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PAK: THE PERENNIAL
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STARTUP NEEDS

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WINDIES IN
WC SEMIS
12 SPORTSign of truce to end
Ukraine war appearsRussia announces to
scale back operation
near Kyiv, another
city of Ukraine

AP ■ KIV

Russia's military on Tuesday announced it will "fundamentally" scale back operations near Ukraine's capital and a northern city, as talks brought the outlines of a possible deal to end the grinding war into view.

Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin said the move was meant to increase trust in the talks after several rounds of negotiations failed to halt what has devolved into a bloody campaign of attrition.

The announcement was met with scepticism from the US and others.

While Russia portrayed it as a goodwill gesture, it comes as the Kremlin's troops have become bogged down in the face of stiff Ukrainian resistance that has thwarted President Vladimir Putin's hopes for a quick military victory. Late last week, and again on Tuesday, Russia seemed to roll back its war aims, saying its "main goal" now is gaining control of the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he had not seen anything indicating talks were progressing in a "constructive way," and he suggested Russian indications of a pullback could be an attempt by Moscow to "deceive people and deflect attention."

"There is what Russia says and there is what Russia does, and we're focused on the latter," Blinken said in Morocco.

"And what Russia is doing is the continued brutalisation of Ukraine." He added, "If they somehow believe that an effort to subjugate only the eastern part of Ukraine or the southern part of Ukraine... Can succeed, then once again they are profoundly fooling themselves."

Continued on Page 2



Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and member of the Ukrainian delegation, right, stands as a translator gives his statement after talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, in Istanbul on Tuesday

PTI

Ukraine, Biden's India
'shaky' remarks likely
to figure in 2+2 talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing war in Ukraine and US President Joe Biden's remarks on India's "shaky" stand on it are likely to dominate the upcoming "two plus two" dialogue between the defence and external affairs of the two countries in Washington next month.

Besides these issues,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will also review the progress of the Quad combine with their US counterparts Llyod Austin and Antony Blinken respectively on April 11, sources said here on Tuesday.

Incidentally, the heads of State of the Quad combine, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had met in person for the first time last year in Washington. The meet was hosted by President Biden. The four countries, including the US, India, Australia and Japan, took stock of the growing aggressive stance of China in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region.

India and the US will review the entire gamut of strategic and defence ties during the "two plus two" dialogue. The US has emerged as one of the biggest weapon suppliers to India with the figure touching the 15 billion dollar mark in the last one decade.

Continued on Page 2

Mamata, Pawar fume at
Central agencies' 'misuse'Issue to be raised
in Parl today, Didi
urges non-BJP
CMs to unite

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and NCP chief Sharad Pawar have accused the Centre of using probe agencies to target Opposition parties.

Mamata has called upon the non-BJP Chief Ministers to unite against the Government's alleged "misuse of Central agencies" to victimise the leaders of Opposition parties. Pawar has backed her stand and said they will raise the issue in Parliament on Wednesday.

Urging her counterparts to join her in a meeting she has written: "The need of the hour is for all progressive forces in this country to come together and fight this oppressive force."

The letter was written on March 27, a day after the CBI started investigating the Rampurhat burning and mass murder case.

Backing Mamata's appeal for a united fight against the BJP for misuse of Central agencies, Pawar said, "We will take up the issue in Parliament tomorrow. We shall see what we can do together in this regard."



Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her visit to Darjeeling

PTI

Earlier, speaking at the national executive meeting of the Nationalist Youth Congress, Pawar accused the BJP of using raids by Central investigating agencies to target Opposition leaders for political vendetta.

"Those in power today believe that those who do not share their ideology are enemies. CBI/ED raids have become commonplace and used for political vendetta to trouble political opponents," he said, referring to the raids on his party colleagues Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik.

"There is something or the other going against every leader of the NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena... Prime Minister Narendra Modi has one thing in mind: he wants BJP rule from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, irrespective of the wishes of the people," Pawar said.

On 'The Kashmir Files' film, the NCP chief accused Modi of fomenting communal troubles by promoting a movie that stokes anger among people instead of healing age-old wounds.

Asking the non-saffron leaders to "commit to the cause of a unified and principled Opposition that will make way for the Government that our country deserves", Mamata wrote, "Central agencies such as the ED, CBI, CVC, and the income tax department are being used to target, harass and corner political opponents across the country for vendetta."

Alleging that these agencies are always used by the Centre when elections are round the corner, Mamata said, "It is amply clear that the BJP-ruled States get a free pass from these agencies to paint a rosy picture of their hollow governance. We believe in transparency and accountability in governance but we will not tolerate the vindictive politics of the BJP that has led to a political witchhunt."

Referring to the Delhi Special Police (Amendment) Bill 2021 and CVC (Amendment) Bill 2021, she said that these had been done to provide additional five years' extension to the CBI and ED violating the Supreme Court directives. Her letter comes in the backdrop of ED summoning her nephew and Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in a money laundering case related to coal and cattle scam.

Abhishek on Tuesday avoided appearance at the ED office in Delhi.

Guv summons
Mamata over
law & order

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Governor Jagdeep Bhandkhar on Tuesday wrote a strong letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asking her to meet him at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata within a week's time to discuss the deteriorating law and order situation in the State.

Reporting the development a Raj Bhavan tweet said, "WB Guv Jagdeep Bhandkhar has invited Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for interaction during the week at Raj Bhavan to deliberate worsening law and order in the state, particularly in view of alarmingly worrisome developments."

Bhandkhar's letter comes in the wake of the Birbhum carnage and the subsequent scuffle between the BJP and Trinamool Congress MLAs inside the State Assembly on Monday.

The letter written to the Chief Minister, who is presently in Darjeeling, said, "Recent alarmingly worrisome developments, reflecting... increased lawlessness and violence, make it imperative that you spare time earliest for an interaction at Raj Bhavan."

Continued on Page 2

Assam-Meghalaya's
historic pact ends
50% of border rowAgreement on 6
of 12 locations

PNS ■ New Delhi

Assam and Meghalaya on Tuesday signed a historic agreement to resolve their five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 locations. The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma, respectively.

Speaking on the occasion Shah said this was a historic day for North-East. "This interstate boundary settlement will usher in a new era of peace, harmony, and progress in the State of Assam and Meghalaya. I want to assure our sisters and brothers of North-East that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi-led Central Government will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling their aspirations," said Shah.

The pact will resolve the protracted dispute in six of the 12 places along the 884.9 km border between the two states. The Home Minister said with the signing of the agreement, 70 per cent of the border dispute between the two States has been resolved. There are 36 villages in the six places, covering an area of 36.79 sq km, with regard to which the agreement has been reached.

The two States had formed three committees each in August last year to go into the vexed boundary question. The constitution of the panels had followed two rounds of talks between Sarma and Sangma where the neighbouring States resolved to settle the dispute in a phased manner.

Continued on Page 2

FM: Budget to boost pvt
investment, eco recovery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Budget for the next fiscal will attract private investment and ensure a predictable economic recovery in the years to come.

Replying to a debate on appropriation and finance bills in the Rajya Sabha, she defended the handling of inflation but acknowledged the ongoing war in Ukraine has posed fresh challenges, including higher oil prices and disruptions in supply chains.

The Upper House later returned the two bills without any changes, other than those proposed by the Government, completing the nearly two-month-long Parliamentary process for approval of the Union Budget for the fiscal beginning April 1.

The Finance Minister further said in spite of all the uncertainty and all the "self-doubting" eminent persons, who have been doubting the

strength of the Indian economy, the FDI inflow into India in 2020-21 was \$81.72 billion and \$74.39 billion in 2019-20.

She said India has continued to remain in the top five FDI recipient countries as per a UNCTAD report.

Continued on Page 2

FM defends
hiatus on fuel
price revision

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman defended the 137-day hiatus in fuel price revision, saying the disruption in supply chains and the resultant increase in global oil prices due to the war in Ukraine was a "couple of weeks" phenomenon resulting in the record hike in petrol and diesel prices in the last 8 days. International oil prices had started moving up days before Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24.

Random breath
test on 50% of
flight crew daily

PNS ■ New Delhi

To ensure that aviation safety is not compromised due to the consumption of alcohol by pilots, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued revised guidelines for breath analyser tests on the cockpit and cabin crew members.

As per the guidelines, 50 per cent cockpit crew members and cabin crew members will be subjected to random pre-flight "breath-analyser" test on daily basis to show that they are not under the influence of alcohol. In the case of flying training institutions, at least 50 per cent of instructors and 40 per cent of students shall be subjected to pre-flight breath-analyser test on a daily basis.

The airlines' operators should be ensured that all operation bases are covered for random preflight breath-analyser examination.

Continued on Page 2

Sariska blaze: IAF
copters deployed

Jaipur: Over 200 people and two Indian Air Force helicopters were pressed into service to control a wildfire spread over 10 sq km of the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar, officials said on Tuesday.

The fire had started on Sunday evening and was brought under control on Monday.

A few hours later in the evening, the forest fire flared again and was continuing till Tuesday evening.

The Forest Department asked people of nearby villages not to enter the forest area.

The officials said no tiger is stuck in the affected area and their movement is being monitored. The Sariska reserve has 27 tigers, they added.

Sariska Field Director RN



IAF helicopters are used to spray water over a forest fire in the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar district

PTI

Meena said the forest staff, nature guides and local people are engaged in efforts to control the fire but they are facing difficulties due to hilly terrain, he said.

Continued on Page 2



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Four men feared dead after falling into SGT Nagar sewer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Four people, including a rickshaw driver, are feared dead after they fell into a sewer on Tuesday evening in northwest Delhi's Sanjay Gandhi Transport (SGT) Nagar. Police said that the 38-year-old rickshaw driver had gone to rescue them but he also got trapped inside the sewer.

Bacchu Singh, Pintu and 55-year-old Suraj Kumar Sahni private contractors employees, had been conducting wiring

work for telecom company MTNL. They had fallen and gotten trapped in the sewer at SGT Nagar's Main Bawana Road. The rickshaw driver, Satish, who had attempted to rescue the trapped men, had also fallen into the sewer.

According to a senior police official, information was received at Samaypur Badli police station on Tuesday at 6.34 PM regarding three workers falling into a sewer at SGT Nagar, Main Bawana Road. "Police rushed to the spot and

cordoned off the area. The fire department officials and ambulance were also present. Enquiry revealed that one rickshaw driver was also in the sewer, who had gone to rescue those three workers," said the senior police official.

The fire department said that a call regarding men falling into a sewer line near Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar was received around 6:25 PM. However, they were unable to rescue the men till the filing of this report.

2 men held for supplying drugs in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has nabbed two men allegedly indulged in supplying drugs in Delhi and its peripherals. Police said that they have also recovered heroin worth over ₹40 crore in the international market from the possession of the accused.

The accused has been identified as Dinesh Singh (57) and Nazir alias Nazim (28), both residents of Ghazipur district in Uttar Pradesh. The recovered heroin was smuggled into India from Myanmar via Manipur, police said. According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Special Cell, on March 24, the police received specific inputs that two men had collected a big consignment of heroin from Jharkhand and they would come to Delhi-Meerut Expressway near ISBT Sarai Kale Khan to deliver the drug. "Acting on the inputs, the police team laid a trap and two persons carrying backpacks were nabbed. Six kilograms of heroin -- three kg each -- were recovered from their bags and four kg heroin was recovered from their car," said the DCP. "Interrogation revealed that they were members of an international drug cartel. They have been supplying drugs in Delhi-NCR and parts of UP for the

past five years," said the DCP. "The accused also told police that they had procured the heroin from a person in Jharkhand and had to deliver six kg in Delhi and remaining four kilos to Ghazipur," said the DCP.

Both have further revealed that their supplier has links in Myanmar and Manipur. Most of the heroin is brought to Manipur from Myanmar and sent to adjoining States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and later transported to others parts of the country, said the DCP. Heroin brought from Myanmar is not only comparatively cheaper but it is also of better quality, the DCP added.

RailTel set to implement modern signalling projects worth ₹224 cr

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

RailTel is set to implement modern signalling projects worth Rs 224 crore on Northern Railway Zone by replacing obsolete mechanical signalling by state-of-the-art electronic interlocking system, the rail PSU said on Tuesday.

The project will cover 26 stations -- three on Delhi Division, nine on Ambala Division and 14 on Firozpur Division. This modern technology shall enhance safety and efficiency of train operation, it said. The work has already been commissioned at six stations -- three stations of Delhi Division (Pehowa Road, Kaithal and Kalayat) and three stations of Ambala Division (Bulluana, Malout and Pakki) -- and is in advance stage of completion at balance six stations of Ambala Division.

The first stage implementation on 14 stations of Firozpur Division has also commenced with initiation of planning, design and procurement processes for the equipment, RailTel said in a statement. So far, Rs 65 crore revenue has already been booked and Rs 105 crore revenue will be booked in FY 22-23 and remaining in FY 23-24, it said.

After Lata didi's death we have become orphans: Asha Bhosle



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
After the death of Lata didi, we have become orphans," a teary-eyed Asha Bhosale said on

behalf of her sisters and brother after unveiling a portrait of late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar at the Master

Dinanath Mangeshkar auditorium at Vile Parle in north-west Mumbai on Tuesday.

Seven weeks after Lata Mangeshkar passed away at the Breach Candy Hospital south Mumbai, veteran singer Asha Bhosale, her brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar, sister Usha Mangeshkar and other Mangeshkar family members stepped out of their homes together for the first time and joined the unveiling ceremony of a large portrait of their beloved sister. Lata Mangeshkar was the eldest among five singing siblings and accomplished singers and musicians -- the others being Meena, Asha, Usha and

Hridaynath, The portrait of a smiling Lata Mangeshkar, who passed away on February 6, was unveiled by senior versatile actor Vikram Gokhale, a close family friend of Mangeshkars for seven decades, at a moving ceremony held at an auditorium named after Lata's father Deenanath Mangeshkar. Talking to media persons after the unveiling of Lata Mangeshkar's portrait, an emotional Asha Bhosale recalled: "Whenever I used to go wherever I used to take blessings from Didi, she used to tell me not to touch my feet always; my blessings are always with you whether you come here or not. Mai, Baba and I are always close to you".

Sign of truce to end...

From Page 1

Fomin said Moscow has decided to "fundamentally ... Cut back military activity in the direction of Kyiv and Chernihiv" to "increase mutual trust and create conditions for further negotiations."

He did not immediately spell out what that would mean in practical terms. Ukraine's military said it has noted withdrawals of some forces around Kyiv and Chernihiv.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told CNN "we haven't seen anything to corroborate" reports of Russia withdrawing signifi-

cant forces from around Kyiv. "But what we have seen over the last couple of days is they have stopped trying to advance on Kyiv." Rob Lee, a military expert at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute, tweeted: "This sounds like more of an acknowledgment of situation around Kyiv where Russia's advance has been stalled for weeks and Ukrainian forces have had recent successes. Russia doesn't have forces to encircle city."Negotiators from Russia and Ukraine met Tuesday in Istanbul, their first face-to-face talks in two weeks.

Assam-Meghalaya's historic pact ends 50% of border row

From Page 1

According to the joint final set of recommendations made by the committees, out of 36.79 sq km of the disputed area taken up for settlement in the first phase, Assam will get full control of 18.51 sq km and Meghalaya 18.28 sq km.

Out of the 12 points of dispute between Assam and Meghalaya, the six areas with relatively less critical differences were taken up in the first phase. The boundary dispute between Assam and Meghalaya has lingered for 50 years. However, the effort to resolve it gained pace in recent times. Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as a separate State in 1972 but the new state had challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, leading to disputes in 12 locations in the border areas.

Sariska blaze: IAF copters deployed

From Page 1

The fire on hills has been partially controlled, Meena added.

District Forest Officer (Sariska) Sudharshan Sharma said the helicopters have made eight rounds till Tuesday evening.

The fire has spread over 10 sq km area and efforts are being made to control it.

"The area under fire is at a height due to which there are difficulties in firefighting," he said.

The officer said that the fire is spreading due to dry grassland and bamboo trees. People in Balettha, Prithvipura, Nayawas and Bhatyala villages have been asked to take precautions and avoid entering the forest.

The fire has spread in Rodkela, Narandi, Kalakadi, Katighati, and Naharsati area of the Reserve. PTI

FM: Budget to boost pvt...

From Page 1

The Minister said that in the seven years and nine months of Prime Minister Modi's Government till December 2021, the FDI inflows have been USD 500.5 billion and that is about 65 per cent higher than the FDI inflows during the entire 10-year regime of the UPA.

She also spoke about steps that are aimed at making life easier for the middle class, related to the Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, statutory PF contribution, and construction of housing units, among others.

"...Newer challenges are before us, (in the) Budget presentation I had not taken into account the Omicron and now we are also facing the situation of a full-blown war in Ukraine which is not some war in some corner of the world. But it seems to be having an impact on all countries like the way the pandemic had," the Minister said.

She said the war has affected the value chains, and the world markets are caught up in a situation where nothing is normal. The Minister said that while 32 countries (as per an OECD report) resorted to taxation to revive their economies, the Modi-led government did

not increase taxes.

"So you are in a situation where like during the pandemic we came up with a Budget and then came the second wave. This time we came up with budget continuity aimed at recovery...And then Omicron and now we also have a war whose impact has been felt by all of us," she said.

