

## WORLD 5

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## MONEY 6

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## SPORT 8

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## Spared no effort in my service to nation: Modi

Eyes on Gujarat polls this year, PM launches slew of projects in home State

## No forced night shift for women workers in UP

Employers must seek her written consent for work before 6 am &amp; after 7pm: UP Govt order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ LUCKNOW



The Uttar Pradesh Government on Saturday urged employers not to force women employees to work after 7 pm and before 6 am without their written consent. The move is being seen towards providing a secure working atmosphere for women working in factories across the State and to protect their professional rights.

Also, the Government has asked employers to provide free transportation, food and sufficient supervision, if women exceed their working time.

“Women workers shall be provided free transportation from her residence to workplace by the employer of the factory and back.... Employer shall ensure toilets, washrooms, changing rooms, drinking facilities and lights in the workplace (sic),” the order read.

“No woman worker shall be bound to work without her written consent before 6 am and after 7 pm,” said the UP Labour Department in an order.

Strict action is to be taken

against those violating the State Government order which surfaced on Saturday.

The order said it is mandatory to provide facilities like washrooms, drinking water, changing rooms and light in the workplace.

“Employer shall take appropriate steps to prevent sexual harassment. The employer shall maintain a complaint mechanism in the factory itself as prescribed in the Sexual Harrassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act,” the order read.

Not less than four women should be allowed in a shift between 7 pm and 6 am.

According to sources, the order would be applicable in the private sector as well.

The employer is also expected to send a monthly report electronically or otherwise to the Inspector of facto-

ries of the region concerned about the details of women workers engaged during the night shift.

On the other, the labour inspector has also been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring safe working conditions for women workers and conducting inspections from time to time to ensure that there is no non-compliance with the provisions at the workplace.

The order also stated that on refusal to agree for night shift, a woman employee cannot be terminated, else action can be taken against the employer.

The UP Government has notified the exemptions to women workforce across all the mills and factories in the state under the powers vested in the Factories Act-1948 following the work plan of women employees.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the crowd at an event in Gandhinagar on Saturday

AP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As he completes eight years in office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted he did not give any reason to countrymen to hang their heads in shame. And with his eyes on the Gujarat Assembly polls later this year, Modi launched a slew of projects for the State, where he was joined by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

“I have spared no effort in my service to the nation in the last eight years. I have neither allowed, nor personally done any such work that will make you or even a single person of India hang his head in shame. In 8 years, we made honest efforts to build India of the dreams of Bapu and Sardar Patel,” he said while addressing an event after inaugurating a multispeciality hospital in Rajkot.

Modi's developmental push during his visit to Gujarat included the inauguration of world's first Nano Urea Liquid plant by IFFCO at Kalol. He along with Shah also addressed a seminar of 7,000 leaders of various cooperative institutions, which, in a way, is seen as a Patidar outreach.

Modi inaugurated the newly-built Matushri KDP Multispeciality Hospital in Atkot, Rajkot, managed by

Patel Seva Samaj and cited it as an example of what Government-private sector collaboration can achieve.

The PM will on May 31 visit Himachal Pradesh, which too will elect a new Assembly by the year-end. Modi had last month gone for a tribal outreach in Gujarat by addressing a big rally in tribal-dominated Dahod and launched projects worth ₹22,000 crore for the

region.

Modi said it is apt that he is on Gujarat soil on the eve of 8 years of service to the motherland and thanked the people of the State for giving him the opportunity and “sanskars” to serve the country.

Enlisting his performance, he informed that now more than 3 crore families have got a pucca house, more than 10 crore families have

been freed from open defecation, more than 9 crore sisters have been freed from smoke in the kitchen, more than 2.5 crore families have got electricity connection, more than 6 crore families have got drinking water connection and more than 50 crore beneficiaries have got health coverage for up to ₹5 lakh free of cost.

He said the prices of fer-

tilisers have increased due to the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine, but the Government has ensured that the farmers in the country do not face scarcity of urea and other inputs. “An imported urea bag of 50 kg costs ₹3,500 but it is given to farmers at ₹300, which means the Government spends ₹3,200 per bag out of its pocket,” Modi pointed out.

## IndiGo fined ₹5L for denial of boarding to special child

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh on IndiGo for denying boarding to a specially-abled child in Ranchi on May 7.

In a statement, DGCA chief Arun Kumar said that the handling of the special child by IndiGo ground staff was deficient and ended up exacerbating the situation. “A more compassionate handling would have smoothened the nerves, calmed the child and would have obviated the need for the extreme step resulting in denied boarding to the passengers,” read the order.

“Special situations deserve extraordinary responses but the airline's staff failed to rise up to the occasion, and in the process, committed lapses in adherence to the letter and spirit of the Civil Aviation Requirements (regulations), it noted.

“In view of this, the com-



petent authority in the DGCA has decided to impose a penalty of ₹5 lakh on the airline under the provisions of the relevant Aircraft Rules,” it added.

Based on the findings during the enquiry, a show cause notice was issued to IndiGo Airlines through its authorised representative, it stated.

The DGCA said in order to avoid such situations in the future, it would revisit its own regulations, making it mandatory for airlines to take the airport doctor's written opinion on the health of a passenger before making a decision to deny boarding.

## Father of Kerala boy who raised provocative slogans arrested

PTI ■ KOCHI

The father of the minor boy, who had courted controversy by allegedly raising provocative slogans during a recent march organised by the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Kerala's Alappuzha, was taken into custody from his house in Palluruthy here on Saturday, police said.

The family, including the boy, was reportedly away from the house ever since a purported video, in which the child could be seen sitting on the shoulder of a person and raising offensive slogans during the “Save the Republic” rally held by the PFI on May 21, went viral on social media platforms prompting police to register a case.

