OPINION 6

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Imran loses majority as ally MQM-P ditches PTI

Pakistan's embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday effectively lost majority in Parliament after a key partner of the ruling coalition joined the ranks of the Opposition, which has tabled a no-confidence motion against his Government in the National Assembly.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led coalition Government, with its seven members announced that it has parted ways with the Government during a joint press conference of the Opposition parties here.
Prime Minister Khan

needs 172 votes in the lower House of 342 to foil the Opposition's bid to topple him. However, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islama Fazl (JUI-F), said the Opposition has the support of 175 lawmakers and the Prime Minister should resign.
It was also announced that

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif would be next Prime Minister of the country after removal of 69-year-old Khan. "We want to make a new



beginning for politics of tolerance and true democracy," MQM-P chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui told reporters. "I announce to support the Opposition in Parliament."

Sharif said it was an important day as all Opposition par-ties have joined together to address the problems faced by Pakistan. "The premier, even if he is a selected one, should resign to set a new tradition,"

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said the support by the MQM was a big

development and with this the prime minister has lost the majority. "The Prime Minister has no option and he will have to resign," he said.

Bilawal also said Sharif will soon be elected as the next Prime Minister. Another ally of the ruling coalition, the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) with five members in the lower House had announced on Monday that it had "accepted the Opposition's invitation" to vote against Khan.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said Prime Minister Khan will

address the nation Wednesday evening and discuss the prevailing political situation. Briefly talking to the media after a Special Session of Cabinet, which was chaired by the premier, Rashid said Khan also shared a "threatening letter" with the Cabinet colleagues, who in return expressed complete trust in him. Addressing a mammoth rally in the national capital on Sunday, Khan had claimed that foreign powers were involved in a conspiracy to topple his coalition Government.

Continued on Page 2

Russian Min arrives today to discuss Ukraine crisis

Lavrov's India visit concides with arrival of **US Dy NSA**

PNS NEW DELHI

With India emerging as an important voice in finding ways to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will hold talks on the issue here with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar during his two-day visit starting Thursday.

It will be the first visit by a Russian Minister to India since the war began on February 24.

Incidentally, Lavrov's visit coincides with high-profile visit by British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss and US Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) for International Economics Daleep Singh. The US Deputy arrives here on Wednesday for a two-day visit. He is reportedly the main person behind sanctions against

India has abstained from voting against Russia in the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held phone conversations with Russian President



A soldier comforts Larysa Kolesnyk, 82, after she was evacuated from Irpin, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine on Wednesday

Vladimir Putin on February 24, March 2, and March 7 to express the country's concern on the Ukraine war. Modi had also spoken to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy twice. During his talks with both the Presidents, Modi called for an early cessation of hostilities and favoured dialogue to resolve the issue.

Giving details of Lavrov's tour, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a one-line statement, "Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov will pay an official visit to New Delhi on March 31-1 April 2022."

Currently, he is in China. India and Russia are likely to discuss the ongoing war in Ukraine and its global implications. Lavrov is likely to focus on strategic issues resulting from the war, as well as specific discussions on purchasing Russian oil, payment mechanisms, and sanctions against Russian banks with Jaishankar.

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

The Government indicated in Parliament last week that it is considering offers of discounted Russian oil. A special inter-Ministerial group headed by the Finance Ministry is looking into the payments issues for Indian importers and exporters that arise from the war and Western sanctions. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

HIJAB ROW: 40 MUSLIM GIRLS SKIP EXAMS

Mangaluru: Forty Muslim girl students from Udupi district of Karnataka abstained from appearing for the first preuniversity examination on Tuesday as they were apparently hurt by the recent High Court verdict against wearing of hijab inside classrooms.

WILL TAKE CALL ON KV QUOTA SOON: CENTRE New Delhi: With conflicting

views persisting on the issue of scrapping quota system in admission to the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV), the Government on Wednesday assured Parliament it will take a call on the issue after discussing it with the MPs.

INDIA TO LEAD SECURITY PILLAR OF BIMSTEC

New Delhi: The BIMSTEC countries on Wednesday adopted a much-awaited charter and a connectivity roadmap at a virtual summit with its leaders approving a major reorganisation of the grouping while entrusting India to helm its security pillar.

UP PAPER LEAK: CLASS 12 ENGLISH EXAM CANCELLED Lucknow: The Class 12 English exam of the Uttar Pradesh school board was cancelled in 24 districts on Wednesday after the question paper was leaked, prompting CM Yogi Adityanath to order invoking the stringent National Security Act in the case. The Ballia police have detained 11 people for questioning, a senior

LS OK's MCD Bill to merge 3 Delhi civic bodies into one

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which unify the three municipal corporations of Delhi into one.

Moving the Bill, Home Minister Amit Shah said the trifurcation of the MCD was done in a hurry for political reasons which lead to an imbalance between the income and liabilities of the civic bodies.

"I tried to look for the rea sons for the trifurcation scoured through files but could not find anything on it," said Shah, adding that when there are no reasons it can be assumed that it may have been

done due to political reasons. The analyses from 2012 to 2022 made this Government come to a conclusion that the corporations must be combined into one, Shah said Delhi MCD was divided into



three municipal corporations during Sheila Dikshit's tenure in 2011.

Shah accused the AAPled Delhi Government of nurturing a "step-motherly" attitude towards the municipal corporations and due to this they are struggling with inadequate resources to carry out their responsibilities.

Government while moving the Bill and in his reply attacked the TMC for political violence against rivals and said the BJP wanted to fight and win polls ology, programmes, leadership's popularity and performance of the Government.

Asserting that the Delhi

municipal corporations were trifurcated in a "hurry", the Home Minister said the three bodies run on different policies, there is no coordination between workers and due to this anomaly, dissatisfaction has also been found among them. "When resources and responsibilities were trifurcated, it was done without much thinking. One corporation will be in surplus while the other two will have less income and more liability," he said. Due to this, problems arise and the elected members face a lot of

issues, Shah said. Continued on Page 2

1st-time drinker in Bihar to pay ₹50K fine or land in jail

After SC rap, Nitish Govt dilutes prohibition law

PNS NEW DELHI

Facing flak over liquor ban from the Supreme Court, the Nitish Kumar Government on Wednesday passed "The Bihar Prohibition and Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2022", allowing first-time offenders to be let off after they pay penal-ty prescribed by the State Government. If they don't pay,

they will be jailed for a month. In case of repeat offenders, the State Government may prescribe additional fines or imprisonment, or both. As per the Bill, for the offences related to consumption of liquor, the State Government is empowered to notify the fine for first-time offenders.

Incidentally, the amended law doesn't differentiate between first-time and repeatoffenders, as there is no system to find out how many times a person has violated the law.

As per the data shared by the Government in the State over 45,000 FIRs were registered under the Act every year. Further, during this period, the number of cases pending trial before courts almost quadru-pled. More than 40,000 people were arrested under the Act each year from 2018 to 2020. The data showed that 31,053 cases were pending for trial in 2018; 77822 cases in 2019; and 1,14,057 cases in 2020. The Act was amended in 2018 to make

certain penalties less stringent. According to the Bill, when an offender held by police is required to reveal the name of the person from whom the liquor was received, also a first-time offender is fined a minimum ₹50,000 or 3 months imprisonment in lieu of fine.

Continued on Page 2

BJP workers vandalise assets at CM house over Kashmir Files

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $M_{
m wing}^{
m embers}$ of the BJP youth wing allegedly vandalised property outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday against his remarks on 'The Kashmir Files' film, further intensifying the war of

words between the two parties. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday alleged that the BJP wants to "kill" Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after its poll defeat in Punjab.

He alleged that the BJP youth wing activists damaged CCTV cameras as well as security barricades at the Chief Minister's residence in the presence of Delhi Police personnel. They allegedly threw paint on the main gate of the residence. Sisodia also said they will lodge a formal complaint in this con-

nection. The BJP accused AAP of scripting a drama and playing



Miscreants vandalise the gate at the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

the "victim card" after the "public anger" against Kejriwal's remarks "mocking" displaced Kashmiri Pandits

Keiriwal in New Delhi on Wednesday

The Delhi Police said that a case has been registered against unidentified persons in connection with the incident. The protestors, led by BJP

Yuva Morcha's national presi-

dent and MP Tejasvi Surya, were holding a demonstration against Kejriwal's remarks on the recently released contro-versial movie 'The Kashmir Files', which is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley after the out-

break of militancy Continued on Page 2

Respond to SIT reports on Ashish bail, SC asks UP

SIT wrote to UP to file appeal against bail in SC in Kheri violence case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to respond by April 4 to the two reports of the retired judge monitoring the SIT probe into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. The reports sought can-cellation of bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said the monitoring judge had written to the State for cancellation of bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to Ashish Mishra



in connection with the case

"There are two letters sent to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) of the UP Government by the monitoring judge who had written to the State to file an appeal in SC to cancel bail of main accused Ashish Mishra," said the bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the UP Government, took instructions and informed the apex court that the additional secretary of the Home department has stated that he did not receive the letters.

Continued on Page 2

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU fter neutralising a large Anumber of terrorist commanders in a series of anti-terrorist operations across the Kashmir valley, the security forces in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir are now waking up to a new challenge

of dealing with women over-ground workers trained by the terror outfits to target the security forces. The recent incident involving a woman overground worker (OGW) hurling a petrol bomb at security forces in

Sopore, and a journalist-turned terrorist joining the ranks of a Pakistan-based terror outfit has sent alarm bells ringing in the security apparatus. The local police teams in Sopore have identified the woman OGW who hurled the

petrol bomb at CRPF person-

nel late on Tuesday. The CCTV footage came



Pak-trained women targeting

forces new challenge in J&K

OGW who is absconding. The CCTV footage, which

went viral on various social media platforms, shows a woman, clad in a traditional burqa, stopped near a CRPF picket in the main chowk area of Sopore near an SBI branch and hurled a petrol bomb towards them around 7 pm. On Wednesday, Inspector

Srinagar, "The woman who hurled a bomb at the CRPF

bunker in Sopore yesterday has been identified". She will be arrested soon, he added. Last year the security forces faced numerous challenges exposing the terror modules of "hybrid" terrorists. Hybrid ter-

rorist is the term coined for

those who have had no previ-

ous record of any involvement in terror crimes These "hybrid" terrorists

remained at the forefront of targeted strikes on members of the minority community and daily wage labourers from outside the Kashmir valley.

Meanwhile, the security forces on Wednesday morning identified the bodies of two LeT terrorists recovered from the encounter site in the Rainawari area of Srinagar. According to a police

spokesman, one of the terrorists, identified as Rayees Ahmad Bhat, turned out to be a former journalist who ran an online news portal "Valley News Service" Anantnag. According to police, Bhat

had joined the terrorist ranks of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba in August last year and was placed in "C" category in the terrorists' list of J&K Police. the cooking stoves. She said she had seen three Continued on Page 2

Lankans fret over worst eco crisis

AFP ■ COLOMBO

As Sri Lankans faint in day-long queues for fuel and swelter through stifling evening blackouts by candlelight, anger is mounting over the worst economic crisis in living memory.

A critical lack of foreign currency has left the island nation unable to pay for vital imports, leading to dire shortages in everything from lifesaving medicines to cement.

Long lines for fuel that start forming before dawn are forums for public grievances, where neighbours complain bitterly about government mismanagement and fret over how to feed their families as food prices skyrocket.

"Îve been standing here for the past five hours," Sagayarani, a housewife, told AFP in Colombo while waiting for her share of kerosene, used to fire

people faint already and was herself supposed to be in hospital for treatment, but with her husband and son at work she had no choice but to wait under the blistering sun. "I haven't eaten anything, I'm feeling very dizzy and it's

very hot, but what can we do? It's a lot of hardship," she said, declining to give her surname. Trucks at the port are

unable to cart food and building materials to other urban centres, or bring back tea from plantations dotted around Sri Lanka's verdant inland hills. Buses that normally trans-

port day labourers across the capital sit idle, some hospitals have suspended routine surgeries, and student exams were postponed this month because schools ran out of paper.

"I've been living in Colombo for 60 years and I've never seen anything like this," Vadivu, a domestic held, said. Continued on Page 2

KV quota after talks with MPs

With members of Parliament divided on the issue of scrapping quota system in admission to the Kendriya Vidyalayas(KV), Government on Wednesday said it will take a call on the issue after discussing it with the MPs. This assurance came in the

Rajya Sabha after some MPs favorued the scrapping of MPs' quota in the admissions, while others wanted the quota system to be retained. Under KVS Special

Dispensation Admission Scheme (MP Quota),a Member of Parliament (MP) from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha can recommend a maximum of 10 students every academic year for admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya. A District Collector also has the power to recommend 17 sponsoring authority quota in KVs.

Replying to several queries on this issue during the Question Hour in the Upper House,

Minister of State for Education AnnpurnaDevi said the Government is looking into concerns raised by all MPs on the quota system in KVs.

Ch. No. 760, Dwaka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75

During the Question Hour, several members cutting across thepolitical parties touched this issue. Sushil Kumar Modi (BJP) wanted to know if the Government will do away with sponsoring authority quota in KVs. But Sanjay Singh (AAP) urged the Government to increase the number of KVs across the country and enhance the MP quota in the central schools.Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, an autonomous body under the Ministryof Education, oversees the 1,248 KVs that are spread across 25 regions in India.

There are over 14,35,562 students studying in these central Government schools.Among other issues to figure in the Upper House on Wednesday, Deepender Singh Hooda(Congress)sought a uni-

form financial assistance policy across states for displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

Sanjay Singh (AAP) said the Union Government's announcement to implement central service rules in Chandigarh is an infringement of the rights of the Punjab Government.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client ANIL KUMAR is purchasing the property i.e. MC NO 1733, AT OLD ABADI VILLAGE ARTHAL, PARGNA LONI AND TEHSIL AND DISTT GHAZIABAD, U.P. from Renu Singh and mortgaging the same with DMI Housing Finance Pvt.ttd. Renu Singh purchased the same from Mahavir Singh vide sale deed no. 4494 dt. 16.04.2012. Renu Singh has lost original back property chain except said sale deed. Police complaint dt. 3.003.2022 was given to PS, Delhi. It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication. To be known to all that We Anju W/o Sh. Sushi Kumar and Sushil Kumar S/o Sh. Tilak Raj both R/o DDA MIG Flat No. 170, Second Floor, Pkt- C8 Sector – 8, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085. are the Allottee/owner of DDA MIG Flat No.170, Second Sector – 8, Rohini, NeW Deini-110083. are the Allottee/owner of DDA MIG Flat No.170, Second Floor, Pkt - C 8, Sector – 8, Rohini, New Deihi. vide File No.Mo.24(977)1987/RO/MIG, We lost/misplaced our Original Possession Letter, NOC for water & electricity bill, and Site Possession Slip of the above said property. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station, vide LR NO 266263 /2022 dt. 30/03/2022. Any person claiming any right, interest having any objection may write /contact with above named person at above address / phone no 9971658600 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (MIG)Housing Resi, or Asstt, Director (MIG)Housing, Resi, Block – D, Third Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Govt to decide on Imran loses majority as ally MQM ditches PTI

Continued from Page 1

He pulled a document from his pocket to exhibit it for the charged crowd, saying it was the letter sent to threaten him. To a question if Khan would announce his resignation in his speech, Rashid said, "No way. He will fight till the last ball."

The Minister also said Khan himself or Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi may also brief the Parliament in-camera about the threatening letter. Earlier, Prime Minister Khan summoned a special session of the federal Cabinet.

The Cabinet members and those invited to attend the special session were taken into confidence about the threatening document letter that the premier said was proof of a foreign conspiracy to topple his Government.

Pakistan plunged into uncertainty on March 8 after the combined Opposition submitted the motion with the National Assembly, which will convene on Thursday to debate the motion. Earlier in the day, two MQM-P lawmakers, Farogh Naseem and Aminul Haque, serving as Federal Ministers, submitted their resignations to the Prime Minister. The PTI has

155 members in the 342-member National Assembly and needs at least 172 lawmakers to retain power. Khan is also facing a rebellion by his about two dozen lawmakers and allied par-

No Prime Minister in Pakistan's history has ever been ousted through a no-confidence motion, and Khan is the third premier to face the challenge.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Khan strictly directed his party lawmakers to either abstain or not attend the National Assembly session on the day of voting on the no-confidence motion against him, which is likely to be held in the first week of April. Khan came to power in 2018 with promises to create a 'Naya Pakistan' but miserably failed to address the basic problem of keeping the prices of commodities in control, giving air to the sails of Opposition ships to make war on his Government.

His chances of survival are getting slimmer and the easiest way to end the uncertainty is getting back support of all allies and winning back dissidents within his own party. No Pakistani Prime Minister has ever completed a full fiveyear term in office.

Russian Min arrives today to discuss Ukraine crisis

Continued from Page 1

The western sanctions on Russia have created difficulties in making payments to that country. Both sides are now looking at the option of a rupee-ruble payment system.

As regards defence ties, Russia is the biggest supplier of weapon systems to India. The ongoing war has led to concerns here about the possible delay in delivery of the S-400 missile system and production of AK-293 assault rifles in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

India has also decided to purchase discounted crude oil from Russia, triggering concern among a number of Western

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said around two weeks back that India taking the Russian offer of discounted crude oil would not be a violation of the US sanctions on Moscow but underlined that countries should also think about "where you want to stand" on the Russian action.

As regards the US official's visit, a statement from Washington said, "On March 30 and 31, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics Daleep Singh will be in New Delhi to continue our ongoing consultations with the Government of India, and advance a range of issues in the U.S.-India economic relationship and strategic partnership.'

Believed to be one of the key officials framing the sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin and his inner circle, Singh will brief the Indian establishment on the 'scale and scope" of the sanctions, sources said here.

The Americans and the Europeans have been asking the Indian officials to make sure that Russia is not able to circumvent the sanctions and he will be able to convey the urgency of the implementation of sanctions, they said. He will meet officials here to strengthen cooperation to promote inclusive economic growth and prosperity, and a free and open Indo-Pacific

The US official will consult closely with counterparts on the consequences of Russia's unjustified war against Ukraine and mitigate its impact on the global economy, the statement

Singh will also discuss the priorities of the Biden Administration, including the promotion of high-quality infrastructure through Build Back Better World and the development of an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, the statement added.

Lankans fret over worst economic crisis

There's nothing to eat, there's nothing to drink," she added. "The politicians are living in luxury and we are begging on the streets."Many among Sri Lanka's 22 million people are no strangers to privation: throughout the global oil crisis of the 1970s, authorities issued ration books for essentials such as sugar.

But the government concedes the present economic calamity is the worst since the South Asian nation's independence in 1948, and a popular local quip now is that the rationing system at least offered some certainty that goods would be available.

A series of misfortunes have pummelled the country -- which emerged from decades of civil war only in 2009 -- in recent years. Farmers were hit by a crippling drought in 2016 and the Easter Sunday Islamist bombings three years later, which killed at least 279 people, led to a wave of cancellations from foreign travellers.

The coronavirus pandemic then decimated a tourism sector

already reeling from the attacks and dried up the flow of remittances from Sri Lankans abroad. Both are critical sources of foreign cash needed to pay for ing \$51 billion foreign debt.

But a far bigger factor was government "mismanagement", said Murtaza Jafferjee, chairman of the Colombo-based Advocata Institute think tank.He blamed years of chronic budget deficits, ill-advised tax cuts just before the pandemic that sent government revenue into freefall, and subsidies on electricity and other utilities that disproportionately benefited wealthier Sri Lankans. The government has also frittered away public money on white-elephant projects, including a lotus-shaped skyscraper that dominates the Colombo skyline, with a revolving restaurant that now sits dormant.Poor policy decisions have compounded the problems. Last year officials declared Sri Lanka would become the world's first completely organic farming nation and overnight banned imported fertiliser, in an apparent effort to slow down foreign currency outflows. Farmers responded by leaving their fields empty, driving up food prices, and months later the policy was abruptly dropped.

Sri Lanka is now seeking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund, but negotiations could stretch until the end of the year, and people are bracing for even leaner times ahead."I am expecting it to get a lot worse," Jafferjee said."Unfortunately, they are unable to contain it, because the people who created the crisis are still in charge of economic management. By night, as the orange hue of street lights illuminates Colombo's wealthier neighbourhoods, large pockets of the city are in near darkness.Rolling power cuts that stretch for hours each day leave restaurants and corner stores trying to operate under dim candlelight. Other business owners give up and draw down their metal shutters for the evening. Resentment is palpable and frustrations have occasionally boiled over. A motorcyclist was stabbed to death outside a petrol station last week after a dispute sparked by accusations of queue-cutting.

But most indignation is directed upwards to the administration of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a member of a ruling family once beloved by much of the country's Sinhalese majority for bringing the ethnic civil war against the Tamil Tigers to a brutal end. Support for the Rajapaksa clan has since gone into a tailspin, with an angry crowd this month attempting to storm the president's office. Other demonstrations have for now been more subdued, organised through social media and taking the form of silent candlelight vigils. during blacked-out nights.

LS OK's MCD Bill to merge 3 Delhi civic bodies into one

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The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill seeks to unify the three municipal corporations into a single, integrated and well-equipped entity to ensure a robust mechanism for synergised and strategic planning and optimal utilisation of resources, Shah said. The Bill was passed by a voice vote and various amendments moved by the Opposition members were rejected.

"I want to say with responsibility...The Delhi Government is working with a step-motherly attitude towards the municipal

Step motherly treatment is being meted out because of which the municipal corporations are not finding themselves equipped with adequate resources to carry out their responsibilities," Shah

From a strategic and cooperative point of view also, it would be appropriate to have only one municipal corporation taking care of the civic services of Delhi, he asserted. Shah pointed out that there

are also amendments in the bill to ensure that the corporation is run with transparency and efficiency, and it also limits the number of councillors to 250. Later replying to the debate,

Shah targetted the TMC. "I want to say that on the basis of our programmes, ideology, the popularity of leadership

and the performance of our Government, we want to fight polls and win everywhere. But we don't want to grab

power by killing workers of rival parties, carrying out a series of murders, by raping wives and daughters of (rival) party workers. This is not our culture.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA

Notice inviting E-Tender Letter No.: 1127/14M-A.C/2021

Date :- 26-03-202

The Superintending Engineer Agra Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors As The work Comprises of specialized Road work, hence contractors bidding for this work must be registered in Road work with UP PWD. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for theaward of the contract.

SI. Dist- Name of Work Estima- Bid Cost of Time of Address of Address Address Catego

No.	rict	Name of Work	ted Cost (Rs. in Lac)	Security (Rs.in Lacs)	Docum- ent (in Rs.)	Comple- tion	Executive Engineer Executing the Work	of Supe- rintending Engineer	of Chief Engineer	ory of Contr- actor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Mathura	Special Repair work of Neemgaon to Kunjera road in Distt Mathura	58.00	4.90	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	06 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A,B,C
2	Mathura	Special Repair work of Ranchi Ladpur Gaushala road (ODR) K.M. 1 (100), 2, 3, 4, 5 (400) in Distt Mathura	110.00	7.50	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	03 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A,B
3	Mathura	Special Repair work of Bhuchal to Nainupatti road K.M. 1 (270), 2 (250), 3 (360) in Distt Mathura	71.50	5.58	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	03 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A,B,C
4	Mathura	Special Repair work of Bahrana to Tumola road in Distt Mathura	55.00	4.75	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	03 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A,B,C
5	Mathura	New construction work of Mathura Deeg road to Borpa Jhal road on Ading Rajvaha Patri in Distt mathura	380.00	21.00	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	12 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A
6	Mathura	Special Repair work of Uspar to Tarsi in Distt Mathura	37.00	3.70	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	03 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A,B,C
7	Mathura	Special Repair work of Uspar to Navipur in Distt Mathura	38.00	3.80	Rs. 2000.00 STC+300.00 TC+36.00 GST=2336.00	03 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura	Superint- ending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D, Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D, Agra	Class A,B,C

http://etender.up.nic.in and Prahari (http://wms.upppwd.gov.in/Prahari) From 21.04.2022 to 27.04.2022. Bids must be submitted online only at etendering portal of http://etender.up.nic.ir. and Prahari App with all documents as per GO No 14/2020/879(1)/ 23- 7/2020/176(lk0)/06 Dt 25-08-2020 on or before 12:30 Hours Dt. 27.04.2022. Technical Bid re be opened on 28.04.2022 at 12:30 Hours.

The prospective bidders who do not posses Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids

Contractor should Quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per appli

ble at the time of payment.

Labour Cess @ 1.00% will be deducted from contractor's bill at the time of payment Original MM-11 forms proof of royalty shall have to be produced at time of every running bill in accordance to Principal Secretary, Directorate of geology & mining utter Pradesh Letter No-2146/86-2019-52(lk0)/2019 Dt. 30.09.2019, G.O. No- 115(1)/86-2020 dated 15.01.2020 and other relevant Government orders, circulars for all the materials procured from the quarries The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.- 742/78-2-2018-42 I.T./2017 T.C., I.T. & Electronics Section-2 Dated- 03-12

(1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking

of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable).
(2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by Intel Banking of E-tender portal Account.