Sitharaman said the Government did not resort to taxation for resource mobilisation to deal with the impact of the Covid pandemic. She further said the Prime Minister had directed that the Budget should not draw on resources by taxing people at this time when recovery is the most important element and that "we should find resources and fully continue with the predictable recovery that we were aiming at".

Referring to issues concerning private investment, Sitharaman said following the pandemic, the Government had stepped up the investing with a view to creating an environment to revive and sustain the economy.

The Government is conscious of the need to balance the growth and also make sure India's recovery post-Covid is sustainable, she said and added the budget reflects this commitment and outlines the way forward. During the discussion, several members had raised concerns over the price situation in the country to which the minister said the government was conscious of inflation.

Ukraine, Biden's India 'shaky' remarks...

From Page 1

The US is likely to make a strong pitch for its armed drones and other sophisticated weaponry for India. It will be first "two plus two dialogue" since Biden became President. He had recently said India is "shaky" on the issue of Ukraine war, while his officials said New Delhi may be on the "wrong side of history". India has all along maintained that dialogue is the only way out to resolve ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. Prime

Minister Modi has conveyed this viewpoint to President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky. Modi has also favoured immediate cessation of hostilities.

Blinken and Austin are expected to share the US assessment of the Ukraine war and its impact at global level, sources said. Meanwhile, India will give details of the persisting stand-offs at the border in Ladakh and a gist of talks between Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi here last week, they said.

Guv summons Mamata over law and order

From Page 1

adding, "Already cliff-hanging governance in the State, from the perspective of Constitution and law, has recently been further strained by horrifying incidents at Rampurhat and in the hal- lowed precincts of the Assembly."The Governor is also known to have expressed his concern over the Chief Minister's earlier alleged offensive comments on the CBI investigation in Rampurhat burning case. Attacking the BJP, Banerjee had earlier said that her government would cooperate with the CBI in the Birbhumi case but warned "if they (central agency) are found to be taking instructions from the BJP then we will descend on the streets and start a political movement taking people by our side". Dhankhar's letter comes a day after he returned from Delhi where he met Home Minister Amit Shah and reportedly discussed deterioratinglaw and order situation in State.Bengal Guv writes strong letter to Mamata on Birbhumi. Asks her to meet him in a week.

CAPSULE

LABOURER DIES AS BASEMENT CAVES IN

Gurugram: A 22-year-old labourer died at a construction site in Sector-85 on Tuesday morning when he was buried under a massive amount of mud after a dug-up basement collapsed on him. The victim, along with other labourers, was digging basement when incident took place. The deceased was identified as Gajender Pal from UP.The project was being carried out by a BJP leader.'A labourer died after he buried under dug-up mud duringconstruction work.

GREEN CORRIDOR FORMED TO TRANSPORT LIVE HEART

Gurugram: The Gurugram Traffic Police on Tuesday created a 19-kilometre long green corridor for two ambulances from a hospital in Gurugram to the Delhi border on the national highway to facilitate transport of a live heart and lungs.

WORKERS BURN COMPANY BUSES IN MANESAR

Gurugram: Tension erupted after hundreds of protesting workers broke windshield and windowpanes of two buses of their company (JNS Instruments Limited) and set a bus on fire on Tuesday evening at IMT Manesar Sector-3 of Gurugram.However, no one was hurt in the incident, the police said.

Random breath test on 50% of flight crew daily

From Page 1

The cockpit crew, cabin crew will submit the undertaking in presence of medical staff and the same will be captured on the camera. The breath-analyser test to the extent feasible will be carried out in a bigger and an open area which has CCTV coverage or camera recording.

The guidelines said that the above directions/arrangement (as mentioned in preceding para) is purely a temporary measure in view of current Covid-19 situation and shall be in force for a period of three months from the date of issue.

"Every aviation personnel covered under CAR Section-5, Series-F, Part-III, who is reporting for duty, is required to submit an undertaking in respect of the fact that he/she is not under the influence of alcohol and that he/she has not consumed alcohol in last 12 hours from the time of reporting for the duty," it said.

If any person is detected with Covid symptoms, the person shall be exempted from the BA test and be removed from duty. The person doing the Breath-analyzer test should use a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that, Shri P. Chandra Shekharan son of Late Shri Gopalnath Anand Murthy and Smt. Nalini Shekharan wife of Shri P. Chandra Shekharan both resident of House No.C-35, Sector-14, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi, is owner and in physical possession of Plot No.35, measuring 70 Sq. Mtr., Block No.C, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi, (hereinafter called the Property) allotted by DDA vide File No. F-38 (338)1978/LAB(Res), Allotment/Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip and NOC for Water & Electric connection, All Payment Challans and other relevant Documents, in respect of above said Plot has been lost. An NCR to this effect has been lodged. Any person (s) found in possession of Original document may kindly write/contact with above named person at above address..



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I, have changed my name from Shonali Khanna to Shonali Khanna Thomas for all future purposes Shonali Khanna Thomas W/o Bipin Thomas Thomas R/o C 608 Supertech Icon, Nyay khand 1 indirapuram Ghaziabad PD(9168)C

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Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital

218 deaths at cardiology dept in 2 yrs, Govt tells House

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government informed the Assembly on Tuesday that 218 deaths were recorded in the cardiology department of the Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital (RGSSH) in the last two years.

Out of the total deaths, 101 were those patients who had undergone stent implantation and angiography procedures, the health department of the Delhi Government informed in a written response to a question.

The department also said a committee was set up recently to probe deaths that have taken place in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of the facility. According to the response, based on data from the medical record department and the cardiology department, 70 deaths took place in 2020 and 148 fatalities in 2021.

Out of these 218 deaths in the last two years, recorded in the cardiology department of RGSSH, 101 were those patients who had "undergone stent implantation (PTCA) and angiography procedures (CAG)", it said. Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) is a minimally invasive procedure to open

blocked or stenosed coronary arteries allowing unobstructed blood flow to the myocardium. Angiography or Coronary Angiogram (CAG) is a process where X-rays are used to study the condition of blood vessels in the arms, chest, or head. According to the data, till March 7 this year, 17 patients had died in the cardiology department of the facility, who had undergone procedures like PTCA and CAG.

In response to another question, the Delhi health department said stents are not being purchased at RGSSH, but they were being used on an "imprest basis" on contractual rate pertaining to GP Pant Hospital.

An associate professor of cardiology, who was working on contractual basis at the Delhi Government-run hospital, had been "terminated" from service after the death of three patients with heart blockage earlier this month, officials had said recently.

He was sacked on orders from the Delhi Secretariat, a senior official had said. Action against the doctor was initiated on March 10 before a four-member committee which was set up to review the matter, officials had said. Also, in response to another question, it said,

Patriotism, honesty, humanity are AAP's three pillars: CM

NEW DELHI: Hardcore patriotism, honesty and humanity are the three pillars of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) ideology and Delhi's budget for 2022-23 reflects it, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in the Assembly on Tuesday.

Replying to a discussion on the budget in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday, he also accused the BJP-led Government at the Centre of stalling development works in the city. It was for the first time after Independence that a 'Rozgar Budget' was presented by any Government, the Delhi Chief Minister claimed.

"The budget presented in the Assembly is not an ordinary document, it is historical. A 'Rozgar Budget' has been presented for the first time in independent India. The budget has been prepared to bring happiness to all. We bring 'Rozgar Budget' because of our ideology. Hardcore patriotism, honesty and humanity are three pillars of our ideology," Kejriwal said in House. *PTI*

Delhi Assembly to go paperless

All 70 MLAs being provided with tablets

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Tuesday decided to go paperless with all 70 MLAs now being provided with tablets on which they will receive all the necessary information regarding Assembly proceedings online.

The Assembly has taken up an automation project which will allow MLAs to work digitally. On Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia took to Twitter and said, "Delhi Legislative Assembly will be completely paperless now."

All documents and Bills will be tabled in E-paper format. Lakhs of pages used during the proceedings of the

Legislative Assembly will now be presented as soft copy." To begin with the process of going paperless, members were asked to carry their tablets provided by the finance department during the current Budget Session. Sisodia said, "This will be a step towards making the Legislative Assembly smart and efficient. This web-based solution will not only help us speed up the official processes in the Assembly but will also save tonnes of paper being used here in every proceeding."

He added, "Under the automation project, the Legislative Assembly has been provided with good Wi-Fi connectivity which will enable the members of the Assembly to attend the proceedings uninterrupted."

This step of the Kejriwal Government will prove to be a milestone in the direction of environment protection. Provisions will be made for members to attend the sessions virtually in future."

AAP MLA raises issue of ill-treatment of EWS patients at Ganga Ram Hosp

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

During the Assembly session in Delhi's Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Karol Bagh, Vishesh Ravi requested an immediate intervention in matter of ill-treatment of Economic Weaker Section (EWS) category patients at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The MLA has been raising this issue of EWS category patients being deprived of benefits at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. "The patients are not given proper medical consultation, medicines and beds as entitled to EWS-category patients at hospital," said Ravi.

Ravi said that the hospital has a long-standing habit of looking down upon EWS-category patients and not providing them with proper medical attention and treatment. "This discriminatory behaviour by hospital should be looked into immediately as such things are not acceptable," Ravi added.

BJP Legislators marshaled out of Delhi Assembly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP Legislators were marshaled out of Delhi Assembly after they raised the issue of alleged discrimination in distribution of funds for development works in areas represented by them, said BJP MLA Vijender Gupta on Tuesday. He alleged that the AAP Government has murdered democracy not only in the Assembly but also outside of it by practicing partiality in disbursement of funds.

During the Assembly session at the Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday, MLAs Gupta and OP Sharma had raised the issue and the BJP MLA presented facts on disbursement of funds meant for installation of CCTV cameras in all Assembly constituencies in the House. He said that the Delhi Government has spent Rs 400 crore for procurement of 1,40,000 CCTV cameras. "In every constituency, it spent Rs

5.71 crore for procuring 2,000 CCTV cameras. However, the PWD Minister has not given permission to install 16,000 CCTV cameras meant for eight Assembly constituencies that have elected BJP MLAs as their representatives," he said.

Gupta said that every MLA has been given the prerogative to decide the location for the installation of the CCTVs in consultation with the residents. However, this right has been snatched away from the BJP representatives.

Instead of answering Opposition questions, the Government is suppressing their voices by marshalling them out, he added.

"The BJP MLAs will meet Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi regarding systematic discrimination being practiced by the AAP government and would stage a dharna if it refuses to mend its way and continue to trample upon rights of people of Delhi," he further added.

100 bed portable integrated care centre at Karol Bagh



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has set up a fully-equipped 100 bed portable integrated care centre at the Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College in Delhi's Karol Bagh area, in a bid to increase the capacity of health-

care infrastructure in Delhi. The care centre was inaugurated by Delhi's Health Minister Satyendar Jain on the occasion of the college's centenary celebrations on Tuesday. Jain said that this hospital would be beneficial for the people living in nearby areas. "The care cen-

tre includes 18 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds along with 82 oxygen beds. This facility also has its own oxygen PSA plant of 250 litres per minute (LPM) and the aim of the Government is to increase the capacity of health infrastructure in hospitals in Delhi keeping in mind the situation that had surfaced in the past due to the surge in Covid cases in Delhi," said an official. Jain said the hospital had been set up to deal with pandemics like Covid-19 in the future.

"This centre was initially built to serve as beds for Covid-19 patients but considering the fact that number of Covid cases in Capital is low and under control at moment, the Delhi Government still wants to be fully prepared for any

possible surge in cases in the future," said Jain. "We have decided to maintain this healthcare centre instead of dismantling it. The Unani Tibbia College shall maintain its administration so it may be used during any future crisis that may arise. All the beds have been equipped with oxygen cylinders, moreover, ventilators have been provided for all the ICU beds," said Jain.

Jain tweeted pictures from the programme and said, this facility will "aid in increasing the bed capacity in case of any crisis." Dr RK Manchanda (Director AYUSH) said that this facility shall also be used as a research centre for integrated research of Ayurveda and Unani in collaboration with modern medical science.

Cong workers stage protest against fuel price hike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the rise in petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) activists staged a protest outside Union Petroleum Ministry here on Tuesday. Police said that no one was detained during protest. Srinivas BV, IYC president also posted a video of protest on his official Twitter handle. In video, the protesters are seen performing a mock funeral as they carry an LPG cylinder. The protesters also raised slogans against central government. "The protesters carried an empty cylinder in a symbolic way to bring attention towards rising fuel prices," said Rahul Rao, the IYC's National Media Incharge. Petrol prices in the national capital as well as most state capitals crossed ₹100 a litre mark as its rates were hiked by 80 paise a litre and that of diesel by 70 paise on Tuesday, taking total increase since last



Indian Youth Congress workers cook rotis during their protest against the rising inflation and hike in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders by the centre, near Shastrī Bhawan, in New Delhi on Tuesday, **RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER**

week to ₹4.80 per litre. Petrol in Delhi will now cost ₹100.21 per litre against ₹99.41 previously, while diesel rates have gone up from ₹90.77 per litre to ₹91.47. The IYC national president said

burden of inflation is increasing continuously on people. "Whatever reason government may give regarding inflation, but every citizen of country knows real reason. The public fails to

understand that when price of crude oil has decreased by about 26.42 per cent in international market, then rates of petrol and diesel are increasing continuously in the country," he said.

L-G opposes regularisation of services of Kashmiri migrant teachers, alleges Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Despite a nod by the Arvind Kejriwal-led Cabinet, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Anil Bajjal has consistently opposed the regularisation of services of Kashmiri migrant teachers in Delhi government schools.

Earlier, on Monday the statement of the Government School Teachers' Association (Migrant), released by its coordinator Dilip Bhan on Monday, kicked up a political row with the BJP launching an attack on the AAP.

According to the statement, the teachers' association hit out at Chief Minister Kejriwal for claiming credit for regularisation of the migrant teachers, saying the Delhi government did it because it was left with no choice after the Supreme Court's judgment in the matter.

Addressing a press conference, AAP legislators Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj said that after the formation of the AAP government, these Kashmiri teachers came to Kejriwal and also met (deputy chief minister) Manish Sisodia.

"The Kejriwal government decided that their services should be regularised. Cabinet passed a proposal for this but, Lt Governor (L-G) Bajjal objected to the regularisation of these 235 teachers. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) L-G (Bajjal) writes a note in the file stating that it is a service matter, and the Delhi government has no jurisdiction to interfere, and that all decisions have to be taken by the L-G in this matter," Atishi claimed and showed some documents at the press conference.

She alleged that it was not alone the Delhi L-G's decision to oppose the regularisation of teachers as he had consulted with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the matter. "BJP's L-G never stood by Kashmiri migrant teachers.

He openly opposed their regularisation. He even filed a petition in the Supreme Court, challenging the double bench verdict which had favoured the teachers' regularisation," Atishi said.

The AAP leaders also questioned the veracity of the teachers' body, which issued the statement targeting Kejriwal on the issue of regularising Kashmiri migrant teachers.

The teachers' association, which was party in the case filed in the court, has issued a clarification, saying, Bhan whose statement is circulating in the name of their organisation is not known to them, Atishi claimed.

The association has also stated that the Kejriwal government always stood by Kashmiri migrant contractual teachers and even passed a policy in its Cabinet in 2017 favouring their regularisation, Atishi said.

"The BJP is playing politics over the issue," Atishi said, adding "Modi government has not done anything for Kashmiri migrants so far, the BJP has only opposed the rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits, worked against them, did everything to obstruct the regularisation of their jobs."

The AAP posted this teachers association's statement on the party's official Twitter handle. "This is the real face of the BJP and its leaders, they are liars, cunning and worthless," AAP leader Bharadwaj charged.

Punjabi Bagh interchange Metro station inaugurated; connects green, pink line



DMRC inaugurated a newly constructed additional interchange, providing inter-connectivity between the Green Line (Brig. Hoshiar Singh to Inderlok/Kirti Nagar) and the Pink Line (Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar), at Punjabi Bagh West Metro station, in New Delhi in New Delhi on Tuesday **RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday inaugurated the additional interchange station at Punjabi Bagh which will connect the green line and pink line. This is for the first time that the Delhi Metro has built such a station which is connecting two operational corridors. The two lines earlier

crossed each other but there was no halt in facility, and there were demands from people to provide an interchange provision at intersection, officials had earlier said. Dr Manglu Singh, Managing Director of DMRC said "The platforms for both up and down movement at this station have been built in steel and are located right above Punjabi Bagh roundabout. The green line viaduct

has been modified to install these prefabricated steel platforms. The platforms have come up between the Shivaji Park and Punjabi Bagh stations of green line." "This is for first time that DMRC has built such a station which is connecting two operational corridors. (However, in 2010, the Chhattarpur Metro station was built with pre-fabricated steel. After completion of fabrication work, the structures were brought to site for installation on giant trailers)," he said.

"There will be boarding and deboarding facilities available on this station and as a result of which passengers desirous of interchanging trains between green line and pink line will be able to use facility," he said. The new platforms are 155 metres in length and are connected with FOB by two extra-large lifts (each platform) with capacity of 26 passengers each as well as staircases.

