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# Govt defends sedition law

SC's Kedar Nath case verdict binding, says Centre; apex court to hear arguments on May 10 to refer case to larger bench

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Saturday defended in the Supreme Court the penal law on sedition and the 1962 verdict of a constitution bench upholding its validity, saying they have withstood "the test of time" about six decades and the instances of its abuse would never be a justification of reconsideration.

A bench of three judges comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, on May 5, said it would hear arguments on May 10 on the legal question of whether the pleas challenging the colonial-era penal law on sedition be referred to a larger bench for reconsidering the 1962 verdict of a five-judge constitution bench in the Kedar Nath Singh case.

"Instances of the abuse of provision would never be a justification to reconsider a binding judgment of the constitution bench. The remedy would lie in preventing such abuse on

a case-to-case basis rather than doubting a long-standing settled law declared by a constitution bench for about six decades," said the 38-page written submission filed through Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The reply also raised the issue of coram and opposed the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal that in a changed fact situation a bench of three judges can also test the validity of the sedition law, saying "no reference, therefore, would be necessary nor can the three-judge bench once again examine the constitutional validity of the very same provision".

The top court, in 1962, had upheld the validity of the sedition law while attempting to restrict its scope for misuse. It had held that unless accompanied by incitement or a call for violence, the criticism of the government cannot be construed as a seditious offence.

The Centre's view incidentally matched with the submissions of Attorney General K K Venugopal, who on Thursday had strongly batted for the retention of the provision in the IPC, saying "referring the Kedar Nath (judgment) to a larger bench is not necessary. It is a well-considered judgement."

The written submission of the Centre, settled by the solicitor general, referred to a host of judgments and said, "The bench of three judges cannot reconsider the ratio of a judgment of a constitution bench without referring the matter to a larger bench. For a reference to a larger bench also it will be absolutely necessary for the bench of three judges to record its satisfaction that the ratio in the Kedar Nath Singh is so patently wrong that it needs reconsideration by a larger bench."

Referring to the batch of petitions, the reply said none of the PIL petitioners has shown any justification based upon which this court can record a finding that the 1962 verdict "is patently illegal requiring reconsideration". A holistic reading of the judgments evidently shows that the constitution bench, in the 1962 verdict, had examined the constitutionality from all possible angles, including Article 19 (freedom of speech and expression), and therefore, remains binding.

Venugopal recently referred to the sedition case against MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana in Maharashtra over the Hanuman Chalisa row.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Day after drama, Mohali court orders Bagga's arrest

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Trouble is not over for BJP leader Tajinder Singh Bagga as he faces fresh arrest as a court in Mohali on Saturday issued a warrant against him in connection with a case registered against him last month.

A day after he was arrested by the Punjab Police and released within hours after the convoy was stopped near Kurukshetra in Haryana, the arrest warrant was issued by the court of Judicial Magistrate Ravtresh Inderjit Singh in Mohali, near Chandigarh.

"Whereas Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga, s/o Pritpal Singh, r/o B-1/170, Janak Puri New Delhi stands charged with the offence punishable U/Sec 153-A, 505, 505 (2), 506 IPC. You are hereby directed to arrest the said Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga and to produce him before me," the judge said in the order in a direction to the officer in charge of the police station, State cyber crime.

The court fixed the next date of hearing on May 23. This means the Punjab Police will have to arrest Bagga or the BJP leader would have to seek relief from a higher court to prevent the arrest.

Bagga was arrested by the Punjab Police from his Delhi home on Friday, stopped in Haryana while being taken to Punjab and brought back to the national Capital by the Delhi Police hours later.

The Delhi Police had on Friday registered a case of kid-



Delhi BJP Spokesperson Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga arrives at his residence after being produced before the Duty Metropolitan Magistrate in New Delhi

PTI

napping based on a complaint by Bagga's father Pritpal Singh Bagga that "some people" came over to his house around 8 am and took away his son.

Friday's dramatic developments saw police forces of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi getting into a tussle over Bagga while triggering a political slugfest. The Punjab Police had booked Bagga on the charges of making provocative statements, promoting enmity and criminal intimidation. The case was registered on a complaint of AAP leader Sunny Ahluwalia, a resident of Mohali. The FIR registered on April 1 referred to Bagga's remarks on March 30, when he was part of a BJP youth wing protest outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Bagga was booked under relevant sections, including 153-A (promoting enmity

between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place etc), 505 (whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report) and 506 (criminal intimidation), of the Indian Penal Code. The Punjab Police has maintained that a police team had gone to Delhi to arrest Bagga after he did not join the investigation despite being served five notices.

After its team, which was bringing Bagga from Delhi, was stopped in Haryana, the Punjab Police moved the high court and filed a habeas corpus petition. The Punjab Government on Saturday moved two applications before the Punjab and Haryana High Court here, seeking the Centre be made a party in the case, and that the May 6 CCTV footage of Janakpuri and Kurukshetra police stations be preserved.

## Punjab cops beat Bagga, says Delhi Police; court asks SHO to 'save' him

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Politics and one-upmanship between the rival sides continued to be play on Saturday as BJP spokesperson Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga walked free and returned home at 1 am after a day full of high drama following his arrest by the Punjab Police.

Medical examination has revealed injury marks on Tajinder Bagga's body, said the Delhi Police after a medical leave certificate revealed that he suffered injuries on his back and shoulder. Bagga had alleged that he was assaulted by the Punjab Police. In its order, the Dwarka Court has noted that Bagga has apprehended a similar incident that can happen to him in near future and hence SHO Janakpuri should provide him full security.

"The SHO is directed to make necessary arrangements for the safety and security of the complainant (Bagga). He is a major and requesting that he should be allowed

to go home, since he is major there is no requirement of any further order with respect to his stay," the court noted in its order, following which the Delhi Police provided security to Bagga.

The Punjab Police, for its part, is planning to draw the court's attention towards the dichotomy in the statements of Haryana and the Delhi Police regarding the timing of the handing over of custody of Bagga.

The BJP protested outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal even as Goa CM Pramod Sawant and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha chief Tejasvi Surya met Bagga to show solidarity.

On the other hand, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia lambasted the BJP for protecting Bagga. In his tweet, Sisodia said the entire BJP and its Governments are engaged in saving one of their goons who spoke against the brotherhood in Punjab and incited riots.

### NCM seeks report on 'turban' charge

**New Delhi:** The National Commission for Minorities has written a letter to the Punjab Chief Secretary over reports that "TS Bagga was not allowed to wear his turban during his arrest by Punjab Police yesterday".

PNS

### CBI raids AAP MLA in bank fraud case

**New Delhi:** The CBI on Saturday conducted searches at three properties of Punjab AAP MLA Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra in Sangrur in a bank fraud case and recovered 94 blank cheques carrying signatures.

PNS

## LPG price hiked by ₹50; Left, Cong attack Govt move

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the burden of high fuel prices, the price of domestic cooking gas was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder on Saturday. Now a 14.2-kg non-subsidised cooking gas cylinder, also known as LPG cylinder, will cost ₹999.50 in Delhi. It is the second hike within two months. The Congress criticised the Government for the hike and sought a rollback.

The price hike comes days after the price of commercial LPG cylinders was hiked by ₹102.50 earlier this month.

The last hike in domestic LPG prices took place on March 22, when the price was increased by ₹50. There was no increase in the price of this cylinder in the month of April.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder now cost ₹2,355.50.

The latest price hike of domestic gas cylinders has come at a time when petrol and diesel prices are already beyond



Indian Youth Congress (IYC) activists stage a protest over the hike in price of LPG cylinders, outside Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri's residence, in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

the ₹100 per litre mark in several cities across the country through a series of hikes soon after the Assembly elections in UP and other four States. Last month, prices of piped natural gas were also raised by ₹4.25 per unit to go up to ₹45.86 per scm owing to rising raw material costs.

## Lankan PM may quit as pressure mounts

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's beleaguered Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has repeatedly defied calls to quit, has come under fresh pressure to resign at a special Cabinet meeting held before a state of emergency was imposed by his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The special Cabinet meeting was held on Friday as the country witnessed protests against the Government over their inability to tackle the economic meltdown which has caused unprecedented hardships to the public.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared a state of emergency with effect from Friday midnight, the second time in just over a month.

"There were opinions during the Cabinet, some even suggested the prime minister must resign. The President (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) was keen to see an end to the political crisis even with the resignation of the prime minister," a min-

isterial source said

The backers of the 76-year-old prime minister had insisted him to stay on as the public demand was more for the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, his younger brother.

The 72-year-old President for a few weeks now has been wanting the prime minister to resign in order to set up an all-party interim government.

Although Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said at the Cabinet meeting that he would readily resign if the successor could resolve the current economic crisis, he did not categorically say he would resign, according to the source.

The Mirror newspaper reported that PM Rajapaksa listened to the President and said if a new government could solve the economic crisis and bring in an immediate solution, then he would give his blessings to the new government.

However, there is yet to be an official response on whether Mahinda Rajapaksa will tender his resignation, the report said.

## Mithila's rail connectivity restored after 88 yrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

After 88 years of being divided by the Kosi river, Bihar's Mithilanchal region on Saturday was fully connected to the Indian Railways network. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav flagged off a direct train service between Jhanjharpur in Madhubani and Nirmali in Supaul district to bring greater convenience to the travellers in the Mithilanchal districts of Darbhanga, Saharsa and Madhubani.

The connectivity between Kosi and Mithilanchal has been re-established for the first time since 1934 when due to Indo-Nepal earthquake and heavy floods the rail connectivity was washed away.

The residents of the region used to travel a long distance of over 100 km to go from one side to the other due to the lack of a bridge on the Kosi river. The distance between Jhanjharpur and Saharsa will be



reduced by half with the launch of the train service.

The first train in 88 years chugged off the Kosi Railway Bridge bringing smiles and joy to the lakhs of residents of Mithilanchal who had to take a very circuitous route to reach their destinations.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had laid the foundation stone of Mahasetu over the Kosi estimated to the tune of ₹491 crore on June 6, 2003 in the presence of then Railway

Minister Nitish Kumar, who is now Chief Minister of Bihar.

After 17 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kosi Rail Bridge in 2020. Notably, train services on this route started under the British rule in 1887. The 1934 earthquake damaged it completely which separated the two regions — Kosi and Mithilanchal.

Bihar Ministers Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Sheela Mandal, MPs from Madhepura,

Jhanjharpur and Supaul, local MLA Nitish Mishra besides top railway authorities of Samastipur rail division of East Central Railway Zone of Indian Railways were present at the event. Vaishnav in his online inaugural address reiterated Prime Minister Modi's commitment towards the development of eastern States and assured all possible assistance to Bihar in the development of railways.

He inaugurated train services on the broad gauge from Jhanjharpur railway station in Madhubani district to Nirmali railway station in Supaul district and a new rail line from Nirmali to Asanpur Kupaha at the cost of ₹1,584 crore through videoconferencing.

He said at present three pairs of passenger trains will operate daily on this section from Leheriasarai to Saharsa via Darbhanga, Sakri, Jhanjharpur, Tamuria, Nirmali, Saraigarh, and Supaul from Sunday.

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# BJP protecting ‘goon’ Bagga, alleges AAP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its Governments of protecting its “goon” who incited riots in Punjab and grossly misusing the State machinery and police of two States to settle political vendettas.

A day after, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tweeted in Hindi, “The entire BJP and its Governments are engaged in saving one of their goons who spoke against the brotherhood in Punjab and incited riots.

“The BJP is a party of goons which makes even its Government do the job of goons. Never even by mistake, these people talk about education, health, inflation and unemployment.”

The AAP on Friday had claimed that Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga was arrested from Delhi by the Punjab Police for trying to stoke communal tension and violence in the border State and rejected the BJP’s charge of vendetta. The AAP senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that the way the BJP has manhandled State machinery and deputed the Delhi Police and Haryana Police to protect Bagga, it only proves that it is a party of goons and criminals.

“When the BJP talks about misuse of the police, it feels like Osama Bin Laden is talking about non-violence,” said Singh.

Accusing the BJP of misusing the power, Singh said the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath had filed 9 FIRs against him in a single day.

“There are 23 cases in my name, including that of sedition for some unknown reason. They sent the police to threaten my wife who was alone at home. They got AAP’s UP headquarters vacated for absolutely no reason but for

their muscle. On the other hand, Bagga, that uncouth criminal of theirs, was summoned five times by the Punjab Police. He didn’t join the investigation despite that,” said Singh.

“Bagga’s dossier begins at hate-mongering, organised violence and goes on till inciting riots and further communal divides. It is obvious that if this vile uncouth man tries to harm the peace and harmony of Punjab, the State police will act on it. But to see the BJP come out with all its guns to protect someone who incites riots is a shame for the whole Indian political system,” said Atishi, AAP legislator from Kalkaji.

“We are well aware of the criminal background of BJP’s Bagga and every year in the recent past, a series of new cases have been filed against him, be it on, attacking a 70-year-old lawyer by barging into the Supreme Court premises, causing a riot in his own leader Amit Shah’s Kolkata roadshow, and so on. There is an endless list of lawsuits pending against this man,” said Saurabh Bhardwaj, the AAP spokesperson.

“Despite his highly tainted reputation, the BJP has dedicated two of its State police forces to protecting this ‘gunda’ element. It is highly unfortunate to witness the lengths that the Delhi and Haryana Police are going to in order to keep Tajinder Bagga out of jail,” said Bhardwaj.

Though Bhardwaj referred to the clashes in Patiala on April 29, the Punjab Police had said it arrested the Delhi BJP leader from his residence in the capital in connection with a case registered in Mohali on April 1.

The AAP, however, has rejected the charge and said Bagga was arrested for allegedly stoking communal tensions in Punjab. The Delhi Police has registered a case of kidnapping based on a complaint by Bagga’s father Preetpal Singh.

## Medical exam revealed injury marks on Bagga body, says Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday claimed that the medical examination of Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga, conducted after the Punjab Police arrested him revealed injuries marks on his body. Police said they will also make necessary security arrangements for the BJP leader.

“The medical examination has revealed injury marks on Bagga’s body. Bagga expressed apprehension over his safety and security. We will do necessary security arrangements,” said a senior police official.

Meanwhile, an arrest warrant has also been issued by Punjab’s Mohali Court on Saturday. The District Magistrate has asked the Cyber Crime Branch in Mohali to arrest Bagga and produce him before the court. Bagga has been charged under Sections 153A, 505, 505(2), and 506 sections of the IPC.

Bagga was arrested by the Punjab Police from his home here on Friday, stopped in Haryana while being taken to Punjab and brought back to the national capital by the Delhi Police hours later.

Bagga returned to his Janakpuri home around 1 am on Saturday after being produced before a Dwarka court magistrate by the Delhi Police. He was taken from Kurukshetra to Gurugram where the Dwarka court magistrate lived.

However, he was later taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) hospital in Delhi for Medico-Legal-Case (MLC) which took a couple of hours and finally he was produced before the magistrate.

Bagga was produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate court in the midnight and Metropolitan Magistrate Swayam Siddha Tripathy took note of the fact that Bagga’s medical examination confirmed that he had sustained injuries. aking note of the BJP



leader’s apprehension of a threat from the Punjab Police, the court asked the Station House Officer of the Janakpuri Police Station to make the requisite arrangements to keep him safe.