(Sanasvir) Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura

(Anand Kumar) Superintending Engineer Agra Circle, PWD, Agra

UP- 174356 Date 30.3.2022 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है

BJP workers vandalise assets at CM house over Kashmir Files

Continued from Page 1

The BJP, which has been targeting Kejriwal after he took a swipe at the party for promoting the film, demanded an apology from the CM, saying that he has insulted Hindus with his remarks about the movie. Dismissing AAP's outburst after the protest, Surya asserted that the "victims in this issue are Hindus and not Aadmi Party and Kejriwal".

The chief minister's residence is located at 6, Flag Staff Road.

The protest started around 11.30 am on Wednesday. The Delhi Police said proper arrangements were put in place

but some 15-20 protestors managed to reach the Flag Staff road and were immediately removed.

Some of the protesters, at around 1 PM, breached two barricades and reached outside CM House where they created a ruckus and shouted slogans, said DCP Kalsi.

"They were carrying a small box of side the door. In the melee, a boom barrier arm was also found vandalised as also a CCTV camera. A police team immediately removed them from the spot and detained around 70 persons,"

1st-time drinker in Bihar to pay ₹50K fine or...

Continued from Page 1

Repeat offenders are punishable with fines up to one lakh rupees, and imprisonment ranging from one to five years. The other two offences may be punished with a fine of one lakh rupees to five lakh rupees, and five to 10 years of imprisonment.

The Bill only penalises persons who consume any intoxicant or are found drunk or under the influence of an intoxicant. These offences are punishable with: (i) a fine in the first instance, and onemonth imprisonment in case of failure to pay fines, and (ii) additional fine or imprisonment, or both, in case of repeat offences

The Bill provides that persons consuming liquor, or found drunk or under the influence of intoxicants, will be arrested and produced before the nearest Executive Magistrate. The Magistrate will conduct a summary trial of these offences.

In February 2022, the Supreme Court observed that trial courts in Bihar and the Patna High Court It highlighted that at one stage, 16 judges of Patna High Court were listening to bail matters, of which a large part consisted of prosecutions under the 2016 Act. It inquired from the Bihar Government if any assessment was done regarding the court infrastructure and manpower required to deal with the volume of cases that may arise under the Act. In March 2022, the Bihar Government informed the court that it is proposing certain amendments to the Act to make it more efficacious and address the concerns raised relating to its implementation

Respond to SIT reports on Ashish bail...

Pak-trained women targeting forces new challenge in J&K

Continued from Page 1

In a statement, the police said two FIRs were already registered against him for terror crimes.

The official Twitter handle of Kashmir Zone Police tweeted, "One of the killed categorized local terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT was carrying Identity Card (ID) of media. It indicates a clear case of misuse of media.

Rahm, a resident of Bijbehara. Hilal was also a 'C' category terrorist. Kumar said that both were involved in several recent terror crimes, includ-

Another terrorist killed in the encounter has been identified as Hilal Ahmad

ing civilian killings. In another important development, the Jammu & Kashmir Government on Wednesday terminated five Government employees under provision 311(2)(C)

of the Constitution for having terror links. Last year, the UT administration had sent out a stern message to the employ-

ees by cracking the whip against those who were found to be hand in glove with the terror outfits.

Continued from Page 1
The bench then asked him to go through the reports submitted by the SIT and respond to it by April 4. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that the Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted that they had opposed the bail in the High Court. "It is imminent that the bail be cancelled or set aside in these circumstances as the HC verdict suffers from non-application of mind," he said.

Dave also submitted that Ashish in his affidavit had relied on documents to show he was not present at the scene of the crime on October 3 last year. "The State terms these docthe top court to take a serious view of this.

The bench said it will hand over the report of the judge and the letters to the petitioners and the UP Government counsel and posted the matter for hearing on April 4. The State Government, in response to an appeal filed by family members of the victims of Lakhimpur Kheri violence, had said that the Allahabad High Court order, as well as its counter-affidavit, would demonstrate it has vehemently opposed the bail application of Ashish. The apex court had appointed Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain, former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, to supervise on a day-to-day basis the uments as doctored," Dave said and requested Uttar Pradesh SIT's probe into Kheri violence.

Kashmir Valley attracts 3 lakh tourists in past 3 mths

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

he tourist 'hot spots' across pic- ■ turesque Kashmir Valley and the foothills of Mata Vaishno Devi have been witnessing huge footfalls bringing back smiles on the faces of tour operators and all others thriving on the tourism industry to earn their livelihood. Each day the tourist footfall is recording an upward trend raising hopes of the tourism industry already expecting a jam packed summer season

More than 3 lakh tourists have arrived here in the first three months to enjoy the cool climes and witness winter sports events like skiing, winter sport championships, gandola etc.

More than 90,000 tourists have

already visited Asia's largest Tulip garden in Srinagar in the first week after it was thrown open for visitors. Approximtaely1.5 million Tulips of 68 varieties are decked up across the sprawling garden over-looking the world famous Dal

On Monday, the Srinagar airport alone operated 90 incoming and outgoing flights which ferried more than 15,000 visitors,the largest so far in one single day. 'We handled 45 arriving flights

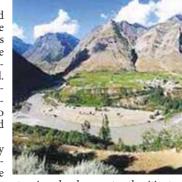
with 7,824 passengers and 45 departing flights with 7,190 passengers on Mar 28th. A total of 90 flights with 15,014 passengers makes it the busiest day in our history. And this is only the beginning of Summer Schedule", the official twitter handle of Srinagar airport

Ground reports suggested tourists started flocking the Kashmir valley from different parts of the country soon after the restrictions imposed during Covid-19 pandemic were gradually lifted.

To attract more tourists, various tourism development authorities also organised public events to showcase exotic locations and quick getaways. To instill a sense of security

among the visitors elaborate security arrangements have been made and UT administration is hosting a series of events at these locations to welcome the tourists. New tourist destinations,

unseen lakes, meadows, homestay in the high hills, and small treks have been promoted by various



tourism development authorities to attract a rush of visitors.

On the other hand, the pilgrim traffic in the Katra township, base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi, is also witnessing an upward trend. Other prominent tourist places

The cave shrine is already gearing up to host a large rush of pilgrims during the nine day long Navratri festival beginning April 2.

ing northwards.

sanctorum on a daily basis.

Haryana and New Delhi.

in Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi and

Udhampur districts of Jammu

region are witnessing fresh arrivals

from the neighbouring states of

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh,

On an average 25,000 to 30,000 pilgrims have been offering

special prayers inside the sanctum

In Kashmir valley, destinations like Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg are also attracting a large number of tourists. The local gardens and other local hot spots are also witnessing huge rush of local visitors even as mercury is head-

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EDMC fined ₹50L for Ghazipur fire



DPCC report states civic body bypassed all environment protection norms at landfill: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ollowing a massive fire at}}_{\text{Delhi's Ghazipur landfill}}$ site two days ago, the Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to impose a fine of Rs 50 lakh on the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC). The Minister was also ordered action against

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday

said that the Business Blasters

programme should also be

implemented in universities

and colleges so that the entre-

preneurial ideas of students don't hit a roadblock after they

While attending the 14th convocation at the Guru

Gobind Singh Indraprastha

University (GGSIPU) in the

national Capital, he said that

education in the country has

not seen any significant changes since the time of

Macaulay, who introduced a

Western-style education system

sector has undergone many

reforms and improvements.

The Delhi Government

schools, which were in a dilap-

idated state once, are now

prime institutes of education

"In Delhi, the education

finish school.

in British India.

officials who were on-duty at the time of the blaze. In a press conference, Rai said that the DPCC submitted a detailed report after examining the incident, and the investigation states that the EDMC bypassed all environment protection norms at the site.

trommel machines out of 25 were found working at the landfill, while the anti-smog guns were also not working. Only 17 out of 24 CCTVs meant for monitoring the landfill were functional. The CPCB had ordered construction of a boundary around the landfill but it has not been built till now," said the Minister. Rai also said that in the DPCC

that the measures required to be taken by the EDMC for environmental protection were severely lacking. "Significant amount of negligence on the part of the MCD was found in terms of rules and regulations which must be followed to

future,' said Rai. "The fire had spread over an area of around 400 square metres. Even 48 hours after the spark occurred and after the fire was extinguished, fumes

ensure a safe environment

around the Ghazipur landfill

site. Bio-mining is in process

at the site, which can contribute

to reducing the possibility of such incidents taking place in

area engulfing the surrounding localities," said Rai. "The CPCB has given directions and guidelines to demarcate the boundary of the Ghazipur landfill on all sides, but the construction of this boundary wall has not yet been completed.

This wall is required to prevent any outsider from entering the area and causing such horrific incidents in future," said Rai. "An important joint meeting of the Environment Department along with the Revenue Department, Public Works Department, DDA, MCD, Fire Department, NDMC, DUSIB, and Delhi Cantonment Board is being called on April 4.

This meeting is being organised so that a campaign can be launched to put an end to such instances of fire and burning throughout Delhi, after which we will have a more detailed roadmap on measures to be taken," said Rai.

Meanwhile, Environment Committee of the Delhi Legislative Assembly has also summoned the EDMC Commissioner on the question of the fire at the Ghazipur landfill. "The committee is chaired by MLA Atishi. The deposition has been scheduled for April 4 and the Commissioner will be asked to explain what steps have been taken to clear the Ghazipur landfill site and prevent fires," said an official.

BJP, AAP councillors lock horns with each other in EDMC House

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over an alleged offensive comment made recently against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in context of the issues surrounding the film 'The Kashmir Files', several mem-bers of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced off during the proceedings at the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) House on Wednesday.

Many councillors of both the parties "manhandled" each other, accusing each other of "violating" the code of conduct and the sanctity of the House.

Proceedings of the House began by condoling the death of nonagenarian Ishwari Das Mahajan, a veteran politician and a former chairman of the Standing Committee in the 1970s when there was a unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Now, there are three corporations for the South, North and East Delhi.

According to Beer Singh Panwar, the EDMC Standing Committee Chairman, no sooner had the tribute been paid to Mahajan, members of the AAP started raising their voice and misbehaving with BJP members, including the Leader of the House, Satyapal Singh, and other party councilors. The AAP councillors were alleging that Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta had recently said something wrong about Kejriwal in the context of the issues surrounding the film 'The Kashmir Files' and the Kashmiri Pandit community, he claimed. But Gupta was "only citing what others had said about him (Kejriwal) and those were not his words", Panwar said.

As AAP members resorted to manhandling, "our councillors also responded in defence," he said. AAP councillor and Leader of Opposition Manoj Kumar Tyagi alleged that BJP members resorted to use of "physical force" and "used unparliamentary language" and 'manhandled many AAP members, including women."

They (BJP) are saying that Adesh did not comment, rather he was quoting other people. Is this how a Delhi BJP chief should behave, and if he is quoting someone, can he tell who said it, or will he make such baseless claims," he said.

Tyagi said alleged offensive comment was made against Chief Minister on stand taken by him on the controversial film 'The Kashmir File' which talks about the struggles of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

ed in physical mode. Delhi NSUI president Kunal

Sehrawat accused the DU

administration of "partiality".

When 70 per cent of the

classes were held online and

the colleges have resumed

recently, then why exams for

'even' semesters students are

being held offline. This is a

sheer partiality on the part of administration," he said.

dents are from different States,

he said, "Many students are

unable to come to Delhi and

the PG rents have skyrocketed.

For this semester, the exams

Noting that several stu-

2 workers die in sewage treatment plant in East Delhi's Kondli area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after four people died after falling into a sewer another tragic accident took place in the city. Two workers repairing the motor of a sewage treatment plant in east Delhi's Kondli area died after they fell into the pit on Wednesday evening. The deceased have been identified as Nitesh (25), a resident of Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh and Yashdev (35), a resident of Tigri Rathol. (35), a resident of Tigri Rathol.

According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call regarding two persons working in a plant in Dallupura having fallen in a pit was received at around 5 PM following which an Emergency Response Vehicle was dispatched to the spot.

"After reaching the spot, the police team found that two persons had fallen in a sewerage treatment plant in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Kondli. The two were taken out with help of the fire department and sent to hospital but were both declared brought dead," said the senior police official adding that the legal action is being

"Around 8 PM fire department units returned and it is reported that the two men who fell into the pit were lift-ed out by Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and rushed to hospital where they were declared brought dead by the doctors," said Atul Garg, the Chief Fire

Bodies of 4 trapped in SGT Nagar sewer fished out

STAFF REPORTER NEW

Following an overnight rescue operation, the bodies of four men, who got trapped inside a sewer in Delhi's Sanjay Gandhi Transport (SGT) Nagar area, were pulled out early on Wednesday morning.

Police said that of the four, three men identified as Bacchu Singh, Pintu and Suraj Kumar Sahni, were private contractual employees who were working on MTNL lines at the time of the incident on Tuesday

The fourth, a rickshaw puller identified as Satish (40), was a resident of Sardar Colony in Rohini Sector-16. Satish had tried to save the three workers but also got trapped in the sewer.

The rescue operation started after the Samaypur Badli police station got information about the incident around 6.30 PM on Tuesday. Apart from the police, fire department

officials and a team of the National Disaster Response Force were also part of the rescue efforts. According to the fire department, the operation ended around 4 AM on Wednesday with the four bodies being pulled up from the sewer. Police said a postmortem examination will be conducted at the Babu Jagjivan

Ram Memorial Hospital. Officials said, "The rickshaw puller, who tied to save the workers, was a hero. But he also got trapped inside the sewer." There is an iron net beneath the MTNL lines inside the sewer. It was suspected that the four got stuck there, they

Toxic gas inside the sewer made the rescue operation difficult even with protective gear. Earth-moving machines were used to widen the mouth of the sewer, police said. Satish, the rickshaw puller, is survived by his wife Neha (35) and three daughters -- Tisha (14), Kritika (8) and Arbi (3).

Marginal improvement in Delhi-NCR's air quality this season despite record rain

Delhi recorded 25 "severe" air quality days this winter season - equalling the number of such days in 2019-20 - despite heavy and prolonged rains, according to an analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment. The city also saw two days of 'good' air and seven days of 'satisfactory' air this winter, which is an improvement from the last winter season when no such low-pollution days were recorded.

This high variability in air quality this winter can be attributed to the increased number of heavy rainfall days and colderthan-usual weather. The winter average of PM2.5 for Delhi stood at 172 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m3), which is equal to the average of the 2019-20 winter season but is 9 per cent lower than the seasonal average of the 2020-21 winter. Meteorologically, this winter was the wettest in recent years with almost two-three times more rainfall, bulk of which happened in January, compared to previous winters, making it the least polluted January since real-time

the city. But this meteorological advantage did not give much reprieve to the city as a rapid build-up in between rainy spells and the formation of smog episodes during rainless periods kept the overall seasonal average very high, the green think tank

"Elevated pollution levels and smog episodes are evidence of the systemic pollution that has continued in the region due to inadequate infrastructure and systems for pollution control in all sectors. "This can be tamed only if round-the-year action becomes more stringent and uniform across sectors and the

Action has to be performance-based to meet the clean air standards," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, Research and Advocacy, CSE. Avikal Somvanshi, programme manager, Urban Lab Analytics, CSE, said, "Even though there is considerable variation in seasonal averages across the region, winter pollution episodes are alarmingly high and synchronised in the region despite large distances."

Vikas Kumar appointed new MD of DMRC

New Delhi: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Wednesday approved the appointment of Vikas Kumar, a 1988 batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, as the Managing Director (MD) of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for five years.
"This has concurrences of

the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to the proposal of the Government of NCT of Delhi for the appointment of Vikas Kumar as the Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Pvt Limited (DMRC) on 30. 3. 2022 ", read the approval letter by Yogesh Antil, a deputy secretary with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Government of NCT

of Delhi is pleased to appoint Vikas Kumar as Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. in accordance with terms of Article 130 of the Memorandum and Article of Association of DMRC Ltd. for the period of five years with effect from April 1," said the order.

Throughout his career in the DMRC and the Indian Railways, he has been the recipient of many honours. Once he is appointed the MD, he will be overlooking most of the operations of the Delhi Metro. Mangu Singh, who is the current MD of the Delhi Metro, will be leaving the post as his tenure is set to end on March 31. Singh has been given multiple extensions in the past, but it is expected now that Kumar will be taking the office after

of a rickshaw driver, a judge, an IAS officer etc sitting and studying on the same bench, under the same roof in Delhi Government schools," said the

introduced in varsities too: CM

Business Blasters must be

"A silent revolution is taking place in Delhi's education sector. The mindset of students is being changed, and they are being motivated to grow into the ideas of not simply seeking jobs, but that of giving jobs. Hence, students are being prepared in the direction of becoming entrepreneurs and businesspeople," said Kejriwal.

"For this, we started an initiative called the Business Blasters programme. Under this, seed money of Rs 2,000 per student is given to 11th and 12th graders, and they are then urged to ideate a startup. This leaves the possibility for groups of these students to come together to pool their 2,000 each in order to form strong

"Government school students have uptill now developed 52,000 business ideas. I think the Business Blasters programme should also be implemented in colleges. This will ensure that their ideas do not hit a roadblock when they enter university. They will be prepared when they step out of college," said Kejriwal.

The education system just ensures that students pass exams and get degrees. There is a need to work on students and chart their career programme before they leave college. If they want to pursue higher education, it's good. But if they want to work, they should be worked upon. I think a target-oriented approach is needed," he said. Motivating students graduating from GGSIPU to take up challenges faced by society and resolve them, Education Minister Manish Sisodia said graduating students were taking their first

turn. The industrialists' body

asserted that first, the state 75%

reservation bill has impacted

the growth of industries and

now such incidents have cre-

ated panic among them and it

will also harm the investor

segment. "Such actions will

never be beneficial for workers.

If the employees have any issue

with the company's decision

they should adopt the proper

way of protest and should not

revolt. The company must also

taken care of the employees'

NSUI on strike against DU's move to hold offline exams for 'even' semester students



NSUI protest outside Arts Faculty North Campus to demand online examination in New Delhi on Wednesday RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

STAFF REPORTER NEW

The members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) sat on an indefinite strike outside the Delhi University's Arts Faculty

rights. Such violence will have

a negative impact on both the

company and the employees

which are not good for business

aspects," Pawan Yadav, presi-

dent of IMT Manesar

with the Manesar incident, the

police had arrested 130

employees on Tuesday, who

have granted bail. KK Gandhi,

president of the Sector-37

Îndustrial Association said,

"Due to the 75% reservation

law several companies have

already moved out from the

city and those still exist here

only doing temporary opera-tions and now such incidents

will impact operations of the

remaining unit it will create a

panic atmosphere among the

company or factory owners".

Furthermore, On Wednesday,

workers were protesting from

500 metres away from compa-

ny to fulfil their demands. "We

However, In connection

Industrial Association said.

online conduct of examina-

Earlier, the DU had announced that the semester I, III and V or 'odd' semester exams would be conducted in open book exam mode where-

came to know the motive

behind the Manesar incident

for the formation of a union.

We don't understand that if any

company run its operation

without any union then what is

the logic behind demanding

lence can not be tolerated the

state government must take necessary steps to stop such

violence in future," Jagat Pal

Singh, the General Secretary of the Sector-37 Industrial

harmed investment prospects, the industrialists said. "The

state government 75% reser-

vation bill already hit business

body. Now, this violence will

have a huge impact on investor

prospects. Government should

reconsider its reservation bill

for growth of industries across

state," Mahesh Vyas, an indus-

Such violent protests often

Association said

trialist said.

The recent Manesar vio-

the formation of any union.

should be held online."

NSUI secretary Nitish Gaur said they will continue the strike until their demands are met. "The classes have been held online, so why cannot the exam be taken online. Until the university administration fulfils the demands of as exams for 'even' semesters II, the students, the NSUI will

Elderly priest found decapitated in temple in G'gram

Gurugram: An 85-year-old priest was found brutally murdered at a temple in Kadarpur village on Wednesday morning. His decapitated body was found lying in a pool of blood on the premises, the police said. The deceased was identified as Gobind Das. The victim originally hailed from Uttarakhand. He was residing at the temple

locally known as 'Pigeon Wala Mandir' - for the last 34 to 35 years. According to the police, when the villagers visited the temple for puja on Wednesday morning, they found the body of the deceased and immediately informed the police. Soon after receiving the information, a team of Sector-65 police station along with forensic experts rushed to the spot and took custody of

region.

39-year-old man dies after car-hit in Janpath area NEW DELHI: A 39-year-old

PARVESH SHARMA

day after the incident in

Aday after the incluent in Awhich employees of a

Manesar based company

turned violent and set a com-

pany bus on fire, the industri-

alist's body strongly con-

demned the act. The protesters

were demonstrating against

the transfer of nine employees

to another unit of the compa-

ny in Bhiwadi (Rajasthan)

when things took a violent

man died on Wednesday morning after being hit by a rashly-driven car in central Delhi Janpath area. The deceased has been identified as Girdhari and he used to work as mason. The video of incident was also circulated on social media. In video, a rashly-driven red car is seen hitting Girdhari while he was crossing the road. According to Amrutha Guguloth, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi district, information about accident was received at Parliament Street police station at around 8 AM following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for spot.

Scholarship scheme for sanitation workers, Grp C staff kids: NDMC **NEW DELHI:** The New Delhi

Manesar violence creates panic among industrialists

Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday announced a special scholarship scheme for the children of its sanitation workers as well as its Group C staff. The decision was taken in a Council meeting held on Wednesday. A senior NDMC official said that during the meeting various other issues like smart-grid infrastructure, including enhancement of existing network in NDMC power distribution area, regularisation of lofts in Shankar Market and issues pertaining to drinking water were also discussed. The council has also approved preparation of a scheme for individual piped

water connection in JJ clusters and remaining unauthorized colonies under Jal Jeevan Mission, the NDMC said in a statement. NDMC vice-chairman, Satish Upadhyay said scholarship scheme will also be applicable to the children of NDMC staff belong to Group category."We have passed a resolution for smart-grid infrastructure during meeting. We will introduce 'happiness zones in Mandi House in Central Delhi and it will be extended around other NDMC areas as well," the vice-chairman said.Green 'Happiness areas' were earlier introduced by NDMC in a bid to combat air pollution innational capital.

festival ends **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Five-day cultural

five-day cultural festival Atitled 'Azadi Ke Amrit Kaal Ki Shubh Vela: Kalakaron-Shilpakaron ka Mela' concluded at the Centre for Cultural Resource and Training (CCRT) in the Capital where 75 CCRT scholarship holders, alumni

and fellows gave performances. CCRT is an autonomous body of the Union Ministry of Culture engaged in seeking out talent in arts, music and culture and awarding scholarships to trainees and trainers.

The event was inaugurated by Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal and

India's rich heritage, art and culture were showcased. At the concluding ceremony, chief guest, Uma Nanduri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, lauded CCRT's efforts in putting up the extravaganza. "Post the pandemic trauma

we thought this spring should bring something special when we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of India's independence which Prime Minister Modi has termed as the 'Amrit Kaal'. Hence we named the festival 'Azadi ke Amrit Kaal ki Shubh Vela: Kalakaron-Shilpkaron ka Mela," CCRT Director Rishi Vashist said

AAP making baseless allegations: Delhi Cong NEW DELHI: Delhi Congress ers of AAP including

president Anil Kumar said that the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Cabinet colleagues were making baseless allegations in the Assembly against the Congress to hide the corruption and malpractices of their Government. Congress Delhi unit president's remarks came after the Delhi CM in the Assembly said that the corrupt should be treated as "traitors". Kumar said that almost 80 per cent of his MLAs and Ministers come under the category "traitors" and they should be put behind the bars but instead they are being protected by the government.Some of the lead-

Municipal Councillor Geeta Rawat, who was recently caught red-handed by the CBI while accepting Rs 20,000 bribe from a house owner, he said, adding that it was shocking that she was using the office of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for her corrupt activities and she is still with the party. Meanwhile, talking about

the education sector in the city, Delhi Congress vice president Jai Kishan said on Wednesday that a pragmatic approach by the Delhi government needed to get the education sector back on track which was impacted severely due to Covid in the last two years.