BJP raps Govt's decision to hike 'Flatted Factories' rent

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has condemned Delhi Government's decision to increase the rent of 'Flatted Factories' by 180 to 300 times and demanded immediate withdrawal of the hike. Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has written a letter to CM Arvind Kejriwal and demanded roll back of the decision. "To encourage non polluting small and medium scale industries in Delhi a concept of flatted factories on rental basis was visualized and implemented in early 1980's where factory owners had to

pay annual maintenance charges and monthly rent on per square metre basis," he said in the letter. "Till February, 2022 the rent for such factories was ₹30 per square metre across the city in five industrial zones which has now been irrationally raised by the Kejriwal Government," he said.

Citing the example, he said that the rent has been raised at Jhandewalan Complex and Okhla Phase III from ₹30 to ₹500 per square metre while for Okhla Kiosks it has been raised to ₹923 an increase of 300 times. For Wazirpur Industrial Area, the rates increased by 100 times.

Unidentified miscreants break into house of JNU Professor, decamp with valuables

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Some unidentified miscreants broke into the house of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Professor Dhananjay Singh and decamped with valuables.

According to an First Information Report (FIR) registered in the case, Singh, who lives in the JNU campus and is the chairperson of the Centre for English Studies and Associate Dean of School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, had left his house in the campus on March

17 for Lucknow. "He returned on March 24 and found that his house was ransacked. Singh claimed that the thieves broke into his house through a window and it was left open," as per FIR. Meanwhile, the JNU Teachers' Association (JNUTA) claimed "lack of accountability and commitment towards the safety and security of campus residents in the past years."

It said from 2019 onwards, there have been 13 incidents of theft which point "towards the extreme vulnerability that the campus residents have been exposed to in the recent years."

3 services chiefs hold meet on op readiness

3-day talks to focus on wide range of issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With tension persisting at the border in Ladakh due to continuing stand-offs between the troops of China and India, top commanders of the three Services began a brain storming conference on Tuesday. The three-day meet in Lucknow will focus on operational readiness and measures to be taken to plug any gaps.

Army chief General M M Naravane will preside over the deliberations on Wednesday at the Central Command Headquarters there, officials said here on Tuesday.

The deliberations will cover wide-ranging subjects concerning military preparedness.

The Army Chief is scheduled to review the deployment of Indian Army formations deployed in Western and



Northern borders while they are transitioning from winter to summer posture.

Senior Army, Navy and Air force officers including commanders of their respective commands are attending a series of discussions focused on reviewing the current international and regional environment, they said.

The exercise is undertaken with a view to progressively increase own capabilities through force level optimisation, technology adoption, induction of force multipliers, as also modernisation and improvement of infrastructure. Operational readiness of

troops and equipment to match strategy and tactics are also being reviewed to respond to the emerging threats and challenges.

Incidentally, the high-profile conference comes days after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar here last week.

It was the first visit by a Chinese minister to India since trouble erupted at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh nearly two years ago.

Jaishankar said after the meeting that situation was "not normal" as far as ties with China was concerned.

BJP to launch 'Samajik Nyay Pakhwada' on Modi's advice

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP will undertake a range of programmes, including meetings and conferences, for a fortnight from its foundation day on April 6 as part of the "samajik nyay pakhwada" following a suggestion from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday.

The BJP MPs and leaders in different States would reach out to the "socially disadvantaged sections" in the society to understand their issues and get feedback to act upon by the party and the government.

With the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, the chairman of the Constituent assembly, falling on April 14, Modi sought the BJP MPs to interact with the disadvantaged sections of society like Scheduled Castes, to highlight various government programmes for their welfare.

Modi also drew the attention of the MPs that the birth anniversary of Jyotirao Phule,

the noted social and educational reformer from Maharashtra, falls on April 11.

In the backdrop of the opposition criticism that the BJP has been averse to recognizing the contribution of previous ruling parties, he said the BJP is the only ruling party which has recognised contributions of every prime minister by building a museum to honour them.

"We are the only ones to have acknowledged former prime ministers' contributions irrespective of the party they came from," a BJP MP quoted him as saying. BJP has often accused the Congress of glorifying the 'family' and the Nehru Dynasty excluding the other political personalities in the country.

The meeting was attended by all top party leaders including BJP president J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. Minister of state for Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Arjun Ram Meghwal said the main objective of the BJP Parliamentary party meet was to hold meetings and conferences between April 6 and April 14 on the issue of "social justice".

Meghwal told reporters that Modi asked parliamentarians to work to spread awareness about the central government's welfare schemes for housing, nutrition and free grains among others.

He also suggested that each district could build 75 water ponds- "Amrit Sarovar" - to celebrate the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in the country.

An exhibition on the movement for India's Independence was also held at Ambedkar International Centre, the meeting's venue, where Modi arrived earlier than its scheduled beginning.

Meghwal said BJP MPs thanked the PM for extending the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana' which ensures free ration for the poor for another six months upto September, this year.

34 people from outside buy properties in J&K after Art 370 abrogation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that 34 people from outside Jammu and Kashmir have bought properties in the Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370 even as it also signaled that the Sports Ministry was exploring the possibility of adopting a policy of "one state, one sport" in the country.

"As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, 34 people from outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have bought properties in the UT of J&K after abrogation of Article 370," Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

Rai said the properties are located in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur and Ganderbal districts.

In another policy issue, the house was informed that

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has held a meeting with the state ministers and officials on the possibility of adopting a policy of "one state, one sport" but no decision has been taken yet.

Union Minister of State for Sports Nisith Pramanik said Thakur held a virtual meeting with the state sports ministers and officials and discussed the matter of "one state, one sport". "The government will take an appropriate decision at an appropriate time," Pramanik said during the Question Hour.

On yet another sports related issue, the Department of Sports has urged the Ministry of Finance to impose a uniform GST of 5 per cent on all sports goods to encourage manufacturing of sports goods in India, the Lok Sabha was informed.

Pramanik said the GST rates are fixed based on the recommendations of the GST Council and most of the sports equipment are taxed at a GST rate of 12 per cent.

INSHORT

NO TALKS ON PREZ ELECTION: NAVEEN

New Delhi: There has been no discussion on presidential elections and neither the Government nor the Opposition has approached the BJD over it, said party supremo and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who visited Parliament on Tuesday and held a meeting with his party MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He was welcomed by all BJD MPs at the entry gate of Parliament.

CVC ASKED ABOUT PENDING COMPLAINTS

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice Parliamentary committee has asked the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to explain why over 12,000 complaints were pending disposal, some for over three years.

'MHA REJECTS LICENCE RENEWAL OF 466 NGOS'

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs has declined to renew the FCRA licence of 466 NGOs since 2010, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Priyanka writes to Rajnath over delays in Army recruitment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday wrote to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh over "delays" in the armed forces recruitment and urged him to take necessary steps to ensure that the hard work of aspirants is respected. In her letter, she said it is the dream of the youth to serve the country by joining the armed forces for which lakhs of them prepare with hard work.

"Youth from all over the country have tried to draw your and the government's attention towards some important points related to the recruitment results, delay in recruitment and recruitment rallies for the armed forces," she said. Flagging the problems being faced by the youth in armed forces recruitment, Priyanka said the examination for the recruitment of soldiers in the Air Force was held in November 2020 with its result out in the same month but despite the completion of all the tests and the provisional selection list being out, the enrollment list has not been released yet.

Bennett's visit to Delhi postponed after testing positive for Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Israel has postponed its Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's visit to New Delhi next week after he tested positive for Covid-19 two days back. He was scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 3. The visit was also to mark 30 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Announcing the postponement, Israel Embassy spokesperson Muhamed Heib also said here the visit will be rescheduled.

It was to be Bennett's first India visit after assuming office as Prime Minister last year. He was scheduled to visit India during April 3-5 at the invitation of the Indian prime minister.

In a related development, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Gantz on Tuesday. They expressed their desire to further strengthen the bilateral ties. The telephonic talks came shortly after Israel announced the postponement



of Bennett's visit. The Israeli defence minister is likely to visit India next week.

"Had a telephonic conversation with the Defence Minister of Israel, Mr. Benjamin Gantz. Shared my condolences on loss of innocent lives due to terror attacks in Israel. Terrorism is a global menace which has no place in today's civilised world," Rajnath said in a tweet.

In another tweet, he said both the countries look forward to further strengthening the bilateral relations as India and Israel complete 30 years of full diplomatic relations. "Defence cooperation is the founding pillar of our strategic partnership.

Military cooperation has

been on an upward swing in recent years," Rajnath said. "Also, I wished for the speedy recovery of Israeli Prime Mr. Naftali Bennett who recently tested positive for Covid," he added.

Modi and his Israeli counterpart had earlier met on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow in November last year. They also had telephonic talks on August 16, 2021.

India and Israel elevated their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership during the visit of Modi to Israel in July 2017. Since then, the two countries have continued to deepen their strategic partnership, with a focus on innovation and research, read the statement.

Prices of 40 cancer drugs have come down significantly: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday informed the Rajya Sabha that prices of more than 40 cancer drugs had come down significantly after it fixed trade margins. Moreover, India has developed the capability to manufacture cancer drugs within the country, the house was told.

Giving these details, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed the

Rajya Sabha "we had to import cancer medicines but now India is capable of manufacturing it. We have introduced PLI scheme under which the manufacturing of APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) required for making cancer medicines have also started in India."

The Minister informed the House that the MRPs of these cancer medicines have been capped in such a manner that it cannot be more than 60 per cent of the first price that a manufacturer sells to a dis-



tributor in India.

After fixing the trade margins, the price of cancer treatment medicines have come down significantly, which is benefiting cancer patients, Mandaviya asserted.

Replying to another question by Derek O' Brien (TMC) on what steps the government have taken on reports of about 175 healthcare organisations refusing to honour and clear bills of servicemen under the Central

Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Mandaviya said the government will look into the matter.

The minister also assured that issues faced by senior retired journalists, whose bills have not been cleared under CGHS, will also be addressed.

To another question raised by Anand Sharma (Congress) over the withdrawal by major private hospitals from the CGHS panel, the minister said the government is aware of the situation and it has held discussions with the hospitals, which have given suggestions.

Based on the feedback the government will work to ensure the CHGS cardholders get the best medical treatment, he added.

In a written reply, the minister said during 2021-22 fiscal, claims of empanelled healthcare organisations amounting to Rs 1,330 crore were settled. Bills amounting to Rs 1343 crore are received from empanelled healthcare organisations for payment.

Vasundhara meets Nadda to galvanise party in Raj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, under whose stewardship the BJP lost the last Assembly polls in Rajasthan, met BJP President J P Nadda on Tuesday to discuss ways to galvanize the party machinery in the State for the Assembly elections, next year.

Raje has been on a meeting spree in the last fortnight and had interactions with the top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She has been at loggerheads with state Chief Satish poonia and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who also hails from Rajasthan.

Raje, who has floated her own 'support forum' in the state and launched 'Raje Yatra', had in the past vetoed Shekhawat's bid to be the state president. The infighting

in the state has often turned visibly bitter and even ugly.

After lying low for the last several years, Raje, currently BJP Vice President, has suddenly become active and separately met Modi last Thursday. After meeting Modi, Raje had a long meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

She flew to Dehradun in a helicopter to attend the swearing-in-ceremony of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and met a number of BJP leaders. She also attended the oath taking ceremony of Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.

The former Chief Minister, who had led BJP to power twice, is known to have her way and attracted criticism for her style of functioning carrying a dedicated band of followers including the long-time ex-minister Rajendra Singh Rathore.



Nadda has often warned BJP state leaders to project a "united face" saying that "ekla chalo" policy would not work and "not tolerated" by the leadership.

Sources said Nadda discussed with Raje the party's affairs in Rajasthan and took feedback from her. Raje, a scion of royal family, is still a force to reckon with that the central leadership can not ignore for want of an alternative popular face in the state.

A rally she had organised in the state on her birthday on March 8 drew a big crowd and was also attended by a number of party leaders in what was seen as her show of strength.

Raje, who is the aunt of Jyotiraditya Scindia, had welcomed her nephew when he had joined the BJP from the Congress saying Vijaya Raje Scindia (her mother) "if alive would have been elated" that Jyotiraditya "put nation first" (by joining the BJP).

Rane stresses need to strengthen MSMEs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane on Tuesday termed the MSMEs as growth accelerators making a significant contribution to the GDP and stressed the need to strengthen them.

Rane said, for a long time now, MSMEs have been working amidst minimum resources and yet making a significant contribution to the GDP of the country. "It is, therefore, necessary that these growth accelerators are hand held and strengthened. In

this direction, there have definitely been significant collective efforts to strengthen the sector. Various schemes of the government are directed towards opening up new avenues for MSMEs," he said.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day mega summit on MSME competitiveness and growth being organized by the MSME and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) in the presence of MoS Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma.

He further said the Government has well ensured

that the MSME sector receives an unhindered credit flow from financial institutions, technology support for development and modernization, access to export markets, infrastructure facility, training and capacity building facility and welfare of workforce.

The two-day summit will witness brainstorming sessions and panel discussions on the enhancements, challenges and growth opportunities in the MSME sector and speakers and experts from India, Singapore, Peru, Lao PDR, Rwanda, Myanmar, Russia, Uzbekistan, Spain and Iran, will share their

experiences at the summit.

The summit is also going to be attended by entrepreneurs, academicians, policymakers, industry leaders, thought leaders, business chambers, industry associations, startups, social impact organizations, MSMEs and self-help groups from across the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, said, "India, with its focus on entrepreneurship, start-ups, innovations and MSMEs, is well placed at a remarkable time on account of interesting economic decisions and strategies."

ED arrests fake crypto coin case accused for money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested an accused Abdul Gafoor in connection with investigation in a money laundering case worth Rs 1,200 crore linked to fake crypto Morris Coin Case.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Crime Branch, Malappuram and investigation report submitted by it against Nishad and others wherein.

Nishad was the main accused, who cheated several

investors by accepting investments, under a Ponzi scheme, through his three Bengaluru based firms; Long Reach Global, Long Reach Technologies and Morris Trading, by offering high returns of dividend such as 3 to 5 per cent per day.

As per the FIR, more than 900 investors were cheated to the tune of Rs 1,200 crore.

Investigation by ED revealed that Nishad, the main accused, had appointed those persons as pin stockists, who had invested a minimum of Rs 10 lakhs in his scheme. Nishad

promised them that he would give 5 per cent as commission on the investment.

They made aggressive enrolment of new members into an illegal money circulation scheme under the garb of multi-level marketing, resorted to fraudulent practice of investing the money received from the investors in the Morris Coin Cryptocurrency plan run by Nishad and others. This further led to viral proliferation of the network of the scheme and thereby made huge wrongful gain at the cost of investors, the ED said in a statement.

ED crackdown on R Selvaraj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable properties worth over Rs 7.54 cr belonging to R Selvaraj and his family members under PMLA in the Red Sanders Smuggling case. The ED had initiated money laundering probe on the basis of an FIR filed by the AP police and the Commissionerate of Customs, Chennai. Subsequently, charge-sheet and prosecution complaints were filed by the AP police and prosecution wing Chennai customs department.

In a rare environment friendly initiative, the Kashmir Frontier of the Border Security Force (BSF) has issued a directive to the personnel to shun motor vehicles to commute to the office from the official quarters to check air and noise pollution besides reducing carbon footprint.

"It has been observed that office staff of Frontier Headquarter Kashmir and Subsidiary Training Centre Kashmir are commuting from their (residential) quarters to office by vehicles such as personal motorcycles/cars, which causes unnecessary air and sound pollution in the campus, which is not only detrimental to health of family members living in campus but it is utter



foolishness to burn unnecessary fuel as we all know that we have got limited hydrocarbon reserves," reads the order issued by BSF's Kashmir Frontier.

It further said, "We can mitigate these health hazards (air and noise pollution) and contribute a bit in saving precious hydrocarbons by adopting more environment friendly modes of transport like bicycle riding and on foot walking."

It also directed that, henceforth, no office staff will use motorized vehicles while coming to office or moving in the campus area. They may come to office by walking or may use bicycles, which will be beneficial for their health besides

keeping the campus pollution free.

Further, if anyone is found using a motorcycle or cars for coming to office or moving in the campus area without any valid reasons, strict disciplinary action will be taken for violating the related instruction.

The copy of the order issued by the Inspector General of BSF has been circulated to all branches of Frontier Kashmir, Frontier STC, Kashmir and General Duty Office.

Officials said the idea has the twin purpose of reducing the carbon footprint as well as keeping the staffers physically fit besides having a renewed sense of endurance.

The IG's secretariat of the BSF is headquartered at Humhama in Badgam district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

'1205 paramilitary personnel have committed suicide in last 10 years'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI


As many as 1,205 paramilitary personnel have committed suicide in the last 10 years with the highest 156 in 2021, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. He said 143 personnel committed suicide in 2020, 129 in 2019, 96 in 2018, 125 in 2017, 92 in 2016, 108 in 2015, 125 in 2014, 113 in 2013 and 118 in 2012.

Domestic problems, illness and financial problems are some of the contributory factors to the incidents of suicide, he said replying to a written question. The organisations whose personnel have committed suicides are CRPF, BSF, CISE, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles.