The court observed, “After his recovery from Haryana, the victim was brought to Delhi and his medical examination was conducted. MLC of the victim is produced. As per the MLC, the victim has sustained injuries on his back and his shoulder. Victim also submits that he sustained the injuries in the morning and during the incident. At this stage, the victim expressed apprehension that similar incident may occur in the near future. Counsel for complainant also submits that the complainant is under the apprehension of threat from the accused persons.”

It further added, “Accordingly, SHO is directed to make necessary arrangements for ensuring the safety of both the victim as well as the complainant. Victim submits that he may be allowed to go home. As the victim is major, therefore, there is no requirement of any further orders with respect to his stay.”

The Delhi Police had on Friday registered a case of kidnapping based on a complaint by Bagga’s father Pritpal Singh Bagga that “some people” came over to his house at around 8 am and took away his son.

## Threat to my son’s life: BJP leader’s father

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the political row due to his arrest, BJP leader Tejinder Pal Singh Bagga on Saturday alleged that 15 police personnel barged into his home on Friday, manhandled him and his father, ‘taking him away like a terrorist’. Meanwhile, his father has expressed happiness over the support the leader has received, and claimed there was a ‘threat to Bagga’s life’.

Narrating the incident, he said, 40 to 50 police personnel had come, out of which 10 were in civil and some in uniform. I was not even allowed to wear turban and slippers and also beat up my father. Bagga further said these people killed me and dragged me like a terrorist. He also said the police did not even have any documents at the time of arrest.

Surrounded by mediapersons, family members and friends at his Janakpuri residence here on Saturday, Bagga expressed his “redoubled” resolve to raise his voice against the AAP and its chief Kejriwal.

“No matter one or 100

FIRs are registered against me, I will keep raising issues of dishonouring of Guru Granth Sahib and Kejriwal’s insult to Kashmiri Pandits,” he said.

He said except for the case related to advocate Prashant Bhushan, there was nothing which justifies distorted image projected by the media and Opposition party leaders.

This is not, however, the first time that Bagga has raked up such a boiling controversy. In 2011, Bagga along with another person was arrested for physically assaulting senior lawyer Prashant.

“Kejriwal’s party is saying anything about me. But, even after the Prashant incident, I had lunch and dinner with Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia at Kumar Vishwas’s home at least 20-25 times. “They did not see anything bad in me then and now they are attacking me because I am raising my voice against the AAP and its chief Kejriwal,” Bagga said.

Last month Punjab Police registered a case against him at Mohali under charges of issuing provocative statements, promoting enmity and criminal intimidation.

## 5 lakh Rohingyas, Bangladeshis live in Capital; city Govt protecting them: BJP State president Gupta

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP Delhi president, Adesh Gupta on Saturday accused the Delhi Government of providing protection to Rohingya and Bangladeshi Muslims. In an open letter, Adesh Gupta on Saturday noted that the problem of Rohingya and Bangladeshi Muslims is increasing by the day in the national Capital. Gupta asked residents of Delhi to inform the party about Rohingyas and Bangladeshis living illegally here so that action could be taken against them. He claimed that around five lakh Rohingyas and Bangladeshis live in Delhi.

The BJP leader further accused the Delhi Government of embarking on a ‘special mission’ to provide safety to them. “I got information from sources that Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed the MLAs that wherever there are Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, they should



be immediately provided with electricity connection, water, ration and other necessary help immediately,” Gupta mentioned in the letter.

“To my knowledge, an incident in Paschim Vihar area has come to the fore where a man, who claimed to be the leader of the Aam Aadmi Party, met a shopkeeper, showed him Manish Sisodia’s letter and asked for 55 thousand rupees in exchange for a guarantee of protection,” the BJP leader’s letter further read.

“Delhi people will have to come forward

## Govt’s plan to let bars stay open till 3 am welcomed



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The bar and restaurant owners have welcomed the Delhi Government’s plan to allow them to serve liquor till 3 am, saying the “progressive” move will help improve business and lead to employment generation. After Pubs and Restaurants allowed to serve liquor 24x7, the Delhi Government has decided to allow restaurants and pubs serving liquor to stay open till 3 am. With this move, the Government also aims to increase job opportunities under its ease of doing policy and this would also promote night life culture in the national capital. An order is expected to out soon in the matter.

The owners hoped that the move will help the restaurant and bar industry, which is still reeling under the impact of the Covid pandemic and subsequent restrictions, in recouping losses incurred over the past two years.

## Crackdown on illegal dairy mafia after HC order, says SDMC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking stern action against illegal dairy mafias, the SDMC in a joint operation with Delhi Police on Saturday has impounded 211 stray cattle from Kotla Mubarakpur. The civic body also demolished all temporary construction and sealed the premises.

The action was taken by the SDMC after cattle mafias broke into the cattle pond of in Malviya Nagar, attacked the watchman and took the cattle away with them on the intervening night of May 5 and 6.

The incident prompted the civic body to file an FIR. During the joint action of SDMC and Delhi Police cattle were found ruthlessly tied up

neck-deep in sewage water over 100 meters inside a covered drain by illegal dairy owners, a senior SDMC official said.

According to a senior SDMC official, the municipal corporation has lodged a First Information Report (FIR) regarding the incident and the police have also arrested a few of the accused persons. The civic agency recovered the castles during the joint action along with the Delhi Police against the illegal dairy mafia, following the High Court order.

“In a brazen attempt to recover the impounded cattle, the illegal dairy mafia attacked the watchman of the cattle pond and locked him in a room on the intervening night of May 5 and 6,” he said.

## 3 more held in Jahangirpuri riot case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three more accused in the communal clashes that broke out in Jahangirpuri area in the national Capital during a Hanuman Jayanti procession last month, officials said on Saturday. With this, 36 people, including three juveniles, have been nabbed by the police so far.

While Jahir Khan alias Jalil (48) and Anabul alias Sheikh (32) were arrested from Jahangirpuri on Friday, the third accused, Tabrez (40), was arrested from the same area on Saturday, police said. Both Jahir Khan and Anabul were absconding since the day of the clashes.

“They were identified through CCTV footage and based on statements of wit-



nesses who alleged that the duo were active participants in the violence.

“The two accused had switched off their mobile phones and changed their locations multiple times. They were traced to Jahangirpuri when they returned to their homes here,” a senior police officer

said.

According to the officer, Jalil was seen in CCTV footage brandishing a pistol and whether he opened fire will be probed. Anabul was an active participant in the clashes, the officer said.

Tabrez was also “actively” involved in the violence, police

claimed, adding the fresh arrests were made based on technical evidence and statements of the witnesses.

Clashes broke out between two communities during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri in the national capital on April 16, leaving eight police personnel and a local injured.

According to the police, there was pelting of stones and arson during the clashes and some vehicles were also torched. Days after the violence, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana wrote to the Enforcement Directorate to investigate money laundering charges against the prime accused in the case.

The police have slapped the stringent National Security Act against five of the accused in the case.

## JNU council OK’s 70% licence fee waiver for shops inside campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Executive Council (EC) has approved the waiver of 70 per cent of Licence Fee to all the shops allotted inside the campus that were closed during 2020 and 2021 on account of lockdown due to the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

The EC also decided to set up an International Affairs Office and change its security company among other things. There had been a growing demand by the students and teachers to hire a new security agency in the aftermath of the January 5, 2020 violence in which at least 35 people were injured and last month’s clashes between groups of students over allegedly serving of non-vegetarian food during Navratri. The teachers’ association had also flagged the issue of secu-

rity on the campus in the wake of rising incidents of burglary in the houses of faculty members.

“At the 300th meeting of the university’s Executive Council, held on May 5, it approved waiving 70 per cent of the license fee for all JNU-allotted shops which were closed during the Covid lockdown during 2020 and 2021,” Registrar Ravikesh said in a statement Saturday.

The council resolved to set up an International Affairs Office in the university for internationalisation of the university as envisaged in the NEP 2020 with regard to joint degree/twinning programmes, opening of offshore campuses etc,” he added.

The EC also approved to “initiate a tendering process for engaging the most robust integrated security services in the university.” Ravikesh added that

the EC has also approved the recommendations of the Health Infrastructure & Services Review Committee to “streamline the health facilities in the university for the benefit of all the stakeholders, i.e. students, faculty, staff members and retired staff.”

The Council also took various major decisions in respect of the academic matters of the University viz. permitting the M.Phil/Ph.D. female scholars for Maternity/Child Care leave up to 240 days as per UGC rules, Grant of recognition to institutes like Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM), Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences (DIPAS), Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS),

## Resolve protesting sanitation workers’ problems: JNUTA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teacher’s Association (JNUTA) on Saturday expressed concern over the ongoing strike of sanitation workers at the university and urged the administration to immediately resolve their problems and accede to their “justified demands”. JNU sanitation and mess workers are on an indefinite strike for the past four days.

The workers are demanding immediate payment of pending wages of three months, ensuring a 26-day work duty, reemployment of retrenched workers and ensuring that salaries are credited by the seventh of every month.

The JNU has, however, clarified that it has not removed any workers, and has asked the Dean of Students Welfare Sudhir Pratap Singh to submit a detailed report on the matter. “JNU VC and her administration have not removed any worker. All mess workers are being retained. Dean of Students Welfare has been asked to submit a detailed report,” a tweet on the JNU Twitter account read.

In a statement, the JNUTA argued that the “discriminatory and illegal treatment” meted out to contractual workers has worsened and no serious attempts to resolve the ongoing crisis.

## Govt defends sedition law

From Page 1

The provision has been under intense public scrutiny recently for its alleged misuse to settle political scores by various governments which had led the CJI to ask if the colonial-era law, which was used to persecute freedom fighters, was still needed after 75 years of Independence.

“Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in [India], shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine,” reads section 124A (sedition) of the IPC.

Sibal, appearing as the lead counsel on behalf of the petitioners, had said that a three-judge bench can still go into the issue ignoring the 1962 judgement of the five-judge bench in the light of subsequent developments in the fundamental rights jurisprudence. PTI

## IN BRIEFS

### MAN ARRESTED FOR BREAKING INTO SHOP

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police has arrested a 32-year-old man for allegedly breaking into a shop in north Delhi and decamping with over Rs four lakh. The accused has been identified as Akhilesh Singh and Rs 4,43,400 has been also recovered from his possession. A complaint was filed on April 4 following the incident at the shop situated at the Lahori Gate area, police said, adding that the hunt is on to nab two others.

### UNATTENDED BAGS TRIGGER PANIC AT VASANT VIHAR

**New Delhi:** Two unattended bags triggered panic at a market in southwest Delhi’s Vasant Vihar area on Saturday morning. The bags were found outside shop number 5 at the A-block market in Vasant Vihar. A senior police official said the bags were left there by an unidentified foreign national, who had come to buy medicines. The bags had some old clothes and personal belongings. The owner of the bag is being identified and the staff in the area has been briefed to be vigilant.

### MINOR FIRE BREAKS OUT AT DELHI POLICE HQ

**New Delhi:** A minor fire broke out at the Delhi Police security headquarters on Vinay Marg here on Saturday morning. A senior Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official said the fire department received a call about the incident at 11.10 am, following which it rushed five fire tenders to the spot. The fire was brought under control at 11.25 am, and no casualty has been reported.

### GOVT’S MARKET REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

**New Delhi:** Around 50 market associations in Delhi have come forward and applied to get their markets selected for Delhi Government’s Market Redevelopment initiative. Last month, Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia met with the members of 40 market associations of the national capital. The meeting was called upon to take the suggestions of the businessmen for the redevelopment of iconic markets of the city.

### CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY BRAMHA KUMARIS

**Gurugram:** A social campaign with theme “Shusanskarkidharohar Bharat ki Betiya” was launched by Brahma Kumaris at Om Shanti Retreat Centre (ORC) in Gurugram. Dr Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State for Ayush, Women and Child Development was the Chief Guest on this occasion and the Bollywood celebrity Shehnaaz Gill, who is also Brand Ambassador of this seminar campaign, was also present during the occasion. (With Pic)

### ‘EAT RIGHT FOOD-2022’ LAUNCHED AT IIC

**New Delhi:** A summit on ‘Eat Right Food-2022’ was organised at India International Centre (IIC) in national Capital. The organisation Herbalife Nutrition along with its stakeholders from government and private sector to set the agenda for a healthier future as part of the Eat Right India campaign that aims to promote and provide safe, healthy and nutritious diet choices by upgrading the infrastructure of food outlets and enhancing the awareness and skill set of food handlers and customers.

### HARSHDEV SINGH JOINS AAP

**New Delhi:** Jammu and Kashmir’s former State Education Minister and National Panthers Party chairman Harshdev Singh joined the AAP here on Saturday. Along with him, Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party’s state president Rajesh Pargotra, State Secretaries Gagan Pratap and Purshottam as well as it’s Delhi unit chief Suresh Dogra also joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of the its Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and senior leaders Imran Husain and Durgesh Pathak.



# Avoid overexposure to tech in school-going children: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said a hybrid system of online and offline learning should be developed to avoid overexposure to technology in school-going children.

While chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the PM said that in the two years since its launch, it has seen many initiatives being unrolled to achieve the objectives of access, equity, inclusivity, and quality, as laid down under the policy.

The policy has given a big push to online learning with higher education institutions being allowed to run full-fledged online courses and the permissible limit of online content being raised to

The PM suggested that secondary schools with science labs should engage with farmers in their area for soil testing.



From special efforts to track out of school children and bring them back into the mainstream, to the introduction of multiple entries and exits in higher education, many transformative reforms have been initiated that will define and lead the progress of the country, he said.

The meeting was attended by Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education (MoE) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Rajeev Chandrashekar, Minister of State in MSDE, Subhash Sarkar, MoS, MoE, Annapurna Devi, MoS, MoE and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

MoS, MoE and MEA, Principal Secretary to PM, Cabinet Secretary, Advisor to PM, Chairman UGC, Chairman AICTE, Chairman NCVET, Director NCERT and other senior officials from Ministry of Education.

Prime Minister was apprised that the work of formulation of National Curriculum Framework, under the guidance of the National Steering Committee, is in progress.

Modi suggested the databases maintained by Anganwadi centers should be seamlessly integrated with the school databases as children move from Anganwadis to Schools. Regular Health check-ups and screening for children in schools should be carried out with the help of technology.

He also suggested that secondary schools with science labs should engage with farmers in their area for soil testing to create awareness about soil and agriculture.

Prime Minister was also

informed that the guidelines for Multiple Entry-Exit for flexibility and lifelong learning, along with the launch Academic Bank of Credit on Digilocker platform will now make it possible for students to study as per their convenience and choice. In order to create new possibilities for life-long learning and centrally involve critical and interdisciplinary thinking in learners, UGC has published guidelines according to which students can pursue two academic programmes simultaneously.

The National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) is also at an advanced stage of preparation. UGC is revising the existing "Curriculum Framework and Credit System for Undergraduate Programme" in alignment with NHEQF.

In order to encourage an ecosystem of Start-up and Innovation, 2,774 Institution's Innovation Councils have been set up in HELs in 28 States and 6 UTs, the PM was updated.

# Xiaomi's coercion claims untrue, an afterthought: ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday trashed allegations that the statements of the officials of Xiaomi India were taken under coercion by the agency. It termed such claims as not only "untrue and baseless" but also an outcome of "afterthought."

"The officials of Xiaomi India deposed their statements before ED under FEMA voluntarily in the most conducive environment on various occasions", the agency said in a statement here.