India to give BIMSTEC \$1mn | India test fires 2 Medium Range for operational budget

India will provide the Fifth Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC) secretariat with \$1 million to expand its operational

Announcing this while addressing the BIMSTEC summit virtually, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the international body to strengthen the grouping. In his intervention, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of enhanced BIM-STEC regional connectivity, cooperation and security, and made several suggestions in

He called upon fellow leaders to strive to transform Bay of Bengal into a Bridge of Connectivity, Prosperity, and Security among the BIMSTECmember countries. "It is important to strengthen the capacity of (BIMSTEC) secretariat...I suggest the secretary-gen-

CAPSULE

SC FROM APRIL 4

India N V Ramana on

New Delhi: Chief Justice of

of cases from April 4. The

before commencement of

provide links (for virtual

Ramana said.

proceedings in top court for

hearing) if advocates want,"

7 BANKS LOAN ₹1,500 CR TO AMRAPALI

New Delhi: A consortium of

seven banks will disburse Rs

1,500 crore loans to complete

projects of erstwhile Amrapali

group, following a direction by

the Supreme Court. NBCC said

that an agreement has been

consortium of seven public

loan for stalled Amrapali

projects in many residential

CAC TO DISCUSS SAFETY MEASURES

New Delhi: In the wake of

Advisory Council (CAC)

partial collapse of a residential

tower in Gurugram, the Central

constituted under the RERA Act,

buildings and prevent loss of life

considering a proposal to set up

a high-level panel to address the

IONS MARITIME DRILL

22 CONDUCTED AT GOA

New Delhi: The maiden edition

Symposium (IONS) Maritime

Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was

discuss measures to ensure

structural safety in high-rise

as well as property, besides

issue of stalled projects

of Indian Ocean Naval

conducted at Goa and in

Arabian Sea for days from

March 26 - 30. The aim of

interoperability in Humanitarian

Assistance and Disaster Relief

witnessed participation of 16

out of 25 members of IONS

DEF MIN TO START

New Delhi: In an effort to

provide Indian traditional

to operationalise Ayurveda Centres at 37 Cantonment Hospitals across the country

from May one this year. The decision was taken at a recent

Kumar and the Secretary

Rakesh Kotecha

Ministry of AYUSH, Vaidya

CCRUM GETS
INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS

Council for Research in Unani

Medicine (CCRUM) under the

Avush Ministry has so far

accreditation for National

FOR 17 MEDICINES

NEW DELHI: The Central

high level meeting held between the Defence Secretary Ajay

Ayurveda system medicines, the Ministry of Defence has decided

AYURVEDA CENTRES

(HADR) operations among

member navies. The drill

exercise was to enhance

projects in Noida and Greater

sector banks on March 29 for

the disbursal of Rs 1,500 crore

signed between ASPIRE and a

the construction of stalled

day. "Monday and Friday we will

Wednesday said Supreme Court

will commence physical hearing

announcement from CJI came

same," the leader added.

The BIMSTEC is a regionmultilateral organisation wherein member states are located along the Bay of Bengal's coastline and neighbouring territories, working toward a regional unity.

The ongoing Summit is being organised by Sri Lanka, the current chair for BIM-STEC. "The recent developments in Europe have raised questions about the stability of the international order.

In this context, it has become a greater priority to have regional cooperation", said the Prime Minister adding "We are adopting the BIMSTEC charter to develop institution architecture for our group." He said the Initiative is aiming to extend and expand the scope of the BIMSTEC scholarship programme offered by the Nalanda International

treaty on mutual legal assis-

said while declaring, "India will provide the (BIMSTEC) secretariat with 1 million US dollars to increase its operational budget...It is important to strengthen the capacity of the BIMSTEC secretariat...I

"The time has come to make the Bay of Bengal the bridge of connectivity, prosperity and security. I call on all BIMSTEC nations to dedicate themselves to working with new enthusiasm to achieve the goals we achieved together in

suggest the Secretary-General

create a roadmap for the same,"

he said.

1997," he said. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Šri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand are members of BIMSTEC, a regional multilat-

The BIMSTEC summit is being held in the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and is of major sig-"We are also signing a nificance in relation to the global consequence of military

European country and a number of economic sanctions against Russia.

Modi along with other leaders also witnessed the signing of three BIMSTEC agreements which represent progress being achieved in ongoing cooperation activities-BIM-STEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal BIMSTEC Matters. Memorandum

Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training and Memorandum of Association on Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility.

Later, in a tweet, Modi said several important decisions were taken to further the BIMSTEC cooperation agenda. He commended the able leadership of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and extended his best wishes to the incoming chair Prime Minister of Thailand Prayut

RS nod to Bill culling Bhogta caste from SC list, adding more to ST list

PNS NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha on Wednesday approved a Bill that seeks to remove the Bhogta caste from the list of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) for Jharkhand. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Upper House of Parliament on February 7. It was passed by a voice vote on

Wednesday. The bill also amends the schedule to the Scheduled Tribes order to include the Deshwari, Ganjhu, Dautalbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut, Maajhia, Khairi (Kheri), Tamaria (Tamadia) and Puran communities in the Scheduled Tribes list of Iharkhand.

Replying to the debate of the bill, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said, "We will bring such amendments related to more states in the House. We have done (such amendments for) Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

case of Uttar Pradesh, Tripura research on Odisha. We have between the rich and the poor. the minister said.

Gadkari exchanges light hearted 'banter' with Roopa Ganguly in RS

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday saw light hearted banter when Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, while making references to the norms for new cars, said once a hero or heroine has played a character role it is very difficult for them to go back to becoming lead actors again. "It is very difficult. Once a heroine has been cast as a character actor, it is very difficult to recast a character actor back as heroine," he said, leaving members in splits. It's the same for a hero. Once a hero is cast in a character role, then one does not get back the hero's role," he added. Gadkari was responding to a question by BJP's Roopa Ganguly, who

completed the work in Chhattisgarh, but we are working on some observations given on that by the law ministry." He said the Centre is concerned about the development of tribal people and the aspirational Now, it is being done in district programme is a step in that direction as the main

able in new cars can also be fitted in old cars. However, apparently mindful of the sensibilities of Ganguly, who shot to fame with her role as Draupadi in the epic serial Mahabharat,Gadkari later clarified, "Actually, my comment was not against anybody. Take it lightly." He said it is difficult to have rules for old cars and the new norms and regulations only for new vehicles. For old vehicles, it is very difficult mechanically to make them competent, Gadkari added. He, nevertheless, noted some of the latest safety features can be made available in 2-3 years old vehicles, too.

asked if safety measures avail-

"Be it Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra or Gujarat, for all the states, the Centre is earnestly and seriously working to address the issues, while also assuring that the government will share the status on the demand for the inclusion of different communities from West

Outside medical officer for paramilitary forces' COI needed, says MHA

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to bring in more transparency and fair play in the Court of Inquiry proceedings conducted after death, injury and disability in the Central paramilitary forces, the Union Home Ministry has decided to include a medical officer in the Board from outside of the Force conducting enquiry.

A COI is mandatorily conducted to decide admissibility of extraordinary/disability pension and grant of ex gratia compensation.Now onwards, a medical officer from outside (from any other Central Armed Police Force

(CAPF) or paramilitary force) should be nominated by the Force, while constituting the CoI. For this, Additional Director General (Medical) may nominate a Medical officer from any other CAPFs, on receiving the request from the concerned Force, reads a recent order issued by the Police-II Division of Resettlement and Welfare Directorate of the Union Home Ministry.

"Medical opinion of the nominated Medical Officer should be incorporated in the recommendations of the CoI Board as well as in the final order passed by the Competent Authority thereon," reads Home Ministry order. These instructions will be applicable subject to the provisions of the notified Act/Rules of the Forces. "Where ever these instructions are repugnant to extant provisions of relevant Act/Rules of Force concerned, the latter shall prevail," said order, adding this has been issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

The copy of order has been sent to CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF, SSB and Assam Rifles. Officials said the move is expected to usher in more transparency in deciding the admissibility of disability pension and ex gratia compensation payment to the kin of dead me.

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI Tn an effort to validate the sys-I tems of the army version of the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM), the scientists on Wednesday successfully tested two missiles. They achieved direct hits against high speed aerial targets at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of

The launches were carried out establishing the accuracy and reliability of the weapon system against targets covering the sea skimming and high altitude functionality within the envelope, officials said here. Performance of all weapon

Odisha.

system components including missile, weapon system radar and command post have been validated during these trials.

The flight tests were carried out in the presence of senior officials from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army. With the conclusion of flight trials for different ranges and scenarios, the system has completed its development trials.

On March 27, the missile system was successfully flight

tested twice against high-speed aerial targets for different ranges as part of the live firing trials.

With a strike range of nearly 100 km, the 4.5-meter long supersonic quick reaction missile weighs around 2.7 ton and can carry a payload of 60 kg.

Each MRSAM unit comprises one command and control system, multi-functional surveillance tracking radar, threat alert radar, mobile launcher, combat management system, mobile power and radar power systems apart from the missile. The air version of the MRSAM system has already been handed over to IAF. The missile is designed to provide point and area air

Surface-to-Air Missiles successfully Union Govt gives green signal for procurement of 15 LCH choppers

With the objective of adding potency to helicopters of the Army and IAF in battlefield, the Government on Wednesday gave the nod for procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH). The total deal is worth over ₹3,800 crore. These machines will be made within the country by the public sector aerospace conglomerate Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Giving details of the contract, officials said here the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the projects here on Wednesday.

They said the apex body gave the go-ahead for procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production at the cost of ₹3,887 crore along with infrastructure sanctions worth ₹377

Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP) is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state of the art modern combat helicopter containing approximately 45% indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55% for Series Production version.

This helicopter is equipped with requisite agility, maneu-

defence for ground assets against a wide range of threats. Travelling at a speed of Mach 2, it can achieve high degrees of maneuverability at the terminal phase. This MRSAM



verability, extended range, high altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability to perform roles of Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Destruction of Enemy Air Defence (DEAD) and Counter Insurgency (CI) operations.

It can also bring down slow moving aircraft and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), high altitude bunker busting operations, Counter Insurgency operations in jungle and urban environments and support to ground forces. This helicopter will be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of Indian Air Force and Indian Army

State of the art technologies and systems compatible with stealth features such as reduced Visual, Aural, Radar and Infrared signatures and crashworthiness features for better survivability have been integrated in the LCH for deployment in combat roles catering to emerging needs for next three to four decades. Several key aviation technologies like Glass Cockpit and

version is a Surface-to-Air

Missile developed jointly by the

DRDO and Israel Aerospace

Industries (IAI), Israel for use

by the Indian Army. The

MRSAM Army weapon system

have been indigenised. The future Series Production version will consist of further modern and indigenous systems. Also, the LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world, which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5000 m (16400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel meeting the specific requirements of the Indian armed forces.

It is proposed to have 145 more such LCHs in the coming few years with the capacity of manufacturing 30 helicopters every year, sources said. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, India is continuously growing in its capability to indigenously design, develop and manufacture advanced cutting edge technologies and systems in the defence sector.

The manufacturing of LCH by the HAL will give a further push to Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and boost indigenisation of defence production and the defence indus-

try in the country.

Moreover, production of the LCH will reduce import dependence for Combat helicopters in the country. Light Combat Helicopters are already in the import embargo list. With its versatile features built in for combat missions, the LCH has export capability.

comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles. The flight tests were carried out with the weapon system in deliverable

NTAGI to review SII's **Covovax for inclusion** in Covid vaccination



panel of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) will, this week, review the data of Serum Institute of India's (SII) anti-coronavirus jab Covovax to decide whether it can be included in the national Covid-19 vaccination programme for inoculating those aged 12 years and above or not.

India's drug regulator had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28 and in the 12 to 17 years age group subject to certain conditions on March 9.

According to the sources in the DCGI, Director (Government and Regulatory Affairs) at SII Prakash Kumar Singh had recently written to the Health Ministry urging it to include Covovax in the national Covid-19 vaccination drive for 12 years and above. Singh stated that the Pune-based firm wants to provide Covovax

to private hospitals at Rs 900 per dose plus GST and is also waiting for directions to supply the vaccine to the Centre but has not mentioned the price.

"The Covid-19 working group of the NTAGI is set to meet on April 1 and review the whether it can be included in the national COVID-19 vaccination programme for inoculating those aged 12 years and above this week," an official source said. In a letter to Health

Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Singh was learnt to have said that private companies, educational institutes, social organisations, central government organisations and public sector undertakings are making requests for Covovax to inoculate their staffers, families and children.

'We have developed, manufactured and obtained emergency use authorisation from our national regulatory authority for one more world-class COVID-19 vaccine Covovax for 18 years and above on December 28, and for children in the age group of 12 to 17 years on March 9, 2022," an official source had quoted Singh as having said in letter.

Farewell for 72 retiring MPs to see talent of colleagues

Parliamentary colleagues of 72 retiring MPs of the Rajya Sabha have decided to bid farewell to them by presenting a cultural-cum-musical show President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday.

MPs like Dr Santanu Sen will play guitar, Dola Sen will present Rabindra Sangeet, Tiruchi Siva will render a Tamil song and Roopa Ganguly a Hindi song. Other members who have expressed their interest to participate in the show are Ramachandra Jhangra, who will sing a patriotic song and Vandana Chavan, who will

present a Hindi song.

The individual performances will be followed by a chorus song for which preparations were being done by the MPs in coordination with the Parliament officials. The members are to retire from the month of March till July-end during which their tenure comes to an end. Elections for 13 Rajya Sabha seats across six states will be held on Thursday, March 31. A Raiva Sabha secretariat official mentioned that such a large scale extravaganza for retiring members of the upper house will happen almost after 20 years. Such an event for retiring members happened during the tenure of Deputy Chairman Najma Heptullah, who took the initiative to discover the talent of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a few cabinet colleagues are scheduled to be present on the occasion. Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, leaders of various parties and several of the retiring members will speak in the Upper House during the day followed by the 'memorable' event for them in the evening, officials said.

Naidu announced in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that Zero Hour and Question Hour will not be taken up in the House so as to enable the leaders and Members speak on the occasion. "The Chairman will host a dinner on Thursday for all the members of Raiva Sabha on the occasion at his official residence. Mementos will be presented to all the 72 retiring members and another 19 retired earlier who could not receive the mementos," said officials of the Parliament sec-

₹31.15 crore assets of Pushpanjali Realms and Infratech Limited attached in money laundering case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 31.15 crore belonging to Pushpanjali Realms and Infratech Limited and wife of its Director Rajpal Walia on money laundering charges in a cheating case. The ED initiated money

buyers after taking advance

obtained intellectual property rights for 17 Unani medicines and more are in pipeline. The laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated July Council has also obtained NABH 8, 2020 registered by Rajpur Research Institute of Unani Police Station, Dehradun Medicine for Skin Disorders against the firm Pushpanjali (NRIUMSD), Hyderabad and Realms and Infratech Limited, RRIUM, Srinagar and efforts are its directors and others under on for accreditation of our other various sections of the Indian healthcare facilities, said the Penal Code (IPC) for cheating Council's Director General Asim and duping the innocent home

in respect of construction projects of the Company. The ED Enforcement probe revealed that the advance booking amount received from the flat buyers were diverted by the Directors of the company for other purposes and invested the same in purchase of properties in their name and in the name of their family members, the ED said in a state-

payments for booking of flats

In a separate case, the ED has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 2.42 crore belonging to Naresh Kumar Sheokand, former District Revenue Officer (DRO) of Panchkula, Haryana and Shamshad, middleman on money laundering charges in a

World Bipolar Day

Early detection of Bipolar disorder is key: Researchers



PNS NEW DELHI

Raising new hope for early intervention, a brain imaging study of young people at high risk of developing bipolar disorder has for first time found evidence of weakening connections between key areas of brain in late adolescence. Bipolar disorder is a mental health condition that causes

extreme mood swings that include emotional highs (mania or hypomania) and lows (depression). The study spanning two years holds importance in context of India where current prevalence of bipolar disorder is 6.9 percent as compared to other psychiatric illnesses. "If we can get in early, whether that's training in

psychological resilience, or

maybe medications, then we may be able to prevent this progression towards major changes in brain," researchers feel. Until now, medical researchers knew that bipolar disorder was associated with reduced communication between brain networks that are involved with emotional processing and thinking, but how these networks developed prior to the condition was a

The study is published in The American Journal of Psychiatry. Researchers from UNSW Sydney, the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), the University of Newcastle and international institutions showed evidence of these networks diminishing over time in young adults at

bipolar disorder -- which has important implications for future intervention strategies. The researchers used dif-

high genetic risk of developing

fusion-weighted magnetic imaging (dMRI) technology to scan the brains of 183 individuals over a two-year period. They examined progressive changes in brain scans of people with high genetic risk of developing condition over a two year period, before comparing them with a control group of people with no risk. People with a parent or sib-

ling who has bipolar disorder are considered high genetic risk, and are 10 times more likely to develop condition than people without close family link. In brain image scans of 97 people with high genetic

connectivity between regions of brain devoted to emotion processing and cognition during the two years between scans. But in the control group of 86 people with no family his-

risk of bipolar disorder, the

researchers noted a decrease in

tory of mental illness, they observed opposite: strengthening in neural connections between these same regions. when adolescent brain matures to become more adept at cognitive and emotional reasoning required in adulthood. Scientia Professor Philip Mitchell AM, a practising academic psychiatrist with UNSW Medicine & Health, said findings raise new ideas about treatment and intervention in bipolar disorder developing in young people with a higher risk.

Bengal in grip of mafia led by CM: BJP's team

Mamata slams BJP's Bhirbhum report, alleges personal vendetta



PNS NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The five-member fact-find-I ing committee of the BJP on Birbum violence which submitted its report to party president JP Nadda on Wednesday, said West Bengal is in the grip of "mafia" led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and law and order has crashed in the State.

Nadda had constituted the committee to go to the spot and file an 'evidence-based' detailed report.

The BJP's probe committee comprised West Bengal state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar, Rajya Sabha MP and former Uttar Pradesh DGP Brajlal, Lok Sabha MP and former Mumbai Police Commissioner Satya Pal Singh, Rajya Sabha MP and former IPS KC Ramamurty and BJP spokesperson and former IPS Bharati Ghosh.

The report maintained the killings in village Bagtui were the result of "state-sponsored extortion, goonda tax, cutmoney and tolabaji", referring to the local term used for bribe-taking by Bengal's ruling party leaders.

The rivalry over bribe amounts between the beneficiaries was another reason,

the report alleged. "Local residents have deserted their homes fearing a threat to their life and property," the report claimed, recommending that bodies like the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Women visit the village and set up confidence-building measures to bring the villagers

The report said Banerjee decided to visit the village only after the BJP team had already reached Kolkata. Because of the Chief Minister's "forced visit", the team was stopped by Trinamool "goons" bent on assaulting the factfinding team.

"Not even a single officer or constable" was visible and no one came to the rescue of the fact-finding team when they were attacked," said the panel report, adding that attempts to contact senior police officers failed.

Banerjee "condemned" the BJP team's report and said such reports "interfered with investigations" and derailed them. "These are politically motivated reports. I condemn this attitude of the BJP and the central government. When an investigation is on, there should not be any interference from any party. It is an

absolute misuse of power. This is bad, vindictive and

biased attitude. Does BJP

think only they will stay in this country," the Chief

Minister told reporters. Majumdar said the committee went to the village in Birbhum where the incident took place. We had to face problems to reach the village due to the ruling Trinamool Congress. He said the report will also be submitted to union home minister Amit Shah for action.

Banerjee further slammed BJP's Birbhum report and alleged personal vendetta. "Why is TMC's Birbhum president's name mentioned in the report? BJP wants to arrest all Opposition netas," said Banerjee. Meanwhile, the CBI

named 21 accused under Section 147, 148, 149 and other Sections in FIR on suspected offence of armed riot-Eight people were killed in the Rampurhat area of West

Bengal's Birbhum on Tuesday after a mob allegedly set houses on fire following the killing of TMC leader Bhadu Sheikh. The CBI took over the

probe of the Birbhum violence case following the Calcutta High Court order.

EC barsTMC MLA from holding rallies till April 6

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he}$ Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday prohibited ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Narendranath Chakraborty from holding any public meetings, rallies, roadshows for seven days from 10 am of March 30 till 8 pm of April 6 after a video went viral and purportedly showed him asking his workers to intimidate Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) voters.

In a separate order, the EC has directed West Bengal chief electoral officer that an FIR be filed against Chakraborty after a report from poll observer citing violation of Section 123(2) of R P Act & Section 171-C and 171-F of Indian Penal Code.

...the Commission orders to prohibit him from holding any public meetings, public processions, public rallies, roadshows and interviews, public utterances in media in

connection with ongoing byeelection for a week from 10 am of March 30 till 8 pm of April 6," EC said in an order. It added Chakraborty's comments violate the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Reacting to the ban, BJP

Bengal co-incharge Amit Malviya said, "EC's action against TMC MLA Naren Chakraborty for intimidating voters in Asansol is a grim reminder of the evil regime Mamata Banerjee runs. But the people of Bengal will demolish it brick by brick and bury it in some dark place from where it won't be able to rise ever again"Amit Malviya had shared the video on Tuesday of TMC MLA Naren Chakraborty issuing threats to the voters of the saffron party.

In the 41-second viral video, Chakraborty is heard "...ar jara kattor BJP, jader ke bhangano jabena tader ke chomkate hobe...Bolben



apni jodi vote dite jaan amra dhoré nebo BJP ke vote deben. Voter por apni kothay thakben seta apnar nijer risk. (...and those who are die-hard BJP supporters will have to be intimidated...If you go to vote we will consider that you will vote for the BJP. After poll gets over, you will have to live at your own risk)"The video emerged on a day a threemember team led by the state chief electoral officer visited Asansol and held a review meeting with district magistrate Arun Prasad and police commissioner Sudheer Kumar Neelakantam in the run up to

Delhi HC allows Shivakumar to visit UAE for event

PNS NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday permitted Karnataka Congress leader DK Shivakumar, who is on bail in connection with a money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate, to travel to the United Arab Emirates to attend an event.

Justice Asha Menon allowed the application filed by Shivakumar, and said, "the applicant is allowed to travel to Dubai and Abu Dhabi between March 31 and April

The judge clarified that the Congress leader shall intimate the investigating officer upon his return.

In the application, Shivakumar, who was represented by lawyer Mayank Jain, said that his presence is

required in Dubai for an event organised in which he is the special guest. In October 2019, the High Court had granted bail to Shivakumar, who was arrested by the ED, while imposing the condition that he would not leave the country without the permission of the court concerned.

Shivakumar, PCC President of Karnataka, was booked along with Haumanthaiah -- an employee at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi-- and others for under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The case was based on a charge sheet filed by the Income Tax Department against them last year before a special court in Bengaluru on charges of tax evasion and 'hawala' transactions worth crores or rupees.

Chirag Paswan begins vacating bungalow allotted to Ram Vilas

PTI NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha MP Chirag Paswan on Wednesday started the process of vacating the bungalow allotted to his late father Ram Vilas Paswan after a government team was sent to execute an eviction order issued to him last year.

The process of moving furniture and household goods from the bungalow in Janpath in Lutyens' Delhi started shortly after a team from the Directorate of Estates, which comes under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, reached the property, official sources said.

Two loaded trucks drove out of the 12 Janpath bungalow,



which was the official address of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), while three more were

The bungalow is earmarked for Union ministers and the occupants of the government accommodation have been asked to vacate it, officials The LJP split into two fol-lowing differences between Chirag Paswan and his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras after the death of former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Both are locked in a power tussle for the LJP's leadership.

The house was used for holding the party's organisational meetings and other relat-

Ram Vilas Paswan, one of the country's most prominent Dalit leaders, died at the age of 74 in October 2020. He had been a minister in central governments headed by parties of contrasting ideological persuasions, ranging from the Janata Dal to the Congress and the BJP, since 1989.

LAHDC-Kargil in crisis after BJP withdraws support to **National Conference**

In a major political develop-ment, the BJP on Wednesday withdrew its support to the National Conference in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDĈ), Kargil. The sudden development ahead of the next year's elections left the chief executive councillor Feroz Ahmad Khan-led hill council in deep crisis.

An official confirming the development said the BJP councillors handed over a letter about their withdrawing support to the National Conference to Deputy Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, LAHDC-Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve.

"We will wait and see what happens next...National Conference at some point of time had to prove its majority on the floor of the house to remain in power," the official

In a press release, BJP Ladakh media secretary Nilza Angmo Hashur said seven BJP members -- three elected councillors and four nominated members -- are withdrawing support to the National Conference in LAHDC-Kargil on the directions of Ladakh unit president Phunchok "The decision was taken

after a thorough discussion with all the stakeholders and BJP executive members and

UP to oragnise event to attract ₹10L crore investment in next 100 days

While setting the agenda for the development of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister February 21 and 22, 2018 Yogi Adityanath has once along with formulating an started preparing to take a big leap to promote industrial investment by organising a grand groundbreaking ceremony in Lucknow in the next 100 days with a target to attract investments of Rs 10 lakh crore.

"Captains of all the major industrial houses will be present in this groundbreaking ceremony," a government spokesman said here on Wednesday.

He said the chief minister had asked the departments concerned to make preparations for this ceremony and had given 100 days' time for holding the event.

It is worth mentioning that providing maximum employment opportunities through industrial investment in Uttar Pradesh has been the top priority of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Taking cognisance of this, three days after taking oath, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with all the principal secretaries and secretaries of the state government and discussed the promotion of industrial investment in UP

The chief minister had policy. The first Investors' Summit was attended by eminent industrialists of the country and 1,065 memorandums of undertaking (MoUs) worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore were signed during the event in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In July 2018, the first groundbreaking ceremony was held in which projects worth Rs 60,000 crore were

During this summit, the government had prepared a complete roadmap to promote industrial investment in UP. Then the Yogi government had also promoted the One District One Product scheme to promote the traditional industries of every dis-

The picture of industrial investment in UP has changed in the last five years due to the Investors' Summit and subsequent groundbreaking ceremony on the initiative of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. It is being said that both these events proved



to be expressways to bring industrial investment in the state.