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There's a pressing need to kickstart the economy and get more revenue




SHIVAJI SARKAR



The country needs a new approach on prices, taxes tolls and issues of progress. India must also think about introducing fuel subsidies to boost manufacturing. It could bring in more revenue. A cut in prices is necessary to increase the volume of sales of manufactured goods for additional revenue. Post-poll fuel prices are rising frequently on the plea of rising crude prices. But the companies did not reduce prices when crude prices crashed to virtually zero during the pandemic. The high fuel prices have stoked inflation as transport prices spiral making goods and commodities expensive. The administration says that the petroleum companies decide the prices and strangely, they are frozen at election time. Successive governments in India have been using petroleum as a tax-spinner forgetting that even a paisa hike on petrol has cascading effect on the entire economy. Since UPA times, the economy was dependent on taxes on fuel. Successive administration never corrected it. The problem accelerated as domestic production plummeted to around 20 per cent and dependence on imports increased causing the rupee to slide beyond Rs 76 to the dollar. India's domestic crude oil production has steadily decreased in recent years. In 2013-14, Indian companies produced 37.8 million tonnes of crude oil and condensate. That dropped to 32.2 million tonnes in 2019-20, a sharp slide of 15 per cent. India produced 35.68 MTs of crude petroleum in 2017-18. It has led to an overall price spiral. Wholesale and retail prices are going through the roof. Sunflower oil jumps by 20 per cent to ₹182, soya oil sells at ₹162, dearer by 10 per cent, and palm oil ₹151.80, dearer by 13.65 per cent. Mustard oil, wheat, rice, pulses rise by over two per cent. Textiles and other commodities are also becoming dearer. Alternate fuels like ethanol, processed largely from sugarcane, are being proposed for mixing with petrol. It is likely to make sugar expensive. It is a myth that it would sell cheap. The processing cost is high. Ethanol production can, according to US studies, cause air, water pollution, soil erosion and habitat loss. It is being seen to benefit Maharashtra cane growers.

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 on which battery recharging is to be based would make coal and power dearer. More use of batteries will lead to higher coal-generated power production causing heavy emission pollution and spike power rates. During the last over 15 years it was noticed that as petrol prices rise, the economy gets into a spin. Under World Bank and IMF pressure India gave up subsidies causing immense harm to the poor, middle and small enterprises, prices of commodities. A little subsidy, not direct benefit, helps every section of the society. Overall, subsidies benefit a larger population and helps the economy keep prices under check. India needs to understand the Lankan stress on infra that drained its resources. India must go slow on infra now. Infrastructure builds expensive assets with a higher recurring expenditure that stresses the economy severely. Had it conserved its reserves, put off expensive infrastructure projects, Lanka could have avoided getting into the amiss. Increased money supply, infra investments and depreciation of the rupee stoked inflation there. The symptoms of Lankan and Indian economy are not different except that India has the capacity and size to sustain which Lanka does not have. It would be prudent if India reintroduces subsidies on petrol as alternate energy is yet not available. It would change the dynamics of the economy and generate more revenue.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)



Kashmir in the past,
Assam in the future



BISHALDEEP KAKATI BAGMITA BORTHAKUR

In Assam, it is not the growth of the indigenous Muslim population but the influx of illegal migration from Bangladesh that is alarming

The possible ethnic cleansing of specific groups has once again been the talking point in the country, especially after the film, “The Kashmir Files”. hit the screens. The film basically portrays a picture of political unrest that happened in the Jammu and Kashmir in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This period probably can be referred to as one of the darkest periods not only in the history of Kashmir but also in India as a whole. Be it the plight of the Pandits or the Gawkadalmassacre, one has to agree to the fact that the failure of the Union and the State administrations to take apt measures, ultimately led to communal bloodbath in Kashmir, something which could have been avoided. And it was in 1987, after the formation of government in Jammu and Kashmir by Farooq Abdullah that the militants of JKLF took the upper hand in Kashmir, leading to grapples between the indigenous Kashmiri Pandits and the Kashmiri Muslims, who were living amicably prior to that.

Historical accounts have shown that it was during this period, a retired judge of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, Neel Kanth Ganjoo (the one who sentenced Maqbool Bhat to death), was shot dead outside the premises of the court, journalist cum lawyer, Prem Nath Bhat, was shot dead and many more had to face the wrath of the JKLF, the group that not only praised Pakistan but also made its intentions clear to portray the supremacy of Islam against Hinduism.

The consequences of these events meant, many Hindus, especially the Kashmiri Pandits, had to leave Kashmir in fear of their lives. According to a report given by Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, around 70,000 families of Kashmiri Pandits left Kashmir and around 399 were killed by the militants. The story of Jammu and Kashmir evidently draws a picture of how improper border and refugee management alongside security lapses and religious extremism and dominance can not only lead to a state's indigenous people becoming a minority but also a country's foe getting a diplomatic advantage in terms of extending its territorial jurisdiction and spreading its violence-based propaganda. In this relation, we not only get to know about areas known as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) but also how back in the 1990s Kashmiri Pandits were asked my militants to either asked to convert, run or die. To be honest, Kashmir still suffers from the consequences of the events that happened then and the contribution of the abrogation of Article 370 to somewhat counter the unrest that Kashmir suffered for long has to be noted.

However, with the context of Kashmir on hand, a popular question still circulates amongst the residents of

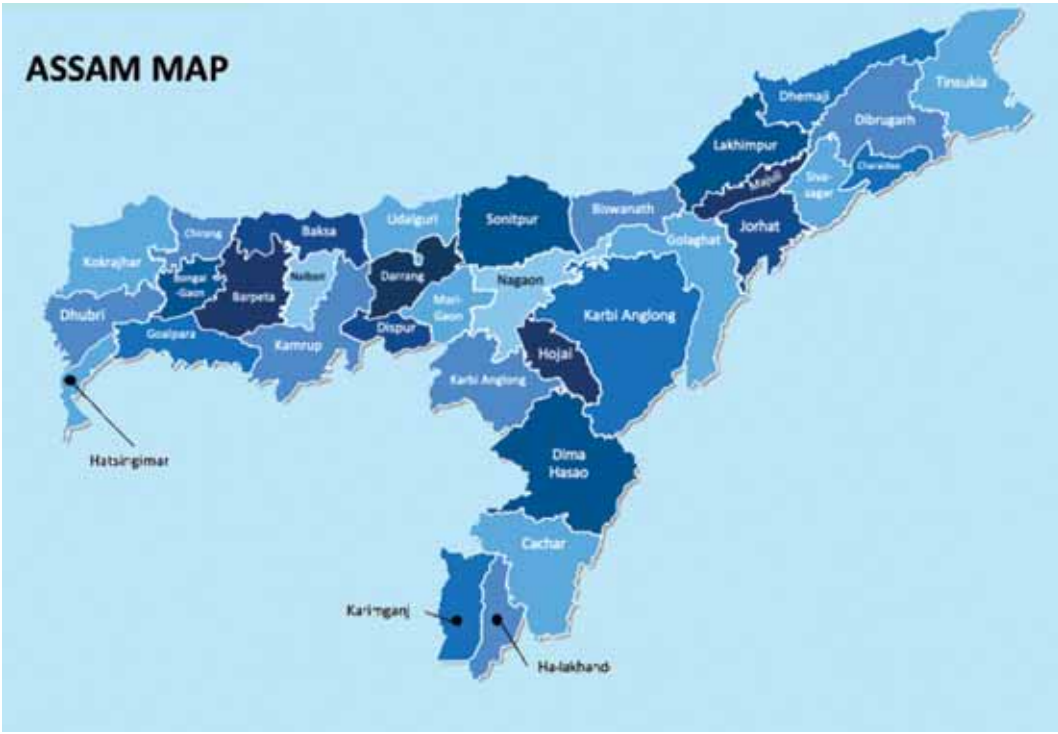
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THE PERCENTAGE OF HINDU POPULATION IN ASSAM IS 61 AND THAT OF MUSLIMS, 34. BUT WITH MORE DISTRICTS COMING INTO LIST OF INCREASE IN MUSLIM POPULATION OR TOPPING THE LIST OF MUSLIM-MAJORITY DISTRICTS, ONE CANNOT DENY THE APPREHENSION THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS MIGHT HAVE MOVED FROM ONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER

”

(Kakati is an advocate in Guwahati High Court and Borthakur is a student in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Pondicherry Central University. The views expressed are personal.)

ASSAM MAP



Assam: “Is Assam going to become the next Kashmir?” The sense of foreboding and the validity of the question can be understood by taking into account the drastic demographic change that Assam has witnessed over the last 30-40 years due to illegal immigration. If we look at the census figures from 1971 to 1991 (in 1981 there was no census due to unrest in the state), there was a steady and rapid increase in the Muslim population, especially in the border areas, which directly hinted at the notion of Assam being “invaded” by illegal immigrants. This can be understood when we take into consideration the Muslim population in the districts that either share a border or lie close to Bangladesh, namely, Dhubri, Barpeta, Karimganj, and Hailakandi.

According to the 2001 census, the Muslim population in Dhubri, was 74.3%, which increased to 79.67%. In Barpeta, the Muslim population was 59.3% in 2001, which again increased to 70.74% in 2011. In Hailakandi, it was 60.32% in 2011 from 57.6% in 2001. And in Karimganj, it was 52.3% in 2001 and rose to 56.36% in 2011. This clearly shows an increase in Muslim population which probably is the effect of illegal immigration from Bangladesh. However, the worrying fact is that with each passing year, the number of districts with majority Muslim population is increasing drastically and at pre-

sent out of the 34 districts in Assam, at least 9 to 10 districts have a Muslim majority. The point here is that the growth of indigenous Muslim population can never be an alarming issue but it is the growth of the illegal Muslim population that can come as a threat to the indigenous people of Assam. Moreover, if one considers three districts of Assam, namely, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Dibrugarh, the Muslim population in these three districts according to 2011 census was 8.30%, 5.01%, 14.9% respectively. This shows that, probably the illegal influx of Muslim population is escalating at a higher rate rather than the indigenous Muslim population.

According to the census of 2011, the percentage of Hindu population in Assam, is 61 and that of Muslims, 34. But, with more and more districts coming into list of increase in Muslim population or topping the list of Muslim-majority districts, one cannot deny the apprehension that illegal immigrants might have moved from one district to another, thereby not only causing an increase in Muslim population comprising of illegal immigrants but also posing fatal threats upon the indigenous community irrespective of religion.

If we take into account the state of Tripura, the indigenous people residing there have already become a minority and the same threat cannot be discarded in the

case of Assam as well where people speaking Assamese account for only 48.38% -- it was 57.1% in 1991 and 48.8% in 2001. And that puts an additional threat on the language, culture and identity of Assamese people in Assam.


Considering these facts, one cannot deny that if apt steps are not taken, Assam might witness adverse events like the edging out of its ethnic people, community-based clashes, religion-based clashes and something similar to what happened with the Kashmiri Pandits who were once the majority group in Kashmir. Moreover, a possible concept of BOA (Bangladesh-Occupied Assam) might also come into picture if the demographic jitters in Assam are not taken care of by proper border and refugee management measures.

In fact, the long agitations and struggles in the form of language agitation and Assam movement were once done to protect the identity of the indigenous community at large, but all these efforts will go in vain if the noted 35% population of Assam (mainly dominated by illegal influx) is diplomatically not taken care of at the earliest.


Therefore, in the political game of one party blaming the other, if the indigenous Assamese people irrespective of religion do not stand as one united force to tackle these fatal threats, the time is not far when people might say, “Assam: The next Kashmir.”

POINT COUNTERPOINT

LAKHS OF YOUTH IN DELHI HOPE THAT THE GOVT TAKES STEPS FOR EMPLOYMENT — WHETHER IT IS AMBITIOUS, IMPOSSIBLE OR DIFFICULT. — DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA



THE FINANCE MINISTER DID NOT PRESENT ANY SUBSTANTIAL PLANNING OR COMMITMENT ON HOW JOB CREATION IS BEING ENSURED IN DELHI. — BJP LEGISLATOR VIJENDER GUPTA



Retaining four BJP CMs signals continuity and trust

This is a signal to future poll-bound States like Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and a strategy for winning the 2024 general elections

The BJP has reposed faith in the incumbent chief ministers in all the four states where it won in the recently concluded Assembly elections. Whether by coincidence or design, the big picture is the party high command did not want to disturb the winning formula in these states. The decisions indicate that the party preferred continuity, stability, and youth.

The party had projected Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand), N. Biren Singh (Manipur), and Pramod Sawant (Goa) as its chief ministerial candidates. All four had delivered defeating anti-incumbency.

The BJP high command is already looking at the 2024 elections. The challenge for the four chief ministers is to retain



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

the present strength and achieve a more significant electoral victory in 2024.

Dhami lost his Khatima seat which he had won twice before, but it did not prevent the BJP top brass from clearing his name. He is the state's youngest chief minister, and his choice is an attempt to check the factional fights in the state unit. It was also a stability card as Uttarakhand had seen three chief ministers last year. Dhami is perceived to be close to RSS. “In six months, Dhami left his imprint on Uttarakhand, which manifested in the election results,” Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told reporters after announcing Dhami's election as the legislature party leader.

The opposition cannot criticize the decision because that

was similar to what West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee did after losing her seat in the Assembly polls last year. Like Mamata, Dhami will also have to win a seat in the next six months.

Uttarakhand is not the only state where the BJP followed this stability card. In Goa, the party chose Pramod Sawant, in preference to the former state Health minister Viswajit Rane, a front runner, for the top job. The simple reason could be that Sawant led the party to victory despite resignations from some key figures, including the son of late former chief minister Manohar Parrikar as well as six former chief ministers and some imported from Congress. He

managed to overcome the infighting.

The Goa Assembly polls had an added challenge from Trinamool Congress and Aam Admi party besides a stiff battle from Congress. Moreover, Sawant delivered Goa, ensuring BJP's second-best performance ever, winning 20 of the 40 seats needing only one more for the majority.

Sawant, still in his 40s, became Goa's chief minister in 2019, following the demise of the charismatic mass leader Manohar Parrikar. He is sober and soft-spoken but not a natural leader.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has proved to be a vote-catcher and charismatic leader. So, the BJP high command could not deny him the prize. He is also a good

communicator.

However, Yogi had no hand in finalizing his cabinet, as cabinet formation was done in consultations with the party high command. It was visible when the OBC leader Keshav Prasad Maurya, who lost his seat, was imposed on Yogi, retaining him as Deputy chief minister. Another Deputy was an import from the BSP, Brajesh Pathak. It was a bold step to drop 26 ministers and induct 32 freshers this time. Yogi's team has a perfect balance with 21 ministers from upper castes and 20 from other backward castes. Eight Dalits, one from the scheduled tribe, Muslim and Sikh communities, made up the rest.

On the day of sweating-in, which was held in a stadium, one can see the prominent slogan “Shapath, Shapath, Shapath:

Rashtravard ki, Sushashan ki, Suraksha ki, Vikas ki” (Promise, Promise for Nationalism, Good Governance, Security and Development). It may be Narendra Modi's slogan for the 2024 polls. The BJP has to ensure two important things: Retain the Modi magic and implement welfare schemes. They have another two and half years to prepare for the 2024 general elections.

There is no surprise in this shift in strategy, as the focus is to build strong chief ministers in states to implement his schemes. Secondly, Prime Minister has also been encouraging younger faces as the delivery of their provinces is the most critical criterion. It is likely to send a positive signal to the other poll-bound states like Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

After Russian forces pull back, a shattered town breathes

AP ■ TROSTYANETS

The bodies of two Russian soldiers lie abandoned in the woods. Ukrainian forces piled atop a tank flash victory signs. Dazed people line up amid charred buildings to reach for aid. These are the sights in a Ukrainian town that has seized back control from Russian forces, at least for now.

Arriving in Trostyanets shortly after Ukrainian forces announced the northeastern town near the Russian border had been retaken following weeks of Russian occupation, The Associated Press on Monday saw a civilian landscape that has seen some of the worst of war.

The hospital was damaged, its windows jagged with broken glass. The train station had been shot up. Residents stepped carefully, wary of mines. They rode their bicycles past craters in the road and past the ruins of homes. It is not yet clear how many civilians have been killed.

Russian tanks lay burned, twisted, left behind like the soldiers in the woods. One of the soldiers had a red band around his leg. The other had an arm flung over his head as if napping on the leaves in



the late afternoon light. A Ukrainian soldier nudged him with his toe.

A red "Z" marked a Russian truck, its windshield fractured, near stacked boxes of ammunition. Hundreds of the boxes, including ones with artillery shells, had been stacked around the town. Curious residents peered into an open box of shells.

It is not clear where the Russian forces went, under what circumstances they fled or whether the town will remain free of them in the days ahead. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his overnight address emphasized that the situation

remains tense in Ukraine's north-east around Kharkiv, the nearest large city, and other areas.

But the returned presence of Ukrainian forces in Trostyanets is a relief to a country that hopes some Russian forces, under fierce resistance, are pulling back.

A senior US defense official said Washington believes the Ukrainians have retaken Trostyanets.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss US intelligence assessments, said Russian forces largely remained in defensive positions near the capital, Kyiv, and were making little for-

ward progress elsewhere in the country.

Late last week, with its forces stalled in parts of the country, Russia seemed to scale back its war aims, saying its main goal was gaining control of the Donbas in the east.

In Trostyanets, after weeks of occupation and intense fighting, some residents appeared to have lost all sense of normal.

"Personally, I have not seen much," said one resident, Vitali Butski. And yet three missiles struck his home. Many buildings beyond the railway station are damaged, he said.