A police officer told PTI that the father was taken into custody and would travel to nearby Alappuzha soon for detailed interrogation. Further procedures would be decided later.

## 88% adults fully vaccinated against Covid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The world's largest Covid-19 vaccination programme launched two years ago in India has so far covered 88 per cent of the country's adult population with 193 crore 11 lakh doses administered so far.

However, the achievement came amid reports of detection of B.A. 4 and 5 variants of the Omicron in Maharashtra.

Four patients of B.A. 4 variants and three patients of B.A. 5 variants were listed in Pune, as per the latest report of the Whole Genomic Sequencing. But sources said as of now there is no cause of worry as the new variants are not virulent as compared to the original Omicron.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya took to Twitter to announce the coverage milestone. “Over 88 per cent of the adult population is now fully vaccinated against #Covid19. Congratulations India! Keep following Covid appropriate behaviour even after getting vaccinated,” said Mandaviya in a tweet.

According to the Ministry,



of the total Covid-19 doses administered so far to the health care workers, 1,04,06,837 have received the first dose, 1,00,38,523 the second vaccine dose and 51,90,970 have been administered the precaution dose.

Also, 1,84,18,839 frontline workers were administered the first dose, 1,75,81,512 with the second dose and 86,14,104 with the precaution doses.

Covid vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on March 16, 2022. So far, more than 3.36 crore

(3,36,37,974) adolescents have been administered with the first dose and 1,57,55,480 with the second dose of the Covid vaccine. Over 3.36 crore adolescents have been administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine since the beginning.

In the age group 15-18 years, 5,93,90,523 doses have been administered as the first dose and 4,54,76,127 doses as the second dose.

A total of 55,70,67,459 vaccine doses were given as the

second dose and 7,58,822 precaution doses as in the age group 18-44 years.

Similarly, for the age group of 45-59 years, 20,32,34,041 have received the first dose, 19,06,90,583 have received the second dose and 13,25,064 have been administered the precaution doses whereas, 12,70,79,287 vaccine doses were administered as the first dose, 11,89,27,472 as second and 1,84,36,849 as precaution doses to the people over 60 years. Meanwhile, as many as 2,685 new Covid-19 cases were recorded in the last 24 hours in India, taking the active caseload to 16,308, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed on Saturday.

The daily positivity rate stood at 0.60 per cent while the weekly positivity rate is at 0.54 per cent. According to the Health Ministry, India's Covid recoveries reached 4,26,09,335 with 2,158 fresh recoveries in the last 24 hours.

India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

## Balbir, Vikramjit AAP's pick for RS from Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Noted environmentalist Balbir Singh Seechewal and philanthropist Vikramjit Singh Sahney will be the candidates of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party for the Rajya Sabha from Punjab as the party cleared their names on Saturday.

Both the nominees, who are assured of a Rajya Sabha berth now, are Padma Shri recipients. While Seechewal is a noted environmentalist, Sahney is an entrepreneur-philanthropist.

The announcement was made by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on his Twitter handle. “I am happy to announce that AAP is nominating two Padma Shri awardees for the Rajya Sabha. One is environmentalist Padma Shri Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal and second is

Padma Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney. My best wishes to both of them,” said Mann in a tweet.

Mann's announcement declaring Seechewal as the AAP candidate came a day after he participated in a function at Seechewal, where he urged the noted environmentalist to give his ideas for protecting the environment. Seechewal is known for his efforts to clean the 160-km-long holy rivulet Kali Bein in Kapurthala's Sultanpur Lodhi.

Sikhs believe that Guru Nanak Dev got enlightenment after taking a dip in the Kali Bein. Seechewal's work was also applauded by the late President APJ Abdul Kalam, who visited his village twice.

Known as ‘Eco Baba’, he was hailed as one of the top 30 Heroes of the Environment in the world by the *Times* magazine.

## Centre to design ways to curb fake reviews on e-commerce websites

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To protect consumer interest, the Centre on Saturday announced that it will develop a framework to curb fake reviews posted on e-commerce websites. Online customers rely heavily on the reviews given their inability to physically inspect the product. This makes them vulnerable to fake reviews when they look for the opinions and experiences of users who have already purchased the good or service online.

“The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) will develop this framework after studying the present mechanism being followed by the e-commerce entities in India and best practices available globally,” the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food &



Public Distribution said.

The move came a day after Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh held a meeting with various stakeholders on the issue. During the meeting, issues related to “paid reviews, unverifiable reviews and absence of disclosure in case of incentivised reviews which make it challenging for consumers to recognise genuine reviews” were discussed.

The Ministry, along with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), held

a virtual meeting with various stakeholders, including e-commerce entities, to discuss the magnitude of fake reviews on their platforms, which mislead consumers into buying online products and services.

The experts said the modus operandi is simple: The advertiser creates a website or a Facebook page/profile, and starts selling via their page on the social media platform, taking users to their portal.

Once they receive payments for their orders, they delay in dispatching the products and by the time Facebook completes its feedback process to understand whether the advertiser is legit or a scam, the fraudsters make quick money and shut their operations once Facebook declares they are cyber offenders and treats them as “unhealthy”.

## Record 343 teams from 187 nations to take part in Chess Olympiad

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A record number of 343 teams from 187 countries will take part in the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held here from July 28 to August 10.

The Olympiad, the biggest ever global chess meet hosted by India has two specific categories — Open Section and women's section.

According to All India Chess Federation (AICF) secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan, the Event Director, “We have a record-breaking 187 countries registered with 189 teams in the open section and 154 in the women's section.”