According to the officials of the Industrial Development department, 1,045 investment proposals worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore were submitted to the government by big investors from abroad during the Investors' Summit out of which 215 investors had established their enterprises by investing Rs 51,240.25 crore while 130 investors were setting up their ventures by investing Rs 37,478.63 crore and 449 investors were taking action to set up their venture by investing Rs 86,842.89

"Now, preparations are being made to organise a grand groundbreaking ceremony in the state as industrial investment is necessary to increase the state's gross domestic product (SGDP) and employment opportunities,"

the spokesman said. The spokesman said that even during the novel coronavirus crisis, 96 investors took the initiative to invest Rs 66,000 crore in UP. Not only this, the investment of Rs 50,000 crore has been made in the defence manufacturing corridor of UP with a projection of five lakh employment opportunities.

Now due to the defence manufacturing corridor, BrahMos missile will be made in Lucknow and more than Rs 1,245 crore is being invested in Aligarh node of the corri-

Description of the immovable properties mortgaged /

STF to probe UP paper leak CM directs officials to invoke NSA against

accused, Ballia school inspector suspended PNS LUCKNOW

Adityanath reacted strongly to the alleged paper leak in the ongoing UP Board examinations and on his directions, the district inspector of schools (DIOS) at Ballia was placed under suspension while the

Task Force (STF). The chief minister also directed officials to invoke National Security Act (NSA) against all those responsible for the paper leak.

probe into the entire matter

was handed over to the Special

The English paper for the Intermediate class scheduled in the UP Board exams 2022 was cancelled in 24 districts because of paper leak in the second shift in the Ballia district on Wednesday.

Sources said that the STF team, which was already on alert, responded quickly to the SOS and took eight suspects into custody in Ballia and were grilling them in the paper leak

Speaking to reporters in Lucknow soon after the paper leak came to fore, Secondary Education Minister Gulabo Devi said that strict action would be taken against the cul-

Devi said that the chief minister was keeping an eye on the whole matter. She claimed that fixing the prima facie accountability of the DIOS of Ballia, Brijesh Kumar Mishra, him under suspension. She further said that to take

stern action against those involved in the paper leak, the government had handed over e investigation to the UP STF. She said that the officials of

all the 24 districts where the UP Board paper was cancelled were under the purview of the Meanwhile, Additional

Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi has sought a detailed report on the entire matter from the district magistrate and superintendent of police of Ballia. It may be mentioned that

the papers were kept in high level security and all the arrangements were made by the government and the Education department to ensure no leakage but still the gang managed to leak the English paper.

The Uttar Pradesh Board exams for Classes 10 and 12 began on March 24 under strict arrangements, with close to three lakh cameras installed at centres to curb cheating. The

feedback from 8,373 centres is being monitored at districtlevel control rooms.

The state government had earlier warned that the stringent National Security Act (NSA) would be slapped against those found using unfair means during the exams. monitored closely with help of staff and a total of 2,97,124 CCTV cameras, officials had earlier said.

On the first day of the exams, senior officials had inspected several exam centres and reviewed the arrange-

He said that the exam was conducted as scheduled in the rest of the districts.

Announcing the cancella-

tion, the Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UPMSP) said, "Due to a paper leak, the Intermediate English

paper scheduled for Wednesday, March 30 at 2pm in 24 districts only has been Earlier, Additional Chief Education) Aradhana Shukla said that the paper of Class 12 English subject series 316 ED and 316 EI was leaked and hence the examination of those

24 districts had been canceled where the papers of this series were sent. She said the date of the canceled exam would be announced later. Sources said that the canceled English paper of Class 12 would be held on April 13.

Akhilesh flays UP Govt for paper leak

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief and leader of opposition in UP assembly, Akhilesh Yadav, launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party government for leakage of UP Board's English paper for the intermediate on Wednesday that forced the government to cancel the examination in 24 districts.

'UP government is squarely responsible for the leak of the paper as it was a deliberate move by the government to leak the paper so that the examination could not be completed," Akhilesh Yadav said. "It is business as usual. Even in the second term of the BJP government, the business of paper leak goes on unabated. The unemployed youth of UP are saying that the BJP government, having failed to provide employment, does not want any examination to be completed," said Akhilesh Yadav

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. **SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS**

Name of the Account Owner's Name (Mortgagor of the property(ies) Name & address of the borrower/g INDUSTRIAL AREA, JALANDHAR Residential Plot no 1/2 A RTD No.6807 dated 28-05-2011 in the name of M/s Kanti Demand Notice Dt 11.10.2018 Borrower(s): 1. M/s R S International, Plot No. 71, Leather Complex, Lodge Private Limited through its Directors Mr Vinay Kumar and Raghuvir Singh Outstanding Amount as on 30.09.2018 is Rs. 4,81,91,668.69 Ninety Nine Lacs Only) Rapurthala Road, Jalandhar, 2. M/s Kanti Lodge Pvt. Ltd., 46 Amrit Nagar situated at Mauza Rithani, Pargana, Old Merrut Delhi National Highway, Tehsil and Rupees Four Crore Eighty One Lakh Ninty One Thousand Six New Delhi, 3. Smt. Poonam Viraliya W/o Sh. Vinay Kumar, 4. Sh. Khushal Distt. Merrut . Bounded as East-Ahata of others, West-rasta aam, North—Property of Hundred Sixty Rine Paise Only) plus further interest & Viraliya S/o Vinod Kumar, 5. Sh. Vinod kumar S/o Raghuvir Singh, 6. Sh. Vinod Kumar, 5. Sh. Vinod kumar S/o Raghuvir Singh, 6. Sh. Vinod Kumar, 5. Sh. Vinod kumar S/o Sh. Raghuvir Singh, 6. Sh. Vinod kumar, 5. Sh. Vinod kumar,

F) Outstanding Amount as on G) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive

E) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002

(Rupees Four Crore Eighty One Lakh Ninty One Thousand Six B) Rs. 40,00,000/- (Rs. Forty Lacs Only) other charges until payment in full Possession Date u/s 13(4) 24.12.2018, Physical Possession

A) Rs. 3,99,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore C) Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand Only)

A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs)

B) EMD (last date of deposit NA)

21.04.2022 11:00 AM 02:00 PM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1). The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 2). The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3). The Sale will be done by the undersigned through

auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 21.04.2022 as per time given above in column No. 6. 4) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com STATUTORY 15 SALE NOTICE UNDER RULES OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

Captive rights

There is a need for disciplining jail inmates, with humaneness

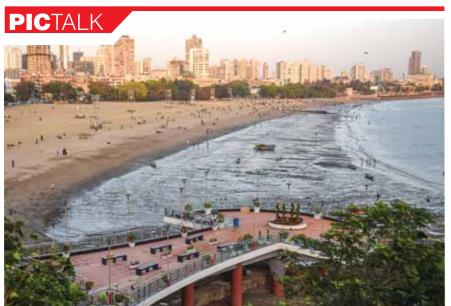
he Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Director General (Prisons) to find ways of handling prisoners in the Capital's jails better to reduce violence and encourage discipline. The court's query followed a plea hearing about the use of excessive force while disciplining errant prisoners. The officer told the court that instances of violence occur when the lodgings of hardened criminals are shifted or when they are questioned upon recovery of banned items, such as mobile phones, weapons and even drugs, from them. The Director Prisons will assist the court with a lengthier explanation on May 20, the next date of hearing in the case. Reforming the prison system in the national Capital — anywhere in the country for that matter — is akin to searching for the Holy Grail. There are 16 jails in Delhi. All are overcrowded and understaffed. The living conditions, standard of hygiene, availability of healthy diet and exercise are questionable. Lack of legal aid, overstay of undertrials or prisoners completing their terms and gangster-ism among inmates add to the problems. The overworked and underpaid employees are hardly in a mood to be human and civil. They are rarely trained to treat the prison as a centre for rehabilitation. Prisons, in the eyes of most



jailors, are where convicts come to get punished. The AAP Government told the High Court in 2019 that it had implemented a brand new jail manual in the Delhi jails. The fact that the same court heard Tuesday's plea three years later says a lot about the impact of

The United Nations in a 2019 report said that overcrowding in jails and violent, or excessive, or illegal use of force by jail officials to instil discipline contributes to increasing levels of violence. Excessive use of solitary confinement rarely makes the inmates obedient. Accountability for excesses by jail staff is low

or non-existent. What purpose does a jail manual serve? A report of the Thailand Institute of Justice, 'Global prison trends 2020', said: "A prison service's tasks include ensuring safety and security and organising everyday life in prison, ensuring treatment which does not infringe the human dignity of prisoners, offering meaningful occupational activities, interventions, thus preparing them for release and reintegration into society." The tasks can be executed if the jail staff is educated, professionally trained and well paid with regular work hours. It is rare to see a jail official satisfied with the job. Many allegedly collude, play caste politics, encourage snitching and insider trading. We need a higher level of training in routine prison and prisoner management, criminology, law, social work and rehabilitation support. Otherwise, as the Delhi High Court said to the Tihar authorities in June 2021: "...it is because of these actions that people are avoiding extradition into our country. They go and say 'look this is what happens in Indian prisons. People get beaten up. Don't send me there'."

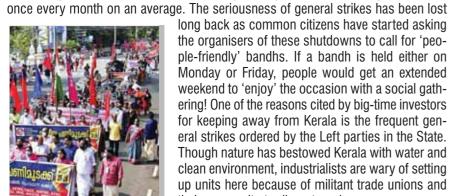


A view from the soon-to-be-inaugurated viewing deck, at Girgaum Chowpatty in Mumbai

Anarchists

The CPI(M) Govt speaks in two voices: Seeking investments but striking work

erala has done it yet again! While the rest of the country largely ignored the 48-hour pan-India general strike called by the Left-affiliated trade unions against the "anti-people policies" of the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre, the State ruled by the CPI(M)-led LDF Government was totally shut down for two full days. Bandhs and hartals are nothing new to Kerala. The CPI(M) calls for bandhs at the drop of a hat and, without stretching the argument, there is a general strike



long back as common citizens have started asking the organisers of these shutdowns to call for 'people-friendly' bandhs. If a bandh is held either on Monday or Friday, people would get an extended weekend to 'enjoy' the occasion with a social gathering! One of the reasons cited by big-time investors for keeping away from Kerala is the frequent general strikes ordered by the Left parties in the State. Though nature has bestowed Kerala with water and clean environment, industrialists are wary of setting up units here because of militant trade unions and their propensity to disrupt work.

The high-handed behaviour of the head-load workers is forcing entrepreneurs to shut down businesses and leave for other States. Though the Kerala High Court on Monday questioned the constitutional validity of Government officials joining the general strike and ordered the administration to declare dies non (no work, no pay), the party bosses came out into the open by Tuesday warning the judiciary not to step into political domain. MV Jayarajan, a prominent CPI(M) leader, had to serve a month-long jail sentence for describing the judges as "idiots who live in glasshouses" following a court verdict that general strikes were against humanity. The party commissars claim that the general strike was called against privatisation and disinvestment being carried out by the Centre. But this is nothing new as the process was set into motion in 1991 when PV Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. Interestingly, the CPI(M)'s recent State conference at Kochi adopted a unanimous resolution that private investment was the only option for the State's economic development. It also wanted to improve the ease of doing business and welcome foreign and private universities to set up centres of excellence in the State. Will the real CPI(M) please stand up?

The golden jubilee pangs of AIADIK KUMAR CHELLAPPAN



Fifty years after coming into existence, the party founded by MGR and deftly helmed by Jayalalithaa for years stands at a nervous crossroads

n one of his works, Victor Hugo said 40 is the old age of youth while 50 is the youth of old age. Had he been alive today, Hugo would have been perplexed with the goings-on in the AIADMK, founded in 1972 by late MG Ramachandran (he rose to power in 1977 and remained the Chief Minister till his death in 1987) and strengthened by Jayalalithaa. The party leadership, cadre and activists are likely suf-fering from dementia. The AIADMK is facing an unprecedented leadership crisis since Jayalalithaa passed away in 2016. After MGR's demise, a churning process saw Jayalalithaa, a heartthrob of South Indian movie fans, emerging as the AIADMK's undisputed leader and staying numero uno till she breathed her last on December 5, 2016.

Initially, Jayalalithaa was guided by MGR though she proved her mettle fast. Around this time, VK Sasikala, the wife of an assistant PRO of the Tamil Nadu Government, entered her life. Since then, there was no looking back for Sasikala, a matriculate, who became Jaya's live-in partner in Veda Nilayam, Amma's sprawling bungalow in Chennai's Poes Garden. Though Jayalalithaa suffered a humiliating defeat in the 1996 Assembly election, she staged a miraculous comeback in the 2001 and 2011 elections that saw the uprooting of the DMK. The 2014 Lok Sabha election was the icing on the cake as the AIADMK won 37 of the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu. Jaya also led her party to victory in the 2016 Assembly election but she had lost health and energy by then. With her demise, the AIADMK's golden era came to

O Panneerselvam, who was sworn in the Chief Minister in the wee hours of December 6, was dethroned by a coterie led by Sasikala and her nephews who had usurped control of Veda Nilayam during the intervening night of December 5 and 6, 2016. Sasikala and her entire had been thrown out of Veda Nilayam in October 2011 Karnataka Special Court's verby Jayalalithaa, who told the dict convicting Sasikala, her party cadres not to have any nephew Sudhakaran and

contact with the clan. But Sasikala was readmitted to Poes Garden in April 2012 after declaring that she was interested only in serving her Akka (Jaya) and would not enter politics. Her nephew TTV Dhinakaran, who too had been ousted from Veda Nilayam in 2011, managed to "infiltrate" the bungalow after Jaya's demise. Sasikala appointed him the deputy general secretary, a post hith-erto unheard of in the party.

By December 2016, Sasikala was elevated as the AIADMK's acting general secretary. The then Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Thambi Durai openly lobbied for Sasikala's elevation as general secretary. Within weeks of her taking over as party supremo, Durai demanded her appointment as the Chief Minister. After that, things moved very fast. By the first week of February 2017, a special session of the AIADMK legislature party unanimously elected Sasikala as the CM. The swearing-in ceremony was scheduled for February 15 when lightning struck in the form of a Supreme Court oraer upnotating



JAYA ALSO LED HER PARTY TO VICTORY IN THE 2016 ASSEMBLY **ELECTION BUT** SHE HAD LOST **HEALTH AND ENERGY BY** THEN. WITH HER DEMISE. THE AIADMK'S **GOLDEN ERA** CAME TO AN END cousin Ilavarasi to four years' rigorous imprisonment in a disproportionate income case. The day she was to swear in as CM, Chinnamma was on her way to Parappana Agrahara Central Jail after entrusting Edappadi Palaniswami with the Chief Minister's job.

Palaniswami started off in style but Dhinakaran began calling the shots. His mission was to get elected from (Jaya's) RK Nagar constituency, pull down Palaniswami and become the CM. With Sasikala in jail, Palaniswami made use of his contacts in BJP to tame Panneerselvam, who reluctantly accepted the deputy chief ministership. A general council meeting in September 2017 eased out Sasikala and Dhinakaran from the party. Dhinakaran launched an outfit, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhakam, and is still struggling to get a foothold in State politics. In 2021, the AIADMK was defeated by the DMK-led alliance but the victory margin was not really impressive.

Panneerselvam is annoyed with Palaniswami for not making him Leader of the Opposition. Chief Minister stalin is doing all he can to hasten the disintegration. Palaniswami's trusted colleagues (all belonging to

Gounder community) are being raided by the authorities. Panneerselvam and Sasikala, both hailing from the powerful Thevar community, are cosying up in spite of the former having declared a Dharma Yudh against her in February 2017. The question is whether Sasikala has the guts to become the leader of a party which owes its existence to MGR and Jayalalithaa? Apart from her not-so-noble backroom manoeuvrings, Sasikala is yet to establish her credentials as a leader. The DMK would love to see the disintegration of the AIADMK: If it splits vertically, Stalin would

Panneerselvam was twice selected as the CM by Jaya because of his servility. Even his close associates say OPS has no leadership qualities unlike Palaniswami who gave the DMK a mighty scare. The golden jubilee year is turning out to be a critical phase for the AIADMK. Sasikala, Panneerselvam and Dhinakaran do not fit the bill though there is a glimmer of hope in EPS. May lord Muruga save the AIADMK!

be the sole beneficiary.

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



NATIONAL STRIKE FOR A REASON

Sir — The two-day strike by all major trade unions including bank/ insurance employees has a specific purpose, which cannot be defamed just like that. The issues are definitely important such as privatising public sector institutions, banks and other sensitive industries. If privatisation is the only solution for preventing losses in the PSÚs, why were so many private sector institutions closed and few private sector banks merged earlier; the Government had to even infuse funds in some institutions? Basically it was due to the fraudsters who cheated the banks. No doubt, the Government can get funds by disinvestment but then it will be laying a green carpet for more fraudsters.

This is a very important issue that the bankers are raising in addition to revising the bank retirees' pensions not revised since decades. After all, every person knows how the public sector banks care for poor/middle class small savers even in remotest corners of the country unlike the private sector which focuses only on 'class clientele' in urban/semi-urban centres. Ultimately, it should be realised that it is only small people/middle class people who provide funds for banks and not rich people, who only use them.

Katuri DP Rao | Hyderabad

NEED FOR POLITICS WITH DECENCY

Sir — The kind of developments that were seen in West Bengal in the last few days have been inscribed on the psyche of the nation's people and from all these developments the public has come to know that there is no need of leaders like Mamata Banerjee (Didi) in politics. Mamata is continuously strangling democracy to maintain her power. First, eight people were burnt alive and then the Opposition leaders were assaulted in the Assembly; can all this be said to be part of a plan of the Opposition? The way TMC leaders get their votes cast in Bengal, is not hidden from anyone.

The thumping majority in the Bengal Assembly was not achieved on the strength of democracy, it was the result

Govt must check high prices



he Government has started increasing petrol and diesel prices on a daily basis. lifting the unannounced freeze ahead of the recent Assembly elections. The price of petrol was raised by ₹4 a litre and diesel by ₹4.10 a litre in the last week. A cylinder of cooking gas weighing 14.2 kg costs ₹950 after the current price increase. Prices are said to be market-driven but "market" here means the ruling Government, though the administered pricing mechanism has long been dispensed with. It is incorrect to argue

of the muscle power of TMC leaders. On the strength of this huge majority, Didi is trying to become an alternative to Modi in the country's national politics, bypassing the Congress. But the current events shattered her dreams. Her action plan will improve the tarnished image, there is doubt about it. Mamata Didi will have to stop the muscle power and mouth of her leaders, only then the public will be able to stand with her.

Rajender Kumar Sharma | Rewari

REHABILITATE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES Sir —Now that everything has been razed to the ground in Ukraine because of the bloody and mindless Russian attacks, the right time has come to rehabilitate all those Ukrainians who have migrated to the neighbouring countries as refugees. The pain of migrating to foreign soil cannot be explained in words. Even things like relocation (happening everywhere in the world personally

and professionally) will be a tough

road for humans. In my native areas of

that Oil Marketing Companies are in the red or make puny profits, or petroleum products are subsidised. In fact, the IOC's prof-

its surged from ₹10,022 crore in FY 2013-

14 to ₹29,716 crore in FY 2020-21 The corporate tax and dividends paid to the Government have remained consistent at around ₹17,000 crore per year. Refiners in the private sector make copious profits at such high prices. The ruling BJP thinks the favourable results in the elections are carte blanche to toy with fuel prices. It believes that by widening the Hindu-Muslim divide, adding to the insecurity of the common man and creating a class of laabharthis with a few kg of free rations, it can neutralise the pain and anger over price rise, unemployment and poverty. So long as this situation exists, already high prices, constant rising prices in the future and higher taxes are inevitable.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | *Faridabad*

Tamil Nadu, people have usually been relocating and migrating to various parts of India, not to mention foreign countries, for the sake of their families and profession.

Likewise, one can understand the olight of the poor Ukrainians. Despite a helping hand from various neighbouring European nations, it is still a long road ahead involving all the practical complexities. For this, the UN, tech giants like Google and Yahoo, and the international media houses must come forward to highlight concerns/plight (especially children's) through proper means and channels. Food, medical and financial assistance should be sent to them. Then, sending these refugees back home once the war is over should be the first priority. After all, being on foreign soil is not only difficult but also poses serious challenges. PS Saravana Durai | Andheri (West)

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

If there's a mentality of violence in society, it should be opposed.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



There will be a debate on the no-confidence motion on March 31; voting on April 3.

Pak Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid

I'd like to publicly apologise to you, Chris. I was out of line. I was wrong





When (Hardik) Pandya bowls, he's twice the player he is. He's a match-winner.

Former India coach

— Ravi Shastri

The Govt is setting up a alobal market network to boost India's exports



Union Minister — Narayan Rane www.dailypioneer.com

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FIRST COLUMN

OUSTER OF RUSSIA FROM THE WTO

The World Trade Organisation members' demand is easier said than done



PK VASUDEVA

ajority of the 164 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have requested the multinational organisation to oust Russia from WTO for launching a devastating attack on Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also wants Russia suspended from WTO as that would make it far more difficult for Russian goods and services to compete in the global market. Russia has responded to Ukraine's call for its ouster by saying that WTO members "should refrain from discussing in the WTO issues and events, which are out of the scope of the WTO", and arguing that WTO rules do not permit its suspension. This may become the newest front in the world's unprecedented economic response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. There are precedents, though not within the WTO. Mercosur, the South American trading bloc, suspended Paraguay in 2012 and Venezuela in 2017 - in both cases over



failure to maintain democratic order. The US House of Representatives is exploring legislation that would "take the first step to deny Russia access to the World Trade Organization." But would such a manoeuvre be legal under WTO rules? It's hard to formally expel Russia - but individual WTO members could probably break off preferential trade relations.

The WTO agreements neither include a provision explicitly authorizing expulsion, nor do they establish criteria, such as maintaining democratic order, that might provide grounds for suspension. There is, though, a complex process that might be used to expel Russia from the WTO, according to James Bachcus, a former member of the WTO's Appellate Body, as quoted by the western media. Article X of the WTO agreements allows WTO members to adopt amendments that "alter the rights and obligations" of members if they are accepted by two-thirds of the WTO membership (and meet certain other criteria). Initially, these changes apply only to countries that accept them. However, by a three-fourths vote, WTO members can set a time frame for holdout members to accept the amendment, withdraw from the WTO or get the other members' permission to remain. Withholding that permission from a member that refused to accept an amendment would have the same result as expelling that member. This procedure could be used to expel Russia directly or to establish specific conditions, such as the invasion of another WTO member, under which a member could be expelled or suspended. While theoretically possible, this is unlikely to succeed. To be sure, 141 members of the United Nations voted to condemn the invasion. If that many countries in the 164-member global trading framework voted to expel Russia, it would amount to 86 percent - easily clearing both the twothirds and three-quarters voting thresholds. But it is unlikely that so many countries would vote to change the rules. Why? Doing so would establish a precedent that a supermajority of the WTO membership can penalize members for policy decisions they dislike, outside of the WTO's usual dispute settlement process. Fears like this explain why WTO members generally make decisions by consensus. Consensus decision-making means that even one objection - say, from Russia - would stop the amendment from passing. Even if WTO members do not act collectively to suspend or expel Russia, they can act individually to effectively remove Russia's WTO privileges. Ukraine and Canada have already done so. The European Union is considering similar measures. In fact, such actions are allowed under the national security exceptions in the WTO Agreements. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) - the main WTO agreement governing trade in goods - allows measures that a WTO member "considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests taken in time of war or other emergency in international relations." (The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Spread of undignified terms into politics



How would those who do not have the dignity of speech be able to run the country in general, and the system in particular?

n the past few decades, the use of disparaging words seems to have become an accepted norm in Indian politics. Indecent remarks are often hurled on the basis of caste, religion, and region. Women are often subject to vituperative expressions used by so-called 'honourable' people engaged in amplifying their politics. These politicians are not worried about the impact of these inappropriate comments on the masses in the long run.

Talking about Bihar, after Lalu Yadav came into politics and legitimized the use of indecent language, other leaders also started using derogatory and unparlia-mentary words without accountability. This malaise has now reached the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. There is indeed a provision to remove such expression from the" record" but in the age of 24X7 media coverage, the damage is often done before corrective measures are initiated.

On 24 October 2021, Lalu Yadav called Bhakta Charan Das, the Bihar in charge of Congress, as 'Bhakchonhar Das'. Before this as well, he has often courted similar controversies. For example, he used such expression against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then National President of BJP Amit Shah at a Samajwadi party rally in Rae Bareli on February 21, 2017, which cannot be discussed in a civilized society.