Bundled up against the freezing wind, he and others ventured out to see what had been left behind.

Unexploded ordnance littered the square in front of the train station. Trenches and berms lined the square in a sign that Russian forces tried to defend their position. In a bunker under the station, with thick walls and door, rooms were full of army uniforms and boots.

On the walls were patriotic messages including drawings signed by children in Russian reading "Thanks for the peace, soldier."

Ukraine's communications service suffers outage

AP ■ KYIV

The Ukraine's national telecommunications provider Ukrtelecom has been knocked almost completely offline, suffering what network monitors called its most severe outage since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion.

Government officials in Kyiv say they are investigating whether a cyber-attack is to blame.

The outage began Monday morning and persisted into the evening. Alp Toker, director of the London-based monitor Netblocks, said connectivity for Ukrtelecom has collapsed to just 13 percent of pre-war levels.

Ukrtelecom is the seventh-largest provider in Ukraine in traffic moved but, as the pre-independence incumbent, is likely the lone provider in much of rural Ukraine, said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis at the network management firm Kentik.

Ukrtelecom provides telephone, internet and mobile service.

Despite repeated and withering Russian attacks on its telecommunications and other infrastructure, Ukraine's digital communications networks have proven remarkably resilient, in part due to risks crews have taken under fire to repair damaged fiber optic cables and toppled cell towers.

'Keenly felt' India, China agree to adhere to consensus of not a threat to each other: Wang Yi

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that during his recent visit to India, he "keenly felt" that both sides had agreed to adhere to the leaders' consensus that the two countries are not a threat to each other and handle and manage their differences.

During his unannounced visit to New Delhi on March 25, Wang, the first high level Chinese official to visit India after the April 2020 Ladakh standoff, held talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Summing up the outcome his talks in New Delhi to the Chinese official media, Wang said, "he has most keenly felt that both sides agreed to adhere to the important consensus of the two countries are not threats to each other but opportunities for each other's development reached by the two heads of state, properly solve practical problems of common concern, handle and manage differences over the years, and promote the steady and sustainable development of bilateral ties".

Wang noted that India-China are partners rather than rivals, and should help each other succeed instead of undercutting each other, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

He reiterated Beijing's oft-repeated stand that "as mature and rational neighbours, China and India should place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations, and should not let it define or even hinder the overall development of bilateral relations."

In his talks, Jaishankar pressed hard to complete the disengagement process in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh quickly and told his Chinese counterpart that bilateral ties cannot return to normal if the situation in the border areas is "abnormal".

In his nearly three-hour "candid" talks with Wang, Jaishankar conveyed that the frictions and tensions triggered by China's military deploy-

ments in the region since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours.

At a media briefing after the talks, Jaishankar said if both sides are committed to improving ties then this commitment must find "full expression" in the ongoing disengagement talks and that relationship is best served by observing the three mutuals -- mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests.

Describing the current situation as "not normal" and a "work in progress", he also said relations between India and China have been "disturbed" as a result of the Chinese actions in April 2020.

Wang also visited Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal during his South Asia tour from March 21-27.

During his visit to Islamabad, he met Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

He said in his talks in Islamabad he has reached an "important new consensus" with the Pakistani government and military leaders on deepening strategic cooperation between the two countries under the current international and regional circumstances.

China and Pakistan will carry forward their all-weather friendship, and their traditional friendship is unbreakable and rock solid, Wang said, adding the two countries also agreed to deepen all-round cooperation. Summing up his impressions about the South Asia tour, Wang said the visit came at a time when the spillover effect of the Ukraine crisis has been constantly spreading and world peace and development are facing new challenges.

He said during his interactions with leaders and officials he "deeply felt the strong desire of South Asian countries to maintain the hard-won peace and tranquility in the region and accelerate post-pandemic eco recovery as well as their hope to strengthen strategic communication and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation."

Russian Minister underlines focus on Donbas

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's Defense Minister says that "liberating" the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine is the main goal of Moscow's military operation, underlining a possible shift in strategy announced last week by another Russian military official.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, whose few public appearances this month raised questions about his health and whereabouts, held a meeting with top military officials on Tuesday and said that "overall, the main tasks of the first stage of the operation have been completed."

He said that "the combat potential of the Ukrainian armed forces has been significantly reduced, which makes it possible to focus the main attention and main efforts



on achieving the main goal - the liberation of Donbas." The minister stressed that the Russian military will continue the operation until "the set goals are achieved."

Shoigu also offered an assurance that Russia will not send conscripts recruited in the upcoming April draft to Ukraine. Earlier this month, the Russian military admitted that a number of conscripts ended up in Ukraine and were even captured there.

Zelenskyy: 7 dead in southern Ukraine strike

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says seven people were killed in a missile strike on the regional government headquarters in the southern city of Mykolayiv. Zelenskyy, who spoke to the Danish parliament through a translator, said Tuesday's strike also left 22 people injured. The Telegram channel of regional governor Vitaliy Kim showed a gaping hole in the center of the nine-story building.

Kim accused Russian forces of waiting until people had arrived for work in the building before striking it and said he had a lucky escape because he had overslept. Zelenskyy has made online speeches to lawmakers in several countries, including the United States, Britain, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Israel, Japan and the European Union. He is set to address Norway's parliament. He told the Danish parliament that "the brutality is more violent than what we have seen during World War II".

UN nuclear watchdog chief visits Ukraine

AP ■ BERLIN

The UN nuclear watchdog says its director-general has arrived in Ukraine for talks with senior government officials on delivering "urgent technical assistance" to ensure the safety of the country's nuclear facilities.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Tuesday that Rafael Mariano Grossi's aim is to "to initiate prompt safety and security support" for Ukraine's nuclear sites. That will include sending IAEA experts to "prioritised facilities" and sending "vital safety and security supplies"

including monitoring and emergency equipment.

It said that Grossi will travel to one of Ukraine's nuclear power plants this week, but didn't say which one. Ukraine has 15 nuclear reactors at four active power plants, and also is home to the decommissioned Chernobyl plant, the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster. Russian forces have taken control of Chernobyl and of the largest active power plant, at Zaporizhzhia. Grossi said in a statement that "the military conflict is putting Ukraine's nuclear power plants and other facilities with radioactive material in unprecedented danger."

Biden proposes to increase developmental assistance to India in clean energy, digital eco

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has proposed to increase the developmental assistance to India in clean energy, digital economy, and also in combating increasing authoritarianism. The proposed increase in India's developmental assistance from USD 25 million in 2021 to USD 66 million for the fiscal 2023 is part of the State Department's developmental assistance for the fiscal 2023, which was sent by the White House to the US Congress on Monday.

"The funding increase for India supports India's role as a regional leader by increasing clean energy and other climate programming. Funds will also advance investments in the digital economy," said the State Department's portion of the

budget.

"Assistance will combat increasing authoritarianism, bolster human rights and strengthen civil society participation and democratic governance," the State Department said. The Biden Administration has also proposed to increase aid to India on the health sector from USD 34.5 million in 2021 to 48.5 million in 2023. Overall, the administration has proposed USD 302.2 million in developmental assistance for South Asia to promote sustainable development to resist harmful economic practices and unsustainable debt. Funding will also combat climate change by increasing investments in clean energy and adaptation to climate risks, it said.

The State Department also cited a program Treasury's

Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) to India as one of its success stories. With OTA support, India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs made significant progress in its Smart Cities program to promote issuance of local project debt by cities, the State Department said. "Local debt issuance - in its infancy in India - helps to foster greater ownership and improved planning of infrastructure and development projects, which currently range from water treatment to improved local transportation," it said.

OTA previously worked with the Indian municipality of Pune to help facilitate its first bond issuance in 2017. Based on this success, OTA and the Ministry of Housing of Urban Affairs expanded collaboration to include six additional cities.

Scotland Yard fines 20 people over 'partygate' scandal

PTI ■ LONDON

Scotland Yard on Tuesday confirmed that it will fine 20 people who organised or attended parties at Downing Street and within UK government offices in Whitehall in London in breach of COVID lockdown rules at the time.

The Metropolitan Police had launched Operation Hillman following an internal inquiry into what became widely known as the "partygate" scandal, which led British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to issue an apology in Parliament.

While the individuals issued with the fines have not been named by the police, the UK Prime Minister's spokesperson said Johnson was not one of those who had received the so-called "fixed penalty notice" at this stage of

the ongoing police investigation.

"We will today initially begin to refer 20 fixed penalty notices to be issued for breaches of COVID-19 regulations," the Met Police said in a statement on Tuesday.

The force said that under the College of Policing guidelines, the "identities of people dealt with by cautions, speeding fines and other fixed penalties - out-of-court disposals - should not be released or confirmed." "We will not confirm the number of referrals from each individual event subject to our investigation as providing a breakdown at this point may lead to identification of the individuals," the Met Police said, adding that "significant amount of investigative material" still remains to be assessed and further fines are likely to be fixed.

Blinken in Morocco amid shifts in Mideast, N Africa diplomacy

AP ■ RABAT (MOROCCO)

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was visiting Morocco Tuesday to discuss recent shifts in the diplomatic dynamic in the Middle East and North Africa that could upend some of the region's long-standing disputes.

A day after an unprecedented gathering in Israel's Negev Desert with the Israeli foreign minister and their counterparts from four Arab nations that have normalized relations with Israel, Blinken was holding talks with senior Moroccan officials to look at opportunities for expanding those ties.

In Morocco and again in Algeria on Wednesday, Blinken will also be exploring options for helping end the neighbours' festering row over Western Sahara after new developments offered fresh hope but added new complications for a resolution.

In Rabat, he will also see the de facto ruler of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed to try to ease U.S.-UAE tensions over a possible resurrection of the languishing 2015 Iran nuclear deal and a recent spat over a visit to the Emirates by

Syrian leader Bashar Assad. The meeting between Blinken and Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita was their second direct encounter in two days.

The pair were together on Monday in the Israeli town of Sde Boker, where they each confirmed their countries' commitment to supporting a revitalized Middle East with growing ties between Israel and Arab states.

Morocco, along with the UAE and Bahrain, was one of the countries to fully normalize relations with Israel during the Trump administration's push to negotiate the so-called "Abraham Accords," in which the U.S. Pledged significant support in exchange for such recognition.

While technically not an Abraham Accords signatory, Morocco won U.S. Recognition for its claim to Western Sahara in return for its agreement with Israel.

In a rare endorsement of a Trump foreign policy initiative, the Biden administration has signaled its full backing for the Abraham Accords and pledged to try to expand and strengthen them.

However, while the

administration has not revoked Trump's decision on Western Sahara, it has been largely silent on the matter.

That has led to questions about whether Washington is fully on board with Moroccan sovereignty over the former Spanish colony.

Just last week, Spain shifted its long-standing position on the territory by backing Morocco's plan to give Western Sahara more autonomy as long it remains under Moroccan control, calling it "the most serious, realistic and credible" initiative for resolving the decades-long dispute.

The move was immediately welcomed by Rabat, which reinstated its ambassador to Madrid after a 10-month absence.

But it was sharply criticized by Algeria, which supports Western Sahara's Polisario Front independence movement, and recalled its ambassador to Spain.

In his meetings with the two protagonists, Blinken hopes to explore the potential for compromises on Western Sahara.

The vast territory, which Morocco annexed in 1976, is largely barren but rich in phosphates and faces fertile Atlantic Ocean fishing grounds.

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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 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 Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ruchita Pankaj Keshan/ Pankaj Kumar Keshan LBBHP00004069377	House No.134, Village Bagli Patwari Halka No.25, Khasara No.61, Village Bagli, Tehsil Huzur, Dist. Bhopal 462041/ March 25, 2022	December 31, 2019 Rs. 37,20,823.00/-	Bhopal
2.	Ruchita Pankaj Keshan/ Pankaj Kumar Keshan LBBHP00004069378	House No.133, Village Bagli Patwari Halka No.25, Khasara No.61, Village Bagli, Tehsil Huzur, Dist. Bhopal 462041/ March 25, 2022	December 31, 2019 Rs. 44,00,999/-	Bhopal

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 30, 2022
Place: Ghaziabad

Authorized Officer
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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.	Madhu Arora/ Jasween Arora/ Ankita Arora/ Varun Arora/ LBGUR00002062081	Villa No-34, Tulip Ivory, Sector-70 Gurgaon, Haryana/ March 25, 2022	June 23, 2021 Rs. 59,33,617/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Naveen Chandola/ Yogita Chandola/ LBDEL00005151296	Unit No 214-A, Second Floor, Block A, Unitech Arcadia, South City 2, Sector 49 Sohna Road Gurgaon, Haryana/ March 25, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 33,09,662/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Pervinder Singh Batar/ Namrata Batar/ De Rigi Tours/ LBDEL00002386817	Unit No.203, 1st Floor, Paras Trade Centre, Sector-2 Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon, Haryana/ March 25, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 27,25,118/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Brijmohan Singh Rana/ Suman Rana/ Yashpal Singh Rana/ LBGUR00005144081	Flat No E- 13/2, 13th Floor, Block-E, Pilots Court, Group Housing Scheme, Indian Airlin Society Esal Tower Mg Road, Sec 28, Plot No. N-82 1st Floor Mayfield Garden Sec 50, Gurgaon, Haryana/ March 25, 2022	June 23, 2021 Rs. 2,69,86,613/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Saurav Kumar/ Anjali Sehrawal/ LBGUR00003334697	Fiat No-K-1706, Tower-K, 16th Floor, Godrej Summit, Sector-104, Gurgaon Haryana/ March 25, 2022	August 16, 2021 Rs. 1,06,08,597/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Bipin Joshi/ Pradeepti Mehta/ LBGUR00002889353	Fiat No. 504, Tower-D, 5th Floor, Sector-104, Godrej Summit, Gurgaon/ March 25, 2022	August 16, 2021 Rs.90,73,564/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Priti Rajput/ Amit Kumar/ LBGUR00004882083	Fiat No- T5-1207, Floor 12, Sec-4, Arawal Homes, Tower-5, Sohna, Haryana, Gurgaon/ March 25, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 11,02,407/-	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 30, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Sandeep Malik** and **Anil Malik** "Seller's" claims to be owner and in possession of Property No. E-162, Preet Nagar CHBS Ltd, Known as Preet Vihar, Delhi (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Will dated 04.12.2014, Doc. No. 959 executed by Santosh Malik and after the death of Santosh Malik and Ved Prakash Malik, said Santosh Malik expired on 04.05.2021 and Ved Prakash Malik expired on 05.02.2019 and said Sandeep Malik and Anil Malik has agreed to sell the said property to Neha Goyal and said Neha Goyal has agreed to create mortgage of the said Property in favour of our client, **Standard Chartered Bank, Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi**. All person's/Institution's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within **14 days** from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company, Advocates and Solicitors
House No.2 (LG7), NRI Complex, N. Delhi-19 M. 9818339999

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Vilma Fernandes** "Seller's" claims to be owner and in possession of **Entire Third Floor with terrace Rights of Property No. 54 at Sukhdesh Vihar, New Delhi** (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of law of Inheritance for 40 % share after the Death of Manuel Francisco Argemiro da Conceicao Fernandes and said Vilma Fernandes is the owner is already a owner of 60 % undivided share in the said property vide sale Deed Dated 01.04.2011, said property is mutated in favor of Vilma Fernandes and said Vilma Fernandes has agreed to sell the said property to Mr. Ketan Khurana and said Mr Ketan Khurana has agreed to create mortgage of the said Property in favour of our client, **IDFC First Bank Limited, having its office at ITO**. All person's/Institution's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within **14 days** from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company, Advocates and Solicitors
House No.2 (LG7), NRI Complex, N. Delhi-19 M. 9818339999

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)
Phone No. 07723-223731, E-mail : eephe-mah-cg@nic.in
पू.क्र.-1693 / व.से.ति. / का.अ. / लो.स्व.यां.खण्ड / महासमुन्द / 2021.22 दिनांक 23.03.2022

निविदा संशोधन सूचना क्र 1

इस कार्यालय का निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 640 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 93249), 642 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 93252), 644 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 93770), 660 (ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 94092), जी. नं. 66885 में किसी भी निविदाकार के भाग न लेने के कारण से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

Bid Due Date **01 April, 2022 17:30:00 PM IST**
Physical Doc Submission End Date **06 April, 2022 17:30:00 AM IST**
Bid Open Date for Envelope **07 April, 2022 10:30:00 AM IST**
"A" & "B" (Scheduled)

निविदा की शेष नियम एवं शर्त यथावत रहेगी।

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

R.o. No. - 69025/3
R.o. Date - 29/02/2022

Sharp recovery in FY22 to help sustain growth: FM

New Delhi: India's sharp economic recovery post COVID-19 and Budget initiatives will help in sustaining growth momentum in the years to come, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

The government's road map for imparting momentum to the economy focusses on growth at the macro level and complementing it with all-inclusive welfare at the micro level, promoting digital economy and fintech, technology-enabled development, energy transition and climate action and relying on a virtuous cycle of investment and growth, she said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The government's road map was put into effect in 2014, she said, adding that major reforms, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

and significant reduction in corporate tax rate, were implemented.

The reforms contributed to the real GDP growing at an annual average rate of 6.8 per cent during 2014-20, she said.

At the end of this period, she said, the government announced National Infrastructure Pipeline of projects to take economic growth to the higher level.