Previously, the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia, held in 2018, had set a record with 184 and 150 teams in the open and women's sections respectively from 179 countries.

World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway, the highest



ever rated player on the planet, will be the star attraction after he confirmed his participation in the mega event.

India, as the host country, is eligible to field an extra team in both sections and has an opportunity to field a third team in case of odd number of entries, the release said.

It has already announced two teams each in the Open and women's sections with the likes of Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, P Harikrishna, teenaged sensations R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh along with women stars Koneru Humpy, D Harika and R Vaishali being included in the squads.



# IPL final: Betting boom in Steel City, police on vigil

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

With the grand finale of IPL 2022 on Sunday, the city police have stepped up vigil on the betting activities. A senior police officer said many bookies were arrested from the city for betting on IPL matches in the last four years. The police also seized equipment including integrated call receiving systems, line mobile phones, and others during raids.

“We have received information that betting is at its peak in the city. Moreover, betting activities are not limited to the city now as the bookies are operating from rural areas of the district. A few years ago, the money was put on betting at the local level as the punters would divert huge transactions to major cities such as



Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai,” said the police officer.

The city also witnessed dynamic betting. The bookies organised betting while moving from one place to another, as part of tactics to mislead the police and evade raids. The city police also found betting being organised by individual hous-

es in interior villages. The organisers would select thatched houses, cashew orchards to run their operations.

“We are maintaining a strict vigil on betting activities as every time the organisers come up with innovative ways to hoodwink the police. We are using technology to trace the betting

organisers,” said a senior police officer.

He said mobile apps are being used to organise betting. “We have seen college goers fall into the trap of betting organisers. Parents should keep a watch on their children,” he added.

According to the people involved in the racket, they are making quick money in sport betting during the match. In IPL, bets are placed on wins, losses, runs per ball, final scores of teams or batsmen, how a batsman will get out, number of overs that each team will bowl, man of the match, third umpire decisions.

“It's easy money that attracts these college and school kids. They place bets for as low as Rs 250. Apparently most of the bigger bookies have bases outside the city. Some of them operate from as far as New Del-

hi. It's risky to operate within city limits. Yet, many operate below the legal radar to avoid paying taxes,” noted one of the bookie involved in the racket at Jugsalai

Sources reveal that though bookies have been arrested on numerous occasions, there have been no convictions so far. Bookies also record phone conversations of punters (people who bet money) to make sure they don't retract their orders.

In spite of this, it's difficult to nail them because most change their mobile numbers every few days, making it difficult to track their operations.

A district official said that the administration is keeping an eye on the betting in the city and strict action will be taken against those involved.

# BSL felicitates actor Manoj Bajpayee

PNS ■ BOKARO

Film actor Manoj Bajpayee, who came to Gua Mines of SAIL-BSL in connection with the shooting of Hindi film 'Zoram', was honoured in a programme organized at the Gua Club. During the programme, Chief General Manager (Mines) of Gua Ore Mines BK Giri presented “Uttriya” and memento to Bajpayee and others.

It is noteworthy that film actor Manoj Bajpayee and co-actor Zeeshan Ayub along with their team visited Gua and Mines of SAIL-BSL for the shooting of Hindi film 'Zoram' to be produced under 'Zee' studio and Makhija Films Pvt Ltd. The director of this film is Devashish Makhija. During the shoot, Manoj Baj-



payee and co-actor Zeeshan Ayub and his team stayed in Gua for about a week. The film was shot in Gua and Mines and surrounding areas.

In the course of interacting with the audience during an event, Actor

Bajpayee expressed his gratitude towards the SAIL management. At the time of departure from Gua, Bipin Kumar Giri also presented a self-written poem to Actor Bajpayee, which he appreciated a lot.

# Three deaths in road accident at GT road

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

Three persons died in a road accident that took place on Friday night at GT Road near Papapur village under Hariharpur police station.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Yogesh

Mahto while giving information said that a speeding car had crashed to death one Guria Devi who was washing utensils at roadside hand pump and her eight year nephew Mahesh had died while being taken to hospital late Friday night. She was dragged to over

20 feet by the speeding car.

The villagers had brutally thrashed the four occupants of the car following the incident. Out of the four, one Suraj Kumar resident of Arra Bihar who was admitted to SNMCH died on Saturday.

Condition of remaining three too who were shifted to RIMS Ranchi is very critical as they have received several wounds on body due to accident besides beating by villagers, said Mahto.

The three admitted at RIMS include Ravindar, Shivam and Virat Kumar,

he said. All four in a car were coming to Dhanbad from Bihar to attend a marriage function.

Mahto said no case has been filed till Saturday as neither side has given any written complaint. He confirmed that those on the car were victims of mob violence.

# Drawing, Elocution contests to mark World Environment Day

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Steel organised Drawing and Elocution contests for school students at JRD Tata Sports Complex today. The contests were organised on this year's theme of World Environment Day-“Only One Earth”.

The programme attended by around 800 students was aimed to sensitise students on the relevance of observing the World Environment Day, which will be observed on June 5. However, Tata Group observes the entire month of June as Sustainability Month. Every year Tata Steel observes the World Environment Day and Sustainability Month by engaging all stakeholders through conducting several awareness programmes across its operating



locations.

This year, several events are also being organised to mark this occasion. Environment Management and

Sports Department of Tata Steel pulled together by organising today's Drawing and Elocution competition for the students in different

categories.