On January 10, 2017, he said that former BJP MP Śakshi Maharaj should be sent to jail under the Goondas Act, describing him as a 'lafandar'. He called Giriraj Šingh a 'mental case'. On December 18, 2016 he compared the demonetization with the sterilization of Congress times. In October 2015, in the Dadri incident, he referred to Hindus as 'beef-eaters'. In January 2017, Anil Vij was referred to as India's 'unworthy son'. In January 2017 itself, he talked about colouring Vinay Katiyar with 'tikuli' and 'Sindoor' (vermilion). On March 26, 2017, when the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath ordered that the CM's residence be washed with Ganga water, Lalu called him out by referring to him as an 'opposer of the backward castes' and 'Anti-Muslim'. Lalu Yadav has made controversial statements on BJP MP Hema Malini as well. The word 'Burbak' always remains on his tongue. Lalu Yadav has as well. In June 2017, he used words like "de denge do mukka, nachkegirjaoge' (will punch you twice and you will fall dancing) in response to questions asked by journalists.

Women have also been victims of the inappropriate speeches of these politicians. In this country of 'Yatra NaryastuPujyante, Ramante Tatra Devta, how will these leaders, who use such abusive language towards women, give respect and rights to women? While being the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh,



UNACCEPTABLE CONTROVERSIAL SPEECHES OF POLITICIANS, THEIR **SUCCESSORS** ALSO USE **SIMILAR ABUSIVE WORDS** ON A DAILY BASIS. SUCH CONTROVERSIAL **STATEMENTS** REFLECT THE REALITY OF women tarnish the women's safety and dignity perceived by THESE LEADERS. these leaders. THE LANGUAGE OF A PERSON IS A REFLECTION OF HIS

(The writer is the Vice-president of BJP in Bihar and a member of the Bihar legislative council. The views expressed are personal.)

PERSONALITY



BY ACCEPTING

THESE

Mulayam Singh Yadav had said in 2014 on the allegation of rape against youth that 'boys make mistakes, they cannot be hanged for this. In July 2013, Congress leader Digvijay Singh called Meenakshi Natarajan, a woman MP from Mandsaur, 'a hundred takatanchmaal' at a rally in Madhya Pradesh. Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath called cabinet minister Imarti Devi an 'item'. Many such indecent remarks on

Apart from Lalu Yadav, the names of Uddhav Thackeray, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, Mayawati, Digvijay Singh, Kapil Sibal, Kamal Nath, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Shashi Tharoor, Imran Masood, Sonia Gandhi are also notable in these cases. Mani Shankar Aiyar on December 7, 2017, called Modi a 'neechaadami'. Modi of engaging in 'lowly politics'. During the Gujarat Assembly elections in 2007, Sonia Gandhi even called Modi a 'maut ka saudagar' or a merchant of death. Mamata Banerjee had described Amit Shah and Narendra Modi as 'goons of Delhi' in her rally in Dakshin Dinajpur on April 22, 2021. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said on July 18, 2018, that 'Hinduism is being Talibanised'. Uddhav Thackeray had also spo-

ken of hitting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with slippers in 2018. He also called Rahul Gandhi a 'stupid' leader and talked about beating Mani Shankar Aiyar with shoes. In Jammu and Kashmir's National Conference, MLA Javed Rana had insulted the national flag by saying, if the Article 35A was revoked from the State of Jammu and Kashmir and an attempt at removing Article 370 is made, then there would be no sign of the Indian flag in Jammu and Kashmir.

By accepting these unacceptable and controversial speeches of politicians, their successors also use similar abusive words on a daily basis. Such controversial statements reflect the reality of these leaders. It is said, "If you want to know about someone, let them speak." The language of a person is a reflection of his personality. How would those who do not have the system?

There have also been such leaders in the country who have always maintained their linguistic dignity, which led the public to hold them in high esteem. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan launched a nationwide movement in 1974, but he never seemed agitated, he spoke in a very simple and serious manner. Due to this the movement became a massively consequential movement.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee also used to oppose his opponents with decency. His witty mannerisms are well known. With his own style, he used to answer the opposition. Ram Manohar Lohia, George Fernandes, L.K. Advani were among such politicians who ruled the hearts of the people with their controlled speeches, and the people in turn regarded them with equal respect. Political debates do not require verbal firefights but need to be listened to and answered with restraint.

A good leader is one who works for the progress of the nation with social harmony. It is better to be regarded by the public for work done for the welfare of society, than by becoming the apple of the eyes of a particular class by making controversial remarks. The fame gained by such work is also permanent and hailed

Politics is not going to survive on the basis of provocative speeches. Advances in technology have made information more accessible. Now the public knows who is going to do the work, who is a talker and who is going to give provocative speeches. People know who their hero is. Therefore, instead of controversial rhetoric, adopting the politics of good deeds and conduct will be beneficial for society and the country.

TIME AND AGAIN, THE BJP TRIES TO ATTACK THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. — WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER **MAMATA BANERJEE**





THE CHIEF MINISTER'S ALLEGATIONS OF THE BJP USING CENTRAL AGENCIES ARE NOTHING NEW.

— WEST BENGAL BJP SPOKESPERSON **SAMIK BHATTACHARYA**

Beyond Omicron: Will there be more variants?

There are reasons to believe that India might soon be heading towards an endemic phase unless another variant shows up

fter the emergence of the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 infections at the beginning of 2022, the decline in cases, thanks to the mild nature of Omicron, has got everyone asking - what's next and when is the next blow going to arrive?

Ever since the pandemic began in 2020, humans have oscillated between deadly pandemic surges and retreats. If the good news is that cases are going down rapidly with many countries allowing their citizens to step outside with their masks on, there is, however, a caveat, that things might change in the coming days. Here are a few

possible scenarios: It is no rocket science that as long as the SARS-CoV-2 virus is around, it will continue to evolve and a straightfor-



could see new variants emerging. However, there is no way to ascertain when a new variant will become dominant. It is also impossible to predict whether a new variant will spread rapidly just like the Alpha and Delta variants or will be mild in nature like Omicron. Researchers around the world have been tracking a host of related sub-variants that are jockeying for dominance and we have to adopt a wait-and-watch policy to know everything.

ward answer to the question is,

yes. In the coming days, we

What was once believed to be a rumour for many has turned out to be real. A potential new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, by the name "Deltacron", is around the corner. In fact, the new combination of the virus has already



been identified in France, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the United States. Interestingly, scientists have found out that this new hybrid variant combines the spike protein from the Omicron variant and the 'body'

of the Delta variant Can this hybrid virus have the potential to cause severe infection? It is indeed too early to make a presumption. The World Health Organization has also said testing remains critical to understand the very nature and severity of this hybrid virus.

India is currently witnessing a record dip in daily infections resulting from the Omicron variant. This has brought a huge relief to everyone, from the doctors to the common citizens. India battled a lethal second wave in 2021 caused by the Delta variant, and the third wave occurring from the Omicron variant had also resulted in a record number of Treating will be extremely cases as well.

However, many renowned virologists and scientists have claimed that India may not see a possible fourth wave, despite a warning issued by a group of experts at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, that the country could be in the grips of a fourth wave, starting from the month of June. With a record decline in cases and the recovery rate standing at close to 99 percent, there are reasons to believe that India might soon be heading towards an endemic phase unless another variant

That said, we must not be cavalier in our approach whatsoever. To ensure we are well on track to tackle another wave if there is one, the Three 'Ts' in the form of Testing, Tracking, and

crucial in handling any future outbreaks.

It needs no detailed explanation to describe the roles played by vaccines to protect us from this deadly virus. Getting vaccinated against Covid-19 does not only lowers the chances of the rampant spread of this virus that causes disease but also helps in preventing serious illness and death to people. A similar argument can be made in cases of booster doses. The higher antibody levels from the booster doses seem to make the average person unlikely to get sick from the Coronavirus. For instance, the booster shots of mRNA coronavirus vaccines are said to increase antibodies by about 10 times.

A point in case is the equally historic role played by the

Indian Government to ensure millions of citizens remain safe and get access to life-saving vaccines. For instance, the country, thanks to the assiduousness of the government, has registered more than 1.8 billion vaccine doses since its vaccination drive kicked off in January 2021. India being the second-most populated nation on earth, the Îndian model of an immensely successful vaccination drive must serve as a perfect example for many developed and developing countries across the world. Similarly, the government has also rolled out booster or precaution doses for fully vaccinated healthcare workers, frontline workers, and senior citizens over the age group of 60+ years. After all, we must remember that vaccines do not save lives, but vaccination does.

(The writer is CEO, IHW Council. The views expressed are personal.)

Russia shells areas in Ukraine where it vowed to go slow

ussian forces pounded areas around Ukraine's capital and another city overnight, regional leaders said Wednesday, just hours after Moscow pledged to scale back military operations in those places. The shelling further tempered optimism about any progress in talks aimed at ending the punishing war.

Russia did not spell out what exactly it planned to do differently, and while the promise initially raised hopes that a path toward peace was coming into view, Ukraine's president and others cautioned that the remarks could merely be bluster.

Ukrainian officials said Russian shelling hit homes, shops, libraries and other "civilian infrastructure" in the northern city of Chernihiv and on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv.

The barrages came as Britain's Defense Ministry warned that while heavy losses have forced some Russian units to return to Belarus and Russia, Moscow would likely compensate for any reduction in ground maneuvers by using mass artillery and missile strikes. The Ukrainian military, meanwhile, said Russian troops were intensifying their attacks around the eastern city of Izyum and the eastern Donetsk region, after redeploying some units from other areas.

Moscow, meanwhile, reacted coolly to Kyiv's proposed framework for a peace deal, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying it was a "positive factor" that Ukraine has submitted its written proposals but that he saw no breakthrough.

As the war unleashed five weeks ago by Moscow ground on, so, too, did the fall-out beyond Ukraine's borders. The United Nations said the number of refugees fleeing the country has now surpassed a staggering 4 million, while European industrial powerhouse Germany issued a warning over its natural gas supplies amid concerns that Russia could cut off deliveries unless it is paid in rubles. Poland announced steps to end all Russian oil imports by the end of 2022.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reacted with skepticism to Russia's announcement amid talks in Istanbul on Tuesday that it would reduce military activity near the capital and Chernihiv. "We can call those signals that we hear at the negotiations positive," he said in his nightly video address to the Ukrainian people. "But those signals don't silence the explosions of Russian shells." That skepticism only gained ground Wednesday morning. "The so-called reduction of activity in the Chernihiv region, was demonstrated by the enemy strikes including air strikes on Nizhyn, and all night long they were shelling Chernihiv," said the regional governor, Viacheslav Chaus. "Civilian infrastructure facilities, libraries, shopping centers, many houses

were destroyed in Chernihiv." Oleksandr Pavliuk, the head of the Kyiv region military administration, said Wednesday that Russian shells targeted residential areas and civilian infrastructure in the Bucha, Brovary and Vyshhorod regions around the capital.

They weren't the only attacks by Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Wednesday that the military targeted fuel depots in two towns in central Ukraine with air-launched long-range cruise missiles. Russian forces also hit a Ukrainian special forces headquarters in the southern Mykolaiv region, he said, and two ammunition depots in the eastern Donetsk

The General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces noted intensified shelling and attacks in the Donetsk area, where it say Russian forces were focused on trying to win control over the besieged city of Mariupol and other cities.

Donetsk is in the eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where the Russian military says it has shifted its attention. Top Russian military officials have said twice in recent days that their main goal now is the "liberation" of Donbas, where Moscowbacked rebels have been battling Ukrainian forces since 2014. Western officials also said Moscow was now reinforcing troops in the Donbas in a bid to encircle Ukraine's forces there. And Russia's deadly siege in the south continues.

Some analysts have suggested that the apparent scaling back of the Kremlin's aims and the pledge to reduce activity around Kyiv and Chernihiv may merely reflect the reality on the ground: Its troops have become bogged down and taken heavy losses in their bid to seize the capital and

AP UNITED NATIONS

The UN food chief warned Tuesday the war in Ukraine has created "a cat-

astrophe on top of a catastrophe" and will

have a global impact "beyond anything

we've seen since World War II" because

many of the Ukrainian farmers who pro-

duce a significant amount of the world's

wheat are now fighting Russians. David

Beasley, executive director of the UN

World Food Program, told the UN Security Council that already high food

prices are skyrocketing.
His agency was feeding 125 million

people around the world before Russia's

invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24, and

Beasley said it has had to start cutting

and shipping costs. He pointed to war-

torn Yemen where 8 million people just

had their food allotment cut 50%, "and

now we're looking at going to zero

rations."The war in Ukraine is turning

"the breadbasket of the world to bread-

lines" for millions of its people, while

devastating countries like Egypt that

normally gets 85% of its grain from

Ukraine and Lebanon that got 81% in

of the world's wheat supply, 20% of its

corn and 75%-80% of the sunflower

seed oil. The World Food Program

buys 50% of its grain from Ukraine, he

The war is going to increase the agency's monthly expenses by USD 71

Ukraine and Russia produce 30%

No limit for cooperation with Russia as Lavrov arrives for talks: China

PTI BEIJING

Hosting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the first high level Russian official to visit Beijing after the Ukraine war, China on Wednesday said "cooperation" between the two allies has no "ceiling" to resist "hegemony".

Lavrov arrived in Tunxi, east China's Anhui Province, for the third meeting of foreign ministers on Afghanistan, Russia's official news agency Tass reported on Wednesday.

"There is no ceiling for China-Russia cooperation, no ceiling for us to strive for peace, no ceiling for us to safeguard security and no ceiling for us to oppose hegemony," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when asked to describe the limits of China-Russia relations.

Commenting on the most recent round of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in Turkey's Istanbul, Wang Wenbin noted "positive signals" demonstrated by both parties. "We have always believed that a dialogue and negotia-

tions are the only correct way to achieve the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis," he said.

Asked by a reporter from Russia's official Tass news agency whether China as the permanent member of the UN Security Council can be a guarantor for any agreement between Russia and Ukraine, Wang Wenbin said China encourages all sides for peaceful resolution of the crisis.



ic efforts towards that end," he said. Later Lavrov in his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Russia is interested in building relations with China in a stable and consistent manner.

We are interested in our relations with China developing steadily and consistently, our leaders - President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of China Xi Jinping agreed upon this. Today, as you have said, we will consider concrete steps to ensure that all those agreements are consistently implemented," the top Russian diplomat stated. Putin and Xi met here in February on the side-lines of the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games where they firmed up their strategic alliance against the

US and its alliance. "I am very pleased to talk to you, dear friend, especially in another beautiful province. I have already visited many provinces of China, and all of them are truly exquisite," Lavrov told Wang Yi as they met in Tunxi, Tass reported.

UN food chief: Ukraine war's food crisis worst since WWII

Peace deal will require mutual trust, which is hard to imagine: Ukraine

PTI ■ KEELE (UK)

Ukrainian peace negotiators planning to met with Russian representatives have been told "not to eat or drink anything", after the Russian oligarch, Roman Ambramovich, and two Ukrainian peace negotiators were reported to be suffering from what is suspected to be the effects of poisoning. Details of how the poisoning occurred have not been confirmed - and Abramovich is back in negotiations, but investigative journalism group Bellingcat said the symptoms included "eye and skin inflammation and piercing pain in the eyes," consistent with chemical poisoning.

It doesn't augur well for the future of peace talks, which will hinge on the degree of trust that both sides have in each other and in mediators. The issue of good and bad faith and the failure of trust between Russia and Ukraine - and between Russia and Nato members, especially those on Russia's borders - have been key to the unfolding of this crisis. Being able to rebuild that trust will be crucial for bringing the crisis to an end. So it's interesting to consid-

er the part trust and distrust has played in the war and the roles they may have in ending it.

Having been part of the Soviet Union until 1991, Ukraine's relations with Russia have ebbed and flowed over the years. In 1994, Russia was a signatory to the Budapest Memorandum, which guaranteed Ukraine's sovereignty and in 1997 the two countries

lization of nations and mass migration,'

he said. "But if we don't, the world will

pay a mighty price and the last thing

we want to do as the World Food Program is taking food from hungry

children to give to starving children. US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy

Sherman said that "President (Vladimir) Putin's war of choice" is

responsible for damaging global food

civilian ships carrying goods from

Black Sea ports to the rest of the world,

including one chartered by an agribusi-

ness company," she said. "The Russian

navy is blocking access to Ukraine's

ports, essentially cutting off exports of

ing approximately 94 ships carrying

food for the world market from reach

ing the Mediterranean," Sherman said,

adding that many shipping companies

are hesitating to send vessels into the

exports," food prices are skyrocketing,

with wheat prices rising between 20%

about countries like Lebanon, Pakistan,

Libya, Tunisia, Yemen and Morocco

which rely heavily on Ukrainian

imports to feed their population,"

Nebenzia, retorted that the Russian

military is "posing no threat to the free-

Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily

and 50% so far this year, she said.

As Russia "chokes off Ukrainian

"We are particularly concerned

Black Sea, even to Russian ports.

"Russia has bombed at least three

signed the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership. This reinforced the Budapest Memorandum, in its recognition of the inviolability of existing borders

between Ukraine and Russia. The treaty expired on March 31, 2019 at Ukraine's instigation. The two sides were at loggerheads over Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in the Donbas in eastern Ukraine. Moscow criticised the decision, claiming that Kyiv had itself violated the treaty by building closer ties to the west.

During Russia's massive troop build-up on Ukraine's borders through 2021, Putin and his top diplomats continued to insist that Russia did not intend to invade Ukraine. But as we know, in the early hours of February 24, Putin gave the lie to this assurance when he sent his military into Ukraine.

It is with this history of distrust and betrayal that negotiations must proceed. From a psychologist's perspective, this will be very problematic. Any lasting peace will depend on both sides trusting that the other will abide by the condi-tions of a settlement. But according to the "social identity" theory of psychology, which holds that people distinguish between in-groups (us) and out-groups (them), this will be difficult as each side will naturally distrust the other.

This can be seen in the statements each side has made about the other. Ukrainians have expressed the view that Putin is a madman or mental-

dom of civilian navigation." He said

that Russia has set up an 80 nautical-

mile-long humanitarian corridor to

allow foreign vessels to leave Ukrainian

ports and that it is organizing human-

itarian corridors every day within

lence are by no means in the actions

of Russia, (but) rather in the unbridled

sanctions hysteria that the West has

unleashed against Russia without con-

sidering the population of the so-called

Global South nor of its own citizens,

ensure uninterrupted shipments and

aren't preventing grain from leaving

Ukraine's ports. Putin's war is. And

Russia's own food and agricultural

exports are not under sanction by the

council meeting to follow up on the

General Assembly's adoption of a

humanitarian resolution on Ukraine

that they initiated that was adopted

overwhelmingly Thursday by a vote of

140-5, with 38 abstentions. It demand-

ed an immediate cessation of hostili-

ties, protection of civilians and infra-

structure essential for their survival,

and unimpeded access to deliver des-

Copenhagen: The

Danish government has

decided to increase the

size and scope of a one-

time, tax-free subsidy to

housesholds affected by

high heating bills. Around

419,000 households will

now receive 6,000 kroner (\$891) under the plan.

reached Feb. 11, before

Russia's invasion started,

provided for aid of 3,750

kroner to around 320,000

gas prices are expected to

be at a high level for the rest of 2022."

A previous deal

perately needed aid.

US or by our allies and partners. France and Mexico called for the

Lifting sanctions is the only way to

Sherman countered: "Sanctions

Nebenzia said.

food markets, he said.

"The real reasons why the global food market is facing serious turbu-

Ukraine to Russia and the West.

'4 mn refugees have now fled Ukraine'

AP GENEVA

The UN refugee agency said Wednesday more than 4 million refugees have now fled Ukraine since Russia launched its war in the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War

II. The new figure was posted on an UNHCR website. More than 2.3 million have arrived in Poland, but many have traveled onward to other countries or back into Ukraine.

Aid workers say the numbers have eased in recent days

PUBLIC NOTICE 1000 + 15/9045/2013. Dated 22:12:2014 Office a 53/3 Floor Bharat Nagar New Friends Colony New Delhi -110025. Under the Emigration Act 1983 fo Export of manpower, lintend to closed my busines: with immediate effect in the event, there is an complaint against me, the same may be referred to within 30 days of publication of this notice. Copie-of the complaint may also sent to Protector Genera of Emigrants. Ministry of External Affairs. Akba Bhavan, 10th floor Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, Ner Delhi 110021.

Sd/- Sanjeeta Thapa (Managing Director)

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company. That Mr. AS Mohammad is owner of Property bearing No. 12/20 B, area measuring 100 Sq., Yds, out of Khasral No. 160, Situated in the area of Village Babarpur, in the abadi of Kidwai Gali, East Babarpur, Blaga Shahdara, Delhi (the said property), by wirtue of two Relinquishment deeds both dated 02.12.2021, having registration No. 7737 B, 7738, executed by Mrs. Bilkish Bono, Mr. Riyaj Mohammad & Mrs. Rukaiya Bano. Ali persons are hereby informant hart ahave mentioned owner want to sell First

207744-224035(**0**)

Sanjay Kumar Singh, S/o Late Shri Sheshnath Singh, Sangeeta Singh W/o Sanjay Kr. Singh R/o A-78, Gali No-01, Jagat Puri, Nathu Colony Chowk Mandoli Road Shahadra, Delhi-110093. Declares that our son Deepak Singh and daughter in low Vandana Singh are out of our control. We disown them from our movable immovable properties. Anybody deals with em at his own risk. We will not responsible for their acts

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company. That Mr. Harpreet Singh is owner of Entire Second floor without roof rights ("said floor") of property no. WZ-179, built on piot no. P-2, area measuring 4.6.5 sq. yds. part of khasra no. 784, situated in the area of village Tinar, Gali no. 4, Virender Nagar, New Delhi (the said property), by virtue of sale deed dated 11.06.2019, having registration no. 12340, executed by Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said floor of above Kaur. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said floor of above property to Mrs. Kusum who is taking Loan facility of purchase of the said floor from Fullerton India Hon Finance Company, if anybody has any objection/s update ownership of above owner of the said floor, its say Mortgage/libgation, and any kind of objections, kind inform the undersigned in writing on the belientoned address within O7 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants). 200. III delignor, 23. Shivali Maro, Moti Naeac, Nethis 15

200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-1 Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, FICICI Bank

Demand notice publication under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. 359005000438, Name of the Borrower SUBHASH CHANDER S/O BHANA RAM, SANTOSH DEVI D/O BHANA RAM, KAMLESH D/O BHANA RAM, VANDANA D/O BHANA RAM, NEELAM D/O BHANA RAM, SARASWATI W/O BHANA RAM, SUBHASH CHANDER S/O BHANA RAM, RATI RAM RAM KUMAR, SUNITA GARG W/O SUBHASH CHANDER, were published in 13.2 notice dated February 22 2022 under SARFAESI Act, respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and the property address mention in the 13.2 notice publication as COMMERCIAL PROPERTY /SHOP BEARING AT HOUSE TAX UNIT NO-445/3, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY/AND VASIKA NO-1267 AND VASIKA NO-748, DISTT-HISSAR, BARWALA, HARYANA instead of COMMERCIAL PROPERTY /SHOP BEARING AT HOUSE TAX UNIT NO-445/3, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY /AND VASIKA NO-748 AND VASIKA NO-748, DISTT- HISSAR, BARWALA HARYANA. We therefore, request you to please read the same as COMMERCIAL PROPERTY / SHOP BEARING AT HOUSE TAX UNIT NO-445/3, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY /AND VASIKA NO-1267 AND VASIKA NO-748, DISTT-HISSAR, BARWALA, HARYANA.

Date: March 31, 2022 ICICI Bank Limited Place: Delhi NCR

as many people await developments in the war. An estimated 6.5 million people have also been displaced from their homes within the country.