"India's sharp economic recovery in 2021-22 and Budget measures have prompted international rating agencies to forecast a real GDP growth above 8 per cent in 2022-23. This will sustain the growth momentum in the economy," she said.

The Union Budget 2022-23 is the latest road map of the government for taking India's economy to a higher growth trajectory, she said, adding, the PM Gatishakti Scheme in

the Budget is a huge investment in physical infrastructure drawing from the National Infrastructure Pipeline.

The government's direct participation in building infrastructure is reflected in the capital budget increasing once again by 35 per cent over the previous year, she said.

The road map further supports the MSMEs through extension of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), revamping of Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme and implementation of Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, she said.

The 'Make in India' programme is also facilitated by replacement of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act with a new legislation, she added. **PTI**

Go for USD 100 bn export target: Goyal to gem, jewellery exporters

Dubai: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday called upon gem and jewellery exporters to target USD 100 billion of exports annually in the coming years as the sector holds huge potential to boost outbound shipments.

He urged the industry to suggest ways to take the exports to that level by creating incisive marketing tools and irresistible designs.

"Let's go for USD 100 billion target," Goyal said while addressing export members of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) here.

He informed that the sector has accounted for about 10 per cent of the country's USD 400 billion exports, which India has crossed during the current fiscal.

He said that the government would act as a facilitator and enabler to promote the growth of the sector in the UAE and other world destinations.

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed by India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February, which would come into force on May 1.

Exporters hailed the agreement stating that it would help in posting India's exports from sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, gem and jewellery and chemicals.

GJEPC Chairman Colin Shah said that the agreement would help in boosting the exports to the UAE and to regions including Africa and Middle East nations.

"Our exports to the UAE are increasing and we would work to double or triple it in the years to come," Shah said.

Shah said that with nil import duty on jewellery under the pact, "we are expecting jewellery exports to the UAE will move to new heights (USD 10 billion annually)". **PTI**

Gold declines ₹437; silver tumbles ₹722

New Delhi: Gold prices declined sharply by Rs 437 to Rs 51,151 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday in line with fall in the precious metal in global markets along with rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 51,588 per 10 grams.

Silver also tumbled Rs 722 to Rs 67,515 per kg from Rs 68,237 per kg in the previous trade.

Continuing its winning streak for a fourth straight session, the rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 36 paise to 75.80 against the US dollar.

In the international market, gold declined to USD 1,918 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 24.80 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.25 per cent down at USD 1,918 per ounce on Tuesday," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities. **PTI**

Icra cuts FY23 GDP growth estimate sharply to 7.2% on Ukraine conflict impact

Mumbai: Domestic ratings agency Icra on Tuesday cut its FY23 real GDP growth estimate by a sharp 0.8 per cent to 7.2 per cent, primarily driven by the fallout of Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Its chief economist Aditi Nayar attributed the downward revision to elevated commodity prices and also fresh supply chain issues arising from the conflict in Ukraine.

It can be noted that the Reserve Bank expects FY23 GDP growth rate at 7.8 per cent. The central bank is set to come out with the first bi-monthly monetary policy for next fiscal year in early April, when it will revisit the number.

Real GDP growth is likely to moderate to 3-4 per cent in Q4FY22 from 5.4 per cent in Q3FY22, which will lead to FY22 real GDP growth rate at 8.5 per cent.

As expected, the third wave had a much smaller impact on confidence levels relative to the first two waves. While the early data for March 2022 is mixed, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the associated surge in commodity prices has heightened uncertainty, and the expected margin compression is likely to squeeze GVA growth, it said.

"Higher prices of fuels and items such as edible oils are likely to compress disposable incomes in the mid to lower income segments, constraining the demand revival in FY23," Nayar said. Welcoming the extension of the free foodgrains scheme till September 2022, she said it will offer some respite to the food budgets of vulnerable households. **PTI**

Airtel completes acquisition of 4.7 pc stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel along with its wholly-owned subsidiary has acquired about 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from Euro Pacific Securities, an affiliate of Vodafone Group, a stock exchange filing said on Tuesday.

The shares were acquired at Rs 187.88 a piece, it said.

"...We wish to submit that the company, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Nettle Infrastructure Investments Limited, has acquired 127,105,179 equity shares (about 4.7 per cent) of Indus Towers at Rs 187.88 per share from Euro Pacific Securities Ltd., an affiliate of Vodafone Group Plc," Airtel said in a BSE filing.

Last week, Bharti Airtel had said it will acquire 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group for about Rs 2,388 crore.

Indus Towers, formerly Bharti Infratel, provides passive telecom infrastructure. **PTI**

Financial institutions should be board-driven: RBI

Mumbai: Financial institutions should be board-driven and not end up being dominated by individuals as it could lead to undesirable consequences, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M K Jain has said.

In his keynote address at CAFRAL, a Centre promoted by RBI, he stressed that an efficient and vibrant financial system is crucial for economic development and social well-being of the country.

"The governance framework surrounding the individual players in the financial system assumes a central role not only in terms of value creation for various stakeholders but also in ensuring the oversight of the board on risk appetite and risk culture of individual institution," he said while speaking on 'Importance of Governance and Assurance Functions in Financial Institutions'.

He also emphasised that financial institutions should be board-driven and not dominated by individuals.

"It is important to ensure that financial institutions are board-driven and do not end up being dominated by individuals. Experience has shown that this leads to undesirable consequences," Jain said.

The board members, he said, should focus on strategic and important matters and work in a cohesive manner.

Many times, he added, a large number of agenda items are included, including table items, which do not allow for proper evaluation of the proposals.

The Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL) is an independent body set up by RBI against the backdrop of the country's evolving role in the global economy. **PTI**

Petrol crosses Rs 100 in Delhi after 80 paise hike, diesel up 70 paise

New Delhi: Petrol price on Tuesday crossed Rs 100 a litre mark after rates were hiked by 80 paise a litre and 70 paise in case of diesel, taking the total increase in rates in one week to Rs 4.80 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 100.21 per litre as against Rs 99.41 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 90.77 per litre to Rs 91.47, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of local taxation.

This is the seventh increase in prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22. On the first four occasions, prices were increased by 80 paise a litre - the steepest single-day rise since the daily price revision was introduced in June 2017. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty rally for 2nd day on weak crude, talks between Russia, Ukraine



Mumbai: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for a second straight session on Tuesday after gains in index majors HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel and Infosys as global shares advanced ahead of peace talks between Ukraine and Russia.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 350.16 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 57,943.65 with 20 of its constituents closing higher. During the day, the index rallied 408.04 points or 0.70 per cent to 58,001.53.

The broader NSE Nifty

gained 103.30 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 17,325.30 as its 32 components closed in green.

"Reports of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine along with weakening crude prices helped the global markets trade firm," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex stocks, HDFC was the biggest gainer on value-buying after recent losses. The housing finance major spurred 3.06 per cent.

Bharti Airtel rallied 2.89 per cent after reports said that the telco may consider a tariff hike and continue with 'pre-miumisation' to boost its ARPU to Rs 300. Among major index movers, HDFC Bank rose by 1.4 per cent, Ultratech Cement by 2.7 per cent, Sun Pharma by 1.62 per cent and Dr Reddy's by 1.09 per cent. **PTI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Smt. Birvati Devi Chauhan W/O Sh. B. S. R/o Village Chhalera Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. who was the original allottee of Shop No. 3-D-24-A, Sector-20, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. has sold through General Power of Attorney basis in favour of Sh. Rajiv Gupta S/o Sh. Ram Swarup Gupta R/o G-22, Sector-20, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. GPA Duly registered in Book no. 4, Volume no. 226 pages from 124/397 to 402 bearing no. 291 dated 23.01.1993 registered with Sub Registrar-I, Noida and the Agreement to Sell was not registered because the AGREEMENT TO SELL is not registered it informed to all concerned that the said Shop No. 3-D-24-A, Sector-20, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. is going to be sold and transferred in favour of Mrs. Poonam Gupta W/O Sh. Rajiv Gupta R/O G 22, Sector-20, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. If anyone has/have objection hel/she may file his/ her objection along with sufficient proof in the Commercial Department, Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Signature
Rajiv Gupta

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sunita Vermani (wife of Late Shri Mohinder Kumar Vermani) and Late Shri Mohinder Kumar Vermani both have jointly booked the below units in Supertech E-Square project Noida. Unfortunately, My Husband (Co-applicant in below mentioned properties) passed away on date 19/12/2020. Now I request Supertech limited to transfer the funds of these properties which are mentioned below into the new property booked by Mrs. Sunita Vermani.

Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502163
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502164
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502165
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502166
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502168
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502169
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502170
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502171
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502172
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502173
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502174
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502175
Ms. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029E502216

If anybody has any objection , hel/she can contact Supertech Head office. Supertech E-square Plot no. C-2, Sector-96 Noida within 15 days of this Notice.

Regards
Sunita Vermani
Add: E-96, 2nd Floor GK-1, Delhi - 48
Mob:9873234842

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779

Regd. Office : The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi – 110091; Tel No. (Regd.): (+91-11) 48482870 Fax: (+91-11) 49482900 Email: info@kamaholdings.com website: www.kamaholdings.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Certificates pertaining to Shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (From)	Dist-No. (To)	Lost Shares
1	SPP0007510	BALBI KUMAR MR MOHAN MENGHANI	8917	557050	557115	66
2	SPP0000243	PREM VATI S S MULAY	271	12117	12154	38

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

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

for KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Sd/-
EKTA MAHESHWARI
WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR, CFO & COMPANY SECRETARY

Place : Gurugram
Date : 29.03.2022

Livestock contributes 4% to India's GDP

New Delhi: The livestock sector contributes 4% to India's GDP and employs 8% of the labour force. This includes both pastoral and non-pastoral populations. Neither data on animal numbers nor on economic contribution is segregated with reference to pastoralism. To highlight this, industry experts will discuss the fascinating journey of pastoralists and artisanal cheese at "A Taste of Pastoral India: Crafting Artisanal Cheese" in Ahmedabad on March 30. Sahjeevan in association with Access Livelihoods & Käse Cheese is hosting the event. **PTI**

World shares higher as Russia-Ukraine peace talks resume

Bangkok: World shares were mostly higher Tuesday as another round of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine got underway.

Crude oil prices reversed course with moderate gains after sinking 7per cent on Monday.

Markets remain unsettled as investors try to gauge what's next for inflation and the global economy as the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine continue to play out. The first face-to-face talks

in two weeks between Russia and Ukraine began Tuesday in Turkey, raising meager hopes of progress on ending a war that has ground into a bloody campaign of attrition.

Germany's DAX jumped 1.3per cent to 14,599.17 and the CAC40 in Paris surged 1.7per cent to 6,700.18. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.8per cent to 7,531.55. Russia's MOEX index climbed 3.7per cent in the second day of full trading after it was closed for about a month following the Feb. **PTI**

UnitedHealth to buy LHC Group for USD 5.4 billion

San Francisco: UnitedHealth Group is spending about USD 5.4 billion to delve deeper into home health care with the acquisition of LHC Group.

The health care giant said Tuesday that it will pay USD 170 in cash for each share of LHC's stock in a deal expected to close later this year.

UnitedHealth, which runs the nation's largest health insurer, will add LHC Group to its Optum Health business, which operates primary care clinics and surgery centers.

LHC Group provides in-home health and hospice care to patients dealing with injuries, illnesses or chronic conditions. The Lafayette, Louisiana, company has 964 locations in 37 states.

Health insurers and other payers have been emphasizing home-based care more in recent years, a trend fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technology improvements also allow for more care to be provided at home, and payers see the practice as a good alternative to expensive stays in hospitals or care centers when possible. **AP**

Hemani Industries files draft papers for ₹2,000 crore IPO

New Delhi: Agrochemical manufacturer Hemani Industries Ltd has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to raise Rs 2,000 crore through an initial public offering.

The Initial Public Offering (IPO) will comprise fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 500 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of equity shares worth up to Rs 1,500 crore by its promoters.

According to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP), OFS comprises offloading of up to Rs 500 crore worth of shares each by Jayesh Mohan Dama, Mohan Sunderji Dama and Minal Mohan Dama. The company may consider a pre-IPO placement of up to Rs 100 crore.

The company will use the net proceeds worth Rs 129.71 crore for funding the capital expenditure requirement for the capacity expansion at Saykha industrial estate and Rs 48.34 crore for repayment or pre-payment of certain borrowings. **PTI**

Local manufacturing of 35 APIs started after PLI scheme: Mandaviya

New Delhi: Manufacturing of 35 active pharmaceutical ingredients, which have been imported earlier, has started in India under the production linked scheme for the pharmaceuticals sector, Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. These 35 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) are among the 53 APIs, for which India has 90 per cent import dependence.

"The 35 APIs are being manufactured from 32 different manufacturing plants. This will give a boost to AatmaNirbhar Bharat," Mandaviya, the Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilisers, told reporters here. This would lead to reduction in import dependence of the key raw materials used for producing medicines, he added. He said there has been a good response from the pharma industry to the PLI scheme and manufacturing of the other APIs is also expected to start in India in due course of time. **PTI**

Kohli retains top spot as most valued celebrity brand

Mumbai: Cricketer Virat Kohli has retained his position as India's most valuable celebrity brand in 2021, despite losing over a fifth of his worth in the year that saw the batsman stepping down from captaincy Kohli's value was pegged at USD 185.7 million (close to Rs 1,400 crore) which is down from USD 237.7 million in 2020, the report by consultancy firm Duff & Phelps said.

Actor Ranveer Singh has pipped older peer Akshay Kumar to become the second most valuable celebrity in India with USD 158.3 million worth. Kumar is now ranked third with the brand value of USD 139.6 million.

Actor Alia Bhat at fourth rank overall is top among females with a brand value of USD 68.1 million, and is followed by Deepika Padukone with USD 51.6 million of worth. Padukone is at the seventh place on the list. **PTI**

Blockchain, using cryptology has enabled many features that have contributed to ensuring data privacy, says NISHANT BEHL

STREAMLINING STARTUP NEEDS

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

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

How Blockchain Contributes Towards Ensuring Data Privacy

In recent times, blockchain has been at the forefront in ensuring data privacy. The system of blocks and chains to store data makes it extremely difficult for the hacker to tamper. Majorly due to security, Blockchain has been increasingly adopted by corporations around the world; both-incumbent and upcoming. As 81 of the world's top 100 public corporations have employed blockchain technology for efficient functioning and service mechanisms. It is anticipated to reach a market size of \$67.4 billion at a CAGR of 68.4 per cent between 2021-26.

♦ **Validation & Encryption**

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

♦ **Safe & Resistant**

With the potential to secure important data, the blockchain prevents fraud and illicit fraud. It ensures an end-to-end secured network that cannot be altered; making it difficult to hack. It encodes data and limits the access to handle privacy issues so that nobody can read or change stored data. Hence, data immutability is one of the basic features of this technology which offers a whole new set of security.

♦ **Traceability**

A paper trail verification is done by blockchain at each stage of an asset's excursion. This enables easy

verification of products in areas that are affected by fraud and forgery. It permits authentic data exchange with customers. The traceability of data can also disclose any type of flaw in the workings of the organisation or procedures.

Blockchain is one of the significant headways of the 21st century. It is forecasted that the world would be spending \$11.7 billion on blockchain solutions and revenue capacity of the global blockchain technology market to reach \$20 billion by 2024. Additionally, it is the startups that have effectively introduced and led to the adaptation of the tech among the masses.

Blockchain Streamlining Necessities for Startups

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

♦ **Improves Security**

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

♦ **Increases Speed and Efficiency**

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

♦ **Enhances Transparency**

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



Nishant Behl
Founder, Expand My Business

Blockchain is one of the significant headways of the 21st century. It is forecasted that the world would be spending \$11.7 billion on blockchain solutions and revenue capacity of the global blockchain technology market to reach \$20 billion by 2024

Central Universities Entrance Test: Decoded

The common entrance for all the universities seems to be a welcoming move. It changes the conventional academic paradigm by focusing more on conceptual understanding, critical thinking, comprehensive skills, & decision-making ability rather than cramming the syllabus, says MK YADAV

CUNET, earlier know as CUCET stands for Central Universities Entrance Test is mandatory for the 45 central universities from the academic session 2022-23. The Exam is likely to happen in the first week of July and the application window for the CUNET will start from 2nd of April and will be open till 30th April 2022.

The idea of having a common entrance test at the undergraduate level is to shift the focus more on developing the critical thinking ability of the students rather than going for rote learning. Central Universities Entrance Test (CUNET), advocated under the National Education Policy 2020 is not a new concept.

It was first conducted for admission in 7 central universities for 1,500 seats in undergraduate, postgraduate & integrated courses in 2010. Till the academic year 2021-22, 12 Central Universities like Assam University, University of Karnataka, University of Kerala, University of Haryana, to name a few, already took admissions through CUNET. The National Testing Agency (NTA) is the examination conducting Authority for CUNET.

