning catch by Shubman Gill in the deep off pacer Varun Aaron (2/45).

Shami got his third wicket, after he castled Manish Pandey (6) with a ball that seamed back in after pitching on the fourth stump. It was the first-time Shami took three wickets in the power-play in the IPL. After six overs, Lucknow were reeling at 32/4. Then it was the Hooda and Badoni show.

Hardik Pandya, playing his first game since the T20 World Cup last year, conceded 37 runs in four overs. Badoni went after him in his final over that went for 19 runs.

## We would be more than interested to own a team in Women's IPL: PBKS co-owner Wadia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab Kings would be "more than interested" if they are offered to own a team in the proposed Women's IPL next year, their co-owner Ness Wadia said on Monday.

In an IPL Governing Council meeting last week, a five to six team Women's IPL was proposed for next year with the existing franchises getting first preference to be part of the competition.

"We would be more than interested in that (Women's IPL). IPL for women is long overdue and it would be very special when it happens. Women's cricket has really developed over the years," Wadia said.



"The World Cup is going on right now and there is so much interest for the women's game. It was heart-breaking to see our team lose yesterday (Sunday)."

Asked about the base price for owning a women's team, Wadia said: "That is for the BCCI to decide but I can tell you if we are asked to own a team we would be more than interested. I feel the league would be sustainable as well."

The BCCI has been under a bit of pressure to organise the Women's IPL. Women's Big Bash in Australia has been taking place since 2015-2016 and a Women's Hundred competition was also staged in the UK last year. Cricket West Indies will organise a three-team CPL from this year onwards.

## Elgar 'comfortable' some key players opted for IPL over SA

AP ■ DURBAN

South African Test captain Dean Elgar said on Monday he was "comfortable" with the decision of key players to make themselves unavailable for a Test series against Bangladesh, which starts at Kingsmead in Durban on Thursday.

Earlier this month Elgar called for players contracted to the Indian Premier League to put country ahead of club.

But all South Africa's IPL-linked players opted to play in the lucrative Indian franchise

tournament, which started at the weekend.

"A lot has happened since my last interview around this topic," Elgar told a pre-series press conference in Durban.

"I've had really good, detailed chats with those players to find out where they are mentally with regard to playing in the Tests or in the IPL."

South Africa will go into the Bangladesh series without their front-line fast bowling attack of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen, as well as the injured Anrich Nortje.

## Depleted Oz suffer Marsh injury blow for Pak ODIs



AP ■ LAHORE

Australia's T20 hero Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out with injury as they and Pakistan eye qualification for the 50-over World Cup when they start a three-match ODI series in Lahore from Tuesday.

The series is part of the 13-team ODI Super League in which every match carries 10 points, with the top seven qualifying automatically for the World Cup next year.

Australia are currently seventh and Pakistan 10th, but both have played just three of their eight scheduled series.

India have already qualified as hosts.

Australia were already without key players David Warner, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Steven Smith for various reasons and have been further hit by the loss of all-rounder Marsh, their hero when they won the T20 World Cup in November.

All five senior players were part of the team that won the three-match Test series 1-0 last week, on Australia's first tour of Pakistan in 24 years. Skipper Aaron Finch fears that the 30-year-old Marsh may miss the whole

ODI series.

"Mitch injured his hip flex during fielding drills on Sunday," Finch said on Monday.

"We have to wait and see, but I don't think he will be available for the series based on how he was feeling yesterday."

Finch hopes new players such as Sean Abbott, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Inglis and Ben McDermott will rise to the occasion despite their inexperience.

Finch can take heart from the fact that Pakistan have not won an ODI series against them since 2002, with Australia winning eight of the 11 -- the last seven in succession.

Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman said his team was looking for maximum 30 points from the series.

"They are missing some big names so that will make a difference," he said.

"But it's an international team and we are not going to take them lightly because Australia is known for doing well in all situations and all circumstances."

The next two ODIs will be on Thursday and Saturday, also in Lahore.

## No Deepika in Asian Games squad

PTI ■ SONIPAT

World number two Deepika Kumari has failed to make the Indian squad for the upcoming Asian Games, suffering one of the biggest setbacks in her illustrious career.

Deepika lost two of her three round robin matches in the final leg to miss the Asian Games berth at the SAI centre here on Sunday.