More than 608,000 have entered Romania, over 387,000 have gone to Moldova, and

अदालती सूचना आज्ञा से श्री अफिया मातीन अपर सिविल जज (सीनियर डिविजन) पंचम देहरादून न्यायालय अपर सिविल जज (सीनियर डिविजन) पंचम

नीटिस बनाम

श्री शंशाक शर्मा पुत्र श्री आर०पी० शर्मा निवासी 38 किशनपुर राजपुर देहरादून 2. श्री राजेन्द्र सिंह भाटिया पुत्र स्व० श्री हरीश वन्द्र भाटिया निवासी मोहिनी रा देहरादून। . श्रीमती रश्मि गोयल पत्नी स्व० श्री विनोव 3. श्रानता राश्न गायल पत्ना स्पर्व श्रा विनाद कुमार गोयल निवासी डी—1054 न्यू फ्रेण्डस कालोनी, नई दिल्ली। श्री गौरव गोयल पुत्रस्य

श्री विनोद कुमार गोयल निवासी डी–1054 न्यू फ्रेण्डस कार्लोनी, नई दिल्ली। 4. श्री राहुल गोयल पुत्र स्व० श्री विनोद कुमार गोयल निवासी डी–1054 न्यू फ्रेण्डस कालोनी,

नई दिल्ली। 5 श्री गौरव गोयल पत्र स्व0 श्री विनोद कुमार गोयल निवासी डी—1054 न्यू फ्रेण्डस कालोनी,

नई दिल्ली। 6. श्रीमती सुधीरा गुप्ता पुत्री श्री ओ०पी० गोयल एवं पत्नी श्री राकेश कुमार गुप्ता निवासी ए—203 न्यू फ्रेण्डस कालोनी, नई दिल्ली। वूंकि वादिनी ने आपके विरुद्ध घोषणात्मक एवं

निषेधाज्ञा हेतु उक्त वाद संस्थित किया है। आप उपरोक्त वाद में प्रतिवादी संख्या 2 से 3 व 4 से जनतान प्रतिचान प्रतिचान प्रतिचान ज्ञान के जिल्ला के जाए जाए के जाए जाए जाए जाए जाए जाए जाए जाए जाए अभिवक्ता द्वारा जो कि सम्यकस्पेण अनुदिष्ट है और वाद सम्बन्धित सब सारवान प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने में समर्थ हो, उपरोक्त वर्णित दिवस को 10.00 बजे दिन में उपसंजात हो और आपको यह निर्देश दिया जाता है कि आप उस दिन ऐसे सब दस्तावेजों को पेश करें जिनका कि अपनी प्रतिरक्षा के समर्थन में सहारा लेने का आशय है ।

आपको यह सूचना दी जाती है कि पूर्व वर्णित वाट आपकी अनपस्थिति में सुना जायेगा और अवधारित किया जायेगा ।

मेरे हस्ताक्षर व न्यायालय की मुद्रा छाप सहित आज दिनांक 15/03/22 निकाला गया।

E-mail-eeraj-phe-cg@nic.in

न्यायालय अपर सिविल जज (सीनियर डिविजन) पंचम देहरादून ।

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, speaking through volodymyr Zelenskyy has an interpreter during a live video

of Europe.

told the Norwegian Parliament appearance before the 169-

Speaking generally of Russia's military activities in

that "for the Russians, there are no prohibited targets. Zelenskyy's speech was

the latest of a string of addresses to lawmakers in several countries, including the United States, Britain, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Israel, Japan and the European Union.

Kyiv: The Ukrainian military says that Russian troops have intensified their activities in the country's east. The Ukrainian gener-

al staff said Wednesday that the Russians have scaled up their activities around Izyum, south of Kharkiv, after redeploying some units from other areas.

It also said that the Russian forces have inten-

sified shelling and attacks in the eastern Donetsk region, focusing on trying to win control of Mariupol, Popasna and Rubizhne. The Russian military

fought Ukrainian forces

ing support include a

Zelenskyy addresses Norway's Parliament

2020, Beasley said.

that Russia wants "to destroy the foundation of Europe."

million because of rising food, fuel and

shipping costs, he said. That will total

USD 850 million for a year and mean

that there will be "4 million less peo-

Program is reaching about a million peo-

ple inside Ukraine with food now, and

will reach 2.5 million over the next four

weeks, 4 million by the end of May and

hopefully 6 million by the end of June.

The price tag is about USD 500 million

for the first three months and "we are

short by about USD 300 million so we're

Ukraine should not lead the interna-

tional community to neglect of Africa,

especially the Sahel, and the Middle

East, because "otherwise, you'll have

massive migration" coming to all parts

needs, we can avoid famine, destabi-

"If we end the conflict, address the

Beasley warned that focusing on

going to need to step up," he said.

Beasley said the World Food

member Stortinget, said Ukraine, Zelenskyy said Wednesday that "the future of Europe is being decided now."

Sherman said.

उत्तराखण्ड प्राविधिक शिक्षा परिषद् संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण अनुसंघान विकास प्रकोष्ठ, अपर आमवाला देहरादून ऑनलाइन आवेदन मरने की अंतिम तिथि: 15-05-2022



संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा पालीटेकनिक्स-2022 संशोधित प्रवेश सूचना उत्तराखण्ड प्राविधिक शिक्षा परिषद् रूडकी से सम्बद्ध प्रदेश के राजकीय/महिला/ग्रामीण/ अनुदानित एवं निजी पालीटेक्निक संस्थाओं में चल रहे विभिन्न पाठ्यक्रमों

इन्जीनियरिंग/टेक्नोलॉजी पाठ्यक्रमों (प्रथम वर्ष में प्रवेश हेतु) (ग्रुप-E), एवं फार्मेसी (ग्रुप-P) में प्रवेश हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये गए थे एवं आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि 31 मार्च 2022 निर्धारित की गयी थी। उक्त ग्रुप (ग्रुप-E एवं ग्रुप- P) के अतिरिक्त डिप्लोमा इंजीठ पाठ्यक्रम के द्वितीय वर्ष में लेटरल एन्ट्री (ग्रुप-A) के माध्यम से प्रवेश हेतु मी आवेदन निम्नानुसार

में प्रवेश हेत् सत्र 2022-23 के लिये परिषद के विज्ञापन सं० 1130 /जीप-2022/प्रवेश सुचना/2021-22 दिनांक 03 जनवरी 2022 के माध्यम से डिप्लोमा इन

आमंत्रित किये जाते है-

पाठ्यक्रम ग्रुप	पाठ्यक्रम का नाम	न्यूनतम शैक्षिक अर्हता	परीक्षा विषय एवं पाठ्यक्रम
E	डिप्लोमा इंजीनियरिंग / टेक्नोलाजी पाठ्यक्रम	मा0शि0प0 उत्तराखण्ड की हाईस्कूल परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण अथवा समकक्ष परीक्षा। (Obtained at least 35% marks at the qualifying examination)	खण्ड-एक-गणित (50%) खण्ड-दो-विज्ञान (भौतिकी तथा रसायन) (50%)
P	डिप्लोमा इन फार्मेसी	भारत के राजपत्र संख्या 19. Part-3, Section-4, Chapter-2 बिन्दु संख्या 4 के अनुसार — 10+2 / इन्टरमीडिएट, मीतिक विज्ञान, रसायन विज्ञान तथा जीव विज्ञान अथवा गणित विषयों के साथ। फार्मेसी कार्यसित आफ इण्डिया के मानकों के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यातय से इन्टरमीडिएट उत्तीर्ण फार्मेसी पादयक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु मान्य होगा।	ন্তত্ত-एক-ডিনিৰ্ম (25%), কঁদিম্বী (25%) ন্তত্ত-दो-बायोलाजी या गणित (50%)
A	डिप्लोमा इंजी० पाठ्यक्रम के द्वितीय वर्ष में लेटरल एन्ट्री के माध्यम से प्रवेश	 1. 10+2 परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण (भौतिकी, रसायन एवं गणित विषय) या 2. 10+2 परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण (व्यवसायिक/ प्राविधिक विषय उत्तीर्ण) या 3. दो वर्षीय आई०टी०आई० उत्तीर्ण 	हाईस्कूल स्तर की गणित (40%), भौतिकी (20%), रसायन(20%), सामान्य इंजी० (विद्युत, इलेक्ट्रानिक्स, यांत्रिक) (20%

है एवं ग्रुप - E,P हेतु आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि को संशोधित करते हुये दिनांक 15 मई 2022 तक बढ़ाया जाता है। प्रवेश के इच्छुक अम्पर्थी परिषद् की वेबसाईट www.ubtejeep.co.in पर आनलाईन आवेदन कर सकते हैं। प्रत्येक ग्रुप के लिये अलग-अलग आवेदन करन होगा। विस्तृत सूचना एवं विवरण पुस्तिका वेबसाईट www.ubter.in एवं www.ubtejeep.co.in पर उपलब्ध है। आवेदन से सम्बंधित अन्य दिशा-निर्देश

विज्ञापन सं0 1348/जीप-2022/प्रवेश सूचना/2022-23 दिनांक - 30/03/2022

सचिव

has said it has shifted its focus to Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, the Donbas, where Moscowbacked separatists have

households to help cover the costs of soaring heating bills. Energy Minister Dan Jørgensen said the war "has created uncertainty in the energy markets, and

The government will now spend 2 billion kroner (\$297 million) on the programme. Conditions for receiv-

home being located in an area with district heating fuelled primarily by gas power plants, or the home having individual gas

//ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट// //निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना// म्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र – ए में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेट्रोफिटिंग <u>/एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत</u> जिला राजनांदगांव के विभिन्न विकासखंडो के विभिन्न ग्रामों

(UPVC/HDPE पाईप लाईन जोड़ने बिछाने, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार सुधार कार्य, स्वीच रूम, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार के चारो ओर बाउंड्रीवॉल निर्माण, सबमरिश्वल पंप का प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य, विद्युत विमाग (CSPDCL) से इलेक्ट्रिक कनेक्शन, इलेक्ट्रोक्लोरीनेटर श्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, घरों एवं शासकीय संस्थानों में कार्यरत नल कनेक्शन प्रदाय आदि एवं अन्य समस्त कार्य, टेस्टिंग, 03 माह की ट्रायल र oe माह तक संचालन संघारण का कार्य (सम्पूर्ण कार्य सामग्री सहित, संलग्न शेड्युल अनुसार) की मुहरबंद निविदाए दिनांक 29.03.2022 से ऑन लाई: पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त कार्य के निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, घरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानका ई—प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eproc.cqstate.qov.in से दिनांक 05.04.2022 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है तथा निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक 18.04.2022 (शाम 5:30 बर्ज) तक है निविदा सिस्टम कंमाक विकासखंड योजना / ग्राम का नाम अनुमानित लागत

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, राजनांदगांव (छ.ग.)

1	537	96121	डोंगरगढ़	भैंसरा	62.56	
2	538	96122	डोंगरगढ	खुर्सीपारकला, छिंदीजोब	108.04	7
3	539	96123	छुरिया	कांपा, मोतीपुर	102.62	
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कार्यपालन अभियंत R.o. No - 69082/5 लोक स्वास्थ्य खण्ड R.o. Date - 30/03/2022 राजनांदगांव (छ.ग

US Prez to host Special ASEAN meet this spring

he pioneer

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced to host a special session of ASEAN leaders here this spring. Biden made the announcement during a joint news conference with the visiting Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore at the

"As we look toward the future, Prime Minister Lee and I share a commitment to ASEAN and its centrality in all of what we do. And I'm looking forward to hosting the ASEAN leaders here in Washington, DC for a special summit this spring," Biden told reporters.

The exact dates of the summit have not been announced yet, but it is expected to be held soon. Biden did not give any other details about the summit, but the announcement in this regard during his meeting with Prime Minister Lee reflects the significance he attaches to his Indo-Pacific policy.

Prime Minister Lee wel comed the decision.

"We welcome his intention to host an ASEAN-US special summit here soon. It's a strong affirmation of American commitment to Southeast Asia and to ASEAN centrality. The President and I discussed the importance of the US growing



ic stakes in the Asia Pacific," Lee said.

Biden said the US and Singapore are working to uphold a rules-based international order supporting the founding principles of the United Nations and advance a future for the Indo-Pacific that is both free and open.

"We also discussed a wide range of concerns for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. That includes ensuring that all nations in the region, including China, uphold the principles that enable a free and open region. Singapore and the United States are both committed to freedom of navigation as well as an unimpeded flow of maritime commerce in the South China Sea," he said.

Singapore is the second largest Asian investor in the US,

and the US is the largest investor in Singapore. Singapore's investments in the US and US exports to Singapore support over a quarter million American jobs. On the defence front, Singapore is

> Lee said it is important to advance a positive economic agenda that's open, inclusive, up to date, and flexible. "We therefore welcome America's proposed Indo-Pacific economic framework which will strengthen America's engagement in the evolving, regional, economic architecture. I discussed with the President his recent visit to Europe and the ongoing crisis in Ukraine," he

a major security cooperation

partner of the US, in fact, the

only country with this status,

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States is a proud member of the Indo-Pacific and the relationship that it has with the nations in that region is an enduring relationship, US Vice President Kamala Harris said Tuesday.

"The United States is a proud member of the Indo-Pacific, and the relationship that we have with the nations in that region and with Singapore is an enduring relationship," Harris said in her joint media appearance with the visiting Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore.

"It is a relationship we value and we prioritize for many reasons, including the shared principle that we have about what is important in terms of world order and international norms and standards," she said in the Vice President's Ceremonial Office of the White

Harris told reporters that she and the prime minister discussed the issue of Russia and Ukraine.

"We in the spirit of our work together being global, discussed our support for the people of Ukraine and also the importance of acknowledging the economic costs that Singapore levied as a result of our shared concern about the advancement that Russia and and the aggression that Russia has taken, and the threat that it has posed to an issue that we hold dearly -- and I'll speak for the United States, and I know that we share this concern -about upholding the importance of sovereignty and territorial integrity," she said.

maintain and fight for, for the United States, European security, but what we must do as a matter of principle and priority for our nation in standing up to the importance of rules and norms and international rules and norms -- again, in this case, as it relates to sovereignty and territorial integrity, Harris said.

Harris had travelled to Singapore last August.

Lee said that the US has played an important and constructive role in the Asia Pacific for nearly eight years. Singapore has consistently supported a strong US presence in the region, both through words and actions. "And our two countries enjoy close economic relations," he said.

'Our US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement signed in 2004, nearly 20 years ago, was the US's first FTA with an Asian country. Singapore is home to nearly 5,500 US companies, and US FDI stock in Singapore exceeds US investments in China, India, and the Republic of Korea combined, he added.

Singapore is also the second-largest Asian investor in the US. So, Singapore's investment in the US and US exports to Singapore support more than a quarter million US jobs.

"Our security and defense ties go back many decades. We're a major security cooperation partner of the US. Our Memorandum Understanding on Defence Cooperation, signed in 1990

and renewed recently in 2019, provides the US military with access to Singapore's air and

US proud member of 8-hour gap in Trump's Jan 6 Indo Pacific: Kamala White House phone records

 $The \ House \ panel \ investigation \ the \ January 6 \ insurrection \ at \ the \ Capitol \ has \ identi$ fied an almost 8-hour gap in official White House records of then-President Donald Trump's phone calls as the violence unfolded and his supporters stormed the building, according to two people familiar with the probe.

The gap extends from a little after 11 am to about 7 pm on January 6, 2021, and involves White House phone calls, according to one of the people. Both spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing

investigation.

The committee is investigating the gap in the official White House log, which includes the switchboard and a daily record of the president's activities. But it does not mean the panel is in the dark about what Trump was doing during

phone records and has talked to more than 800 witnesses, including many of the aides who spent the day with Trump. The committee also has thousands of texts from the cell phone of Mark Meadows, who was then Trump's chief of staff.

The committee's effort to piece together Trump's day as his supporters broke into the Capitol underscores the challenge that his habitual avoidance of records laws poses not only to historians of his tumultuous four years but to the House panel, which intends to capture the full story of the former president's attempt to overturn the election results in hearings and reports later this

The House panel has made

5 held in connection

China's Afghanistan ambitions on show at multinational meetings

AP ■ BEIJING

China's ambitions to have a major hand in Afghanistan's stability and development under the Taliban, while boosting its own stature, will be on display at a pair of multinational meetings it is hosting starting Wednesday.

China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are expected to send representatives to the main meetings involving neighbouring states.

A separate meeting of the "Extended Troika" will be held concurrently among special envoys for Afghanistan from China, the United States and Russia, China's Foreign Ministry said.

'China, the US, Russia and Pakistan are all countries with significant influence on the Afghan issue," ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said of the Troika meeting.

The talks will "echo positively with the third meeting of foreign ministers of the Afghan neighbouring countries, to further cement the consensus of all parties...To help Afghanistan achieve peace, stability and development at an early date"

PUBLIC NOTICE

by DDA Bearing No. J011 (241)

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Sh. Surendra Kumar

R/o Q-560, Dilshad Garden,

Delhi-110095

PUBLIC NOTICE

The meeting has been called to discuss the filing of the vacancy which has arisen on account of expulsion of Sh Neeraj Agarwal M.S.

No. 170 and approved by the order of the Sp

Registrar. The President informed that the

vacancy is to be filled up as per Rule 19 of the DCS Rules, 2007 and the RCS office is to be

nformed 15 days in advance before advertisin-

with Israel shooting **AP** ■ TEL AVIV (ISRAEL)

At least five Palestinians allegedly involved in a deadly shooting attack in central Israel were arrested on Wednesday by Israeli forces operating in the West Bank.

A Palestinian gunman with his assault rifle on Tuesday killed five people, a third attack of its kind in the past week.

Shooter Diaa Hamarsheh, 27, from the Israeli-occupied West Bank village of Yabad was shot and killed by police on the shooting spot. A military statement said

the arrested suspects were being questioned. The Palestinian Prisoner's

Club, a group that represents current and former Palestinian prisoners, said those arrested were Hamarsheh's relatives.

out by Palestinian citizens of Israel inspired by the Islamic State extremist group, have raised concerns of a new round of violence ahead of a sensitive period where three major Muslim, Jewish and Christian

holidays converge.
Israel ramped up its security presence both in Israeli cities as well as around the West Bank in a bid to snuff out any further violence.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said after attack that the country was "dealing with a new wave of terror".

Israel in recent weeks has been taking steps aimed at calming tensions and avoiding a repeat of last year, when clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian demonstrators in Jerusalem boiled over into an 11-day war between Israel and

The attacks, mostly carried Office of the Superintending Engineer 2nd Circle, Public Works Department, Nainital Phone/Fax: 05942-235728/ 232030 Email: sepwdntl@rediffmail.com

Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites e-tender (two bid system) For further details please log on to http://www.uktenders.gov.in from 01.04.2022 Name of Work

Renewal Work By B C Under Annual Maintenance Year 2022 2023. (1) Ramnagar-Bhandarpani-Amgari Bhorakot-Okhaldhunga Tallisheet: Bhetalghat- Richi-Billakhe (SH-71) in km 1.00 to 22.00 km 7
Class A and above Class in any State Govt./
Central Govt. or any Govt. Undertakin g in Road Works. 5000.0 0 + 18% GST

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-Asset Details Case Details

Vehicle No. HR38Z5502 Make and ICICI BANK LTD VS DHARMENDER, CS (COMM) 52/20 Model- TATA WINGER, Manu Year -2019 ICICI BANK LTD VS BIJENDER KUMAR SINGH, CIS No. 2404/17 Wehicle No- HR10Y9116, Make & Model- BEAT 1.0 LT OPT, Manu. Year-2015 ICICI BANK LTD VS Vehicle No- DL7CQ0817, Make & Model- HYUNDAI I-20 VTVT SPORTZ Manu. Year-2017, Reserve Price: Rs. BHARTI and SUIT No.92-20 2,20,000/- EMD Amount Rs. 22,000/-EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site

4. STATE VS. MOHAN LAL Vehicle No- DL2CAV9811, Make & and ors. FIR No. Model-MARUTI UDYOG LTD ALTO K10 VXI AMT, Manu. Year- 2016 STATE VS. BHUPINDER Vehicle No-UP16BS3462, Make & Model SINGH and ors. FIR No. -MARUTI UDYOG LTD BREZZA ZDI 237/2020 PLUS, Manu. Year-2018 Vehicle No.DL6CR8178 Make and Model: MARUTI SUZUKI Swift Manu. ICICI BANK VS. SARVJEET SINGH CS (COMM) NO. 2133/2021 Yr. 2018

Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar

(7304914763)S. Case Details Asset Details

Auction Date: 8-April-2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Vehicle No. DL4SCQ1544 Make and Model TVS MOTORS LTD JUPITER, Manu Year – ICICI BANK LTD VS USMAN ALI , 2. ICICI BANK LTD Vehicle No- HR51BE3856, Make & Model-CHEVEROLET BEAT Diesel, Manu Year-2014, Reserve Price: Rs. 75,000/- EMD Amount Rs. 7500/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI VS SURENDER DUTT, CS No. 506/18 BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC

Auction Date: 18-April-2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-

Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar

Terms of Sale The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated

to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favor of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi (Wherein applicable) to participate in the

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount wherein applicable) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085

Protect BIMSTEC region from threats of terrorism, religious extremism, says Sri Lankan President Modi said India will provide

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa underlined the need to protect the BIMSTEC region from the threats of terrorism, religious extremism and narcotics as he chaired the fifth summit of the seven-member regional grouping on Wednesday. In his address, President

Rajapaksa said the Bay of Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC) nations have become the engines of growth in the The summit was virtually

represented by the leaders of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand.

The President stressed the need for protecting BIMSTEC region from the threats of ter-

PUBLIC NOTICE

ly client, Maia Gupta, who is a registered owner i roperty bearing address Prop No 11/372-i HASRA NO. 18, VILLAGE SHAKARPUR KHA

KHASRA NO. 18, VILLAGE SHAKARPUR KHAS LALITAPARK, LAXMINAGAR, ILLAGA SHAHDARK LAXMINAGAR, ILLAGA SHAHDARK LAXMINAGAR, ILLAGA SHAHDARK DELHI-11009 Zelhi, INDIA vide Registered Gif Deed dated 25.09.2017. Gift Deed executed by Angoin Devi Wio Suresh Chandra, Aruna Cupta Dić Suresh Chandra, PremSagar Gupta, Rajesh Gupta Devender Gupta all sons of Suresh Chandra Gupta in favour of Mala Gupta via document number 4.83 on 25/09/2017. The said property is under sale which is going to be mortgaged with IFL Home Finance Limited by the purchaser. Any person/bast insurance and property is under sale which is going to be mortgaged with IFL Home Finance Limited by the purchaser. Any person/bast should notified to the undersigned/Adv Vishal Mehan E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered AID within 15 days from the date objection shall be deemed to have been walved.

bjection shall be deemed to have been waived.

Vishal Mehan (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that General Power of Altorney duly registered in the office of the Sub-registrar-II, New Delhi dated 11-11-198 executed by SH. RAJESH UPPAL SIO SH. B.R. UPPAL in favour of my client SH. RAJ KUMAR SEGAN SO SH. JASDISH LAL SEGAN in respect of property i.e. FLAT No.10C, SHIV SHAKTI C.G.H.S. LTD., PLOT No.10, SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI has been lost/misplaced by SH. RAJ KUMAR SEGAN SIO SH. JACDISH LAL SEGAN R/o FLAT No.10C, SHIV SHAKTI C.G.H.S. LTD., PLOT No.10, SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI to this effect an NCR/FIR has already lodged on online portal of Delhi Police vide LR No. 264253/2022 dated 29-03-2022. Founder kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from his present thereafter the

7 days from this present thereafter the user/holder of the lost/misplaced/ missing documents/Article shall be responsible for the

USE OF SAME.

PREM PRAKASH-ADVOCATE
207, Plot-1, MLU Sector-10 Dwarka,
New Delhi-110075 Mob.: 9871268399

Public Notice

Bihar Bandhu Coop. Group Housing Society Ltd. Off. Flat No.3, Pocket-5, DDA

Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules

2007, it is to inform publicly that Sh. Vinod

Kumar(M.No.18) member of Bihar Bandhu

CGHS Ltd. has resigned from the

membership of the society and he had been

refunded through account payee cheque fo

his contributions. If anyone has any object

tions he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street, New

Pocket-5. DDA Flats.Sector-12.Dwarka

New Delhi-110075 within 15 days from the

Sd/- Secretary Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd.

date of publication of the public notice

Mobile No. 9811215181



Rajapaksa also referred to Sri Lanka's current economic crisis caused by forex shortages and balance of payment issues. He said the country was

badly hit by the COVÍD-19 pandemic. "Our tourism revenue and

our inward remittances were all badly affected," he said, expressing hope that with international and regional

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Mrs. Sushiksha Mittra W/o Shri Mohinder

Paul Mittra R/o D-2/2171 Sector-D, Vasant Kunj

New Dellhi-110070, was having residentia

property in single ownership Name, in our project VATIKA INFOTECH CITY Jaipur PLOT no VP/

Save/2nd ST/02 admeasuring 358.80sq. yds. which her legal heirs: VIPUL MITTRA, ATUL MITTRA &

RAHUL MITTRA requested the company to be

transferred to her Son Mr. Atul Mittra. Any person having any objection on this

please may contact the company officer

details as under within 15 days after which

Vatika Limited, A-002, Ground Floor,

ector-83, Gurugram Haryana-122012

details

www.twd.tripura.gov.in.

For

No Claim would be accepted.

rorism, religious extremism cooperation Sri Lankan econ-

At the BIMSTEC ministerial meeting held on Tuesday, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister GL Pieris called for action within the grouping for greater economic cooperation.