In CUNET, boards mark is not going to play a great role and is not a criteria for the admission, however the universities are free to decide the eligibility criteria for the

THE IDEA OF HAVING A COMMON ENTRANCE TEST AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL IS TO SHIFT THE FOCUS MORE ON DEVELOPING THE CRITICAL THINKING ABILITY OF THE STUDENTS RATHER THAN GOING FOR ROTE LEARNING. CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES ENTRANCE TEST, ADVOCATED UNDER THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 IS NOT A NEW CONCEPT. IT WAS FIRST CONDUCTED FOR ADMISSION IN SEVEN CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES FOR 1,500 SEATS IN UNDERGRADUATE, POSTGRADUATE & INTEGRATED COURSES IN 2010



MK Yadav
CMD, AI Testified (Incubated at IIT Kanpur)

admission. For example- A university may keep 60 per cent as minimum marks in 12th as an admission criteria in their university.

The exam is divided into two three segments- the first one focusing on the language and the second one may be on the specific subject domain, for which the students are seeking admissions and the last one is based on general ability.

The Language Section is further divided into segments- 1A- having 13 language paper and Section 1B- having 19 language paper. If a student is aiming for graduation in specific language, will have to select language paper

form 1B. A student may choose maximum of any three languages from section 1A and 1B together. The Domain specific section is having 27 subjects and a student can maximum choose 6 subjects. If any subject is not mentioned in domain specific list, a student may choose the subject, which is very closely related to the domain list. For example, if a student is seeking admission in biotechnology, they may choose biology as a subject.

The domain specific questions will be from NCERT. The General test will have questions from areas like general knowledge including current affairs, general mental ability, quantitative reasoning, and logical and analytical reasoning.

Also, choosing options from each section is not mandatory and choice shall meet the requirements of desired universities. The students are advisable to choose language and subjects, which they have studied in class 12th board, however if any universities permits any relaxation in this regard, the same will be exercised under CUNET. The students are advisable to keep checking the website of respective universities frequently, in which they will seek admission. The common entrance test for all the universities will put a rest to ever-increasing cut-offs (like DU) and will focus more on developing

the critical thinking ability of the students rather than going for rote learning.

This will also consider the students from different boards on the same footing otherwise since no uniformity is followed across different boards in awarding 12th marks, there is always a kind of discrimination based on 12th marks and it doesn't provide equal opportunity to students seeking admission in all the prestigious colleges. CUCET shall also provide a single-window platform, making admissions more streamlined & student-friendly, by eliminating entrance exams for various universities with varying difficulty levels. It will also save candidates' time, effort & money towards payment of multiple entrance exam fees.

The common entrance for all the universities seems to be a welcoming move. It changes the conventional academic paradigm by focusing more on conceptual understanding, critical thinking, comprehensive skills, & decision-making ability rather than cramming the syllabus.

This reformative process will reduce the burden on students, colleges & universities, and the entire education system by imparting "substantial objectivity" to the process of admissions and "equitable opportunity" to the applicants to appear in a single umbrella examination at the national level.

Voice to the voiceless

India's rising population has become a fiery matter for every political party in recent years but even after numbers of fatal accidents where people died, no safety measures are carried out by such industries. 500 million citizens who subsist on life by working in unorganised sectors like agriculture, industries, and service sectors, who are called labour in general terms. Fortunately, today these voiceless got their voice in the face of Baban Ghosh, leader of Bhartiya Janata Majdoor Trade Union. He has pledged to drag guilty people behind bars with his unique initiative, Being Labour. But this is not the first time he is standing for labourers.

Surrounded by underprivileged people, Ghosh realised that the biggest problem these workers face is the unorganised work culture where they work for excessively long hours and get paid an insignificant amount. Moreover, due to lack of awareness, they become victims of work exploitation, to unravel this problem to some extent he fixed working hours for labourers in industries of West Bengal, along with this to lighten up the future of their kids, he runs campaigns in various areas of WB where he with his supporters provide educational items such as books, bags, clothes, etc, and also help them to get admission in schools nearby.

To encourage women of this class to work, he works with local NGOs and arranges small training camps where they obtain certain skills which can be used to earn money. With his active efforts, he ensured 1,00,000 jobs for drudge women in various industries.

Undoubtedly COVID brought a very crucial time for India as a country, jeopardised lives and jobs of millions,

but even in this situation the most affected class was labourers, specifically, those who migrated to other states in search of livelihood. During this tough time, Ghosh arranged 20-30 buses to consign helpless migrant labourers to their homes. Not only this but he also looked after nearly one lakh fifty thousand underprivileged families during the lockdown, fed them twice a day without fail and distributed essential items like milk, diapers, medicines, etc, as if they were his own family. His generous gesture not only helped the people of Bengal but also benefited disadvantaged people of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Bihar throughout the pandemic.

After joining BJP in 2017, he conventionally drew the attention of towering leaders on issues of unorganised sectors and the pitiful situation of people who are associated with it.

As a result, after the 2014 BJP Government introduced several schemes to enrich their quality of life, these schemes focus on the province of life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection etc. But the toughest part of this has been the execution process. Uneducated and placed in rural regions, they rarely learn about the Government's proposals and end up surviving a miserable life. Here also, Ghosh plays a crucial role by educating the poor about the welfare schemes by arranging public campaigns at regular intervals.

As an outcome of his praiseworthy work as a Trade Union leader, BJP awarded him leadership of Bharatiya Janata Kisan Morcha, a national wing accountable for reformation of farmers.

ALfA: Fast track educational pedagogy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Travelling all the way from Lucknow to the nation's capital, a dozen tiny tots from Kindergarten to Grade 2 interacted with the media at the Press Club of India on March 23, 2022. .

Their demand: 100 per cent literacy for all of India's children. The little ambassadors from Lucknow read the day's newspapers with fluency in both English and

Hindi. They also demonstrated their one-grade-up mathematical skills, leaving the witnesses awe-stricken.

At the press meet Dr Sunita Gandhi, a well-known educationist and innovator, who is a Ph D in Physics from Cambridge University, UK; and is a former Economist , The World Bank, USA shared details of a unique learning programme she has created that helped the children in

improving their Foundational and Numeracy (FLN) skills.

Dr Gandhi said, "These kids have learned these foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) skills in just 30-hours over three months, and then they practiced for fluency. This is while the schools nationwide are trying to close the two year learning loss. To acquire these skills rapidly, the children have used the

reverse methodology of Global Dream Toolkits and a paired learning process of Accelerating Learning for All or ALfA.

"Global Dream Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) is dramatically different. We do not teach the alphabet. We go straight to words. Children decode by themselves. Teachers do not teach or tell they act as enablers." Dr Gandhi explained.

Scholarship for data science and analytics students

PNS ■ MUMBAI

IDFC FIRST Bank has announced scholarships for meritorious students of Mumbai's leading institution, NMIMS' School of Mathematics, Applied Statistics & Analytics (SOMASA). The scholarship is open to first-year data science and analytics students at SVKM's NMIMS (SOMASA).

The grant will cover students' annual fees in the first year of their respective programme.

The awardees will also get an opportunity to intern at IDFC FIRST Bank. They will be paid a stipend, with the possibility of a pre-placement employment offer to work with the Bank's Data Science & Analytics team, based on their performance during the internship. The internship will be for two months and may be extended for an additional four months.

B Madhivanan, Chief Operating Officer, IDFC FIRST Bank, said, "We are committed

to building and supporting talent in data science and analytics, a dynamic and high-demand field. The scholarship programme also ties in well with two of the three pillars of our Bank's business philosophy i.e. being digital and a force for social-good. The announcement of the scholarship at NMIMS, one of India's leading universities, is just the beginning. Going forward, we hope to expand this initiative and enable more students to blaze new trails in their academic and

professional pursuits."

The selection of students for the IDFC FIRST Bank Meritorious Student Scholarship will be based on their first semester examination results, followed by personal interviews. Equal weightage will be given to academic excellence and the Bank's internal evaluation in the selection process.

IDFC FIRST Bank has awarded 1028 scholarships to students enrolled in B-schools with a family income of less than Rs six lakh per annum.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

— Cesar Chavez

DEGREE COURSES AT IMS

The Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Offered Degree Programmes affiliated to CCS University Meerut Invites application for different courses for its 2022 batch. IMS Noida offered Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes in Business Management, Law, Mass Communication, and Information Technology.

How to Apply: Applicants seeking admission are required to fill a separate application form for the same. Applicants can collect the application form from the institute by paying Rs.1050/- (cash) for UG courses & Rs.1450/- (cash) for the PGDM program. It can also be obtained by post, online or demand draft facility of Rs.1050/- for UG courses & Rs.1450/- for PGDM in favor of IMS- NOIDA payable at Noida / Delhi Noida / Delhi.

Admission Process: Applications for Academic Year



are open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognized Board of Education such as AISSCE/IB/ICSE, or equivalents.

All eligible candidates will have to undergo Entrance Exam Campus at Noida comprising a written test and personal interview. All qualifying candidates will be required to carry their portfolios. Admission is based on the marks obtained in the qualifying examination and the performance in written Tests and Personal Interviews.

Check out: <http://imsnoida.com/> <http://imsnoida.in>

Fashion and lifestyle exhibition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the Grand Success of our Fashion Show, Edu Brain Academy 5th Sem and 3rd Sem students organized a Fashion and Lifestyle Exhibition in our New Delhi Campus A13, Okhla Phase-2, Showcase of Dresses, Illustrations, Creative Designs, bags, handmade jewelry, clutches, variations of clothing, hand embroidery, women's wear, kids' wear, block-printing all made by students during their practical work in classrooms.

The students showcased their wondrous creativity in the dress materials as they presented their creations. There were the dresses which were designed by the students

of fashion technology. Some students designed the beauty of mystic design adorned with various vibrant colors.

While commenting on the exhibition, Som Sharma, Director of Edu Brain Academy, said, "The event was organised for the students to showcase their talents and it is our way of affirming the diverse culture of India represented by the students. The appreciation for the hard work and talent of a young designer can be seen by everyone present at the exhibition.

The event was judged by Ravinder Kaur Celebrity Model & Actor Winner Mrs India 2019 and Shweta Sharma Celebrity Model Winner MRS.



Financial literacy at pre-teens age will create a value-based ecosystem for children in learning and practising responsible habits when handling money in this digital era, says PURVA AGGARWAL

Pandemic has changed the pattern of living and learning among kids. Living lifestyle has switched into indoor activities and so learning. Be it the curriculum or extra-curriculum - the internet is playing an important role. Kids grasp things quickly, but when it comes to financial literacy, parents think that is not a kids cup of tea. And why such an attitude - because it has such a tedious pattern to follow that a kid doesn't find interesting.

The learning pattern has drastically changed since the pandemic and as per current scenario, e-learning is the only way to keep your child educated. We all know that the future is internet learning - then why not teach financial literacy. There is an instant raise in internet banking and payment gateways. Kids often watch their parents doing online transactions, but never get a chance to use it independently because of several security, risk factors that a kid might not understand to deal with. But what if a kid is taught all these in a cartoonist, creative, fun way?

For parents, raising kids is not an easy task in the current generation! Though children are tech-savvy, they are more hooked on their gadgets, and not learning certain principles that lead to their better future. Hence teaching financial responsibility early on will make a difference throughout their life and slowly instills the values and diligence needed engagingly.

Understanding the same issue to the core, this financial literacy app for pre-teens is designed in such a way that kids will find it likeable with all creative patterns and themes.

The task-driven feature with rewards in this app makes it interesting for pre-teens and parents. So here are some benefits of teaching money value to kids:

Better Understanding Of Savings:

Digitalbank is a savings tool. But where to utilise those savings is something a kid can learn from their parents. It is very difficult to choose, even for adults, how to spend money correctly. Learning since the kid can improve the skill



PURVA AGGARWAL
CEO, Good Good Piggy

of understanding finances.

Improving Maths:

Maths is a subject that many kids do not like. Through such mediums like digital money banks make children enjoy maths as well as do savings by completing the task given by their parents. Calculations will improve maths among kids and a better understanding of keeping the change.

Value Of Money:

This is a skill of understanding and one of the most important

financial lessons. Children just understand that money comes from somewhere - be it in the form of pocket money or by rewarding value. Teaching them to value it and spending it wisely can make them good financial decision-makers in future.

Work Is Rewarding:

Tools like money management app encourage kids to achieve the tasks set by their parents. This helps them to educate about how money is earned and of course a better sense to value it.

Benefiting To Parents:

It helps parents to build friendly connections with their kids and raise them in a way that the future is demanding. We know that the future is all about tech and even parents will be skilled and updated hand-to-hand without a feeling of the generation gap. Inculcating such habits in their kids make parents feel secure in many ways. Apps also ensure digital welfare and parents can set a screen time on the app to control the screen time and ensure more family time. Such platforms not

only takes the right step in educating a child about the effort required for getting the rewards but also give necessary tools for parents.

Financial literacy at pre-teens age will create a value-based ecosystem for children in learning and practising responsible habits when handling money in this digital era. This will help parents raise future adults who can take care of themselves and thrive independently because independence and responsibility are key factors in anticipating success. Such platforms financially educate the world by making it more interactive, fun and comprehensive for kids. As financial education in India is lacking, there are very few practical methods to reinforce money values so they stick with kids for life.

Digitalbank is a traditional tool mostly followed by every Indian kid. Turning the same pattern into digitalization will help children to learn and simultaneously enjoy financial tools. Helping children educate about financial planning can be a blessing to them as they grow up.

‘Every woman’s support matters, big or small’

It is important for us to give our children a better future, to do so empowering every woman, especially the underprivileged is need of the hour, says VIBHA CHUGH

What made you empower the underprivileged women?

During the pandemic everyone was locked inside their homes. I was awake most nights by the hungry howls of the street dogs as the people who were feeding them vanished from the streets. I started feeding around 10 dogs, outside my society and within a month, I was feeding close to 200 dogs. To take care of those voiceless I needed money so I conceptualised the idea of starting something where I could earn money for their needs. I started searching for skilled women in Nithari village to understand the kind of skills that were present. They knew how to knit. That is how it all started and Sakha Ek Pehel Foundation was born.

What changes have you seen in women after you empowered them?

Many. Some of these women had never stepped out of their homes. When I took my team out for a lunch, that was the first time they had eaten food that was not cooked at home. But being associated with us, we are now over a-year-and-a-half-old, they have bank accounts. They may not earn pots of money but it empowers them — that they too have a standing in the society and can command respect. Every woman's contribution matters, however big or small.

How important is it for women to be financially independent?

It is extremely important. Some of these women never knew what it was to have money in their hands. I told them that they have small kids. Where will they get the money from when it is time to send them to school? Financial independence gives them the freedom to be able to spend how they deem fit. Something that was alien to them before. To be able to safe for a rainy day or pay their child's education is liberating. It gives them a sense of empowerment that they had never known was possible for them to get.

What were the challenges that came in your journey once the foundation was set up?

Setting up the foundation was not tough. What was challenging was to teach these women how to knit and crochet. But I never gave up. A few women knew the skill; they taught others. I spent hours looking at videos on how to crochet and then would in turn teach these



Vibha Chugh
Director, Sakha Ek Pehel Foundation

women. But it has all been worth it. When I see these women and the kind of progress they have made, I am proud of them.

How many women are associated with the foundation? Can more join?

We started with a handful of women. Today there are 75 who are associated with our foundation. There is always scope for more. As our range of products (dog sweaters, beanies, mufflers, leg warmers, mittens, crochet table runners, sofa throws) increase, so does the demand for women who can make them.

How much do these women earn?

Some new joiners earn only ₹500 a month because they can't give that much time. Others earn ₹9,000-₹10,000 (these are team leaders). But on an average our women earn anywhere between 6,000-₹7,000 a month.

Where do you go from here?

Now that summer is here, we plan to widen our range of products (crochet bikinis, bandannas) that can be sold in summers as well. I want to give these women work all the year round and not just limit ourselves to the winter months. Hopefully, we will grow from strength to strength

Engineering

Engineering as a career field is vast and opens the door for various opportunities targeting mainly the international students. The internships offered in Germany, France and Dubai benefit the candidates immensely by providing knowledge through theoretical practice and also giving interested individuals a platform to create and build their own stance in the market. Travelling in another country amidst covid is difficult for many, these countries provide aid to this by allowing the interested candidates to apply for virtual internships.

Marketing



China Hong Kong Entrance Scholarships at University of Waterloo, Canada

The scholarship programme aims to recognise and reward outstanding students from China or Hong Kong who want to undertake a full-time undergraduate degree programme at the university.

Award: \$2,000
Course Level: UG
Eligibility: Applicants must have strong academic performance, students must be from China or Hong Kong

Supporting documents: All the applicants might be required to submit academic transcripts of all the previous schools attended and a copy of their passport.

Admission requirements: Applicants must have a high-school degree certificate with outstanding academic achievement for taking admission.

Language requirement: All international students must verify their English language proficiency by meeting their English language requirements.

How to apply: Applicants must take admission in the undergraduate degree programme at the university. Complete the scholarship application form.
Application deadline: April 15, 2022

Marketing as a field is very competitive as it involves people's culture and economic situation. To create a place in this field these countries provide internships through either allowing the candidates to work by travelling to the required country or also offer the candidates to use the work from home through virtual internships. The internships offered by these countries help the interested individuals to think as a consumer having diverse cultures and implement strategies that will open the door for various opportunities. Internships in the field of marketing boost the confidence and personal development of an individual complacently.

MIND IT

Business

Business is one of the career fields that offers the greatest opportunities for international students and interested individuals. Dubai, France and Germany have attained a huge space having employers from all over the world and help the required candidates to flourish in this field of business. Having an internship in this field and specially in countries that have created their own stance in this business market field

will be beneficial for the candidates while it also helps in enhancing their international perspective of business to implement their learning into their own country or future business brand.