"The statements were deposed by them on the basis of documents/information provided by the company during the course of investigation. Their statements corroborate with the written replies submitted to ED and the materials on record," it said. The agency said statements of Xiaomi's Global Vice President and Managing Director of Xiaomi India Manu Kumar Jain were recorded on April 13, 14, 21 and 26. The statements of Xiaomi's Chief

Financial Officer Head Sameer B S Rao were recorded on March 25, April 14, 19, 21, 22 and 26.

"However, no complaint was filed by them at any point of time during recording of statements at various occasions. Last statement of the officials of the company was recorded on 26.04.2022 and the seizure order was passed on 29.04.2022. It appears that the allegation now made after passage of substantial time is an afterthought. The allegations are baseless and far from the facts, it further said.

It is reiterated that ED is a professional agency with strong work ethics and there was no coercion or threat to the officers of the company at any point of time, it added. The ED's clarification came in response to certain news reports that said Xiaomi alleged in a recent filing before the Karnataka High Court that its top executives were threatened with "physical violence and coercion" during their questioning by ED investigators in Bengaluru.

# Cong slams Govt for increase in LPG cylinder's price

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday slammed the Government over the hike in price of domestic LPG cylinder with former party chief Rahul Gandhi saying millions of Indian households are waging a difficult battle against "extreme inflation", unemployment and "poor governance".

The Opposition party also said the central government should roll back the hike in the price of domestic cooking gas cylinder and bring it to the same level as it was for the subsidised cylinder in 2014.

The price of domestic LPG cylinders was raised by Rs 50 on Saturday. With the latest revision, the 14.2 kg domestic cylinder will now cost Rs 999.50/cylinder from Saturday. Rahul Gandhi said during the Congress-led UPA government, the price of an LPG cylinder was Rs 414 and a subsidy of Rs 827 was being

given on every cylinder. "Today, the cost of a cylinder is Rs 999. The amount of subsidy given is 'zero'," he said in a Facebook post.

The Narendra Modi government had removed all safety nets that the Congress had put in place to protect the common man, Gandhi alleged. "Today, millions of Indian households are waging a difficult battle against extreme inflation, unemployment, and poor governance," the former Congress chief said. "The Congress party would have never let this happen. We have and always will support families in need," he said with the hashtags 'MehengaiMuktBharat' and 'BJPFailsIndia'.

After the news of a hike of Rs 50 in the price of domestic LPG cylinder, the Congress also claimed that the Modi government has increased the price of subsidised cooking gas by over Rs 585 in the last eight years and also ended the subsidy that was given.

# CPM: Govt assaults people's livelihood by hiking prices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties on Saturday strongly criticised the Modi Government for the LPG cylinder price hike.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yehury said that the Modi Government assaults people's livelihood by hiking prices of all needy items. "Modi Government assaults on people's livelihoods are relentless. In the 75 years of Independence this is the most inhuman and callous Government. Must withdraw Central cess/surcharges on petroleum products," Yehury tweeted reacting to the Rs 50 hike in LPG gas cylinders for home.

The National Secretariat of Communist Party of India also strongly condemned the hike of Rs 50 in the price of Liquefied

Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders.

"Already, the inflation is very high and the recent repo rate hike by the RBI will help companies to push up the price of their products further saying that inputs have become costlier," CPI general Secretary D Raja said, urging party units to come out on the streets in protest along with all like-minded parties against the anti-people move.

"The Government, ignoring the fact that the hike in prices of petroleum products will have a cascading effect, has given free hands to oil marketing companies to continuously raise the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders. The Government remains insensitive to people's suffering but is continuously helping corporate houses to fill their kitties," he further said.

# Rajnath urges BRO to enhance capability

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Faced with China rapidly improving its infrastructure including roads all along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday urged the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to further enhance its capability through optimum use to technology and strive to strengthen the infrastructure of the border areas at a faster pace.

He also said "the Chinese presence has increased in the Northern sector in the recent past. Due to their proficiency in construction in mountainous areas, they manage to reach different places very quickly. The BRO must continue to work in parallel and focus on increasing their capability with full use of technology."

This was in apparent reference to the persisting stand-



offs for the past two years in Eastern Ladakh between the Indian and Chinese armies. Both the sides have ramped up their military strength besides infrastructure development including roads, bridges, airfields and helipads in the border areas.

Addressing the BRO personnel on the occasion of its 63rd Raising Day, Rajnath also said the government, on its part, is making all efforts to provide the required support to the BRO in this direction.

He mentioned about the recent announcement of increase of capital budget of the BRO by 40% to Rs 3,500 crore in Financial Year 2022-23, reiterating the government's com-

mitment to the country's security and development of border areas.

Rajnath described the development of border areas as a major part of the government's comprehensive defence strategy, noting that it will bolster the security apparatus of the country and bring a positive change in the lives of people residing in remote areas.

Underlining the importance of roads, bridges and tunnels in the progress of a nation, Rajnath said the projects completed by the BRO have enhanced the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and improved the socio-economic conditions of the people living in far-flung areas.

It is pertinent to mention that with just two projects in 1960 - Project Tusker in the East and Project Beacon in the North - the BRO has today become a vibrant organisation with 18 projects in various states.

It has constructed over 60,000 kilometres of roads, over 840 bridges, four tunnels and 19 airfields under adverse climatic and geographical conditions along India's borders as well as in friendly foreign countries, thus contributing towards our strategic objectives.

In 2021-22, a total of 102 infrastructure projects - 87 bridges and 15 roads - were completed by the BRO - the most in a single year. This included construction of world's longest highway tunnel, above 10,000 feet Atal Tunnel, Rohtang and world highest motorable road over Umling La in Eastern Ladakh.

For the first time in the history of the BRO, women officers were given the command of Units, with three road construction companies (RCCs) being currently commanded by them. It also created the first-ever All Women RCC in Joshimath, Uttarakhand.

# NEET-PG not put off, will be held on schedule on May 21, says Centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Postgraduate (NEET-PG) 2022 has not been postponed and will be conducted on the scheduled date of May 21, the Government said on Saturday, even as over 15,000 medical aspirants have submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to intervene in the matter.

The development came even as a medical students' association moved the Supreme Court on Thursday, May 5, 2022, for the postponement of the examination citing its clash with the ongoing counselling for NEET PG 2021.

"We 15,000 aspirants writing on behalf of the majority of NEET PG aspirants suffering due to the ongoing counselling and upcoming NEET PG 2022 exam scheduled on 21 May, 2022. We would like to bring it to your notice regarding the issues faced by the aspirants who are unable to appear for the upcoming medical post-graduation entrance exam NEET PG 2022," the memorandum stated.

Meanwhile, a fake document is doing the rounds of social media claiming that the NEET PG 2022 exam has been postponed to July 9. Calling it a fake circular, the Ministry has cautioned students to not fall into its trap as examinations will be held as scheduled for May 21.

# J'khand mining secy's CA held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public that MR. NISAR HUSAIN S/o LATE ALIM HUSAIN R/o E-40A, SECTOR-27, NOIDA is the original allottee of FLAT NO. 401, 4th FLOOR, BLOCK-C, FLEX APARTMENTS, SECTOR-62, NOIDA on draw basis. The aforesaid property is being sold by way of GFA. The GFA was registered on 13.12.2000 in favour of MR. ANURANJAN KUMAR S/o MR. SANT KUMAR R/o C-401, FLEX APARTMENT, C-58/22, SECTOR-62, NOIDA, & a notarized but not registered document to sell was also executed on 13.12.2000 in favour of DR. SANDEEPAN KUMAR, DR. VIVEK KUMAR and MR. ANURANJAN KUMAR All S/o MR. SANT KUMAR.

The GFA holder MR. ANURANJAN KUMAR is transferring the aforesaid property in favour of his wife MRS. DEEPTI AGRAWAL. W/o MR. ANURANJAN KUMAR R/o C-401, FLEX APARTMENTS, PLOT NO. C-58/22, SECTOR-62, NOIDA. If anybody has any objection he/she may file objection within 30 days from the date of public notice in the Group Housing department of the Noida authority.

ANURANJAN KUMAR (GFA HOLDER)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

ENTIRE PROPERTY BEARING NO. 55-A/2 (LHS) ARJUN NAGAR NEW DELHI-110029. MEASURING 30.166 Sq. Mtrs. Be at known to all that my client Rakesh Tripathi S/o Prabhat Tripathi R/o House No.97 b, II Floor, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave S.O. South West Delhi, Delhi-110029 intends to purchase Property bearing NO. 55-A/2 (LHS) Arjun Nagar New Delhi-110029, Measuring 50.166 Sq. Mtrs, from Manoj Kumar Chitkara S/o Arjun Das R/o B 7/912, Safdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi-110029 who has represented himself, absolute and legal owner of the said property and have further represented that the said property is free from all sorts of encumbrances (registered or un-registered) including but not limited to prior sale, gift, mortgage, charge, lien, claims, litigation, disputes etc. Any other person(s) having any claim against, into or upon the said property or any part thereof by virtue of sale, inheritance, agreement, contract, mortgage, lien, charge etc, or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature is hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within 7 (seven) days, from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my Client shall conclude the sale and any claim and/or objection if any shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon my client.

Manish Raj Sharma (Advocate)  
CH. NO.666, Saket Courts New Delhi-17  
Mob: No. 9810052699

arrested Suman Kumar, the Chartered Accountant of Jharkhand's Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case linked to alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds worth Rs 18 crore in Khunti district.

The ED arrest follows Rs 19.31 crores of cash being recovered from different locations linked to Singhal. The ED also seized incriminating documents from Kumar.

Out of Rs 19.31 crores, Rs 17.51 crores was recovered from the premises of the CA.

Officials alleged that the CA was "evasive in his replies" with regard to the alleged recovery of cash from his premises in Ranchi after the agency conducted raids in this case.

The ED has alleged that Kumar, also a financial advisor, has links with Singhal and her family.

The ED also recorded the preliminary statement of Singhal during the searches.

# BJP lashes out at Cong over Rahul's 'kya bolna hai' video

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the Kathmandu nightclub video, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday again came into limelight in another "Kya exactly bolna hai" video that is purportedly shot during his meeting with Telangana Congress leaders ahead of an address to farmers in the state. The BJP again hit out at him for being a "part-time politician".

The BJP, which is always happy to catch the Congress leader on the 'wrong-foot' latched on to the video where Rahul is asking local Telangana Congress leaders about the theme and agenda sometime before he is to address farmers in the state.

In the 17-second-long video, Rahul can be seen sitting on a chair and asking the state leaders, "What is the main theme today...kya exactly bolna hai [what exactly do I have to say]?", he is saying in the clip.

BJP leader Amit Kalviya

posted the video on Twitter and said, "Yesterday, Rahul Gandhi before his rally in Telangana, supposedly in solidarity with farmers, asks what is the theme, kya bolna hai? This is what happens when you do politics in between personal foreign trips and night-clubbing...Such exaggerated sense of entitlement." Congress spokesman Pawan Khara responded by saying, "Rahul wanted to understand local issues...where is the problem." Rahul was to address farmers in Warangal in Telangana.

Another Congress leader Brijesh Kalappa said targeting one person is "almost like a troll". "This kind of a scenario where a top leadership on social media is targeting one individual...It's almost like a troll...If there's so much attention on one person, then that person is obviously causing you grief..." Kalappa said.

"The BJP should stop making a spectacle of itself. I think,

in a large way, The BJP and the social media team of the BJP are contributing to Rahul Gandhi's growth as a political leader."

"We thank them [BJP], and we would also like to tell them this kind of attention span is going to cause them great harm in the future," Kalappa said.

Malviya had earlier hit out at the former Congress chief's recent visit to Nepal where he was seen in a nightclub in Kathmandu as the Congress clarified that the Rahul was attending a marriage in the Nepalese Capital on a private invitation. On the Kathmandu nightclub video of Rahul, the BJP leader had said "Rahul Gandhi was at a nightclub when Mumbai was under seize. He is at a nightclub at a time when his party is exploding. He is consistent. Interestingly, soon after the Congress refused to out-source their presidency, hit jobs have begun on their Prime Ministerial candidate..."

# Uddhav slams BJP for 'not letting Govt do its work'

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Averring that currently there was "ideological pollution" in the state, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday slammed the BJP "for not letting our government to do our work" and lamented that "if we do work, it (the Opposition) raises the bogey of corruption".

Without naming the BJP, Uddhav took pot shots at the Opposition and said he would speak his mind out at a rally to be addressed by him on May 14.

Uddhav, who has been under constant attack from the BJP in recent weeks, said: "Currently, there is ideological pollution in the state. Many people do not let our government do work and if we do work, they will raise the bogey of corruption. They conduct themselves as if they have taken a bath and are a purified lot

now, while all others are corrupt people".

The chief minister said that while no one objected to the Opposition indulging in politics, there should be "some standard" in its conduct. "Just because you are in the Opposition, that does not mean you should oppose everything we do. If the government commits a mistake, please pull us up. But when we do good work, the Opposition should have the magnanimity to appreciate us," Uddhav said.

Hitting out at the BJP for raising objections to the drinking water project undertaken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for Mumbai, the chief minister said: "It is easy to talk on the issue of water for Mumbaikars. How can store gigantic volumes of water required by the city? If we build dams, then we will have to fell trees and reduce our forest cover which we can ill-

afford to do".

"Owing to climatic changes, the temperatures have soared to unprecedented levels this year. We can look for easy ways to keep the people in good humour. But, people do not understand that taking easy routes to solve our immediate water shortage will have long term implications. I have not dreamt of or worked for such a kind of development. I will never do such a thing that will affect the people adversely in the long-run," the chief minister said.

Debunking the Opposition's efforts to "mislead" people through bluffing in the run up to the BMC elections, Uddhav said: "We will not tolerate this kind of bluffing by the Opposition. I will speak my mind out when I address a rally on May 14. I am not one mislead people. I will speak to the people on all issues. I will not hold anything back".



# Lanka Govt defends imposition of emergency

## Says it is required to tackle unprecedented economic crisis plaguing the country, amidst criticism from Opp

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government on Saturday defended imposing a state of emergency, saying it was required to tackle the unprecedented economic crisis plaguing the country, even as President Gotabaya Rajapaksa faced flak from the Opposition and foreign envoys for his decision which gives security forces power to crack down on peaceful protests.

In a special Cabinet meeting on Friday, the embattled president declared the state of emergency with effect from Friday midnight.

This is the second emergency declared in just over a month.

The announcement came as student activists kept the Parliament under siege since Thursday night.

The students blocked the main entrance to the complex demanding the resignation of the government for its inability

to handle the ongoing economic crisis marked by shortages of essentials.

In a statement on Saturday, the Government Information Department said, "Sri Lanka is currently facing the worst economic crisis and political instability ever after Independence due to manifold reasons both short and long-term. The common perception is that several reforms in the sectors of political, economic and social fabric should be carried out in-depth to escape from this grave situation."

"Priority among them is to manage the shortage of foreign exchange within the shortest possible time and restore the supply of goods and services," the statement added.

The government said discussions are ongoing with the multi-lateral institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, to obtain financial assistance and restructure outstanding debt.



"Political stability and peace in society are two major conditions that are demanded in building confidence and strength to make such programs a success," the statement said, explaining the need for the emergency.

Sri Lanka is currently in the throes of unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in

part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and

fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets across Sri Lanka since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have

skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

Despite mounting pressure, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa have refused to quit office.

Commenting on the ongoing negotiations, the IMF's Colombo mission chief Masahiro Nozaki said, "The IMF team will engage with the economic team of Sri Lankan authorities from May 9 to May 23 in a virtual mission and continue discussions on the authorities' request for an IMF-supported programme."