"As the trajectory of global economic growth shifts towards Asia, the trade and investment component of BIMSTEC countries should

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Mrs. Sushiksha Mittra W/o Shri Mohinder

Paul Mittra, R/o D-2/2171 Sector-D, Vasant Kun

New Dellhi-110070. was having commercia

property in her name in our project VATIKA TOWER, OFFICE NO. 211A, admeasuring

500 sq. ft which her legal heirs: VIPUL MITTRA, ATUL MITTRA & RAHUL MITTRA requested

the company to be transferred to her Sons VIPUL MITTRA, ATUL MITTRA & RAHUL

MITTRA (HER SONS). Any person having

any objection on this please may contact the company officer, details as under within

15 days after which No Claim would be accepted

Sector-83, Gurugram Haryana-122012

Vatika Limited, A-002, Ground Floor,

Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre

Sri Lanka's geo-strategic

location at the centre of the Indian Ocean has been a magnet, attracting a diverse variety budget of the BIMSTEC secreof nations and peoples over the tariat. Besides India, BIMSTEC centuries, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. greater cooperation among With 21.7 per cent of the world's BIMSTEC nations and said it population and combined GDP has become essential to give of USD 3.8 trillion, BIMSTEC more priority to "our region- has emerged as an influential

In his opening remarks at the summit being held online, Modi said that with the region facing challenges of health and economic security, the need of the hour is unity and cooperation.

Today is the time to make the Bay of Bengal bridge of connectivity, bridge of prosperity, bridge of security," he

PUBLIC NOTICE

tice is hereby given to the General public that Raj Kumar S/o Mr. Lekh Raj is the owner of A sidential Second Floor Without roof/Terrace ghts, Built on Back side Portion of Free Hold illt Up Property No. 1/6, area measuring 60 Sq. s, Situated at Subhash Nagar, Tehar-I, New Ihi., vide registered sale certificate dated

elhi., vide registered sale certificate date 2.08.2019. All persons are hereby informed th Irs. Paramjeet Kaur & Mr. Rahul are purchasing th

perty from Mr. Raj Kumar S/o Mr. Lekh Raj vide a istered Sale Deed & has approached Fullerton

egistered Sale Deed & has approached Fullerfon did Home Finance Company Ltd to take a Loan or the same. If anybody has any charge/interest/title the said property or any kind of dispute kindly form the undersigned in writing on the below nentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78,
Sector 2, Nolida Lip 201301

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general

Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301 E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the case titled as 'Mrs.

USD 1 million (one million is

equal to ten lakhs) in financial

aid to augment the operational

comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar,

discussed among the committee members an it has been resolved that the vacancy to be filled up and the RCS office be informed about the filing up of the vacancy. The cost of flat including equalization charges is Rs. 61,36,133/For The People Conservative CGHS LTD. RESIDENT Mahek Maheshwari ADVOCATE

RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES CIRCLE, BILASPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

System Tender No.: 95747/NIT No.: 22/SAC/2021-22

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 18.04.2022 at 17:30 Hour

CANAL FROM RD. 0 M. TO 500 M., BANK PROTECTION WORK AT U/S, D/S (LEFT SIDE & RIGHT SIDE) & CONSTRUCTION OF 8 NOS. STRUCTURE OF MAIN CANAL OF KENDA DIVERSION SCHEME.

of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from dated 05-04-2022 at 17.31 hours (1ST) onwards.

on the integrated e- Procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding

R.o. No - 69085/8 R.o. Date - 30/03/2022

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION PENDRAROAD (C.G.)

Govt, of Tripura

website

that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**

2) EICHER - CB VE 10 95 REG. NO. DL1MA2823

TATA ACE REG. NO. DL1LAF4121-YOM -2021

M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313

Payal Kapoor & Anr. Vs Mr. Pankaj Jain & Ors, C.S.(OS) No.3156 of 2015 vide its orde dated 27.02.2019 has ordered a status quo qua the estate of late Mr. D.K Jain. This estate includes 50 percent shares in M/s Edenpark Hotels Private Ltd. which owns and operates 'The Qutab Hotel' situated at Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi. Therefore, all persons are barred from creating any third party interest or encumbrance on the properties of the said Company, including the 'Qutab Hotel', Any transaction in violation of the restraint Order would be illegal, void and unenforceable in law. The general Public is therefore advised to desist from entering into any such transaction, as any violation of the status quo Order of the Hon'ble High Court would amount to its contempt. The undersigned has peremptory instructions from his Client (Ms. Priya Jain, Plaintiff No. 2) to initiate appropriate legal action against any person contravening the directions of the Hon'ble

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER

eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.ln

(SECOND CALL)

Dated: 29.03.2022

: RENOVATION & EARTH WORK OF MAIN

Probable Amount: Rs.190.07 Lakhs of Contract The details can be viewed and downloaded online directely from the govt.

Note: All eligible/interested contractors/ bidders are mandated to get enrolled

Sd/

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 09711173320 EMAIL rajesh.antil@kotak.com

or details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

(Dr. Vishal Kumar, IAS) OR CONTACT: RAJESH ANTIL Director, Tribal Welfare ICA/D-2115/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA 1) TATAMOTORS TATA_ACE **DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE** REG. NO. DL1LAD5330 Email ID: twdtripura@gmail.com, Phone No: 0381-232-3565 YOM-2019 **NOTIFICATION** File No.I6-207/TW/PME/2021-22(Part-II)/46725 YOM-2019 Dated,29,March, 2022.

the

Tribal Welfare Department, Govt, of Tripura is inviting

applications from eligible candidates for engagement of

individual Consultants for 18 nos. posts on temporary

contract basis for the period of 12(twelve) months in

connection with externally aided Project funded by World

Bank. The last date of submission of application is 18th April

visit

please

Stocks rally for 3rd day as Russia Ukraine talks raise hopes of de-escalation of war

a third day in a row, benchmark Sensex and Nifty on Wednesday rallied over 1 per cent to end at over six-week high levels on buying in RIL, Infosys, HDFC twins and ICICI Bank following gains in Asian equities amid hopes of a breakthrough in Russia-Ukraine peace talks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged by 740.34 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at over six-week high of 58,683.99, a day ahead of the derivatives expiry on Thursday. As many as 21 of Sensex stocks ended in green. During the day, it jumped 784.13 points or 1.35 per cent to 58,727.78.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 172.95 points or 1 per cent to settle at 17,498.25, the highest closing level since February 10.

In the three-day rally, Sensex has soared 2.29 points or 1321 points while 50-issue Nifty has jumped 2 per cent or 345 points to close near the 17,500 level.

Among Sensex stocks, Bajaj Finserv was the biggest gainer, rising by 3.82 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Nestle, Maruti, Reliance Industries Limited were among the lead gainers.

On the other hand, ITC, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Titan were



"High volatility prevailed in the global market, but peace talks between Russia and Ukraine gave hopes of deescalation of the war, helping the domestic market to trade with confidence. The ease in crude oil and commodity prices supported the market as it will help corporates to reduce their margin pressure," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

Mitul Shah, Head of Research at Reliance Securities, also said that Russia-Ukraine peace talks have reinstated optimism among investors.

In the broader market, the

climbed 0.78 per cent.

Bulls were back in action ahead of the F&O expiry, which helped Sensex close above the crucial 58,000-mark. Investors cheered the reports that both Russia and Ukraine are engaged in peace talks, which is providing some stability to markets globally," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd said.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Finance rose by 1.71 per cent, BSE realty by 1.49 per cent, BSE Bankex by 1.36 per cent, and industrials by 1.25 per

Elsewhere in Asia, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong set-tled with gains, while Tokyo ended lower. Stock exchanges in the US ended with gains on

European stock markets traded with losses in mid-day deals due to profit taking after a stellar rally.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.25 per cent to USD 112.7 per barrel.

Foreign portfolio investors turned buyers as they bought shares worth Rs 35.47 crore on Tuesday, according to stock exchange data. PTI

Rupee skids 21 paise to 75.94 against USD as crude oil spikes

Mumbai: The rupee declined by 21 paise to 75.94 against the US dollar on Wednesday as surging crude oil prices and fuel rate hikes by the oil marketing companies fanned fears of inflation and interest rate hikes.

However, a strong rally in the domestic equities capped the rupee's loss, forex traders

Development in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the movement of crude oil prices remain the main focus for forex markets, they

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 75.65 against the American dollar but soon entered the negative territory as investors dumped riskier assets. During the session, it swung between a high of 75.62 and a low of 75.97.

The local unit finally settled at 75.94 against the dollar, down 21 paise from the pre-

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.42 per cent to 98.02.Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures surged 1.88 per cent to USD 112.30 per barrel. At home, oil marketing companies raised prices of petrol and diesel by 80 paise a litre each on Wednesday, taking the total increase in rates in the last nine days to Rs 5.60

This is the ninth increase in prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22. Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Tuesday as they bought shares worth Rs 35.47 crore, according to stock exchange data.

PTI exchange data.

Non-linking of PAN with Aadhaar by March 31 to attract ₹500-1,000 penalty

New Delhi: Taxpayers not linking PAN with Aadhaar by March 31 would be required to pay a penalty ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000, the income tax department has said.

The last date for linking Permanent Account Number (PAN) with biometric Aadhar is March 31, 2022. Not adhering to the deadline will lead to PAN becoming inactive.

In a notification, the Central Board of Pirect Tayes (CRDT) said delayed.

of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said delayed intimation of Aadhaar will attract a late fee of Rs 500 in cases where it is linked within the next 3 months or by June 30,

Thereafter, Rs 1,000 would have to be paid by taxpayers as penalty.

Non-linking of PAN with Aadhaar will lead to PAN becoming inoperative after March 31, 2022. It can be reoperationalised on payment of penalty, said a CBDT notification dated March 29.

AKM Global, Tax Partner, Amit Maheshwari said the government after extending the deadline several times for linking Aadhaar with PAN has finally come up with a late fees notification where Rs 500 penalty would be attracted for the first three months beginning April 1, 2022 and thereafter Rs 1,000.

"Any failure may lead to PAN becoming inoperative, which deems that a person had no PAN for income-tax purposes. It is advisable for taxpayers to check their income tax portal and ensure that Aadhaar and PAN are linked. NRIs may have some concerns since in some cases they do not have Aadhaar," Maheshwari said.



Nangia Andersen LLP Partner leeraj Agarwala said it is now mandatory to link the Aadhaar number with PAN to complete income tax-related tasks such as filing returns on income.

While PAN is used for various transactions like opening a bank account, purchase of immovable property or proof of identity, inactive PAN will trigger domino effect and individual who have not linked their Aadhaar may face multiple challenges.

Once your PAN becomes inactive, the person will be restricted from doing financial transactions (where quoting of PAN is mandatory like mutual funds), subjected to TDS at higher rates and penalty under section 272B," Agarwala

For those who do not have access to income tax portal, the linking process is made available through SMS also, he added.

PTI

Consumers expect to feel bite of rising energy prices; want to shift from fossil fuels: Survey

New Delhi: A majority of consumers worldwide expect their overall spending power to be significantly impacted by rising energy prices, while India tops the list where climate change policies have been cited as the main cause of the recent price rises, a global survey showed on Wednesday.

The World Economic Forum-Ipsos survey also showed that an average of eight in ten want their country to shift away from fossil fuels in the next five years, while the ratio was above-average at almost 90 per cent in the case Indian respondents.

The 30-country survey was conducted between February 18 and March 4 this year among 22,534 adults.

"A majority of consumers spending power to be significantly impacted by further energy price increases, yet only 13 per cent of those surveyed globally blamed climate policies for rising prices, while 84 per cent of respondents stressed the importance of their own country's shift to sustainable

energy sources," the WEF

Survey respondents were asked to consider the energy they use for daily expenses such as transportation, heating or cooling homes, cooking, powering appliances, etc -and assess how much energy price increases would affect their overall spending

On average, more than half of consumers (55 per cent) across the 30 countries surveyed expect their overall spending power to be signifi-cantly impacted by energy price increases

However, expectations varied widely across countries. More than two-thirds of respondents in South Africa (77 per cent), Japan (69 per cent), and Turkey (69 per cent) affect them "a great deal or fair amount", as opposed to just over one-third in Switzerland (37 per cent) and the Netherlands (37 per cent). Among Indian respondents, 63 per cent said they expect to feel the bite of the ongoing energy price spike. *PTI* energy price spike.

Cabinet clears ₹6,062 cr World Bank-assisted programme for MSMEs

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a World Bank-assisted Rs 6,062 crore funding programme for the small and medium businesses to help improve their access to market and credit. The Cabinet Committee

on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Rs 6,062.45 crore or USD 808 million 'Raising and MSM Accelerating MSM Performance' (RAMP) for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), an official release said.RAMP will commence in FY23, it said.

Of the total outlay under the programme, Rs 3,750 crore (USD 500 million) will come from World Bank loan, and the remaining Rs 2,312.45 crore

RAMP will work under the MSME (MoMSME) towards resilience and recovery interventions after the coronavirus disease.

"The programme aims at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and state, improving Centre-state linkages and partnerships, addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs. In addition to building the MoMSME's capacity at the national level, the RAMP programme will seek to scale up implementation capacity and MSME coverage in

states," the release said. The government formulated and proposed RAMP for strengthening MSMEs in line with the recommendations of the UK Sinha committee, KV Kamath committee and the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

RAMP programme with impacts across the country will directly or indirectly benefit all 6.3 crore enterprises

A total of 5,55,000 MSMEs are specifically targeted for enhanced performance. In addition, expansion of target market to include service sectors and increase of about 70,500 women MSMEs is envisaged, the release

Reserve Bank's MPC to meet 6 times next fiscal; first meeting scheduled for April 6-8

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet six times during the next financial year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor-headed rate setting panel will be holding its first meeting of the next fiscal from April 6-8. The MPC announces the bi-

monthly monetary policy after deliberations on the prevailing domestic and economic situa-

According to the schedule released by the RBI on Wednesday, the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2022-23 is scheduled for April 6-8, and next will be held during June 6-8. The third, fourth and fifth

meetings have been scheduled for August 2-4, September 28-30, and December 5-7.

The sixth bi-monthly meeting on February 6-8, 2023.

Headed by the governor, the committee has two representatives from the central bank and three external members. The central government has tasked the RBI to ensure that inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side. *PTI* cent on the either side.

FII stock ownership plunges to 19.9%, value down to \$582 bn YTD

Mumbai: After the record USD 23 billion of additional investments in the domestic equities in FY21, foreign funds have massively slashed their fresh exposure to the country to USD 3.7 billion in FY22, also pairing down their holdings in NSE500 to 19.9 per cent or worth USD 582 billion, down from their peak of 21.4 per cent, shows a brokerage report. During the current fiscal till early this week, the cumu-

lative FPI outflows touched a record USD 14.6 billion of which March alone saw them taking out as much as USD 5.4 billion, while February saw another record pullout to the tune of USD 4.7 billion, according to an analysis by Wall Street brokerage Bank of America Securities India. FPI holdings value stood at USD 582 billion as of March

15, 2022 (down from USD 667 billion in September 2021 peak), of which, IT (15 per cent, up 87 bps), energy (15.5 per cent, up 44 bps), healthcare (4.9 per cent, up 22 bps) saw high-On the other hand, allocation to financials was down 107

bps to 31.5 per cent, discretionary down by 49 bps to 9.1 per cent. As against this the domestic funds' holding in the NE universe stood at USD 265 billion only as of February 2022, on the back of USD 13.1 billion fresh allocation. However, the FPI holding value is massively down from

the record USD 667 billion in the first half of FY22, which September 30, 2021, according to a previous BofA report.

The value of the FPI holding had stood at USD 555 bil lion as of March 2021, which was a full USD 105 billion more than the value between September 2020 and March 2021. As of June 2021, the value of FII investment was only USD 592 billion, which means that as the market rallied frenetically, their holding value jumped by USD 38 billion even though their net incremental investment was almost nil between this

ONGC OFS: Institutional buyers portion over-subscribed

New Delhi: The government's 1.5 per cent stake sale in ONGC witnessed a smooth start on Wednesday, with institutional buyers putting in bids worth Rs 4,854 crore and oversubscribing the portion reserved for them.

The government is selling up to 1.5 per cent of its stake in the country's top oil and gas producer ONGC at a floor price of Rs 159 a share to raise about Rs 3,000 crore through a two-day offer for sale (OFS).

Institutional investors oversubscribed their portion by 3.57 times by putting in bids for over 30.35 crore shares. Over 8.49 crore shares were reserved

At the indicative price of Rs 159.91 a share, the bids by insti-

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted that the OFS of government equity in ONGC has received an "enthusiastic response" from non-

LS OK's Bill to amend CA, CS, Cost Accountants' institutes

PNS NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday approved a bill to revamp the functioning of the Institutes of Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries, with Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserting that the changes will not impact the autonomy of these bodies. The Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill seeks to appoint non-Chartered Accountant (CA), non-cost accountant and non-company secretary as the presiding officer of the disciplinary committees of the Institutes.

Piloting the bill, the Minister said the amendments will not infringe upon the autonomy of the three Institutes. Instead, it will enhance the quality of audit and improve the country's investment climate, she added. The amendments, she said, "will make the institutes more responsible and accountable" and encourage them to adopt global best practices. All stakeholders should have greater confidence of audit statements,

Many Opposition MPs including Vishnu Prasad (Congress) and Premachandran (RSP) said that the appointing MCA officials in the disciplinary boards will



Institutes. Among other things, the bill provides for setting up of a coordination committee headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It will have representations from the three institutes.

The Minister said that earlier, the three institutes had signed an MoU to set up a coordination committee but the proposal could not take off. The committee would help in managing the resources of the institutes, she said, adding that IIMs and IITs too have coordination committees. The bill also provides for registration of firms with the institutes and it will help in paving the way for Indian accountancy firms to grow big, she said. It also proposes to enhance the quantum of fines for partners and firms found guilty of misconduct.

Responding to criticism that the amendments would dilute the autonomy of the institutes, Sitharaman said, "there is no proposal or intention to impinge upon the autonomy of the three insti-

perform their functions. Participating in the debate, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that while the Minister referred to the US, UK, South Africa in her reply, the bill failed to abide by their best practices.

Through this bill, the government is making a subtle and deliberate attempt to consolidate power and to snatch away the independence of institutions by dismantling the autonomous framework of the concerned institutions," he said. TMC member Saugata Roy asked the Minister what specific steps her Ministry had taken to prevent corruption by chartered accountants.

NCP leader Supriya Sule said that her main concern was about the autonomy of the three accountancy institutes. 'You gave the examples of IITs and IIMs. But these institutes are funded by the government while the these are not. How can they be compared? Doesn't this take away the autonomy of these institutions?," she asked.

Axis Bank laps up Citigroup's India business for ₹12,325 cr

New Delhi: Axis Bank on Wednesday announced the acquisition of Citigroup's India consumer banking business, including credit card, retail banking, consumer loan and wealth management, for Rs 12,325 Axis Bank will acquire about 30 lakh customers of Citibank

India and grow its credit card

portfolio by 31 per cent. The deal will give it access to 7 offices, 21 branches and 499 ATMs across 18 cities; and approximately 3,600 in-scope consumer employees of Citibank will be absorbed in Axis Bank, the private sector lender said in a statement. In April 2021, American banking major Citigroup announced its plan to exit from the consumer banking business in India as part of its global strategy. The business comprises credit cards, retail banking, home loans and wealth management The bank has 35 branches in the country and employs about 4,000 people in the consumer banking business. Citigroup had entered India in 1902 and started the consumer banking business in 1985.Apart from the institutional banking business,

Citigroup in India will continue

to focus on offshoring or global

business support rendered from

centres in Mumbai, Pune,

Bengaluru, Chennai and

CredAble disburses ₹22,500 cr working capital loans in FY22

loan facilitating platform for small and medium businesses CredAble disbursed record USD 3 billion (Rs 22,500 crore) during the financial year 2021-22, and expects to double the amount in next fiscal on more customer acquisitions and high demand for short-term business loans, co-founder and CEO Nirav Choksi said.

The company said it disbursed a record USD 3 billion working capital loans to 1,50,000 cash-strapped small businesses in the last 12

The credit disbursement comes at a time when the MSME sector, which contributes 40 per cent to India's total exports, continues to find itself in financial distress with only 16 per cent of them being eligible for formal credit, the company said.

We saw growth coming in primarily from two perspectives. One, we added a lot of new customers, and we also saw several new banks adopting to the platform as a platform of choice. Both of these factors helped significantly ramp up the platform.

Very importantly, we launched a new platform for upscale focussed around small

businesses. We have been see-

ing a huge amount of new trac-

tion and small businesses

New Delhi: Working capital requiring working capital also, Choksi said.

Businesses want to ensure adequate access to working capital loan. Such loans range from as small as Rs 5 lakh to as big as Rs 50 crore. So a combination of all these factors led to this kind of growth on CredAble platform, he added. "We expect to double the

disbursal amount in the next fiscal year. We are experiencing

tremendous growth in upscale... We are adding 15,000 new customers every week. Going by this rate, the user base count will also more than double. We will be having about 500,000 users by next fiscal," Choksi said. The Mumbai-headquar-

tered technology based loan disbursal platform has completed five years into operations this month, and is on a "very rapid" expansion mode by partnering more customers. For the next 12 months.

we will be focussed on very aggressive growth. Ours is a very short-term working capital loan facilitating platform, based on receivables. The credit risk is very well-managed because we partner with very large banks and vendors," said the co-founder.CredAble provides infrastructure for lending towards

Gold jumps ₹573; silver rallies ₹1,287

New Delhi: Gold prices in the national capital on Wednesday jumped Rs 573 to Rs 51,470 per 10 grams in line with recovery in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 50,897

per 10 grams. Silver also rallied Rs 1,287 to Rs 67,257 per kg from Rs 65,970

per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,921 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 24.79 per ounce.
"Gold prices traded steady with spot gold prices at COMEX

trading marginally up at USD 1,921 per ounce on Wednesday, said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC

V-Guard on expansion mode; expects 60% revenue from non-southern regions in 5-6 yrs

Delhi: V-Guard Industries plans to expand in northern, eastern and western regions of the country as it aims to garner over 60 per cent revenue from these regions in the next five-six years, a senior company official said on Wednesday.

Currently, these regions contribute around 42 per cent of the business of the company, which is into manufacturing consumer electrical and electronic goods. The Kerala-based compa-

ny is also investing in manu-

facturing and is setting up new

plants in Uttarakhand, Sikkim,

and Hyderabad. It is investing

more than Rs 400 crore over a

asked about the current fiscal, Venkataraman said, "YTD (year-to-date) from April to December, we have been growing about 30-31 per cent." PTI

its product portfolio and also enhancing its distribution footprints, Chief Operating officer of V-Guard Industries Ramachandran Venkataraman said."North, east and west contribute around 42 per cent of our business. Our focus would be to grow around 60 per cent in the next five-six years," Venkataraman said on the sidelines of a conference.V-Guard Industries' revenue for FY21 stood at Rs 2,699 crore. When

period from 2019 to 2024.

The company is expanding

Ronaldo & Lewi in Qatar

Portugal beat North Macedonia and Poland get better of Sweden to confirm WC place



AP LISBON

Portugal beat North Macedonia 2-0 and Poland saw off Sweden by

the same score in play-off finals on Tuesday to book their places in the 2022 World Cup finals in

Bruno Fernandes scored both goals for Portugal to over-

come the Balkan nation that had knocked out European champions Italy in a stunning result last

Italy's shock exit had North Macedonia dreaming of their



first ever appearance at a World Cup finals but Portugal proved a step too far in Porto.

Fernandes set Portugal on their way at the Estadio do Dragao by finishing off Cristiano Ronaldo's pass in the first half and then put the victory beyond doubt in the second, connecting with a sublime cross from Diogo Jota.

The victory means Portugal extend their run of qualifying for all six of the World Cups since the turn of the century while Manchester United forward Ronaldo is on course for his fifth, aged 37.

Ronaldo's best previous result was reaching the semi-finals in 2006, when Portugal were beaten by Germany.
Robert Lewandowski

stroked home a second-half penalty as Poland booked their berth in front of a fervent home crowd in Chorzow.

After the Poland captain

converted a spot kick, Piotr Zielinski completed the scoring with a superb second goal for Poland go into Friday's

draw for the group stages of the World Cup finals, from November 21 to December 18, after dominating the second

The Poles were awarded the crucial penalty just after halftime when midfielder Sebastian Szymanski rolled the ball to substitute Grzegorz Krychowiak,

who was fouled by Jesper Karlstrom.

The referee pointed straight to the spot and Lewandowski casually arced his run, waited for Robin Olsen to move and then slotted the ball to the left of the

Swedish goalkeeper. It was his 75th goal for Poland and arguably one of his most important.

Zielinski put the result beyond doubt when he capitalised on a slip by Sweden defender Marcus Danielson and sprinted clear.

He slotted his shot past Olsen with 18 minutes left to spark wild celebrations from the home crowd.

Only a superb save from Olsen denied Lewandowski a second goal when the Poland striker was allowed a rare late chance in the area by the Swedish defence.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic came on for the final 10 minutes, but the 40-year-old Sweden striker was unable to influence the course of the match and will miss out on a third appearance at a World Cup finals

Twelve European sides have now clinched a place at the World Cup.

Gareth Bales' Wales will take part in the other playoff final but that is on hold until at least June because the war in Ukraine led to the postponement of the Ukrainians' semifinal away to Scotland.