Entries of the drawing competition were judged by Rajesh Kumar Bajpayee, faculty from Jamshedpur

School of Arts and Priti Jha from Corporate Communications department of Tata Steel. Dr. Hishmi Jamil Husain from Corporate Sustainability department of Tata Steel were judges in the elocution competition. Top three winners from each category of both the competitions will be rewarded on June 5 at Beldih Club, Jamshedpur. Dr. Amit Ranjan Chakraborty, Chief Environment Tata Steel, Ashish Kumar, Head Sports Tata Steel, Anoop Srivastava, Head Environment Tata Steel among others were present.

The theme for World Environment Day 2022 is “Only One Earth” with the focus on “Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature”.

# International Conference on Sustainability: Research, Education, Practice

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Government of India has launched the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to honour and celebrate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture, and achievements. The Department of Management of BIT Mesra, Jaipur, Lalpur, Noida, and Patna campuses will jointly be hosting the two-day international conference on Sustainability: Research,

Education and Practice from 30th-31st May, 2022.

This conference will provide a platform for deliberations on sustainability as a form of celebration of the country's progress. In today's world, sustainability has emerged as an essential focus area for research, education and practice. Sustainability is a paradigm concerned about the future in which environmental, social, and economic considerations are

aligned to pursuing an improved standard of living.

The conference will cover three main tracks—Sustainability and Human Resource Management, Sustainability in Marketing Practices and Research and Sustainability in Public Services and General Management.

Seventy-seven research papers will be presented at a conference by experts from India and abroad. The distinguished expert speakers from academia and industry who will de-

liver keynote addresses in the plenary sessions during the conference will be Pankaj Sinha, Managing Director, Coca Cola Sri Lanka, and Maldives, Prof. Alok Chaturvedi, Director, Institute for Social Empowerment through Entrepreneurship & Knowledge, Krannert School of Business, Purdue University, Prof. Rama Seth, Visiting Professor, Copenhagen Business School, and Prof. Bhimaraya Metri, Director IIM Nagpur.

The conference's main aim will be to bring together researchers, practitioners, educators, and students to exchange ideas on pillars of sustainability.

The conference will be conceptualised to provide a platform to apportion cutting-edge research in this field and will additionally witness the galaxy of speakers sharing their phrenic conceptions on contemporary management issues and sustainability issues.

# Film industry is very difficult for non-star kids: Stefy

SHAILESH SHARMA ■ HAZARIBAG

Hazaribag based film actress Stefy Patel said in an interview with the Pioneer that entry in the film industry for non-star kids is tough. She said they are very much known with the film industry in comparison to non-star kids.

On the issue of the South film industry, she said that the South film industry

is very disciplined and punctual in film making. The Mumbai film industry is not like the south industry.

She said that she has done a film Mahua with the state director and producer. The second film is in Telugu. This will be released very soon on a wide range.

Patel further said, "I have just

completed a film 'Hari Om Hari'. The whole film was filmed outdoors like Banaras and Srinagar. This will be released this year. Another film is on the floor with Abhishek Bachan."

She said that she has received three and four offers from OTT. She said that she is waiting for a good story. Television is a different category and OTT and film are in other categories.

Stefy said that it is a very long way to establish in the industry. I am very chosen in the selection of the project. I hope that I will be successful in the future in the industry.

The actress has completed her schooling from Hazaribag and higher education from Delhi University. She won national and international beauty pageants also.



# 5 held for assaulting constables, looting weapons in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY ■ GARHWA

Two police constables were assaulted and held captive and their weapons were looted by villagers in Kamarma village accusing that the sealed ballot box was changed, during the last phase of three-tier panchayat elections on Friday.

According to the FIR, after conducting elections from booth no. 72,73 and 74 of Sector-10 from Kamarma village under Meral police station were on their way to the strong room. On the rumour of changing the ballot box,

the furious villagers stopped their vehicle and started abusing constable Venkatesh Sharma and Birju Chaudhry. Later the villagers kicked the constables and beat them with punches and robbed the weapon of constable Venkatesh Sharma.

After being informed, the Meral police reached the spot. After that the mob was controlled and the weapon was also recovered.

The entire incident was videographed by some of the people who were in the crowd. On the basis of that people have been identified.

On the basis of complaint by Rajiv Ranjan Mishra sector 10 Magistrate FIR registered against 14 named and around 150 unknown persons under sections of 188, 147, 149, 341, 323, 337, 353, 307 IPC and 25 (IAB) Arms Act, Meral Thana in-charge Lalbihari said.

In quick action, five persons were arrested. They have been identified as Ramji Ram, Ajay Paswan, Pankaj Kumar Kushwaha, Awadhesh Ram and Vijay Ram, Thana in-charge added. Police raids are on to arrest the other accused.



# DGCA imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on IndiGo for not letting Divyang child board

PNS ■ RANCHI

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on IndiGo airlines for not allowing a disabled child to board the flight. A show cause notice has also been served to IndiGo Airlines.

It may be mentioned here that on May 8, IndiGo ground staff did not allow a differently abled child to board a flight going from Ranchi to Hyderabad. There was a stir when its video and pictures went viral on social media. The airlines had clarified that the child was afraid to board the flight, keeping in mind his condition and safety, the airlines had taken this decision but aviation regulator DGCA imposed this fine on IndiGo



**DGCA imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on IndiGo for not letting Divyang child board flight. (File Photo)**

Airlines for refusing to allow a disabled child to board the flight.

The DGCA has strongly reprimanded the company regarding the incident. The regulator stated that the ground staff of the company could not properly handle a disabled child and made the situation worse. The Regulator said that the company

had to show more sensitivity in this matter. “The child had to be treated with kindness so that he would be calm. By doing this, the employees of the company do not have to take extreme steps like refusing the passenger to board the plane,” it added.