According to IMF assessment, Sri Lanka's debt is unsustainable. Therefore, approval for IMF financing, including through a Rapid Financing Instrument, would require adequate assurances that debt sustainability will be restored.

Last month, the Sri Lankan

government said it would temporarily default on USD 35.5 billion in foreign debt as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine made it impossible to make payments to overseas creditors.

The present state of emergency gives the police and the security forces sweeping power to arbitrarily arrest and detain people. The country's human rights body, the main lawyers' body, the Opposition and even some members of the diplomatic community criticised the government for its move.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka said it was deeply concerned about the promulgation of an emergency. "We urge the government to explain to the public

the reasons for this proclamation since protests have been largely peaceful and within the ambit of normal police operations," it said in a statement. "We hope that freedom of speech and assembly, the rights associated with arrest and detention as well as other fundamental rights and freedoms will not be affected or derogated from during the period of the emergency," said the statement.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) in a statement issued said it was "gravely concerned" about the declaration of a State of Emergency by the President.

"As was stated earlier on April 2, 2022, when the President declared a State of

Emergency for a brief period of time, the BASL remains of the view that a declaration of a state of emergency is not the answer to the present situation in the country including the spate of public protests and strikes which have occurred," the BASL said.

They have stressed that the state of emergency must not be used to stifle peaceful protests and dissent or to make arbitrary arrests and detentions. The protests in turn must not be violent and must remain peaceful at all times.

The main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya's leader Sajith Premadasa too questioned the move and urged for the resignation of the president.

# Ukraine braces for escalated attacks ahead of Russia's V-Day

AP ■ ZAPORIZHZHIA (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian troops solidified their positions around the nation's second-largest city on Saturday as Russian forces delivered more punishing attacks on an embattled steelworks in a bid to complete their conquest of the southern port of Mariupol in time for Victory Day celebrations.

As Monday's holiday commemorating the Soviet Union's World War II victory over Nazi Germany approached, cities across Ukraine prepared for an expected increase in Russian attacks.

Officials urged residents numbed by more than 10 weeks of war to heed air raid warnings.

"These symbolic dates are to the Russian aggressor like red to a bull," Ukraine's first deputy interior minister, Yevhen Yenin, said.

"While the entire civilised world remembers the victims of terrible wars on these days, the Russian Federation wants parades and is preparing to dance over bones in Mariupol."

The most intense fighting in recent days has befallen eastern Ukraine, where the two sides are entrenched in a fierce race to capture territory not under their control.

Western military analysts said a Ukrainian counter-offensive was advancing around the northeastern city of Kharkiv while the Russians made minor gains in Luhansk, an area

where Moscow-backed separatists have fought since 2014.

Against that backdrop, Ukrainian fighters were making a final stand to prevent a complete takeover of Mariupol.

Securing the strategically important Sea of Azov port that would give Moscow a land bridge to the Crimea Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine during a 2014 invasion. New satellite photos analysed by The Associated Press showed vast devastation at a sprawling seaside steel mill that is the last corner of Ukrainian resistance in the city. Buildings at the Azovstal plant, including one under which hundreds of fighters and civilians are likely hiding, had large, gaping holes in the

roof, according to the images shot on Friday by Planet Labs PBC.

The bombardment of the steel mill intensified in recent days despite a Russian pledge for a temporary cease-fire to allow civilians inside to escape.

Russia has used mortars, artillery, truck-mounted rocket systems, aerial bombardment and shelling from sea to target the facility. Rescuers sought to evacuate more civilians on Saturday after a week of on-and-off convoys to get people out of Mariupol. Dozens of civilians were delivered on Friday to the care of United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross representatives, Russian and Ukrainian officials confirmed.

The Russian military said the group of 50 included 11 children. The latest evacuees followed roughly 500 others who were allowed to leave the plant and other parts of the city in recent days.

The Ukrainian government has called on international organisations to also help evacuate the fighters defending the plant.

By Russia's most recent estimate, roughly 2,000 Ukrainian fighters remained at the Azovstal steelworks. They have repeatedly refused to surrender. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said "influential states" were involved in efforts to rescue the soldiers, although he did not mention any by name.

# Blinken, Bilawal discuss bilateral ties in first contact since formation of new Pak Govt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON



based on mutual respect and mutual interest was vital to promote peace, development and security in the region and beyond.

Bilawal emphasised that Pakistan's vision was focused on human development, regional connectivity and a peaceful neighbourhood.

According to the State Department, Blinken during the call reiterated the desire to strengthen the broad-based bilateral relationship.

The Secretary underscored the resolute US-Pakistan commitment to Afghan stability and combatting terrorism. The Secretary and Foreign Minister also highlighted ongoing engagement on trade and investment, climate, energy, health, and education, it said.

Building on the Pakistan-US cooperation in dealing with the Covid pandemic during the last two years, Secretary Blinken invited Pakistan to

the Second Global Covid Summit to be held virtually later this month, the FO said.

An invitation was also extended by the Secretary of State for Pakistan's participation in the Ministerial meeting on Global Food Security to be held in New York on May 18.

The Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State agreed to remain in contact and enhance engagement on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

It was the first contact between the foreign ministers since a new government was formed in Pakistan last month.

Former prime minister Khan had named senior US diplomat Donald Lu as the person who was allegedly involved in the "foreign conspiracy" to topple his government through a no-confidence vote tabled by the Opposition. The US has repeatedly dismissed Khan's allegations.

# Abortion adds to Biden's all-but-impossible to-do list



AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden's list of impossible tasks keeps getting longer.

Despite lofty promises he's made, from the campaign trail through his first year in office, he has limited power to safeguard voting rights or expand the fight against climate change on his own. And now it's become clear that Biden has no good options for preserving abortion access as the Supreme Court appears poised to overturn Roe v. Wade.

It's a disorienting and discouraging state of affairs for Democrats, who control both Congress and the White House for the first time in more than a decade.

But the reality is the party holds only the narrowest of majorities in the Senate, and there simply aren't enough votes to guarantee abortion rights, especially with the filibuster in

place. Biden's pledge to codify Roe v. Wade into law seems destined for the same rocky shoals where other parts of his agenda, like tax credits for clean energy or legislation that would preempt state voting restrictions, have already run aground.

Perhaps the most succinct explanation came from Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., earlier this week.

"We're stuck," she said. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has scheduled a vote on abortion for next Wednesday, but it's almost certain to fail.

Republicans are united in opposition, and a handful of Democrats may not support it either. The impasse is forcing the White House to reopen its back-up playbook — scrounging for ways to make a difference through executive action or regulatory steps while criticising Republicans for the lack of broader action.

# UN council backs UN chief's peace effort in its first action

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted its first statement on Ukraine since Russia's military action began on February 24, expressing "strong support" for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' efforts to find a peaceful solution to the 10-week "dispute."

The short presidential statement approved at a very brief council meeting Friday does not mention a "war," "conflict" or "invasion" as many council members call Russia's ongoing military action, or a "special military operation" as Moscow refers to it. That's because Russia, which holds veto power in the council, has

blocked all previous attempts to adopt a presidential statement which requires unanimity or a resolution.

Instead, the statement "expresses deep concern regarding the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine" and "recalls that all member states have undertaken, under the Charter of the United Nations, the obligation to settle their international disputes by peaceful means."

"The Security Council expresses strong support for the efforts of the secretary-general in the search for a peaceful solution," the statement says, and requests Guterres to brief members "in due course."

During recent visits to Moscow and Kyiv, Guterres

reached an agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the evacuation of civilians, first and foremost from the besieged southeastern port city of Mariupol and the Azovstal steel plant where the last Ukrainian forces are holding out along with hundreds of civilians in underground bunkers.

The UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross have carried out two successful evacuations from Mariupol and surrounding areas so far, and are currently in Mariupol organising a third evacuation from the steel plant.

Norway's UN Ambassador



Mona Juul and Mexico's UN Ambassador Juan Ramon De La Fuente Ramirez, whose countries drafted the resolution, called it an important first step for diplomatic efforts to end the war.


"The war in Ukraine is causing unimaginable suffering of the entire population of

Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians desperately need humanitarian protection and assistance," Juul said. "It is important that the UN secretary-general has the full backing of the Security Council for his effort towards a peaceful solution to the war in Ukraine."

De La Fuente Ramirez said the unanimous adoption of the statement "shows that the Security Council is united in supporting the United Nations and its secretary-general in finding a diplomatic solution."

The council is mandated under the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security and has been strongly criticised since the Russian invasion for its paralysis and inaction.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Veena Malhotra/ Ajit Malhotra/ LBNO00005332960/ LBPNP00005147670/ LBPNP00005147672	Plot No. 156, Krishan Nagr Tehsil Camp Panipat Haryana / May 05, 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs.44,60,795/-	Noida


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

Date : May 07, 2022  
Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited



Office Of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division  
**Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan**  
Lane No-1, Tarun Vihar, Mothrowala Road, Dehradun-248001  
Phone No/Fax: 0135-2671940, E-mail - eermdujs@rediffmail.com



Letter No. 553/E-Tender notice/2022-23  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e - Tender Notice**  
On behalf of the Chief General Manager, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Dehradun online tenders in **Two Bid System**, on item rate contract basis (inclusive of all materials & taxes) are invited for the following works in District Dehradun (Uttarakhand) under **Jal Jeevan Mission** from technically and financially capable bidders, registered with Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan/Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam in appropriate class & category up to prescribed date & time on the portal as mentioned in terms and conditions.

Bid No.	Name of Work	Bid Security /Earnest Money	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion of works
01	Construction of Tyuna Mangtad Water Supply Scheme construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of House hold Connection etc. complete	102000.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	09 months
02	Construction of Koti Kanasar Water Supply Scheme construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of House hold Connection etc. complete	184400.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	09 months
03	Construction of Hanol Water Supply Scheme Repairing of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	68800.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	06 Months
04	Construction of Kandhar Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	129000.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	09 Months
05	Construction of Lakhamandal Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	170000.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	09 months
06	Construction of Koti Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	86300.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	06 months
07	Construction of Sorna Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	252100.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	12 Months
08	Construction of Madrsu Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	92600.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	12 months
09	Construction of Bagi Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	320300.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	12 months
10	Construction of Thano Water Supply Scheme of District Dehradun : Including Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Rising Main & Distribution System, Construction of Pump House & Clear Water Reservoir. Development of Tube well & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etc. complete under Jal Jeevan Mission Program	124900.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	12 months

The tender time schedule (Key Dates) is as follows:-		
S. No.	Description	Time Schedule (Key Dates)
1	Date of Online Publication	10.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	Document download : Start Date	11.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	Pre-Bid Meeting : Date	17.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	Bid Submission : Start date	19.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	Bid Submission : End date	24.05.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavits and all supporting Document in support of qualification).	24.05.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	Date of Bid Opening	25.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be intimated later
"जल संस्थ - जीवन संस्थ"		Executive Engineer



# FM flags anonymity as ‘inherent risk’ in use of blockchain, calls for care

**Mumbai:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday flagged anonymity as an “inherent risk” in blockchain technology and called for taking precaution in future with a rise in the use of this technology.

The finance minister made it clear that using the distributed ledger technology (DLT), which is also called as blockchain, is “absolutely imperative” and the government also supports the use of the same.

The minister’s remarks come ahead of the launch of the budgetary announcement of central bank digital currency (CBDC) which is based on the blockchain technology itself and is billed as being similar to the paper currency carried in our wallets.

“...the anonymity is what ... One unknown element in this whole thing. The anonymity of the person or whoever or the robot is the one which we have to be absolutely readying ourselves as ... a future challenge,” Sitharaman said, addressing an NSDL event



here.

Sitharaman said the DLT is a beautiful technology which will help in democratisation but flagged anonymity as an “inherent risk” which we need to guard ourselves from.

Terming anonymity as a “powerful imponderable” in the whole equation, Sitharaman said, “unless we are able to guard ourselves against that anonymous element which can itself pose an inherent risk, we

probably will be exposing ourselves much more than ever we would have imagined.”

Sitharaman commended capital markets regulator Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch, who spoke before her at the same event, for “rightly warning” us about the risk of anonymity, and also for advocating DLTs.

Buch said we do not wish to have anonymity in the CBDC, which is supposed to be introduced during the fiscal by

# Govt to develop vehicle scrapping facilities within 150 kms from city centre

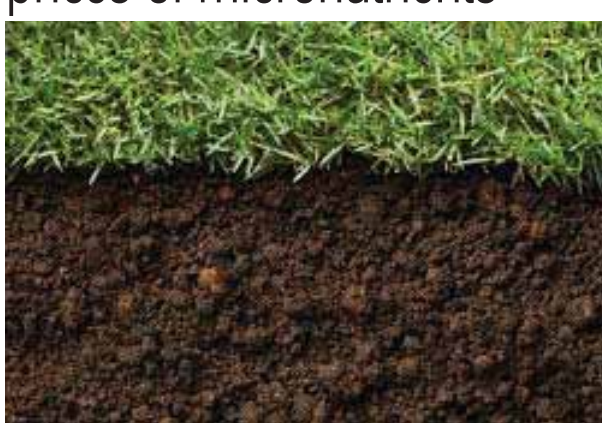
**New Delhi:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said his aim is to develop at least one automobile scrapping facility within 150 kilometres from each city centre, while asserting that the country has the potential to become a vehicle scrapping hub of the entire South Asian region.

Speaking at the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) event here, Gadkari said the National Vehicle Scrappage Policy is a key initiative in the Indian transport and sustainability sector, and this will enable the removal of older and unfit vehicles and introduction of new lesser-polluting vehicles in a phased manner.

“My aim is to develop a vehicle scrapping centre within the reach of 150 km from all the city centres,” the road transport and highways minister said.

Gadkari noted that the road transport and highways ministry has designed the vehicle scrapping policy in a way that allows all types and sizes of investors to come and estab-

# Micro-fertiliser makers’ body urges Govt not to control prices of micronutrients



**New Delhi:** Micro-fertiliser makers’ body IMMA on Saturday hailed the proposed bill on plant nutrition management to regulate the sector, but urged the government not to bring any price control mechanism for micronutrients and speciality products.

The Indian Micro-Fertilizers Manufacturers Association (IMMA) said in a statement that it welcomes the draft Integrated Plant Nutrition Management (IPNM) Bill 2022 which is aimed at regulating the

## DCB Bank Q4 net profit jumps to ₹113 cr

**New Delhi:** Private sector lender DCB Bank on Saturday posted a 44.87 per cent rise in its net profit at ₹113 crore for the quarter ended March 2022.

The bank had registered a net profit of ₹78 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Total income in the March quarter of fiscal year 2021-22 increased to ₹1,035 crore, as against ₹967 crore in the same quarter of 2020-21, DCB Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Net interest income during the quarter rose to ₹380 crore, from ₹311 crore.

Bank’s asset quality, however, showed a slight impairment from the year-ago period at 4.32 per cent of the gross advances as of March 31, 2022, as against 4.13 per cent by March 2021. However, it improved sequentially from 4.78 per cent at the end of December 2021. In value terms, the gross NPAs stood at ₹1,290 crore in the period under review, as against ₹1,083 crore.

On the other hand, the net NPAs or bad loans fell 1.97 per cent (₹573 crore), as against 2.31 per cent (₹594 crore) in the year-ago period. However, the net profit for full year FY2022 decreased by 14.3 per cent to ₹288 crore. **PTI**

## LIC IPO’s non-institutional investors’ portion fully subscribed on Day 4

**New Delhi:** The portion of LIC’s initial public offering earmarked for non-institutional investors, including high net-worth individuals, has been subscribed fully on the fourth day on Saturday.