Peru book WC play-off spot as Colombia, Chile miss out

AP MONTEVIDEO

Peru booked a World Cup play-off spot against either Australia or the United Arab Emirates with a 2-0 victory over Paraguay on Tuesday, thus dashing the hopes of Colombia and Chile to reach the Qatar extravaganza.

With Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay already qualified, all that was to play for in the final round of South American qualifying was fifth place and an intercontinental play-off. Both Colombia, who won 1-0 away to Venezuela, and Chile, beaten 2-0 at home by Uruguay, could have qualified with victory had Peru slipped up.

But for the second World Cup qualification campaign in a row, Peru head into a play-off. Last time they beat New Zealand 2-0 over

two legs but their task will be harder this time with a one-off clash against either the Socceroos or UAE in Qatar in June. Italy-born Gianluca Lapadula opened the

scoring on five minutes in Lima and although debutant Sebastian Ferreira hit the bar soon after for Paraguay, Peru were largely in control. Yoshimar Yotun doubled the advantage on

42 minutes, acrobatically converting a cross from It could have been more comfortable for

Peru but Lapadula was twice denied by the Colombia missed out on the play-off by a

single point. Halfway through the qualification campaign they had been in a strong position to qualify but a run of seven straight games without a goal before winning their final two match-

James Rodriguez scored the only goal deep into first half stoppage time from the penal-ty spot after Ronald Hernandez was penalised for a foul on Rafael Borre.

Chile struggled throughout the campaign and missed out on the World Cup for the second tournament in a row.

They needed both Peru and Colombia to fail to win while winning themselves to progress. But spectacular goals from Luis Suarez and Federico Valverde left them heart-broken and

lifted Uruguay into third in the group. Brazil set a new points record for a South American World Cup qualification campaign with a 4-0 win away to Bolivia.

The Selecao's record of 14 wins and three draws -- with a rearranged fixture at home to Argentina still to play -- leaves them with 45 points, two more than Marcelo Bielsa's Argentina managed ahead of the 2002 tournament. In a match between the best attack and worst defence in the competition, Brazil's comfortable victory even without the suspended Neymar was no surprise.

Luca Paqueta opened the scoring on 24 minutes while a double from Richarlison and another from Bruno Guimaraes sealed the drubbing. Argentina stretched their unbeaten run to 31 matches with a 1-1 draw away to Ecuador.

Julian Alvarez opened the scoring for rgentina at the second attempt against the run of play on 24 minutes but Enner Valencia scored in stoppage time, slamming home the rebound after his penalty was saved by goalkeeper

Mane sinks Egypt again, Partey sends Ghana to WC

AP DIAMNIADIO

iverpool star Sadio Mane African champions Senegal to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar at the expense of Egypt.

Ghana, Morocco and Tunisia also booked their places in the finals on a frantic night of play-off action.

Senegal won the second leg of the African play-off 1-0 in Diamniadio thanks to a fourthminute goal from Boulaye Dia and the teams finished level at 1-1 on aggregate after extra

As was the case in the Africa Cup of Nations final last month, Mane was entrusted with taking the crucial fifth Senegal kick and once again he made no mistake to give his side a 3-1 shoot-out victory.

Among the three Egyptians who failed to score in the shoot-out was Sane's Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah, who uncharacteristically blazed his kick over the crossbar.

penalty takers were successful

with captain Kalidou Koulibaly

and Saliou Ciss missing for

Only four of the nine



Senegal and Salah, 'Zizo' and Mostafa Mohamed for Egypt.
As Senegal celebrated a

second straight qualification for the World Cup, Egypt were left to lament another dramatic loss to Senegal this year.

There were no goals in the Cup of Nations final that went to extra time in Yaounde last month, leading to a shoot-out which Senegal won 4-2 with

penalty for his side.

The drama in Diamniadio came soon after Arsenal midfielder Thomas Partey scored the goal that took Ghana to the World Cup as they forced a 1draw in Nigeria to win the play-off on away goals.

Partey struck after 10 minutes in Abuja and although another Premier League star, William Troost-Ekong, lev-Mane converting the fifth elled from a 22nd-minute

penalty, Nigeria failed to score again. The first leg ended goal-

The Black Stars of Ghana finals after qualifying in 2006, 2010 and 2014, but missing out four years ago.

The defeat was a massive blow for favourites Nigeria, who were chasing a seventh appearance in eight attempts since debuting at the 1994 World Cup. Azzedine Ounahi scored

twice as Morocco trounced the Democratic Republic of Congo 4-1 in Casablanca to reach the finals for a sixth

Tarik Tissoudali and Paris Saint-Germain full-back Achraf Hakimi also netted for the Atlas Lions, who qualified 5-2 on aggregate after the first leg finished 1-1 in Kinshasa.

Tunisia secured their place in Qatar despite being held 0-0 at home by Mali in the second leg of a play-off.

Having built a 1-0 lead in Mali through a Moussa Sissako own-goal, Tunisia were unable to build on their aggregate advantage and only scraped through.

Eriksen scores on Copenhagen return as England, France, Italy win friendlies

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen scored on Tuesday on his return to the Copenhagen stadium where he suffered a cardiac arrest last year as England and France also won the latest round of pre-The Dane, wearing the captain's arm-

band, struck in the 57th minute to round off Denmark's 3-0 friendly win against Serbia in the Parken Stadium where he collapsed and nearly died in a European championship match against Finland last June. "To come back to Parken and

score a goal with the welcome I received... is something that gives you goosebumps. It makes me incredibly happy," said Eriksen At Wembley, Ollie

Watkins scored on his first start for England Gareth Southgate's rejigged side beat 10-man Ivory

A reshuffled France also saw Kylian

Coast 3-0.

Mbappe and Olivier Giroud on target for the world champions in a comfortable 5-0 victory over South Africa eight months before the World Cup kicks off in



AP ■ MADRID

Eden Hazard has undergone anothright ankle, Real Madrid confirmed on Tuesday.

As part of the surgery doctors removed a metallic plate in Hazard's ankle, which had been installed in March 2020 to help the Belgian put an end to his injury problems in

Hazard is expected to be out for at least a month after this latest

Doha. European heavy-

weights Germany and the

In Copenhagen, tak-

ing to the pitch, Eriksen

was handed the captain's

armband and received a

huge wave of applause

from the home crowd.

Welcome home

operation, meaning he will miss quarter-final matches against his for

mer club Chelsea. "Our player Eden Hazard underwent a successful operation today at the Sanitas La Zarzuela University Hospital for the removal of an osteosynthesis plate on his right fibula," a club statement read.

Hazard has endured a hugely disappointing three years since Real Madrid paid 160 million euros to sign him from Chelsea in 2019.

Eriksen" and "Welcome home Christian" banners were unfurled by fans as the play-

Netherlands played out a ers came onto the pitch at the capital's 1-1 draw in Amsterdam national stadium. while Italy salvaged some Joakim Maehle opened the scoring for Denmark after quarter of an hour with Jesper Lindstrom adding a second eight pride days after failing to qualify for a second consecutive World Cup, minutes after the break. beating Turkey 3-2 in

Eriksen, who has relaunched his club career with Brentford in the Premier League, scored the third with a shot from outside the box for his 38th goal in 111 appearances.

The 30-year-old was substituted after 80 minutes, leaving the field to a standing ovation and was later named man of the

Usaka breezes into last 4 at Miami

Naomi Osaka moved into the Miami Open semi-finals with another impressive performance as an out-of-sorts American Danielle Collins was brushed aside at the Hard Rock Stadium on Tuesday.

The clinical Japanese star, yet to drop a set in this tournament, won 6-2, 6-1 and will meet Swiss Olympic Gold medal winner Belinda Bencic in the last four. Collins, who appeared to be struggling with a neck injury and has been suffering with a viral infection, will return to the top 10 when the rankings are released on Monday having briefly been there following her run to the Australian Open final earlier this year. But Osaka, the four-time Grand Slam



champion, has been in fine form in south Florida and on this evidence will take a lot of stopping if she is to be denied the title this weekend. Bencic, the world number 28, who beat Australia's Daria Saville 6-1,6-2, said: "I have played Osaka before, so I know how it feels to play her.

"I'm really happy I achieved a great result here and everything else is a bonus. I'm going to enjoy and do the best I can."

In Wednesday's remaining WTA quarter-finals, American Jessica Pegula will play Spain's Paula Badosa while Czech Petra Kvitova takes on world number one Iga Swiatek of Poland.

ZVEREV IN QUARTERS

Alexander Zverev's push to land his first title of the year moved a step closer on Tuesday after the German moved into the quarter-finals of the Miami Open with a straight-sets win over Thanasi Kokkinakis. World number four Zverev has struggled for consistency in 2022 but the Miami Open finalist from 2018 was too strong in a 6-4, 6-4 win over Kokkinakis who came through qualifying without dropping a set. Kokkinakis, who along with

compatriot Nick Kyrgios won the Australian Open doubles title, was in the fourth round for the first time in south Florida and managed to give the German a few headaches, especially with his serve. Yet the Australian looked to be struggling with a chest injury in the second set and Zverev was able to move through the gears when it mattered to set up an encounter with Norway's Casper Ruud for a place in the semi-finals.

Ukraine's exhausted Svitolina taking break from tennis

AP PARIS

an extreme-

ly difficult

 $F^{
m ormer}$ world number three Elina Svitolina of Ukraine announced on Tuesday she was taking a break from tennis because of mental and physical exhaustion. She said her compatri-

ots' resistance of the Russian invasion of her country had encouraged her to play through back pain, but said "now I can't handle it any more". "It's been

not only mentally but also physically," the world number 20 wrote on social media.

"For quite a long time I've been struggling with my back. The pain didn't let me prepare for the tournaments at my best. "Meanwhile,

observing with unbearable pain in my heart what is happening in my homeland Ukraine and with how much bravery and courage our Ukrainian people are defending our

of months for me country, this gave me a huge push to continue and fight on court," continued the 27-year-old.

"Now, my body can't handle it anymore and I need to rest. Therefore, I'm sad to announce I'll be missing Fed Cup and few of my favourite tournaments in Europe. But I'm sure I'll see your around soon! Thank you all for your support in the challenging period. Svitolina, a winner of 16 WTA

titles, has struggled for form since her quarter-final defeat in the US Open. She lost her Indian Wells

opener against 122nd ranked Harriet Dart of Britain, and pulled out of the Miami Open which is currently underway.

RCB beat KKR in thriller



PTI NAVI MUMBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore batters overcame some nervy moments after leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga spun his way to a four-wicket haul to register a three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a lowscoring IPL match here on Wednesday.

Hasaranga lived up to his Rs 10.75 crore price tag as his four-wicket burst helped RCB dismiss KKR for 128.

The Sri Lankan was ably supported by the pace trio of Akash Deep (3/45), Harshal Patel (2/11) and Mohammed Siraj (1/25) after RCB won the toss and elected to bowl at DY Patil Stadium here.

In reply, Sherfane Rutherford (28), David Willey (18) and Shahbaz Ahmed (27) played crucial innings as RCB survived some anxious moments before overhauling the target, scoring 132 for 7 in 19.2 overs after Tim Southee (3/20) and Umesh Yadav (2/16) blew away their top-order.

Yadav and Southee troubled the toporder batters with their pace and bounce, leaving RCB at 17 for 3 at one

stage.
While Anuj Rawat (0) got a thick outside edge off Umesh, Faf Du Plessis (5) got a leading edge to the point fielder and Virat Kohli (12) paid the price for playing away from the body.

Willey and Rutherford then tried to rebuild the chase with a 45-run stand but Sunil Narine broke the partnership in the 11th over as he had the former caught at midwicket.

Coming to the crease, Shahbaz pulled Andre Russell for two maximums as RCB amassed 15 runs to ease the

Needing 36 off 30 balls, Shahbaz hit another six off Chakravarthy before being deceived by the bowler as RCB pointstable

1. RR 1 2. DC 1 3. PBKS 1 4. GT 1 5. KKR 2 6. RCB 2 7. LSG 1 8. CSK 1	1 1 1 1	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 2 2	3.050 0.914 0.697 0.286
3. PBKS 1 4. GT 1 5. KKR 2 6. RCB 2 7. LSG 1	1	0	0	2	0.697
4. GT 1 5. KKR 2 6. RCB 2 7. LSG 1	1	0			
5. KKR 2 6. RCB 2 7. LSG 1	•	Ť	0	2	0.206
6. RCB 2 7. LSG 1	1	-			0.200
7. LSG 1		1	0	2	0.093
	1	1	0	2	-0.048
8. CSK 1	0	1	0	0	-0.286
	0	1	0	0	-0.639
9. MI 1	0	1	0	0	-0.914
10. SRH 1	0	1	0	0	-3.050

boundarymeter

162

90

provide some respectability to the total. Venkatesh Iyer was the first to be dismissed with Akash Deep striking on his first delivery, while Ajinkya Rahane's shaky start ended when he was holed out in the fifth over off Siraj as KKR slipped to

Nitish Rana too perished quickly with David Willey producing a stunning catch as KKR slipped to 44 for 3 in the first six

Skipper Shreyas Iyer then paid the price for an irresponsible shot, hitting straight to Du Plessis at long-on for Hasaranga's first Despite the match situation, West

Indies all-rounder Sunil Narine went for his shots, sending Akash Deep across mid-off before top-edging him for a maximum. However, Hasaranga came back to

strike twice in two balls as KKR slumped to 67 for 6 in 9 overs.

While Narine ended up giving an easy catch to point fielder, Sheldon Jackson was cleaned up with a ripping googly.

CSK, LSG seek improvement in top-order batting

Lucknow vs Chennai STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Chennai Super Kings will welcome the return of star all-rounder Moeen Ali as they eye a much improved batting performance shoulder the responsibility. in the IPL clash against Lucknow Super Giants here on Thursday.

Both the teams come into the game after a loss in their respective opening matches. A common factor in their defeats were the failure of the top-order and they would be looking to correct that at the Brabourne

It is still very early days in the two-month long IPL but the toss is already playing a significant role in the game's outcome. With the second innings dew in mind, teams are preferring to put the opposition in.

The losses for CSK and LSG came after

batting first at the Wankhede. Conditions

are not expected to be very different at the

nearby CCI ground with heavy dew like-

ly to set in the second half of the game. Lucknow skipper KL Rahul and star opener Quinton De Kock had a forgettable outing on Monday and they would be keen to get some runs under their belt. Rahul needs to lead from the front with the IPL presenting a big test

for his captaincy skills.
Seasoned campaigner Manish
Pandey and Evin Lewis, who is a hardhitting batter, on their day can take any attack to cleaners, had a forgettable outing and the team management would hope that they come to the party.

Lucknow would be pleased that their middle-order comprising

Deepak Hooda, debutant Ayush Badoni and Krunal Pandya clicked when their top-order collapsed and the trio would again need to

But it was the Lucknow bowling, which would need to quickly forget the hammering they received at the hands of Gujarat. While pacer Dushmantha Chameera was right on the money, co-pacer Avesh Khan leaked 33 runs in 3.4 overs.

Also the role of spin trio of Ravi Bishnoi, Hooda and Krunal, could decide the match's

CSK would also look to put up a much better show with the bat after they managed only 131 in the first game. With Moeen Ali, a pinchhitter available for selection alongside Dwaine Pretorius, they would indeed heave a sigh of relief.

In the first game, save a vintage Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the other batters faltered - be it Ruturaj Gaikwad, Robin Uthappa, Devon Conway or Ambati Rayadu.

New

skipper Ravindra Jadeja would also be keen to get a big score indi-vidually and ditto for Shivam Dube, who is racing against time to prove his worth on the IPL stage. But remains to be seen who CSK

include Moeen, who can come in at number three. While allrounder Dwayne Bravo claimed three wickets against KKR, others leaked runs and all of

them would need to fire in

leave out to

Injured Marsh to link up with Delhi squad



Injured all-rounder Mitchell Marsh will link up with his IPL franchise Delhi Capitals and continue his recovery in India after being ruled out of Australia's remaining limited overs series against Pakistan. The 30-year-old, who was

bought for ₹6.5 crore by the Capitals in the IPL auction last month, had injured his hip flexor during a high-intensity fielding drill on Sunday.

He had subsequently missed the first ODI, which Australia won by 88 runs in Lahore on Tuesday.

Marsh will now manage his recovery under the guidance of physiotherapist Patrick Farhart, who has been with the Capitals since the 2020 IPL

"Marsh will travel to India

to link with the Delhi Capitals where former Australian and current New South Wales physiotherapist Pat Farhart will manage his recovery following an isolation period," Cricket Australia said in a statement on Wednesday. "Being able to focus on my

recovery without the travel and isolation break is the best approach. I am disappointed to miss the Pakistan series but look forward to re-joining the Australian squad for our next tour," Marsh said.

Marsh was originally going to miss the Capitals' first three games as he was a part of the Australian limited overs team for the series against



slumped to 101 for 5.

caught behind off Southee.

With pressure mounting,

Needing 17 off last two overs,

Earlier, KKR batters struggled with

None of the batters could capitalise

Big-hitting West Indies all-rounder

Rutherford went for a slog only to be

Harshal Patel smashed two fours, while Dinesh Karthik (14 not out) blasted a

six and a four in the first two balls of the

the extra bounce and went for shots too

many despite losing wickets at regular

on the starts as KKR lost six wickets for

7 runs to slip from 44 for 3 to 101 for

Andre Russell was the highest scorer for

KKR with a 18-ball 25, while Umesh

Yadav (18) and Varun Chakravarthy

(10) added 27 runs, the fourth-highest

for the 10th wicket in IPL history, to

last over to take the team home.

Rohit, Kohli slip: Ashwin rises in Test rankings

PTI DUBAI

ndia skipper Rohit Sharma Land veteran batter Virat Kohli moved down a rung each to be placed 8th and 10th, respectively, in the latest ICC Test rankings released on

Wednesday.
Rohit, who continued to remain the top-ranked Indian in the batters' chart, moved down a place to 8th. He has 754 points, while Kohli, who has 742 rating points moved to the 10th position.

Ravindra Jadeja retained the top position among allrounders, while Ravichandran Ashwin displaced West Indies' Iason Holder to be second.

Ashwin and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continued to hold on to their second and fourth positions, respectively, in the bowlers' chart.

In the ODI rankings, Kohli remained static on second while Rohit climbed up a place

Rajapaksa seeks meeting with Kohli to take tips on fitness

Skills "come first" for Bhanuka Rajapaksa but the Sri Lankan batter has realised that survival in modern-day cricket is not possible without attaining required fitness Dropped from the national team over

fitness issues, Rajapaksa now wants to have a conversation with a supremely-fit Virat Kohli, who he calls the 'Cristiano Ronaldo of cricket'. Being part of the Indian Premier

League (IPL), the 30-year-old Lankan can have that opportunity to meet the former India skipper and hopefully turn the tide having endured a dramatic start to year

The 30-year-old announced his international retirement this January and withdrew it a week later on the insistence of authorities. However, he still missed the plane to India due to the same fitness issues, last month.

Rajapaksa is sure that the two-month long stint with Punjab Kings would benefit his game immensely and take his fitness to the next level.

"IPL is the best league in the world and with every teammate of yours you get to learn a lot about the game, so I am loving picking the brains of Shikhar Dhawan. I get along very well with Mayank Agarwal as we played U-19 together," Rajapaksa said.

"Outside of the team Virat Kohli is always someone I could speak to and get some advice on fitness. He's at another different level

To me, he is the Cristiano Ronaldo of cricket for sure. The work he puts in you can obviously see the results. You can compare him to anyone when it comes fitness or even skills wise. He plays so hard and you can learn a lot by talking to him," he said.

On the 'fitness versus skills'

"As a player you need your fitness but it could be different from person to person. For me, of course, skill comes first. And then the fitness, but if you are not fit enough you definitely can't perform.

"I'm actually working hard on my fitness. Whenever I get a free day I hit the gym early in the morning. That there are some fitness requirements to represent the country and with fitness, my international career would be

'I'm hoping to play for the next three to four years at least and do the best for the country because after my resignation I had to withdraw it back because I had a couple of conversations with the technical committee and the Sports Minister as well. They wanted me to reconsider my retirement and I decided to withdraw it." he said. Rajapaksa feels he is now

doing "all the right things" as he looks to extend his international career by at least three to four

Celebrities pay tribute to Warne at service

PTI MELBOURNE

n eclectic array of celebrities Aincluding singer Elton John, golfing legend Greg Norman and champion surfer Kelly Slater paid tribute on Wednesday to their friend, former Australian cricketer Shane Warne, at a star-studded state memorial ser-

More than 50,000 mourners chanted their hero's nickname "Warnie" at the outset of the service at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as they used to do when he took to the pitch for a match. It was his hometown pitch

where he cemented his sporting legend in 2006 by becoming the first bowler in the world to take 700 Test wickets.

Warne's death at a Thai resort of a suspected heart attack on March 4 at the age of 52



made headlines around the

The pain was felt far beyond the cricket world. Tributes came from the fields of music, acting, business, golf, politics, surfing,

comedy, poker and others. Elton John dedicated a rendition of "Don't Let the Sun Go dren - Brooke, Summer and

Jackson - who were among the crowd that included Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. John and fellow British

musicians Ed Sheeran, Robbie Williams and Coldplay frontman Chris Martin appeared on

a large screen via video. So too did Australian singers (and sisters) Kylie and Dannii Minogue.

Martin played "Eulogy," a piano piece that he composed for the occasion. In another video, Martin apologised for not attending the memorial in person. Sheeran described Warne as "such a great bloke."

Australian-born former champion golfer Greg Norman recalled Warne's passion, energy and enthusiasm for life.

Some knew Warne as one of the all-time great spin bowlers. Others knew him as the dapper one-time fiancé of glamorous British film star and model Elizabeth Hurley.

"It seems too cruel that all the people who loved him will never have another Lion hug," Hurley posted on social media in a tribute to the former lover she called Lionheart after his

She did not take part in Wednesday's service. Former English cricket team

captain Nasser Hussain and former West Indies team captain Brian Lara also spoke at the ser-

Warne's love life and offfield indiscretions were often fodder for tabloid journalists. But his determination to be

his authentic, flawed and irreverent self endeared him to his friends and fans alike.

A statue of Warne outside the cricket ground became a focus of public grief. Tributes left at the statue included beer bottles and cigarette packets. It was a nod to how Warne

once described himself in words repeated at his service by his father, Keith Warne: "I smoked, I drank and I played a little

3BL to expand its Women's League to 12 teams

PNS NEW DELHI

 $S_{
m positive}^{
m eeing}$ the overwhelmingly positive response at the recently concluded third season of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and International Basketball Federation (FIBA) backed 3x3 Pro Basketball League (3BL), the number of women's teams is all set to double for the next season. 3BL Season 3 was held in Hotel Wyndham Chandigarh Mohali from 8thto 21st March 2022 and witnessed participation from leading national and international men's and women's 3x3 Basketball players, 3BL Season 3, held earlier this month, featured 12 men's teams and 6 women's teams. Former India captain Raspreet Sidhu led Delhi Divas were crowned the champions of the second season of the Women's League.

Healy heroics lead Aussies into World Cup final



AP ■ WELLINGTON

double-century opening Astand carried tournament favourites Australia to a commanding 157-run win over the West Indies on Wednesday and a place in the Women's World Cup final.

Australia dominated their rain-shortened semi-final in Wellington from the outset, built around a 216-run stand the highest of the tournament — between experienced openers Alyssa Healy and Rachael Haynes.

An imposing score of 305 for three off a reduced 45 overs was never threatened by the West Indies, who succumbed for 148 in the 37th

The six-time champions Australia are unbeaten at the 50-over tournament and will face either South Africa or 2017 winners England in the final in Christchurch on Sunday.

Play started nearly two hours late because of misty rain and Healy, in particular, struggled for timing in the early stages after Australia were sent in on a damp Basin Reserve pitch.

She accelerated as the sun came out, posting 129 off 107 balls to register a fourth ODI century and fell four runs short of her career-best score.

The wicketkeeper-batter used her feet to excellent effect against the spin-based

Caribbean attack, smashing 17 fours and a six. She didn't hit a boundary until the 12th over but said

Haynes had reminded her to remain patient. "I hope I've learned my lesson by now, that it doesn't necessarily have to happen all at once," Healy said. "I love

batting with Rach, she's a

calming influence.

Haynes compiled 85 off 100 balls while the late runs came via unbeaten knocks from captain Meg Lanning (26) and Beth Mooney (43). It was a disappointing

performance from the sixthranked West Indies, who were loose in the field, dropping a handful of chances, and they struggled for momentum with the bat. Captain Stefanie Taylor

was their top scorer with a careful 48, but she lacked support after top-order pair Deandra Dottin and Hayley Matthews both departed for Their hopes weren't

helped by injuries suffered in the field to bowlers Chinelle Henry and Anisa Mohammed, with neither able to bat, meaning Australia needed to take only eight wickets. The second semi-final pits

defending champions England against second-ranked South Africa in Christchurch on Thursday, a repeat of the 2017 last-four thriller that was decided in the final over.