The regulator body also said that extraordinary steps

have to be taken in special circumstances, but the employees of the company have not been able to live up to the spirit and commitment of the Civil Aviation Requirement (Regulations). In view of this, the DGCA decided to impose a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the company. This penalty has been imposed under the provisions of the respective aircraft rules.

The DGCA had issued a show cause notice to the airline in the case of IndiGo debarring a disabled child from boarding in Ranchi. This was prima facie considered poor handling of passengers. The airline had to respond to this by 26 May 2022. The DGCA had constituted a three-member committee to probe the incident and submit a report

within a week.

Even the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had taken cognizance on the issue stating that appropriate action is being taken in the matter where staff of Indigo airlines barred a specially-abled adolescent and his parents from boarding a flight at the Ranchi airport stating that he was in "a state of panic."

In a tweet in Hindi, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson Priyank Kanoongo had said, "An incident of misbehaviour with a specially-abled child by staff of IndiGo at Ranchi airport has come to fore. Cognizance is being taken for appropriate action."

# ECI extends deadline for Soren till June 14

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Election Commission of India on Friday granted additional time to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren to appear before the ECI in the case related to the office of profit against him.

The ECI has now asked him to make the submission on June 14. Earlier the ECI had directed him to appear before the commission on May 31 to explain why not his membership in the house be canceled on the charge of the office of profit.

The ECI extended the



deadline after the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha made a submission before the ECI through the office of the Governor of Jharkhand that

the JMM should be made a party to this case. The JMM contended that any decision of the ECI will affect the JMM hence the party should be given the opportunity to explain the matter. On this, the Governor forwarded the matter to the ECI.

The office of profit became a bone of contention for the JMM and Chief Minister after the BJP lodged a complaint before the Governor that Hemant Soren obtained a mining lease in his name, while remaining as minister of the mines department and the Chief Minister of the State. The Chief

Minister contended that the mining lease was issued to him in 2008 and he surrendered the lease once he realised the mistake.

On this, the Governor sent this matter to the ECI, which issued a notice to the Chief Minister. The CM has also submitted his reply to the ECI and said that he has not violated section 9A of the People's Representation Act. He referred to a couple of cases to assert that obtaining a mining lease doesn't violate any section of the People's Representation Act.

Ranchi DC Chhavi Ran-

jan passed an order granting a Letter of Intent to allocate a fresh mining lease of stone to Hemant Soren on June 15, last year at Angara in Ranchi. It was alleged that DC overlooked the mandatory requirement of Rule 69 of Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004 wherein he was under statutory obligation to assess for damage and compensation committed by the earlier mining lessee, who was also Hemant Soren.

A PIL was also filed by Shiv Shankar Sharma which is being heard by the Supreme Court.

# Special campaign to curb illegal mining in district

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner (DC), Chhavi Ranjan has come into action against illegal mining in the district. He held a meeting with the officers of the Mining Task Force on Saturday. He directed the concerned officials to register an FIR against those found guilty of irregularities in mining. All the officials were instructed to run a special campaign against illegal mining from June 1 to June 15.

The DC said that it will be necessary for stone mining, sand, brick kiln and crusher operators to put up license boards on their institutions. Those operators who do not



**Ranchi DC Chhavi Ranjan holds a review meeting with senior officers at Collectorate in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS**

do so, action will be taken against them and all those firms, which have the consent to establish and consent to operate, have been directed to put up a license board on their site. It also said that if any material related to mining is being transported,

then it will be mandatory to keep the necessary documents even at the time of movement.

To prevent illegal mining, 13 checkpoints have been set up in Ranchi district. If needed, more checkposts will be made.

Meanwhile, an important meeting was organized under the chairmanship of District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner Ranchi, Chhavi Ranjan for the successful conduct of Mander Vidhan Sabha by-election. In this meeting held in the Collectorate Auditorium, Ranjan gave necessary guidelines to the senior and nodal officers of the cells constituted for the Mander by-election.

The DC has selected the preferred and nodal officers of all 18 cells including Election Cell, Personnel Cell, EM Cell, Vehicle Cell, Training Cell, Material Cell, Expenditure Monitoring Cell, Observer Cell, MCC

Cell, Media Cell, Postal Ballot Cell Cell.

Keeping in view the COVID protocol and monsoon, it has been directed to prepare an action plan and work. It was also directed to follow all the guidelines given by the Election Commission of India in letter and spirit.

The Sub-Divisional Officer has been authorized to operate the Model Code of Conduct Cell. For the maintenance of law and order, ADM Law and Order and SDM Ranchi were directed to take necessary action. The Returning Officer, Mander Vidhan Sabha has been authorized for the permission of vehicles.

# BJP flexes muscle at State Executive meet in Hazaribag

**Senior leaders pledge to fight against corruption**

PNS ■ RANCHI

Senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party pledged to weed out corruption from the State and bring back Jharkhand on the development track again in the Executive Committee Meet of the party in Hazaribag on Saturday. State President Deepak Prakash, State In-charge and National General Secretary Dilip Saikia, Leader of Legislature Party and Former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi, Union Minister Arjun Munda and Annapurna Devi, Former Chief Minister and National Vice President Raghuvir Das, National Secretary Asha Lakra, National President of ST Morcha Samir Oraon along with several national and State leaders attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, State President Deepak Prakash said that after 15 years the working committee meeting on the historic land of Hazaribagh will bring new energy to the party workers. He said that this is the same land from where Binova Bhavne started the Bhoodan movement and the Jharkhand movement for a separate State. The then MP Ramnarayan Singh had brought a private bill in the house for a separate State. In the same way, the resolve to overthrow the present gov-



**State BJP president cum Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda, BJP legislative party leader Babulal Marandi, National Vice President and former Chief Minister Raghuvir Das, Union Minister Annapurna Devi, Rajya Sabha MP Sameer Oraon alongwith others during Core Committee meeting in Hazaribag on Saturday. PNS**

ernment has strengthened further in this meeting. He said that there will be a struggle against this government from road to House. The situation in the State has become most dire under the present government.