Against the total 2,96,48,427 shares reserved for Non-Institutional Investors (NII), 3,06,73,020 bids were received resulting in subscription of 1.03 times, according to data posted on stock exchanges at 4:36 pm.

The overall issue was subscribed 1.59 times.

However, the Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB) portion is yet to be fully subscribed. It is still 0.67 per cent of shares earmarked for the QIB.

Retail individual investors bid for 9.57 crore shares as against 6.9 crore set aside for this segment, translating into an oversubscription of 1.38 times.

Of the total, the policyholders’ portion was subscribed 4.4 times, while that for employees was subscribed 3.4 times. **PTI**

## ‘Paper consumption to touch 30 mn tonnes by FY27’

**New Delhi:** Paper consumption in India is likely to witness 6 to 7 per cent annual growth and will reach 30 million tonnes by FY 2026-27, largely driven by emphasis on education and literacy coupled with growth in organised retail, according to industry body IPMA.

The paper Industry holds immense potential for growth in India as the per capita consumption globally is one of the lowest, the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) said in a statement.

“Around 15 per cent of the world population stays in India but consumes only 5 per cent of the total paper produced in the world,” the statement said.

The emphasis on education and literacy coupled with growth in organised retail and demand for better quality paper are the major drivers of growth.

Moreover, there has been continued demand for quality packaging of FMCG products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, organised retail, booming e-commerce, and other segments, it said. **PTI**

# Indian Bank unveils digital broking solution

**Chennai:** Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled digital broking solution -- E-Broking -- allowing customers to open a demat and trading account facility, in line with the digitalisation mission of the bank, an official said on Saturday.

The launch of digital broking solution ‘E-Broking’ was a strategic step towards complete digitalisation of its offerings to customers, a bank statement said.

“E-Broking, an instant and paper-less demat and trading account opening is integrated in the bank’s mobile banking application,” it said.

IndOASIS, the bank’s mobile banking application, would offer customers, a seamless experience from demat and trading account opening to discounted broking services backed by research based investment in the secondary market starting from equity, futures, options, and initial public offerings in a single platform, it said.

“This is a key initiative in line with our digitalisation mission to provide all financial products and services to our customers in an affordable manner under one roof,” the bank’s executive director, Ashwani Kumar said.

“This will also help the bank to increase its CASA (current account, savings account)...,” he said. The bank said the initiative also enables its customers to invest in the



## HDFC hikes lending rate by 30 bps; loans to become dearer

**New Delhi:** Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Saturday announced an increase in its benchmark lending rate by 30 basis points (bps), a move that will make loans dearer for both existing and new borrowers.

The move comes just days after several lenders, including ICICI Bank, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India, raised interest rates following the Reserve Bank of India’s surprise repo rate hike on Wednesday.

“HDFC increases its Retail Prime Lending Rate (RPLR) on housing loans, on which its Adjustable Rate Home Loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 30 basis points, with effect from May 9, 2022,” the housing finance company said in a statement.

The revised rates for new borrowers range between 7 per cent and 7.45 per cent, depending on credit and loan amount. **PTI**

## Go Fashion clocks 73.2% rise in PAT during Q4

**Chennai:** Go Fashion (India) Ltd which owns the popular women’s wear brand ‘Go Colors’ has recorded a 73.2 per cent jump in its profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter ending March 31, 2022. The company reaped Rs 12.3 crore.

The city-based company registered a PAT of Rs 7.1 crore during the corresponding quarter previous year.

For the financial year ending March 31, 2022, the profit after tax was at Rs 35.6 crore.

Total revenue during the quarter under review grew to Rs 116.2 crore from Rs 89.8 crore registered the same period last fiscal.

The total revenue for the year ending March 31, 2022 went up to Rs 401.3 crore from Rs 250.7 crore registered year ago.

Commenting on the financial performance, the company CEO Gautam Saraogi said, “Our company has shown great resilience in FY ’22, and we have come out stronger than ever before. **PTI**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Progen Sas Technologies India Pvt Ltd/ Sandeep Rawat/ Sanjay Rawat/ Pujja Rawat/ Sushil Kaushik/ Pujja Rawat/ Bhawna Kaushik/ A/c No.777705790029	BQ- 58 Shalimar Bagh, Sarawati Vihar, Delhi-110088/ May 04,2022	December 02, 2021 Rs. 22,09,706/-	Delhi

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

**Date : May 07, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.


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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Abu Arif/ Raushan Ara-LBJA100004461609	Flat No. W-101 +W-102, 1st Floor, Pink Pride The Suites, Khasra No 9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass, Bhankrota, Ajmer Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur-302011/ May 04, 2022.	January 12,2022 Rs. 29,33,394.00/-	Jaipur/ Gurgaon
2.	Sanjay Sharma/ Sunita-LBJA100004688632	Flat No N 101 102, 1st Floor, Pink Pride, Khasra No 9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass, Bhankrota, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur- 303902/ May 04, 2022	November 15, 2021 Rs. 23,77,310.01/-	Jaipur/ Palwal/ Mau
3.	Kiran Pal/ Mamma-LBJA100003688530	Flat No W 501 W 502, 5th Floor, Pink Pride, Khasra No 9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass, Bhankrota, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan-303902/ May 04, 2022	November 15, 2021 Rs. 16,46,412.00/-	Jaipur/ Palwal/ Gurgaon

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

**Date : May 07, 2022**  
**Place: Gurgaon**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



# SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED

Registered Office

38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat New Delhi-110049

Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com; website: www.sunilhealthcare.com

CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662

## Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended 31st March 2022

(₹ in Lakhs)

S.No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Year Ended 31.03.2022	3 Months Ended 31.03.2022	3 Months Ended 31.03.2021	Year Ended 31.03.2022	3 Months Ended 31.03.2022	3 Months Ended 31.03.2021
		(Refer Note No. 3)		(Refer Note No. 3)	(Refer Note No. 3)		(Refer Note No. 3)
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	11,637.29	3,070.99	2,276.30	11,916.41	3,168.18	2,348.58
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	957.11	550.55	15.20	926.47	566.43	(50.51)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	957.11	550.55	15.20	926.47	566.43	(50.51)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	677.68	386.77	6.87	642.06	401.07	(59.76)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	671.71	380.80	8.85	623.76	386.49	(39.37)
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	4,453.49	-	-	3,970.01	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	6.61	3.77	0.07	6.26	3.91	(0.58)
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	6.61	3.77	0.07	6.26	3.91	(0.58)

### Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.sunilhealthcare.com)
- As the Company's business fall within a single primary business segment viz. sale of capsule, the disclosure requirement of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS-108) "Operating Segments" prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder, is not applicable.
- The figure for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2021 are the balancing figures between audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures for the nine months ended.
- The figures for the previous periods have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever considered necessary, to conform current period classifications.
- The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on May 06, 2022.

Place : New Delhi

Date : 06.05.2022

Anil Khaitan  
(Chairman cum Managing Director)

DIN 00759951

I, Daksh Khadria, son of Shri Sumit Khadria, resident of Flat No. 1117, Tower H, Prateek Edifice, Sector 107, Noida, Pin code 201305, Dist Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, state that at the time of birth my name was Aahaan Khadria, but thereafter it was changed to Daksh Khadria and I'm known as **DAKSH KHADRIA** for all future purposes. **PTI**

**TO WHAM IT MAY CONCERN**

Under the instructions of my client namely Prashant Tandon son of JB Tandon and the resident of C 263 Golf Apartments Saket, New Delhi, who was the investor (hereinafter referred to as my client) with the below said notice, I have to serve upon the following notice:-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

- Beware of Rahul Kumar alias Rahul Malhotra alias Rahul Sahay son of Narottam Kumar Malhotra & resident of FF-44, Top Floor, Mangal Bazaar Road, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.

It has been learnt that above mentioned person who has been gone by different names/aliases has been trying to create false perceptions by taking out false PR Information and trying to lure investors to give him money as initial expenses.


He has also been doing same as a pattern by way of incorporating different companies by the name of EGW Capital, Exh'way Link, Exh'way Finance Academy, Lycra Island, Lycra Nation etc.. Kindly note that my client does not accept any liability for any loss or damage that may be suffered or incurred directly or indirectly through correspondence with above said Rahul Kumar alias Rahul Malhotra alias Rahul Sahay.

My client or any member of his family has nothing to do or any association with above said Rahul Kumar alias Rahul Malhotra alias Rahul Sahay or any of his projects (like- LYCA Island, LYCA Nation) and my client hereby disassociate himself with Rahul Kumar alias Rahul Malhotra alias Rahul Sahay.

Note: A copy of this notice has been retained in my office for record.

**PAWAN KUMAR (KHANNA)**  
P/725/2011 Advocate  
Room No. 32, New Bar Complex  
Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chd.  
Mob:- 9781800716, 9648468549





talktime

SHOVANA NARAYAN

The kathak dancer, who is a Padma Shri awardee and a recipient of over 40 other national and international awards, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about her recent book, Kathak Lok: Temples, Traditions and History among other things

**‘FOR ME, BIRJU MAHARAJ JI WAS NOT ONLY A GURU BUT A GREAT ARTISTE TOO’**



■ **What was the inspiration behind writing the book?**  
As a dancer, having learnt from great maestros and have been a professional performer on stage for more than 60 years, the existence of Kathak villages came as a surprise. This sparked off a curiosity to learn more about it, the reason for its name and the significance of the name. Eventually it became a research project for each information led to a new set of doors and information. Finally, we shared our knowledge with everyone through the book *Kathak Lok: Temples, Traditions and History* with a DVD *Kathak Lok of Kathak Villages* based on this research.

■ **Please share your experience of writing the book.**  
This research has been a great learning experience for we came to know how the popular narratives of today—narratives and mindsets that we all have grown up to believe as true and as historical truth are actually far removed contrary to ground realities and practice. We learnt about the ancient practice of the *Kathak Lok* as recorded in ancient shastaras, gap between theorists and practice especially when speaking of the term *Kathak*, temple traditions and role of the *Kathaks* (Kathak community), caste factors, kinds of patronage, strict adherence to primary sources and original archival records to comprehend the gaps between recorded archival history and popular narratives and beliefs, etc.

■ **What does the passing away of Pandit Birju Maharaj mean to you personally and to the world of kathak?**  
To me, the death of Maharaj ji was like losing a friend, a guru, an anchor and a great artiste — an artiste, who had taken *kathak* to new heights of aesthetics and excellence.

■ **Tell us about your bond and experience with Pandit Birju Maharaj.**  
I started learning from Birju Maharaj ji in 1964 being one of his most early disciples. Later from 1970, he started getting a whole battery of disciples. So, in a way we all grew and evolved together. For me, he was not only a guru but also a great artiste who was extremely versatile, innovative, creative, forward looking while being completely grounded in tradition, not wearing tradition like a mill around his neck. In later years, he was a great friend.

■ **Where do you think India stands when it comes to classical dance?**  
India, in any terms, shines like a unique brilliant star in the horizon of classical dance. It is here that the classical dance forms are considered to be *bhakti yoga*—path to spirituality and worship; it is in this sub-continent alone that our deities are also revered as classical performing artistes. In its delineation, it breathes the fragrance of our Indian philosophy and practices of life such as yoga.

■ **What would you like to tell the next generation about kathak?**  
I think all generations present, next and all generations to come in the future should know of its rich *kathak* heritage, a heritage that goes back to *Samveda*, a community of *Brahmin Temple Kathaks* who sermonised with use of mime and movements, whose practices find reflection in the codifications of *Natyashastra* and the *Abhinaya Darpan*, and that popular narratives and mindsets are far removed from actual ground realities. It is a form that breathes the philosophy of our country.

■ **How did the pandemic affect dancers and musicians?**  
The world of classical performing arts, while being badly hit in economic terms as most had no source of livelihood, yet in the face of all obstacles and challenges, their positivity and creativity saw them learning new medium of online, sharing their creativity with the rest of the world sinking in the vortex of depression and thus bringing moments of happiness and joy in such lives. Many artistes if not all, interconnected with lives across the globe, teaching online, holding seminars, discussions, and performing too. But the question that needs to be reflected upon is while receiving solace from the creativity of performing artistes, how many of the general public even spared them a thought about what these artistes must be going through. Isn't it a pity that a country where we revere our Gods and Goddesses as performing artistes, the general public thinks art and artistes are unimportant? I refer to the survey of 2020.

Plan Your Day

GET CREATIVE

Do you like those fancy nail arts and want to paint your own? But, isn't it a little expensive for you?

Do you want to learn artistic nail art at your home, and that too with no money spent? Or are you in the beauty industry already and want to skill up to work as a nail technician?

Well, my friend, you'll discover everything here! Trendy Nail Art & Designs Workshop is specially designed for aspiring nail technicians or everyone who is passionate about nail art with no previous experience or qualification.

**What:** Workshop  
**Where:** Online  
**When:** May 9, 2022  
**Time:** 7 pm



Sound of music

Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

**Bollywood vibes**

Dafa Kar (A R Rahman)

Saamna (Akasa)

Mast Nazron Se (Rochak Kohli)

Kya Kar Diya (Vishal Mishra)

Macha Macha Re (Mika Singh)

English Vinglish

Psychofreak (Camila Cabello)

Seven Bridge Road (Jake Bugg)

Wings Of Stone (Adam Levine)

FREE (John Legend)

Crazy (Doechii)

Masterstroke

Junekeri Homes is a homegrown brand that specialises in quality handcrafted goods for the modern home which celebrates the heritage of India's oldest handicrafts. Started in 2020 by a mother-daughter duo Ayesha and Sudha, the name Junekeri is inspired by the word *Junekeri*, referring to *Jugnu*, a firefly. It draws creativity from the fascinating jugnu and creates and curates functional and beautiful pieces.

Every piece from the collection carries a cultural history of the community from where it originates and is crafted using locally sourced materials and time honoured skills.

The brand expresses itself in the form of contemporary designs built to stand the test of time by blending traditional craftsmanship with modern designs.

*Junekeri* creates an exclusive piece of comfort that resonates in perfect harmony with a customer's lifestyle.

**Sachi cushion:** Inspired by the striking fuchsia blooms on a summer landscape the rani pink cushions are a firm favourite. Propped solo on a sofa or huddled in a group this cheery hue is hard to miss. The bold geometric patterns are characterised by their classic stripes and are finished with tassels on the side. Special care has been taken while stitching the inner lining with cotton fabric.



# TIME TO BE YOUR BEST

Want to look breathtaking with your ethnic fashion style at your summer wedding? Opt for a bridal nawabi gharara as your wedding dress as this is the time to slay

Traditional Lucknowi outfit designed to enhance the beauty of the bride, ghararas come with the fashion perks of being worn by any lady, irrespective of their body shape - whether they are petite or curvy as the ensemble can be styled as per your liking and even modern customizations of sarees and suits. A gharara ropes in the charm of the bygone era, making us fall head-over-heels in love with the ethnic wear and encouraging us to move over regular ethnic wear while elevating our Indian style wardrobe this wedding season with a sultry spin.

Currently in trend for their edgy traditionalism and a modern contemporary feel, gharara was traditionally worn by women in the Indian subcontinent and is now a viral fashion fad in Pakistan and the Hindi Belt of modern-day India. They are a pair of trousers that are narrow and straight at the waist to the knees and heavily flared or wide-legged from below the knees and up to the toes with a thick lace hiding the joint where the cloth is gathered or ruched up to form the flare of the pants.