Deepika had finished a lowly fifth in the two-phase eliminations on Saturday to determine the top-eight, as she had to fight in the round robin matches. The Asian Games will take



place in Hangzhou from September 10-25. This is for the first time since winning a Gold medal at the New Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010, Deepika will be out of a multi-discipline show-

piece event. The 27-year-old has represented India at the Asian Games in 2010, 2014 and 2018, winning a team Bronze in Guangzhou 12 years ago.

In her senior career since 2009, Deepika's trophy cabinet is full of World medals, but an Olympic podium finish has eluded the most decorated Indian archer.

Deepika has won 11 Gold medals, 12 Silver and seven Bronze at the World Cup. She is also a record four-time 'World Cup Final' runner-up and a Bronze medalist. Deepika has also won two Silver medals at the World Championships.

## Pak-WI ODI series rescheduled to June

PTI ■ LAHORE

The three-match ODI series between Pakistan and West Indies, which was postponed after a COVID-19 outbreak in the visitors' camp last year, was on Monday rescheduled to June.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced that Rawalpindi will host the postponed ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches against the West Indies from June 8 to 12.

The PCB said the West Indies board had also agreed to play three T20 internationals in early 2023.



Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Monday received the Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award. The 24-year-old javelin thrower received the prestigious award from President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan during a ceremony.

Photo: @rashtrapatibhvn/Twitter

## Verstappen wins Saudi GP

AP ■ JEDDAH

World champion Max Verstappen bounced back from his Bahrain disappointment to steer his Red Bull to a thrilling victory ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in Sunday's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Dutchman, who failed to finish due to a fuel problem in the opening race, won by just half a second after the pair swapped positions in a tense battle through the final laps.

It was the closest race finish since the 2020 Italian Grand Prix.

Leclerc's Ferrari team-mate Carlos Sainz finished third ahead of Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull, the top four proving to be in a class of their own.

Mercedes new boy George Russell came home fifth ahead of Alpine's Esteban Ocon and McLaren's Lando Norris with Pierre Gasly taking eighth for AlphaTauri.

Kevin Magnussen finished ninth for Haas and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton 10th, rescuing some pride after starting 15th on a difficult weekend in the second Mercedes. It was the 21st win



of his career for Verstappen and, like Leclerc, he welcomed the success of the new era cars that have permitted closer racing and allowed drivers to recover and regain positions after being passed.

Leclerc congratulated his rival on his victory on their slow-down laps, but after two races remains the embryonic championship's early season leader by 12 points.

"Of course, I am disappointed, but I enjoyed that race and I hope that we have more like that this season," he said. "It should be like this always!"

Verstappen said it had been very close and he had also revelled in the contest. "I just managed to get in front and to stay there, but it was a great race."

## Canada beat Jamaica 4-0 to reach first WC in 36 years

AP ■ TORONTO

Canada qualified for the World Cup for the first time in 36 years on Sunday with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Jamaica in Toronto.

Goals from Cyle Larin, Tajon Buchanan, Junior Hoilett and an Adrian Mariappa own goal secured all three points after Canada dominated throughout against a Jamaica side already eliminated from contention in the CONCACAF region's qualifying tournament for this year's finals in Qatar.

The win sparked wild celebrations at Toronto's 30,000-capacity BMO Field, where an expectant sell-out crowd had gathered to watch Canada clinch World Cup qualification for only the second time, having last appeared at the 1986 Mexico tournament.

After a dominant qualifying campaign had left them three points clear with two games remaining, Canada needed only a point from Sunday's fixture to assure themselves of qualification.

That objective was never in doubt



as Canada went on the attack from the whistle.

## USA ROUT PANAMA

Christian Pulisic scored a hat trick as the United States thrashed Panama 5-1 on Sunday to all-but guarantee their qualification for the 2022 World Cup.

Pulisic scored a pair of first-half penalties -- both given against Panama captain Anibal Godoy -- before completing his treble with a virtuoso goal in the second half to leave the US with one foot in this year's finals in Qatar.

Jesus Ferreira and Paul Arriola scored the other goals for the US in a victory at Orlando's Exploria Stadium that ended Panama's hopes of qualifying from the CONCACAF region.

The win means the United States need only avoid a catastrophically heavy defeat in their final game against Costa Rica on Wednesday to qualify automatically.

The United States have 25 points from 13 matches, while Costa Rica are three points behind following their win over El Salvador earlier Sunday.