Prakash said that Jharkhand has been looted the most when there have been governments supported by Congress and its alliance. From the Chief Minister and his family to his officers, office bearers are involved in corruption. He said that the Hemant government has done the work of duping most of the tribal natives. From the murder of a descendant of great man Sido Kanhu to the murder and rape of a common tribal family, the Hemant government has kept silent. He said that the Hemant gov-

ernment is doing the work of looting the money being given by the Central government by forming a caucus of the officers. The formation of the government in the name of Jal Jungle land is involved in the maximum loot of Jal Jungle land. Tribals are being displaced to loot water, forest land. He said that in 27 months a record 4143 people were killed, which is 5.11 murders per day, 3741 rapes, which is 4.64 rapes per day, 766 cases of Naxalism, 3508 cases of kidnapping have come to the fore, whereas murder, rape, kidnapping and naxalism were completely cracked down in the Raghuvir government. He said that there is public anger among the people, as a result of which, in the three-tier panchayat elec-

tions, the maximum number of BJP supported candidates have won the elections.

BJP National General Secretary and Jharkhand in-charge Dilip Saikia said that under the leadership of Narendra Modi at the Center, eight years are completed, and Jharkhand is going to complete 3 years of anti-people and anti-national State government. There is a huge difference between the two governments.

Saikia said that the BJP workers are nationalists and it is a nation first party. And, here there is a government ranging from corruption, dynasty to appeasement, a resolution has to be taken to overthrow it. In the working committee meeting, we all have to take a pledge that the policy made in 8 years

of Modi's government was made keeping in mind the nation more than the individual. Saikia said that the present government will have to atone for the sins it has committed since coming to power and the accidental death of this government is certain.

In the State Working Committee meeting, State Vice President and MLA and former Minister Neelkanth Singh Munda brought a political proposal, in support of which Dhanbad MP PN Singh, Hazaribagh Sadar MLA Manish Jaiswal, MP Nishikant Dubey, Abhay Singh, Anwar Hayat, and Suraj Mandal spoke on the occasion. Simultaneously, the political resolution was passed unanimously.

National Vice President and former Chief Minister Raghuvir Das also flayed the State government for corruption and said that party workers have been advised to intensify the struggle to make Jharkhand corruption-free. Union Minister and former Chief Minister Arjun Munda said that the development journey has progressed rapidly in the tenure of 8 years under the leadership of the successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The dream of Antyodaya is being realized by targeting the villages. He said that under the leadership of Modi, the struggle of Lord Birsa Munda and the saga of tribal legends was recognized as National Tribal Pride Day.

# JMM to field candidate for Rajya Sabha election

**CM leaves for Delhi to meet Congress president**

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Executive President cum Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday held the legislative party meeting of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and decided that the party would field a candidate for the upcoming Rajya Sabha election.

The party is learnt to have decided the name of the candidate but it refused to disclose it. But, it is widely believed that Kalpana Soren, wife of Hemant Soren could be the candidate of the party. Sources said that the name of Rupī Soren too has been discussed.

Meanwhile, Hemant Soren left for Delhi to meet the Congress president Sonia Gandhi to discuss the candidate. JMM spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said that the party has decided to field a candidate.

"Chief Minister Hemant Soren will discuss about the candidate with Sonia Gandhi and other serial leader of the Congress After which



**Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Chief Shibū Soren, Chief Minister Hemant Soren alongwith party senior leaders during Core Committee meeting at CM's official residence in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS**

the announcement will be made," he said.

Bhattacharya said that during the meeting the issue of Sarna religion code was also discussed. A delegation of party leaders will meet the President of India in the month of June to submit a memorandum regarding inclusion of the Sarna religion code in the census.

The decision of the JMM may not go to please its alliance partner, which has demanded the JMM to leave the seat for the Congress.

The Congress is the alliance partner of the JMM in the government. Two seats of the Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand are going to be vacant for which the elec-

tion will be held in June.

Minimum a candidate needs 27 votes to win one seat. As far as the number game is concerned the BJP and the UPA can win one seat each.

In the Congress State president Rajesh Thakur, former cabinet minister Subodhkant Sahay and former Godda MP Furkan Ansari are lobbying for the ticket and they have requested the JMM to leave this seat for the Congress.

"We have always supported the JMM and we expect our alliance partner to reciprocate with the same gesture. But unfortunately the JMM is not so generous," said a Congress leader.



**A street vendor waits for customers to sell earthen pots during the hot summer season at Harmu Road in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu**



**Kids enjoying a mini fun boat during the ongoing Bhartiya Hastshilp Mela at Kadru AG colony in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu**

## INBRIEF

## Summer Camp concludes at DPS Ranchi

The week long Summer camp “Revamp the Champ” organised by Delhi Public School, Ranchi concluded today on 28th May 2022. The students of Classes III to X participated in this fun-filled camp. The objective of this endeavour was to provide the students an opportunity to identify their varied interests and to encourage them to pursue various activities of their choice. During the camp, classes in art and craft, painting, yoga, dance, music, instruments, quiz, robotics, soft skills, photography and various indoor and outdoor games were conducted under the guidance of the experts in their respective fields. Showcasing their learning and talent, the students presented a colourful cultural program in the concluding ceremony comprising of dance, song, short movie and yoga. The audience was mesmerized by the performance of young and energetic students. The students also shared their rich experience of the summer camp. Each and every participant of the camp was felicitated with certificates by Principal, Dr. Ram Singh. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal highlighted the importance of the summer camps as these activities help in grooming the hidden talent of the students. He also assured the students that such activities will be organised in the future also.