**Heavily embellished traditional gharara**

Gharara is a new style statement that one must have in a wardrobe. This gharara is heavily embellished with zardosi, pearls, sequin and stones. Gharara with heavy embroidered straight kurti is taking its elite position and getting clear attention in being the essential piece of a bride's main day. The authentic dupatta is just a cherry on a cake. This style gives you the perfect royal bridal look. Gharara with a little tail in the back gives you a princess feeling on your big day and is perfect for your traditional occasion.

**Gharara with long kurti**

It is very trendy these days and women have started donning floor length or chatapati gharara when attending wedding rituals and special occasions. Gharara paired with a long kurti gives you the royal bridal look if carrying a ghunghat or drape with it. This look is a statement look that you can opt for any of your special occasions. The ghunghat drape can be styled in many ways as it's comfortable and you can play with the drape according to your imagination but comfy enough for a wedding in summer.

**Bridal nawabi gharara**

The bridal nawabi gharara uses antique embroidery or chata patti embroidered gharara. This bridal nawab suit is designed in such a way where the design is crafted on the front, on the back as well as on sleeves. This suit is designed with a V-neckline and is intricately detailed with antique and chata patti design, giving it the perfect bridal outfit vibes. This gharara suit is one of the most favourable suits when it comes to occasions like mehendi, sangeet or even the main wedding day.

**Gharara with jacket**

Modern gharara has a tight tunic in comparison to conventional ones and is plated more below the knee with the joint. A gharara styled with a jacket gives you a complete model look. Simultaneously, the embroidery on the jacket and gharara gives you that rich royal look which you can comfortably carry on all traditional occasions. It slightly takes a western effect and the look makes you feel elegant and so chic. Gharara and kurti in this style are embellished with a lot of zardosi, thread, pearl, sequin and stone work.


— Aaliya Deeba, Founder, Ideebbs London, a Couture Label



## QUIRKY TALE

Teleplay for the win

Veteran actor Daya Shankar Pandey is thrilled to be a part of *Bhamashah*, a teleplay retelling the story of a legendary philanthropist, warrior and advisor to Maharana Pratap. The Zee Theatre presentation delineates how *Bhamashah* supported the Maharana with strategic advice and his own wealth in the battles against the Mughals. Pandey says: "I am glad that *Bhamashah* has now been archived for posterity because theatre has a very limited audience, whereas a teleplay will reach a vast number of people. It will always be available to anyone who wants to revisit this story."



Constant companion and playmate

Chandni Sharma, who essays the role of Akanksha in *Sony TV's Kaamnaa* says: "Indeed, mothers are our best friends. As a child, my mother was my constant companion, my playmate. Sometimes, she would bring out dry kitchen ingredients and I would whisk up fake meals for her. Being a sweetheart, she would complement my cooking 'skills' and declare that she had the best meal of her life. I believe that all that I am today is because of her blessings and effort. Her love and trust in me could not be explained in words, much like I cannot explain how much I love her."




"It was an honour watching you perform on this stage," says Ranveer Singh

Over the last three decades, Zee TV has been instrumental in providing the Indian youth with a global platform to showcase their singing, dancing, and acting talent. The channel's most iconic dance reality show, *Dance India Dance*, also revolutionised the landscape of dance in the country when it first began to air in 2009. Over the last 13 years, the platform has stood testimonial to the sheer passion and love that India holds in its heart towards dance. After giving the audience a glimpse of this year's mind-blowing talent, Zee TV recently launched its top-rated reality show for the youngest dancing talent in the country - *DID L'il Masters* Season 5.

Since its launch, viewers have been having a gala time watching the young dancing sensations put up some incredible acts week after week. However, on May 7, 2022, viewers had a special treat as Ranveer Singh graced *DID L'il Masters* as a guest. While the talented youngsters impressed him and the judges during the shoot, Ahmed Raja's performance with skipper Vaibhav Ghuge inspired everyone, and Ranveer Singh was in complete awe by what he witnessed on this stage. While everyone was mesmerised by his performance, the founder of the Inail Foundation- Prashant Gade, announced supporting Ahmed with prosthetic limbs and sponsoring his lifetime education. Isn't it an amazing initiative?

Ranveer Singh said: "You are superb, and I believe the courage you have shown is incredible. People are generally afraid of even coming up on stage, but you are the real embodiment of the spirit of life, and I believe we get to learn a lot from you."




"It indeed takes a lot to carve your own niche and achieve unparalleled success," says Jagat Patel

A globetrotter by passion, Jagat Patel has travelled across the world not just making a difference to the Indian education industry but also by setting up an example of a king-sized life. A visionary that constantly believes in evolving, started 'Overseas Education Centre' in 2003. OEC was established with the core objective of helping students achieve their dream of overseas education. It has worked to develop expertise in overseas education and visa formalities.

His unparalleled knowledge and zeal to constantly learn led him to explore the education industry. Patel knew the value of good education and a wide exposure and he wanted this life changing experience to be easily accessible for the students who envisioned a future studying abroad.

Patel spent many years working with the University of Bedfordshire Regional Representatives Office (South-West India). Grasping the key knowledge of overseas education and the challenges involved. He gave detailed attention to everything that could make the journey of knowledge an easier one for the students. Over the years, the team of OEC has created a robust network with leading institutions worldwide, giving them the ability to provide better education services to the students. Patel made sure that OEC provided the much needed guidance and opportunity to everyone who found applying for an overseas education a tedious task.





INDIAN  
PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

My focus is always on economy

— Rashid Khan

## LSG crush KKR by 75 runs

Quinton De Kock's 50, bowlers take LSG closer to playoff berth with crushing victory over KKR

PTI ■ PUNE

Quinton de Kock laid the platform with a commanding fifty and his pacers then terrorised Kolkata Knight Riders to record a crushing 75-run victory for Lucknow Super Giants which put them on top of the table with an IPL play-off berth being a formality now.

For last year's runners-up KKR, eight points from 11 games with a deflating negative run-rate now puts them closer to the exit door with lacklustre performance and unimaginative captaincy combining for what has turned out to be a disastrous season so far.

Invited to bat, De Kock slammed a 29-ball-50 but Lucknow almost frittered away a solid start before some lusty hitting in a 30-run penultimate over off Shivam Mavi took them to 176 for 7.

The LSG bowlers then raised to the occasion to bundle out KKR for 101 in 14.3 overs, despite the heroics of Andre Russell (45 off 19 balls) to gather two crucial points and take their overall total to 16 points in the IPL standing.

KKR remained at the 8th spot after suffering their 7th loss in 11 games.

Defending 177, LSG left KKR tottering at 25 for four with four bowlers picking up their first wickets.

While Mohsin produced a wicket- maiden to get rid of to Baba Indrajith, Chameera sent back Shreyas Iyer after rattling him with a short and quick delivery.

It has now been an all too familiar script for KKR skipper whose discomfort while facing quick bouncers is well-documented and national coach Rahul Dravid would only be worried with this glaring technical deficiency.

Aaron Finch too perished as his miscued pull was poached by de Kock as KKR slipped to 23 for 3 in the first six overs.

Nitish Rana was then cleaned up by



Avesh Khan with a yorker as KKR looked down the barrels.

Russell then used his brute force to hit Holder all across the park. One was whacked at midwicket for a maximum, the second one was slapped to deep,

while a flat-batted pull earned him another six and the last one was a four over short third.

After amassing 25 off the Holder over, Russell produced another maximum off Ravi Bishnoi as KKR reached

## ► points table

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	LSG	11	8	3	0	16	0.703
2.	GT	11	8	3	0	16	0.120
3.	RR	11	7	4	0	14	0.326
4.	RCB	11	6	5	0	12	-0.444
5.	DC	10	5	5	0	10	0.641
6.	SRH	10	5	5	0	10	0.325
7.	PBKS	11	5	6	0	10	-0.231
8.	KKR	11	4	7	0	8	-0.304
9.	CSK	10	3	7	0	6	-0.431
10.	MI	10	2	8	0	4	-0.725

## ► boundary meter

4s	1480
6s	786

64 for 4 in 10 overs.

He and Sunil Narine (22 off 12) produced a small partnership but once Russell was out to Avesh Khan in the 13th over, it became a downward slide for KKR as they folded in 14.3 overs.

Avesh and Holder returned with three wickets each.

Earlier, De Kock, who was involved in a terrible mix up with skipper KL Rahul, who got a 'Diamond Duck' (out for 0 without facing a ball), redeemed himself with an innings studded with four boundaries and three maximums.

He added 71 with Deepak Hooda (41 off 27 balls) to give LSG a good start after being invited to bat.

Hooda made up for the loss of Rahul's with his back-to-back boundaries over extra cover off Shivam Mavi (1/50 in 4 overs), while De Kock too joined in with a special treatment to Tim Southee, clobbering him for two fours and a six in the 3rd over.

## RR beat PBKS by 6 wickets

Royals return to winning ways with Jaiswal-Chahal show

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Promising opener Yashasvi Jaiswal made a dream comeback with a career-best 68 as Rajasthan Royals well and truly remained in hunt for a play-off berth beating Punjab Kings by six wickets, which also happened to be their first while chasing in this edition of IPL.

Drafted in place of Karun Nair, the 20-year-old showed superb game awareness and picked the gaps at ease in a 41-ball 68 (9x4, 2x6) to brilliantly set it up for the Rajasthan Royals in their tall 190-run chase at the Wankhede which was completed with two balls to spare.

With its first successful run-chase, Royals team are now on 14 points from 11 matches in third place and one more win will firmly put them in contention for a a to-four finish.

The win also meant that the five-time champions Mumbai Indians became the first team to be eliminated from the IPL-15 season.

The loss meant a big blow to Punjab playoff hopes as they now have 10 points from 11 matches.

The young gun, who was retained among the three players by the franchise, was playing only in his fourth match this season, came into his element after Orange Cap holder Jos Buttler (30 off 16 balls; 5x4, 1x6) departed inside the powerplay after a flying start.

Skipper Sanju Samson (23) was dismissed cheaply and there was a sense of concern in the Rajasthan camp when Jaiswal showed what he's capable of with his clean hitting all over the park.

He raced to his third IPL fifty, first this season off just 33 balls, toying the Punjab attack with ease.

Be it with his unorthodox reverse sweep to Rahul Chahar or lap-scoop off Rishi Dhawan or the classical drives, Jaiswal looked in total control in a 37-ball 56-run partnership with Devdutt Padikkal.

Jaiswal finally departed after miscuing one to Arshdeep Singh giving a sigh of relief to Punjab but the equation was then reduced



to an easy 49 off 35 balls.

There was a bit of drama towards the end after tournament's best death overs seamer Arshdeep Singh (2/29) bowling a brilliant penultimate over giving just three runs and taking the wicket of Padikkal (31).

Needing eight runs from the last over, Hetmyer struck a six to seal the chase with two balls to spare.

It was in fact the experienced legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal who earlier brilliantly set it up for Punjab bowling a tidy 4-0-28-3 which included 10 dot balls.

Chahal, who had just two wickets from the last four matches, started to look threatening again.

He dismissed the duo of Mayank Agarwal (15) and their top run-getter Jonny Bairstow (56 off 40 balls) off three balls to derail them in the middle overs (10-15) where they made just 34 runs and lost three wickets. Earlier, Bairstow signalled his return to form with a fine half-century before Jitesh Sharma's cameo propelled Punjab Kings to challenging 189/5. On a day when their leading run-getter Shikhar Dhawan (12 from 16b) struggled to get going, Bairstow looked effortless once he had settled down and reached his first IPL fifty this season, eighth overall, in 34 balls.

Bairstow however failed to convert it into a big one as Punjab lost three wickets for 30 runs with current 'Purple Cap' holder Chahal denting their progress with his triple-strike.



हरियाणा सरकार

75  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

## अटल कैंसर केयर केन्द्र का उद्घाटन

श्री जे.पी. नड्डा  
सांसद, राज्यसभा  
एवं राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष, भाजपा

एवं श्री मनोहर लाल  
मुख्यमंत्री, हरियाणा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

श्री अनिल विज  
स्वास्थ्य मंत्री, हरियाणा

एवं

श्री रतन लाल कटारिया  
सांसद

दिनांक - सोमवार, 9 मई, 2022 समय - प्रातः 9:00 बजे

स्थान - अटल कैंसर केयर केन्द्र, अम्बाला छावनी



I think you should  
take your job  
seriously, but not  
yourself. That is the  
best combination  
— Dame Judi Dench



Photo: Anuradha Goyal

# HARYANA LAND OF THE BHAGVAD GITA

Literary tradition speaks of Kurukshetra not merely as a single place or site, but rather as a sacred and religious landscape extending beyond the present city, writes **SUSAN MISHRA**

Haryana--- Hari + Yana meaning the abode of Hari/Vishnu--- is provenance of the Bhagvad Gita or the Song of God/the divine song, the golden words of philosophy uttered by Shri Krishna on the battle field of Kurukshetra. The Bhagvad Gita occupies an exalted position in India's culture and its philosophical precepts have gained much acclaim worldwide. In the text Kurukshetra is described as Dharmakshetra,, the field of righteousness and in a collection of hymns of the Maitrayani Samhita, Kurukshetra is first mentioned by name as a place of divine sacrifices. In mythology, the name Kurukshetra applies to a circuit covering over 100 kilometres with an abundance of holy places, temples and tanks, connected with ancient Indian traditions.

Literary tradition speaks of Kurukshetra not merely as a single place or site, but rather as a sacred and religious landscape extending beyond the present city. This long held association with the Epic and Vishnu worship is not merely a myth. Archaeological and inscripational material from Pehowa, Thanesar, Rohtak and Gujjar Kheri have unveiled a vast, ancient and rich religious landscape.

A journey from Delhi to Kurukshetra and thence Chandigarh reveals numerous sites of ancient Hindu temples and remains. In the context of Hindu remains, the most well-known site is Surajkund, a 10th century CE stepped water tank, the banks of which once had a temple dedicated to Surya. Undoubtedly, it would seem that many other temples must have existed in Haryana, clues to which are found in archaeology and inscriptions.

The historical village of Gurawara, is located about 50 kilometres from Gurgaon and 8 kilometres north east of Jhajjar. A votive stone temple of Vishnu from Gurawara was built in 897 CE and images of Sheshashayi Vishnu (Vishnu lying on snake), Parvati, Ganesha, Mahisasurmardini and pillar fragments of 10th to 12th century CE speak of a temple lost in time.

From Jhajjar, at a short distance of about 45 kilometres, is the well-known town of Rohtak, or ancient Khokhrakot. The archaeological remains from Khokhrakot show a developed township from 1000 BCE to Gupta period. Coins of the Yaudheyas (a Republic that finds mention in Panini's Ashtadhyayi of 6th /5th century BCE), moulds and evidences of mints were discovered at the site of Garhi Majra. Recovered during excavations were an image of Kubera and a terracotta female figurine of 2nd to 4th century CE. A ruined brick temple of 4th

to 6th century CE was excavated and a votive red stone Hindu temple of the 11th century CE was reported.

Travelling ahead on Highway 9, the next site with clues to temples of an ancient past is Hansi. The inventory of sculptural remains from various locations firmly establish that Hansi did once have a temple. The earliest dated image is of Narasimha of the 7th century CE and two images of Mahishasurmardini (7th to 9th century CE). Other Hindu deities recovered and reported include Vishnu, Nar Varaha (Varaha in male form), six images of Surya and Ganesha (10th century CE). The Digambar Jain temple has two images of 10th /11th century and 12th /13th century CE. All this points to Hansi's past as a religious establishment, covering a span of almost 400 years.