Art and architecture

Countries like France, Dubai and Germany are known for their structural design and beautiful landmarks and landscapes. Interning in countries that have such remarkable sculptures gives a boost to

one's resume and increases the self-confidence of a candidate greatly. There are various internship opportunities provided by these countries in terms of in-country internship or virtual internship. Taking into consideration shifting into a new country amidst such pandemic norms is a matter of concern, the countries provide relief to the candidates by allowing them to choose between virtual internships and in-person internships. Individuals opting for internship in art and architecture in these countries give them a platform to work in a multi-cultural and dynamic environment.

Hotel management

Dubai, Germany and France have diverse yet rich culture, scenic landscapes and a space to explore and learn new skills by putting their learnings into practice. The countries offer a wide range of internship opportunities either by virtual medium or by moving to a new location. The internships provide the interested candidates with skills that will help them to flourish and build a new space and position in hotel management by exploring different countries and seeking employment opportunities apart from their own country.

The writer is Som Sharma, Director Edu Brain Overseas

IN BRIEF

NATIONAL POSTER MAKING COMPETITION

The School of Information Technology of Institute of Management Studies, Noida organised a guest lecture on the theme of Research Methodology. The seminar discussed the specific procedures and techniques used to identify, select, process, and

The purpose of an organised seminar is to make everyone know about the research paper, the methodology section which allows the reader to critically evaluate a study's overall validity and reliability. The keynote speaker of the session was Dr Abhishek Sharma, who discussed all the research methodology steps and included the concepts of Regression and exploratory Factor analysis.

Dr Suri says, "Upgrading by organising different types of competitions, webinars, seminars, etc. This will nurture the student in all perspectives like mental and physical growth, thankful to the guest speaker, program-coordinator and faculty member for giving their contribution."

3D PRINTING IN MEDICINE

The Bar-Ilan University's Azrieli Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee has launched a new course, that aims to provide exposure to the use

of innovative three-dimensional-based technologies for medical treatment. The course, Tomorrow's Medicine—An Introduction to

Tissue Regeneration and 3D Printing, will be given by the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the Galilee Medical Center.

THE STUDY SCHOOLS'S BOOK LAUNCH

As part of their Golden Jubilee Celebrations, The Study School launched the book, Magic in the Tiffin, to reinforce the idea of healthy eating at an early stage of a child's life. Mriganka Singh (alumni of The Study School, a

new mum and an Indian Royal from Jammu & Kashmir) inaugurated the book. She says, "I had horses at home since my father played Polo but my love and appreciation of all living beings came from my time at The Study."

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Indian Institute of Technology Mandi aims to provide students, academia, and practitioners with insights on empirical research pertaining to the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and mental health. Towards this goal, the Institute organised a three-day workshop on IKS and Mental Health between March 25 and 27, 2022 in partnership with IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation.

The workshop was sponsored by the State Bank of India, Netweb Technologies, and Hospimedical. The workshop covered talks and brainstorming on graduate curricula based on IKS, as well as different research topics related to it. Chief Guest K Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Ministry of Education, says, "The transformation of traditional knowledge forms into science is the

need of the hour. It is essential that these knowledge systems be standardised in terms of their utility and consumption by the general population without creating any hype or unverified claims. I am glad that IIT Mandi has taken this step to formalise Indian Knowledge Systems as a scientific discipline. Mental health is also subjected to a great deal of social stigma.

CMR UNIVERSITY'S SIXTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The CMR University, Bengaluru, held its 6th Annual Convocation on March 28, 2022 at CMRIT Campus (AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road).

The convocation ceremony of CMR University witnessed the graduation of 1400 students across all seven schools. There were 1400 who received degrees and 26 received doctoral degrees. Twenty-

eight students were the rank holders for the year 2021-2022. Among the 28 Gold medalists, 16 were awarded to girls and 12 to boys. Year-on-year girls have performed better and bagged more gold medals than boys across all disciplines.

CMRU is a private university in the state of Karnataka, established and governed by the CMR University Act-2013.

METROPOLIS' MEDENGAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Metropolis Healthcare, India's leading diagnostics service provider, concluded the 3rd edition of MedEngage Scholarship Programme & Summit 2021-22. A flagship CSR initiative of Metropolis, MedEngage Scholarship Programme rewarded 122 young medical students (final year MBBS & MD/DNB) with Awards & Scholarship grants of total worth up to

INR 90 plus lakhs. This is in recognition of their achievements in academic scores, extra-curricular activities, and presentations.

This year's edition of MedEngage Summit had received over 5000 registrations from several governments and private medical colleges located across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Andhra Pradesh among

others. The awardees had to go through a stringent selection process based on their academic performance and several other evaluation parameters. Ernst & Young LLP was appointed as the process advisor for this scholarship programme.

Launched in the year 2018, MedEngage Scholarship Programme is aimed at nurturing and nourishing the medical talents in India.



Virat says he'd be very emotional thinking about ABD if RCB win IPL title

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Virat Kohli feels if Royal Challengers Bangalore were crowned champions for the first time in the coming seasons it would mean a lot to AB de Villiers, who would be the first person on the former captain's mind after the triumph. One of contemporary cricket's greatest batters, de Villiers retired from all forms of the game in November last year. Since starting his association with RCB in 2011, the South African batting legend enjoyed 11 fruitful seasons with the franchise. "The other day, it got me thinking, if we manage to win the title in the coming seasons, I would be very emotional thinking about him first," Kohli, who had stepped down as captain after the 2021 season, said on RCB Bold Diaries. "Rather than what I would experience after such hard work of so many years, I would actually think of him. "It would still mean a lot to him even if he is watching the game from home. He is a special human being as he has touched everyone, and we all can vouch for that," he added.

Kohli revealed that he had a inkling during the last IPL that de Villiers was going to hang his boots. "It's very strange I mean, I clearly remember when he decided to finally call it a day. He sent me a voice note, we were coming back from Dubai after the World Cup. I got a voice note from AB de Villiers while we were driving back home.

"I kind of had the impression and was guessing it in the last IPL. Our rooms were next to each other, and we would walk the same way and disperse, every time we walked to our room and he would see me outside, he would be like 'I want to see you for coffee, one of these days'.

"I kept getting nervous and was like 'I am not sitting with you because I think there is something coming' to which he always said 'No man there is nothing, I just want to have a chat with you, it's been a while and he never speaks like that because we interact all the time.' Kohli and de Villiers — the two talismans had raised the batting standards in the IPL year after year and shattered numerous records along the way.

ROYAL START FOR RAJASTHAN

Sanju Samson & Co start IPL campaign with big 61-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad

PTI ■ PUNE

A new-look and re-energised Rajasthan Royals attacked from the outset and inflicted on Sunrisers Hyderabad a 61-run hammering to begin their campaign in IPL-15 on a rousing note in Pune on Tuesday.

RR got the better of SRH in every department after skipper Sanju Samson led from the front with a scintillating 27-ball 50 to power his team to an imposing 210 to six.

Smarting from the pounding in the first half of their opening fixture, SRH failed to pose any serious threat to RR after a disastrous start to their innings, which saw them slip to 9/3 and then 29/4.

In the end, Kane Williamson's (2) team was stopped at 149 for seven, with the captain himself enduring a bad day in office.

SRH wouldn't have got even that many had it not been for Aiden Markram's unbeaten 57 and Washington Sundar's 14-ball 40, the latter somewhat making up with the willow after his forgettable outing with the ball.

SRH's top-order batting was in stark contrast to Samson and Devdutt Padikkal (41 off 29 balls; 4x4; 6x2), who added 73 runs for the third wicket off 41 balls, before Shimron Hetmyer used his brute power to clobber 32 in only 13 deliveries and take RR past 200.

Samson's six-hitting prowess was on display as he struck five maximums and



three boundaries, sparing no bowler during his entertaining stay in the middle. Later Hetmyar smashed three sixes to pile on SRH's misery.

A clinical show by the bowlers, led by leg-spinner Yuzvedra Chahal (3/22 in 4 overs), then completed the task for RR.

Chasing an improbable 211, Sunrisers lost key batter Williamson

► pointstable

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	RR	1	1	0	0	2	3.050
2.	DC	1	1	0	0	2	0.914
3.	PBKS	1	1	0	0	2	0.697
4.	KKR	1	1	0	0	2	0.639
5.	GT	1	1	0	0	2	0.286
6.	LSG	1	0	1	0	0	-0.286
7.	CSK	1	0	1	0	0	-0.639
8.	RCB	1	0	1	0	0	-0.697
9.	MI	1	0	1	0	0	-0.914
10.	SRH	1	0	1	0	0	-3.050

► boundarymeter

4s	140
6s	78

wicket. To make matters worse, Chahal removed two more batters in Abhishek Sharma and Abdul Samad in quick succession, as Sunrisers lost half their side for 37 runs and stared at a heavy defeat.

But Markram, Romario Shepherd (24) and Sundar, who got 24 runs in the 17th over, delayed the inevitable and reduced the margin of defeat.

During the final over, pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile injured himself while landing and was taken off.



RCB vs KKR
Live from 7:30 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

RCB eye 1st win against in-form KKR

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

After taking revenge against Chennai Super Kings for the defeat in the summit clash of the 2021 edition in this year's season opener on Saturday, Kolkata Knight Riders will take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in the sixth match of the ongoing Indian Premier League at Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday.

KKR started the 2022 edition with a bang and ended a four-match losing streak against Super Kings on Shreyas Iyer's captaincy debut for the two-time winners. And they would like to make it two in a row against RCB,

which also has a new leader in former South African international Faf du Plessis.

The 37-year-old, on his captaincy debut, made a 57-ball 88 to help his side post a big total of 205 for 2 against Punjab Kings. But that didn't prove to be enough as PBKS won the game with one over to spare. In that match, which was played in the same venue where Wednesday's game will take place, the RCB batters did the job by posting a big total, but a forgetful day by the bowlers, especially Mohammed Siraj, ruined the team's hopes of making a perfect start.

Siraj was one of the three players retained by the franchise ahead of this year's mega auction but looked off

colour against Punjab and went for 59 runs in his spell of four overs.

He would like to move on from that dismal show and live up to the billing. He will be supported by last year's leading wicket-taker, Harshal Patel, Sri Lankan all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga and Englishman David Willey, who is likely to get another game in the absence of Josh Hazlewood.

On the other hand, the Knight Riders had an almost perfect evening against Chennai at Wankhede Stadium on March 26, and they will look to build on that success and move to the top of the points table.

For KKR, Indian fast-bowler Umesh Yadav was on song in the first match as

Perry-less Aus face WI in Women's WC semis today

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Tournament favourites Australia suffered a major setback on Tuesday on the eve of their Women's World Cup semi-final against the West Indies, losing all-rounder Ellyse Perry to injury.

Captain Meg Lanning confirmed the six-time champion Australians would be without Perry, who suffered back spasms during the group stage win over South Africa last week.

Twenty-year-old all-rounder Annabel Sutherland is likely to replace the accomplished Perry, 31, in Wednesday's semi-final, as she did against Bangladesh last Friday, when Australia completed a seven-from-seven record in the group stage. Lanning would not rule Perry out of contention if they qualify for Sunday's final in Christchurch against either South Africa or England, who clash on Thursday. "She batted a little bit in the nets and felt okay, but she certainly



just wasn't in a position, unfortunately, to be able to perform at the level needed," Lanning said.

"We will keep assessing her as we go if we are to progress but the team and the squad is very focused on tomorrow and making sure that we're putting out our best game because everything else is irrelevant."

Perry claimed figures of 3-22 against the West Indies two weeks ago, in a seven-wicket win which was achieved with nearly 20 overs to spare, typical of their dominant performances at the tournament.

The Caribbean side have exceeded expectations by qualifying in fourth place for the semi-finals.

Their progress went down to the final ball of the last group game on Sunday when South Africa dramatically eliminated India, prompting scenes of wild celebration at the West Indies' team hotel.



GT skipper Hardik praises Manohar after his heroics against Lucknow

PTI ■ MUMBAI

You would hear a lot more about Abhinav Manohar in the future," said Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya after the IPL debutant displayed remarkable hitting in the final over to ensure a five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

With Titans needing 11 off the final over, Manohar smashed back-to-back fours off Avesh Khan to make the task much easier for his team. With the confidence he showed under extreme pressure, it did not look like he was playing his first game on a big

stage like the IPL. "Manohar is someone to look at with the talent he has. He is someone who you are going to hear about in the future. Rahul Tewatia was sensational as well," said Hardik at the post-match presentation. Hardik, who played his first game since November last year, bowled four overs and scored 33 batting at number four.

"Mostly I'll bat at number four, because I want to take pressure with my experience so that the others can play freely. We want to win as a team and nobody can take the contribution away from anyway," he said.

Oz beat Pak in 1st ODI

AP ■ LAHORE

Travis Head ended a three-and-a-half-year absence from Australian gold with a starring all-round show to lead the undermanned tourists to a series-opening ODI victory over Pakistan in Lahore.

Head shook off a middling Test campaign with a startling onslaught against the white ball, peppering the off-side boundary as he surged to a 70-ball century, the quickest scored in an ODI between the two nations and the second fastest made at the Gaddafi Stadium

Chasing 314 for victory, Pakistan failed to match their opponents' fast start and were never in the hunt despite Imam ul-Haq (103 off 96 deliveries) hitting his third hundred against the Aussies this month.

The depleted Australians, left with just 13 players to pick from after COVID-19 and injuries wreaked havoc on their selected squad, were further heartened by the performances of their two ODI debutants who delivered knockout punches with the ball.

Leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson, who became Australian men's ODI cap No 236 on Tuesday, snaffled the prized scalp of Pakistan captain Babar Azam (57 off 72) lbw before paceman Nathan Ellis, cap No 235, castled Imam with a trademark yorker. Adam Zampa stood tall as the side's most senior bowler, snagging 4-38 from his 10 overs as he became the 18th Australian man to take 100 ODI wickets.



1st SAI centre for Mountain Terrain Biking & Bicycle Motocross to be set up in Shimla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh is set to build India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla.

The NCOE is being set up to provide world-class training facilities to Indian cyclists so that they can compete for the 18 Olympic medals in the disciplines of MTB and BMX. This centre, one of the best high-altitude training facilities in the world, at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level, will have world-class infrastructure, a state-of-art sports science high-performance centre, Olympic-level track and coaches of international repute, where India's best cyclists and local sporting talent can train. Due to the requirement of the sport for hilly terrain and a suitable climate for training, Shimla emerged as a preferred choice for the NCOE.

With the setting up of this SAI NCOE, Himachal becomes the torchbearer of MTB and BMX training in India and a possible venue for future World Championships for the two cycling disciplines. The NCOE, which will have the capacity to train around 200 cyclists for Olympic-level preparations, will be equipped with 1 XCO Olympic level track, 1 training track with specialized features, 1 BMX track, 1 state-of-the-art indoor gymnasium, an indoor setup with virtual trainers, hostel facilities for 100 athletes, coaches and support staff. Besides, there will be a high-performance Center for Sports Science with state-of-the-art facilities such as an indoor recovery pool, steam and sauna, strength and conditioning hall, a biomech lab, physiotherapy,

anthropometry. High-end equipment such as breath and lactic analysers, heart rate monitors, treadmills, bicycle ergometers will also be available for athletes to use during their training.

The collaboration between the centre and the state to set up this world-class facility was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on March 23, 2022.

Hailing the move, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur said, "India has had its best Olympics in Tokyo and we are doing well in quite a few disciplines. The time has come to expand our orbit and train athletes for Olympics in other disciplines where Indian athletes are showing prospects and where we can bag more medals to improve the overall tally at Olympics. Cycling is one such discipline where there is a lot of potential."

Osaka reaches Miami quarters, Swiatek cruises

AP ■ MIAMI

Naomi Osaka will face American Danielle Collins for a place in the semi-finals of the Miami Open after the Japanese star beat Alison Riske 6-3, 6-4 on Monday.

Osaka has responded strongly in Florida, advancing to the quarter-finals after leaving Indian Wells in tears earlier this month after being heckled by a fan.

The four-time Grand Slam champion, who received a walkover in the previous round, is yet to drop a set and remains one of the favorites to land the title.

"I am definitely happy," Osaka



said afterwards during a courtside interview.

"Last year I got to the quarters in Miami after winning in Australia and I am winning matches here this year too but I feel more grateful - this is one of the funnest times of my life."

"There were a lot of things running through my mind last year," added Osaka who was able to stay firmly on the front foot against American Riske in their third round encounter while saving seven of eight break points faced.

Ninth seed Collins, who reached the semi-finals in Miami in 2018, beat Ons Jabeur 6-2, 6-4 earlier in the day. Newly minted world number one

Iga Swiatek also advanced comfortably on Monday, sweeping aside the 14th-seeded Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-1 in 1hr 16min.

The second-seeded Swiatek, who took over the top ranking on Friday in the wake of the shock retirement of Ashleigh Barty, is now on a 14-match unbeaten streak.

The 20-year-old Pole won the WTA 1000 event in Doha and then took victory at Indian Wells earlier this month.

She is bidding to become only the fourth woman to win Indian Wells and Miami in the same season after Steffi Graf, Kim Clijsters and Victoria Azarenka.