# China setting up emergency airbase near Ladakh

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

After readingy Hotan airbase for operating H-20 stealth bombers, China is now setting up an emergency airbase in Tashkurgan district of Xinxiang opposite eastern Ladakh which is likely to be operationalised by September.

This will be the first Chinese-built high-speed airbase located in the Tajik Autonomous Region of Tashkurgan, Kashgar Province. Tashkurgan County is located in the Uighur Autonomous Region, an important strategic point bordering Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan which is close to Ladakh.

The military infrastructure is being ramped up by China post-Galwan Valley incident in June 2020 in which 20 Indian army soldiers were killed by the PLA troops. The Indian Army also inflicted heavy casualties to the PLA that has only confirmed deaths of five troops.

China has also tested operations of H-20 strategic stealth

bombers at Hotan airbase opposite eastern Ladakh last year and is now setting up an emergency airport in Tashkurgan district of Xinxiang opposite Ladakh, top sources said.

“The construction of the airport is going on in full swing and is likely to be launched on a trial basis in September this year,” said defence experts tracking developments in the region.

It could not be immediately ascertained if the emergency airbase would also have landing facility for the H-20 stealth bombers.

The development comes close on the heels of reports of construction of a second bridge on the Pangong Tso Lake in eastern Ladakh by the PLA amid Beijing’s continued bid to ramp up military infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control.

In June 2021, in the midst of the continuing standoff with India in eastern Ladakh, China had begun final trials of the H-20 bombers at Hotan airbase,



before induction as an area weapons, as reported by the Pioneer in June last year.

The testing exercise of the stealth bombers concluded on June 22, 2021 marking 100 years of formation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its rule.

At least three H-20 bombers, developed as an area specific asset, are aimed at blunting the edge India acquired through the acquisition of Rafale jets.

The stealth feature and long endurance o the H-20

bombers coupled with capability to carry heavy payloads could potentially dodge the “detect and disable radar” capability of Rafales,

The H-20, though officially not announced by China yet, is likely to be deployed early next year following required tweaks at the Hotan base, opposite Ladakh, early next year, sources said.

The Chinese intention of making these strategic bombers an area specific asset is clear from Beijing’s decision to designate the Hotan base as a test-

ing base for these stealth machines before being deployed in the area to take on targets in Afghanistan, Balochistan or Ladakh.

Post-Galwan valley incident in June 2020, there is a marked shift in Chinese strategy of deploying troops on the ground in areas bordering Ladakh as well as ramping up air defences to respond to any challenges with full might, officials said.

Earlier, the H-20 bombers were slated to be inducted in 2025. However, the timeline has been compressed which signals a shift in China’s approach in the region and the larger geopolitical space.

The H-20s are also estimated to be capable of carrying nuclear payloads and carry stealth missiles to defy air defences of enemy forces.

According to a 2020 Pentagon report on Chinese military power, the H-20s are estimated to have a range of 5,281 miles and lift capacity of 10 tons of munitions.

# Jaishankar calls for better connectivity with neighbours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

With the Government stepping up its efforts to strengthen ties with neighbouring countries, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday called for better connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar for faster development.

He also said these endeavours by India are part of its ‘Act East’ and ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy and will have enormous reinforcing impact beyond the confines of South Asia.

Addressing the Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI) conclave in Guwahati, Jaishankar said the realisation of this is evident from the potential of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEAC) on the Bay of Bengal region. The BIMSTEAC includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and

Thailand.

Land connectivity through Myanmar and sea connectivity through Bangladesh will open up all the ways to Vietnam and Philippines, he said.

“Once this becomes viable on a commercial scale, it will create an East-West lateral with sweeping consequences for the continent,” the minister added.

Elaborating upon it, Jaishankar said it will not only build on the partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations( ASEAN) countries and Japan, but will actually make a difference to Indo-Pacific Economic Framework that is now in the making, the minister said.

Jaishankar said that work on restoration of 6 historical rail links with Bangladesh, dormant since 1965, is underway and overland trade is taking place using 28 notified land customs stations and 3 integrated check points.

“It is definitely within our ability to overcome geography and rewrite history if only we can get the politics and economics right,” he said.

Jaishankar said this vision can be successfully realised by enhancing connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar to improve access to the ASEAN countries and beyond.

“When done with imagination and on scale it can have repercussions far beyond immediate issues of the day. An India that is more connected to the northeast and a northeast that is more connected to India’s neighbours will mean a complete transformation of the regional economy,” said Jaishankar.

“Instead of being regarded as a frontier, the northeast region will emerge as a hub in itself. Its resources and skills will have a more ready market and the supply lines will be shorter,” he added.

# SASB CEO accused of using foul language, detaining CPWD engineers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department ( CPWD)’s Engineers Association has accused CEO of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) Niteshwar Kumar for using derogatory language against their two engineers and illegally detain/arrest of them for delay in completion of a project. The Association also urged the Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to probe the matter against Kumar and SSP Ramban. The CEO of SASB is considered close to Lieutenant Governor Sinha.

In a letter sent to the Housing and Urban Affairs minister, the CPWD Engineers

Association demanded that IAS officer and CEO of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) Niteshwar Kumar and SSP, Ramban simply misused their authority and to take necessary action as deemed fit as per service rules against them for of abusing local engineers and forcing their “illegal detention” for 10 hours.