Further ahead at a distance of about 50 kilometres along the same Highway is the town of Agroha, steeped in historical significance. The archaeological site is situated about 1.5 kilometres away from the present town. According to tradition, Raja Agra, later named as Agras of Agrawal community, used to live here. The remains of the Fort on the top of the mound are connected with his residence. The excavations revealed a settlement dating from circa 4th century BCE to 14th century CE, and more importantly, remains of a Buddhist stupa and a Hindu temples. The site had two temples which existed from the 4th century CE to the 11th century CE. Terracotta sealings (small clay seals) with Sri Narayana Deva inscribed (3rd /4th century CE) seem to suggest that the temples had a Vaishnavite affiliation. This is the only site with early evidence of musical notes - ni, dha, pa, ma, ga, re, sa- being inscribed on a terracotta clay tablet (9th century CE).

From Agroha, one continues on Highway 10 till Barwala, then taking Highway 52 to Badowala. From Badowala, Highway 152 leads to Kalayat. Upon reaching Kalayat, one is amazed at the beauty of the only surviving brick temple of the Gurajara Pratihara period, 8th /9th century CE. Located on the banks of a sacred water tank, the temple and its environs transports one into the realm of peace and calm. The layout of the temples indicates a Panchayatana scheme, a central temple surrounded by four smaller shrines. Of these , only two have survived-- one in its original form, and the reconstructed. The name Kalayat is believed to have its origin in the word "Kapilayatana", or the home/ base of Kapila Muni.

Further ahead en route is the site of Pehowa, on the banks of mythical and revered Sarasvati River. Pehowa is of special interest as it is here that inscriptions speak of three temples dedicated to

“THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF GURAWARA, IS LOCATED ABOUT 50 KILOMETRES FROM GURGAON AND 8 KILOMETRES NORTH EAST OF JHAJJHAR. A VOTIVE STONE TEMPLE OF VISHNU FROM GURAWARA WAS BUILT IN 897 CE AND IMAGES OF SHESHASHAYI VISHNU (VISHNU LYING ON SNAKE), PARVATI, GANESHA, MAHISASURMARDINI AND PILLAR FRAGMENTS OF 10TH TO 12TH CENTURY CE SPEAK OF A TEMPLE LOST IN TIME”



Photo: Karnail Singh

Vishnu and his Avatars. The inscription of the time of Mahendrapala, 895-905 CE, mentions a horse fair at Pehowa, visited by numerous horse dealers from various localities, and records the construction of a triple temple to Vishnu by three brothers. It further records the collection of a voluntary tax from each trader for the purpose of maintenance of these Vishnu temples. From a mound stone sculptures depicting scenes from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and remains of an ancient temple plinth were reported. The structural remnants of earlier temples, such as pillars, have been reused in the relatively modern temple structures of Garibnath Temple and Saraswati Temple at Pehowa.

The sacred site of Kurukshetra is just 25 kilometres from Pehowa, and remnants of its past have been recovered from the area of Thanesar located on the outskirts of Kurukshetra. The city was earlier known as Thaneshwar and at times Sthaneshwar. It is believed that at the Sthaneshwar Mahadev Temple, the Pandavas prayed to Lord Shiva for victory in the battle of the Mahabharata. The ancient site of Thanesar has a long period of occupation covering almost 2000 years, beginning from the 1st century CE. Thanesar finds mention in Banabhatta's Harshacarita (The Deeds of Harsha), a historical poetic work of the 7th century CE. The city was also visited by the Chinese traveller Xuanzang in 634 CE. The excavated mound of Harsh ka tila brought to light Hindu and Jaina sculptures, dating from the 6th to 12th century CE. An inscription from the South East Asian country of Laos (second half of the 5th century CE) establishes the fact that the fame of Kurukshetra had spread beyond India. The inscription of Maharajadhiraja Sri Devanika, compares the king to Yudhishtira, Indra, Dhananjay and Indradyunna, it eulogizes the merits of Kurukshetra and records that the king planned to establish a new Kurukshetra in Laos.



Photo: Karnail Singh



Photo: Giridharmamidi

Travelling northwards from Kurukshetra on NH 44 towards Kalka, the well-known Pinjore Garden is just 5 kilometres before Kalka. The 17th century Mughal style garden is located in the foothills of Himalayas and was built by Nawab Fiday Khan during the reign of Aurangzeb (1658-1707). The garden was renamed to 'Yadavindra Garden' in the memory of Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of the princely state of Patiala who restored it to its former glory. In the vicinity of Pinjore garden are the vestiges of a glorious temple. The Bhima Devi Temple Complex, also called the Khajuraho of North India, consisting of the restored ruins of an ancient Hindu temple dated between 9th and 11th century CE. The inventory of Hindu sculptures includes those of Shiva, Shakti, Parvati, Chamunda, Uma Maheshvara, Nandi, Karttikeya, a fragmentary Varaha, colossal images of Ganesha, Vishnu (fragmentary), and Surya (fragmentary) and also 19 Jain images.

Another site that deserves mention is Kheri Gujjar , which is located south of Kurukshetra along Highway 44 heading towards Panipat and Delhi and 10 kilometres before Murthal. Excavations at an old archaeological mound at Kheri Gujjar brought to light numerous sculptures, including three stone panel sculptures depicting scenes from the Krishan Leela. The first image is believed to be of Lord Krishna in a standing posture, whereas the second is a representation of the episode of Kaliya Daman, and the third shows Krishna as Murli Manohar. A Shiva linga from the site is of 5th century CE and the early medieval images include sculptures of Vishnu, Uma-Maheshwara, Karttikeya, Mahishasurmardini, Surya, Ganesha, Brahma, Ganga and Yamuna, Nandi and Karttikeya. The masterpiece is a buff sandstone image of Karttikeya with six faces of the 9th century CE. Pillars, architectural pieces and even sculptures of an earlier religious structure have been reused in comparatively new temples.

These sites are just a glimpse of the rich heritage of Haryana which includes numerous other locations with vestiges of Hindu sculptural remains from the past. The terracotta plaque from Sugh, located in the village of Amadalpur Dayalgarh, Yamunanagar district, speaks of Haryana's rich artistic and literary heritage. The plaque of 2nd century BCE, now housed in the National Museum at New Delhi, depicts a child seated comfortably on the floor and holding a Takhti in his hands, attempting to write the alphabets in Brahmi script, and on the tablet is visible what is colloquially known as the Barakhadi.

The writer is a research scholar, worked as Project Associate and recipient of Devangana Desai Senior Fellowship CSMVS Mumbai. She has also co-authored two book



# DON'T LET IT SUFFOCATE YOU

**World Asthma Day** is observed on every first Tuesday in the month of May. The theme for this year is 'Closing the Gaps in Asthma Care'. The HEALTH PIONEER talks about the disease which kills around 1.98 lakh asthmatic people every year in India.

## Yoga Asanas to manage asthma



Yoga is considered to be very effective for asthma patients as it opens the lungs and helps them to breathe better. However, not all asanas are meant for asthma patients.

Dr. Ishwar V Basavaraddi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Delhi says that detoxification kriyas like kunjal, jalneti and kapal Bhanti are very important for asthmatic patient and should be done before sunrise for best results. He also cautions that all kriyas and yoga asanas should be done under the guidance of a certified yoga trainer. According to Basavaraddi best yoga asanas to manage the respiratory disease are:

**Nadi Shodhan pranayama** (Alternate Nostril Breathing technique)/**Kapal Bhati**/Ardha Matsyendrasana (Sitting Half Spinal Twist)/**Pawanmuktasana** (Wind Relieving Pose)/**Setu Bandhasana** (Bridge Pose)/**Bhujangasana** (Cobra Pose)/**Adho Mukha Svanasana** (Downward-Facing Dog Pose)/**Badhakonasana** (Butterfly Pose)/**Poorvottanasana** (Upward Plank Pose)/**Shavasana** (Corpse Pose)

### Your child may have asthma if

- Coughing that is constant, is intermittent or seems linked to physical activity
- Wheezing or whistling sounds when your child breathes out
- Shortness of breath or rapid breathing.
- Repeated episodes of suspected bronchitis or pneumonia

### Common triggers of asthma

\*Weather change/\* Exposure to dust, tree or grass pollen/\* Exposure to strong smells such as perfumes and odours/\* Exposure to smoke, or occupational dust \* Exposure to certain class of drugs eg. aspirin, NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) Ibuprofen, Diclofenac, blood pressure medicines (Beta blockers)/ \* Stress/\* Non-compliance with treatment/\* Alcohol, cigarette or drug abuse/\* Employment or income problems leading to non-compliance/\* Viral infections/\* \* People who have exercise induced asthma, will have symptoms aggravated during exercise.



India is home to around 34.3 million asthmatics, that is 12.9 per cent of the global 262 million cases. According to the latest data from the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) study in 2019, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha are among the top three with the highest number of asthmatics.

Asthma is a serious, chronic disease that causes the airways in the lungs to become swollen or inflamed and over-reactive to triggers like pollen, dust or smoke. Severe asthma requires inhaled medications, controller medications, and oftentimes oral corticosteroids, and, if ignored can take a significant toll on people living with this disease.

Prof (Dr) GC Khilnani, Chairman, PSRI Institute of Pulmonary, Critical care & Sleep Medicine and member, technical advisory Group of WHO Global Air Pollution and Health, says that asthma is a health issue that largely goes undiagnosed. The patients have episodic cough, chest tightness, breathlessness and wheezing (a whistling sound from the chest). "These issues can usually be treated with the help of inhalers or with cough syrups, warm water, antibiotics or other home remedies. In young children and infants, it is seen as frequent cough and rapid breathing. Fever is not a symptom of asthma. Diagnosis

**ASTHMA IS MOSTLY AN ALLERGIC DISEASE, WHICH HAS MULTIPLE TRIGGERS. MOST OF THE TIME, ASTHMA IS TRIGGERED BY DUST, SMOKE AND POLLUTION. THOSE WHO HAVE HYPERSENSITIVITY OF AIRWAYS CAN EXPERIENCE WORSENING OF SYMPTOMS WHEN THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH SUCH IRRITANTS**

of asthma is carried out by doing spirometry, where a patient blows into a machine that measures the calibre of the airways."

Doctors say that by reducing levels of atmospheric pollution, India can cut down the burden of the disease caused by asthma. They add that the overall framework for managing asthma requires considerable attention to environmental exposures (indoor and outdoor) and control practices.

Dr. Ravi Shekhar Jha, Director, PulmonologyFortis Escorts Faridabad notes, "asthma is mostly an allergic disease, which has multiple triggers. Most of the time, asthma is triggered by dust, smoke and pollution. Those who have hypersensitivity of airways can experience worsening of symptoms when they come in contact with such irritants. Therefore, the best thing one can do to prevent asthma attacks is to reduce their exposure to these irritants."

Must remember, smoking is one of the commonest irritants. Another important thing we should keep in mind is that if prescribed, we must take inhalers. Inhalers have no addiction and it is one such thing which can stop the progression of the disease.

According to Dr Ambuj Roy, professor of Cardiology at AIIMS, elderly people, patients with lung and heart problems, Covid-recov-

ered patients and pregnant women are most susceptible to issues arising out of the polluted air.

### Prevention is better than cure

The best way to prevent asthma attacks are to identify the possible triggers so that you can avoid or minimise exposure to those. You must take your medications as prescribed. Your doctor prescribes medications known as asthma preventers such as inhaled corticosteroids. Track your asthma and recognise early signs that it may be getting worse, and you can have an action plan from your doctor to know what to do when your asthma is getting worse.

At the same time, Dr. Sandeep Nayar, Senior Director & HOD, Chest & Respiratory Diseases, Max Hospital echoes similar views. "Asthma patients shouldn't discontinue inhaler therapy. "Inhalers play an advantageous role compared to tablets or injections in asthma therapy. And it is my sincere advice to patients that under no circumstances they should not stop taking inhalers, until the doctors have prescribed to do so.

"Even for pregnant women, who worry about how the changes of pregnancy will affect their asthma, inhalers therapy is most successful when a woman receives regular medical care and follows her treatment plan closely,"

## BEYOND THE STETHOSCOPE

When not pursuing their profession, a breed of doctors prefer to wear different hats to keep themselves fit and centered. The HEALTH PIONEER tries to catch up with them every week.



## AIIMS Doctor Shuttles From OPD To Badminton Court

Dr Naval Kishore Vikram, a leading Endocrinologist and Professor at the Department of Medicine of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, takes time out from his busy professional schedules to cater to his passion for playing badminton.

He says it keeps him "calm, clear and focused." It is incredible to see how Dr Vikram finds time for playing badminton given his hectic schedule amidst patients while also teaching students.

It all depends on perspective, he reasons. "I make sure to play every alternate day. Unlike in many sports like cricket, you don't need many players in badminton and, in AIIMS we are lucky to have an indoor court too."

The doctor enlists the benefits of playing badminton. It is a total body workout, improves your mental wellbeing, heart health, reduces health risks and so many other ailments, the doctor tells you, asserting that he never misses out on his practice on the badminton court.

Talking about how sports boost one's health, the senior doctor gave an instance of a Parkinson's patient, a DU professor Pramesh Ratnakar, who had been managing well with his neurodegenerative disease because of his passion for several games like squash, badminton and tennis.

Dr Vikram happened to play badminton with Ratnakar at an event last month to mark the Parkinson's Day at AIIMS here. "Ratnakar gave a good fight despite being afflicted with the neuro-degenerative disease that primarily affects movement due to the loss of specific brain cells. He has coped well with his condition due to his engagement in various games.

"I advise my patients to take up any physical activity or sports to stay in good stead. There is no substitute to good health," says Dr Vikram, who has well-known authority on metabolic disorders with special emphasis on insulin resistance and obesity.

Father of two children, Dr Vikram is a first generation doctor in his family. His wife, Dr Sujata Sharma, a professor at the Department of Biophysics of the AIIMS, also dons multiple hats: she's a writer and a dancer. (Medicos may write to us at [healthp100@gmail.com](mailto:healthp100@gmail.com))

## Follow Life's Simple 7

**Life's Simple 7** is defined by the American Heart Association as the 7 risk factors that people can improve through lifestyle changes to help achieve ideal cardiovascular health.

### MANAGE BLOOD PRESSURE

High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. When your blood pressure stays within healthy ranges, you reduce the strain on your heart, arteries, and kidneys which keeps you healthier longer.

### \*CONTROL CHOLESTEROL

High cholesterol contributes to plaque, which can clog arteries and lead to heart disease and stroke. When you control your cholesterol, you are giving your arteries their best chance to remain clear of blockages.

### \*REDUCE BLOOD SUGAR

Most of the food we eat is turned into glucose (or blood sugar) that our bodies use for energy. Over time, high levels of blood sugar can damage your heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves.

### \*GET ACTIVE

Living an active life is one of the most rewarding gifts you can give yourself and those you love. Simply put, daily physical activity increases your length and quality of life.

### \*EAT BETTER

A healthy diet is one of your best weapons for fighting cardiovascular disease. When you eat a heart-healthy diet, you improve your chances for feeling good and staying healthy – for life!

### \*LOSE WEIGHT

When you shed extra fat and unnecessary pounds, you reduce the burden on your heart, lungs, blood vessels and skeleton. You give yourself the gift of active living, you lower your blood pressure and you help yourself feel better, too.

### \*STOP SMOKING

Cigarette smokers have a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease. If you smoke, quitting is the best thing you can do for your health.

Last month, the World Health Organisation (WHO) flagged concerns that anxiety and depression have increased more than 25 per cent since the onset of the Covid-19 crisis. Young people and women are the worst hit.

The global health agency also pointed out that concerns about potential increases in mental health conditions has already prompted 90 per cent of countries to include mental health and psychosocial support in their Covid-19 response plans, though major gaps and concerns still remain.

India on its part has launched tele-services in the healthcare sector to help affected people deal with mental health disorders. But just depending on the tele-services to sort out mental health problems is not enough. For, India is already burdened with huge mental health issues so much so that in 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind asserted that the country is "facing a possible mental health epidemic" and much more needs to be done. This includes prevention services for all, early identification and intervention for those at risk which need more number of professionals in the sector; and access to integrated care and treatment for those who need it to ensure their holistic treatment.

Reports say that one in 5 adults will be diagnosed with mental illness or disorder. We all know that mental health

## Mental Health: Let's Talk About It

May is observed as Mental Health Awareness Month. With the Covid-19 pandemic taking toll on our collective wellness, it's now more important than ever to practice empathy daily with ourselves as well as others to ensure our emotions are regulated, we are connected with others and feel less isolated. ARCHANA JYOTI reports.

is a critical component of overall wellness. There is no denying the fact that intervening effectively during early stages of any disease can save lives; and that's true for people living with mental health conditions also.

However, in countries like India the mental health issues continue to be mired in stigma and fear of ostracization. Moreover, treatment is considered to be too expensive and a lengthy process in view of shortage of professionals.

In actuality, it is yet to be reached to the point of acceptance. So, when celebrities like Deepika Padukone, Anushka Sharma and Hrithik Roshan share their stories of struggles about seeking help to deal with mental health issues, the message is sent far and wide that 'you are not alone' in seeking help from a mental health professional. Usually, when people's role models are willing to talk about their struggles, their followers feel like there is no abnormality in having mental issues.



As a result, what can be treated in time, the gap worsens the disease. So much so that at times it becomes chronic, requiring lifelong management.

Shubhrata Prakash, an Indian Revenue Services officer who has penned down her journey of depression in the book "The D Word", tells you

that she had been trying to dignify mental disorders. "For someone having anxiety disorder, you will never know the battle they are fighting with themselves. These psychosocial disabilities exist. People having it must keep their dignity and talk about it and sensitize people around," she says. And that's what she has been doing very sensitively.

Many factors contribute to mental health problems such as biological factors like genes, physical illness, injury, or brain chemistry. Others are Life experiences, such as trauma or a history of abuse. However, contrary to general perception, people with mental health problems can get better and many of them recover completely if detected early and given timely and adequate treatment, says Dr Smrita Deshpande, former head of the Centre of Excellence in Mental Health, ABVIMS- Dr RML Hospital, Delhi.

It is important to understand why we suffer from psychological disorders,



# Shanghai Covid crisis a test for Xi's leadership

The road ahead for Chinese President Xi Jinping is challenging as Beijing's "zero Covid" approach is encountering mounting challenges and Shanghai is experiencing the worst of the coronavirus crises ever in the country since the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

There are credible reasons behind Xi's constant concern about the health emergency in Shanghai at a time when almost the whole world has recovered from the pandemic. In fact, by leaps and bounds, the most powerful business capitals of the world such as New York, Tokyo, London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc, are back to normal business.

But China, which has been constantly facing the wrath of the West, is seriously under strain as there is no let-up in Covid-19 severity in its powerhouse called Shanghai.

Why is the Shanghai Covid-19 breakout critical for the global economy? With the Covid-19 becoming a nightmare for Shanghai residents and big corporations, China may find it too difficult to achieve its 5.5 per cent growth rate set for this year.

This year-end, Xi's grip over the Communist Party of China is heading for a crucial leadership reshuffle. Xi's highly ambitious political agenda is constantly getting unmasked. Behind his steely facade, some China observers opine that confidence over the all-powerful Xi is gradually ebbing. As he is inching towards his third term by early next year, he has been tightening control over the party, military and the government.

Today, China's worst Covid-19 disaster has come under control. But nearly a month-long lockdown was too harrowing and punishing for the city. But Beijing's Communists have vowed to stand by their so-called "Zero Covid Strategy" despite having mounting business losses in the financial hub. The number of new infections has come down since April 22 but city officials, including the Vice-Mayor Wu Qing, have come out in public to announce that "currently our city's epidemic prevention and control situation is steadily improving, and the epidemic



In this file photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a villager carrying baggage is disinfected as she returns home after being quarantined due to local Covid cases found in Lianqin Village of Beicai Town in Pudong New Area, Shanghai

has come under effective control".

For now, community transmission has been curbed. But health experts are sounding a note of caution saying there is a chance of rebound. Therefore, it would be difficult to relax the restrictions altogether.

Finally, it can be said Xi is facing the test of time. At the moment, global power calculus is also seriously disturbed by the ongoing Ukraine war. And China has a big stake in the devastating conflict as Xi has directly backed Russia against the severe sanctions imposed by the western nations over Moscow. Putin is heavily relying on India and China. Against the backdrop of all the NATO and the EU allies marching against Russia, lending support to a war monger like Putin may cost seriously to both Delhi and Beijing in

the aftermath of the war.

China for long was expecting a stiff resistance to the global liberal order spearheaded by the US since the end of the Second World War. Hence, Xi is undoubtedly happy, but he should not expect that Putin will act as a junior partner in a China-led future global order. Neither India will accept an Asian or world order led by China in anytime in future.

Having been embroiled in a protracted border conflict in Eastern Ladakh and over the historic McMahon Line in North-East, it would be really difficult for Delhi to meet Beijing in a normal bilateral meet. These all are complicating Xi's manoeuvring space at home, in the neighbourhood and at the global stage.

Hence, the maintenance of Covid-19 fortress in Shanghai beyond the upcoming

Party Congress may be too difficult for him. And his detractors are waiting for a chance. Certainly, there would not be any open rebellion against his leadership. But his ever-greater control over the party and leadership may slowly decline. This will seriously hamper his grand plan to remain the permanent President of China.

Shanghai's importance is ever-growing since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in October 1949. Started as a fishing village in the 11th century, the city has become the most powerful financial hub of China. It is also known as the "Magic City" in China. By the 1800s, it became the largest city of the country. And most importantly, Shanghai gradually came to the limelight for growing cotton by the mid-

18th century. Through the 90s, the city witnessed a steady economic growth between 9 per cent and 15 per cent.

Again, Shanghai holds the key to administration in China. It is a provincial administrative region of the PRC.

It is very close to the heart of the Communist Party of China as it was the birthplace of the party. It is situated in the west coast of the Pacific Ocean, the east coast of the Asian continent, at the front edge of the Yangtze River delta, and exactly at the middle of the country's north-south coastline. Apart from its alluvial soil, it has the advantage of having a sub-tropical monsoon climate, very mild and humid with four distinct seasons throughout the year. Besides, Shanghai receives sufficient sunshine and abundant rainfall. It has all the

power because of its geographic location.

Economically, Shanghai is the centre point of China. It's the world's third most populous city behind Tokyo and New Delhi. Today it is an international financial centre. And since the coming of Hu Jintao to power in 2002, the Chinese Government has been making consistent efforts to make Shanghai a global business hub, competing with London and New York. With Xi, these efforts have been doubled so as to bring China to the economic powerhouse of the planet. Furthermore, the Shanghai Stock Exchange directly governed by China Security Regulatory Commission is today considered the country's most pre-eminent market for stocks in regard to turnover.

Today, Covid-19 menace in

Shanghai is pushing Xi to another struggle both within and outside China. These days people have witnessed growing quiet reprisals and rising tide of criticism against Xi in the party. The man who has so far been termed as the most powerful "Paramount Leader" only after Chairman Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping is facing an uphill task this year. Mao being the founder of the People's Republic of China (PRC) continued unchallenged as the Chairman till his death in September 1976. Then after a brief lull of uncertainty of Hua Guofeng's tenure from 1976-78, Deng took over the leadership of China. Deng became the father of modern China by opening the country to a market economy while safeguarding the unique nature of the Chinese political system.

He ruled China from 1978 to 1992, solidifying the Communist Party of China (CPC), its leadership and China's influence in the global governance system. Interestingly, he made a change in the Chinese Constitution that no single individual can continue in power beyond two terms i.e. 10 years as he strongly propagated the concept of collective leadership to keep at bay any chance of "Cult Leadership" tendency the way Mao preached and practised.

The Shanghai Covid-19 crisis is testing Xi's patience and leadership. Its more than 25 million people are mostly trapped at home. In March this year, he renewed his threat to punish any cadre who fail in their fight against Covid-19 spread in Shanghai. This clearly shows how serious he is over the issue as the country's most crucial financial hub is witnessing an unprecedented growth of Covid-19 cases. Indeed, he is in a bind over who to blame and hold responsible for the mess in Shanghai.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

**With the Covid becoming a nightmare for Shanghai residents and big corporations, China may find it too difficult to achieve its 5.5 per cent growth rate set for this year. But the maintenance of Covid fortress in Shanghai beyond the upcoming Party Congress may be too difficult for Xi. And his detractors are waiting for a chance. Certainly, there would not be any open rebellion against his leadership, but his ever-greater control over the party and leadership may slowly decline**



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Xi's 'indivisible security' spells trouble for India

**Inclusion of parties like Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal into Global Security Initiative framework — owing to the growing dependence of these countries on China — would be a major cause of concern for India, further building tensions in its strategic neighbourhood**

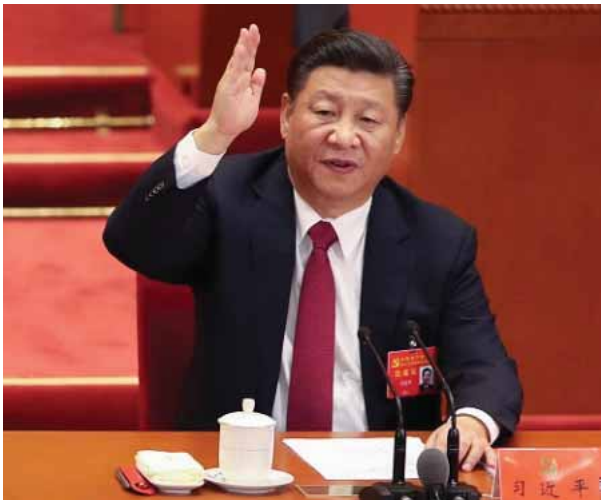
Speaking at the Boao Forum Sat a time of geopolitical turmoil across Asia and Europe, Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech titled "Rising to challenges and building a bright future through cooperation" has brought to centre-stage yet again his goal of building a "community with a shared future for mankind". Such a vision, adorned with "Chinese characteristics", has built itself as a counter to the US-centric pax-Americana world order, vying for replacement with a pax-Sinica driven Peking model of governance. In the latest attempt at exporting the Chinese governance model, Xi's Boao Forum keynote address has seen the ideation of the notion of building an "indivisible security community" via proposing Global Security Initiative (GSI).

Ambiguously described as a "vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security", the GSI ideation is an attempt to counter the efforts of democratic like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific which China has long heralded as misguided under "Cold War mentality" and "bloc confrontation" politics. By opposing "the wanton use of unilateral sanctions

and long-arm jurisdiction" referencing Western sanctions against both China and Russia, and embracing "a global governance philosophy", the GSI's rhetoric despite its flamboyant description spells imminent trouble for India and her partners.

Xi's speech gave little information on what the GSI would essentially look like; whether it would follow a Quad like model of engagement or be more framed as a Chinese version of a security alliance is to be seen. As China's fears of an "Asian NATO" grow — first anticipated by them as early as 2003 — Xi's goal via the GSI is to present an image of upholding "true multilateralism". However, for India, the freshly invoked "principle of indivisible security", which the GSI despite all its talks about building a balanced security architecture is focused on, is a cause for concern.

A concept with its root in Europe, starting with the 1975 Helsinki Act, "indivisible security" essentially means that security is a collective concept and if actions by one state threaten the security of another, it marks a breach of indivisible security. Hence, no state should be able to make itself



stronger at the expense of another. Importantly, it is a term most frequently used by Russia while opposing NATO's expansion. The same also plays in tune with China's favoured diplo-speak while opposing concepts that look to derail its own unilateral rise, with AUKUS being an "arms race" starter; Quad being a "Cold War mentality" bloc; and actions by India to build its own comprehensive national power being intrinsically "unilateral" in nature.

In rather hypocritical rhetoric for any Indian analyst,

Xi spoke of opposing "the pursuit of one's own security at the cost of others' security" while arguing for swift and peaceful resolution of disputes via dialogue.

In a post-Galwan security scenario — wherein disengagement talks have now entered their 15th round amid China's categorical refusal to back down from key friction points like Depsang, Demchok and Hot Springs on the Indian side of disputed boundary — India's vision of China as a revolutionary revisionist power has grown. Without officially

terming it so, Indian foreign policy has certainly accepted that China's peaceful rise seems to be all but over.

By evoking "indivisible security", Beijing hopes to makes actions taken in defence of its own national interests appear more legitimate. Under an "indivisible security" banner, claiming the moral high ground amid retaliation in sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India or in the South China Sea or Taiwan becomes more implementable. For India, the concept stays much in line with recent Chinese legislative attempts at justifying its unilateral actions that threaten Delhi's own sovereignty; between the New Coast Guard Law and the new Land Border Law, Chinese actions have been anything but opposed to building Chinese "national security on the basis of insecurity in other countries".

Ultimately, disguised under a banner of global security and protected by its loosely worded vision, GSI emerges as a venture that no one could potentially object to as it seeks to build a "common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable" security architecture. Nonetheless,

behind its ostensible notion of hope, GSI shows that Xi is keen to regain control of the Asian security narrative that he seems to have been losing for the past five years. At this juncture, with examples like Sri Lanka with respect to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) standing tall, the international world order has become well-versed with Chinese larger-than-life ventures turning into tools for imbalanced geo-economic power growth in favour of Beijing. Importantly, India must note that the GSI is more intended for Chinese domestic audiences as well, especially as Xi feels the need to retake control of his "strongman polity" image ahead of the upcoming National Party Congress where he is vying for an unprecedented third term in office.

While envisioning a multipolar world with China as a leading player, Xi wants to make Beijing a leading player in setting global standards across sectors ranging from economy to technology to security. Aligned with his wolf-warrior style diplomats, the goal for Xi via GSI would be to bring into the fold smaller developing countries — as attempted with BRI — with premise of building a uniform

security system that guarantees them respite in economic, political and defence related turmoil. By touting GSI as opposing "exclusiveness" and "clique" style politics — often ascribed by China to the Quad — China's security leadership ambitions are unravelling via the GSI, coupled with ventures like its Himalayan Quad.

Inclusion of parties like Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal into a GSI framework — possibly owing to the growing dependence of these countries on China — would be a major cause of concern for India, further building tensions in its strategic neighbourhood. Moreover, building of a very active maritime militarist tangent of the at present abstract GSI, details of which have not been released in public, could be a possibility with China led naval exercises in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Such a trajectory would shadow the Quad, which with the inclusion of Australia in Malabar upgraded the same to a naval exercise with all four members.

(The writer is head of Research and Operations Director at the Organisation for Research on China and Asia, New Delhi)



EERISHIKA PANKAJ