The copy of the letter was also marked to the Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs and Directorate General of CPWD.

This incident took place on May 25 when SASB CEO, Nitishwar Kumar, visited Chanderkote in Ramban district where the CPWD is constructing 18 cluster type dormitories for the shrine board.

As per the letter, during the inspection, Kumar, lost his temper, Seemingly on account that some pending finishing works.

He used derogatory language and hurled abuse on CPWD officers. Not satisfied with this act of his, he further ordered, verbally, to SSP Ramban to arrest/ detain the Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer of CPWD.

CPWD superintending engineer, Mohan Lal wrote to Jammu & Kashmir chief secretary eight hours after the two engineers were “detained” by the Ramban police giving details of the sequence of events while seeking immediate intervention for the release of two engineers.

# NCB uncovers drug trafficking network, arrests eight in raids

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of eight people, including a Nigerian National, in different operations, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday claimed to have unearthed a major pan-India heroin trafficking network in the country. The NCB has also seized about 35 kilograms (kgs) of narcotics worth more than Rs 100 crores in the international market from the possession of the accused.

According to a senior NCB official, the operation began on May 24 after the federal anti-drug agency first intercepted two women passengers who

landed in Bengaluru from Zimbabwe and about seven kg of heroin was seized from them.

Their questioning led NCB officials to various other links — a Nigerian national identified as the “kingpin” of the network and other operatives staying in the national Capital and Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh.

In this operation, 34.89 kg of high-grade heroin has been seized and eight people arrested, the NCB said.

This was a major heroin trafficking network operating across the country, it said. Out of the eight, one accused is a Nigerian and the rest are Indian nationals. Three more women,

stated to be citizens of some African nations, have been apprehended and they will be arrested once the agency gathers evidence against them, a senior NCB official said.

According to the statement issued by the NCB, Rs 5.8 lakh in cash was also seized during the operation. The Nigerian kingpin from Delhi used to ask Indian lady handlers to arrange women carriers who would fly abroad and bring drugs concealed in their luggage.

They were paid for each trip along with all travel expenses by the cartel, the NCB said.

# CBI questions Karti for 3rd day in bribery-for-visa case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Saturday questioned Lok Sabha member Karti Chidambaram for the third consecutive day in connection with alleged bribery of Rs 50 lakh in the issuance of visas for 263 Chinese workers in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister.

The Congress MP who arrived at the CBI headquarters in the morning was questioned till the evening, officials said. On Friday, he was confronted with documents connected to the 11-year bribery scam.

On May 14, the CBI had registered a fresh FIR against

Karti and others on the allegations of a bribe of Rs 50 lakh being paid to him through his close associate and Chartered Accountant S Bhaskararaman, a top executive of Vedanta Group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab for re-issuance of project visas for 263 Chinese workers employed there, the CBI FIR said.

The agency has already arrested Bhaskararaman in connection with the case.

The CBI FIR has stated that the work for setting up the power project was being executed by a Chinese company and was running behind schedule.

# Plea challenging sections of Place of Worship Act filed in SC

NEW DELHI ■ AGENCIES

Another plea challenging the Constitutional validity of certain sections of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 was filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday stating that the said Act violates the principles of secularism.

The plea, filed by a religious guru based in Mathura, Devkinandan Thakur, has challenged the constitutional validity of Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991, stating that it offends Articles 14, 15, 21, 25, 26, 29 of the Indian constitution and violates the principles of secularism and the rule of law, which is an integral part of the Preamble and basic structure of the Constitution.

“Hindus are fighting for the restoration of the birthplace of Lord Krishna for hundreds of years with peaceful public agitation, but by enacting the Act, the Centre has excluded the birthplace of Lord Ram at Ayodhya but not the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura, though both are the incarnations of Lord Vishnu- the creator,” the petitioner said.

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, Rudra Vikram, residents of Varanasi, and Swami Jeetendranand Saraswati, a religious leader, among others have already filed a plea in the apex court against the Act.



The pleas read that Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the Act have taken away the right to approach the Court and thus the Right to Judicial Remedy has been closed.

Section 3 of the Act bars the conversion of places of worship, by stating “No person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination or any section thereof into a place of worship of a different section of the same religious denomination or of a different religious denomination or any section thereof.”

Section 4 bars filing of any suit or initiating any other legal proceeding for the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship, as existing on August 15, 1947.

“The Places of Worship Act 1991 is void and unconstitutional for many reasons,” the plea said, adding that it offends the right of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs to pray, profess, practice and prorogate religion (Article 25).

“The Act infringes on the rights of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs to manage, maintain and administer the places of worship and pilgrimage (Article 26),” it added.

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022										
(Amount in Lacs)										
Sl. No.	Particulars	QUARTER ENDED						YEAR ENDED		
		STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED			STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED
		March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2021	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2021	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2022
		Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations (Net)	51.63	94.29	69.91	181.82	88.29	248.83	215.57	301.17	512.69
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	28.62	1,014.77	-337.48	326.43	821.22	813.97	720.47	1,472.02	2,754.38
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	28.62	266.23	-337.48	326.10	206.92	813.97	720.47	723.48	2,754.05
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	42.97	312.04	-562.19	352.26	294.44	578.35	523.10	770.86	2,563.14
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (after tax)	250.58	389.52	14,340.73	704.70	417.86	15,795.12	16,202.45	1,909.75	18,519.40
6	Equity Share Capital (Face value of share is Rs. 10/- each)	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Financial Statements of previous year)	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
8	Earnings per share (EPS) (of Rs. 10/- each) (Not Annualised)									
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS (before exceptional Items) (in Rs.)	0.17	4.24	-2.25	1.41	3.63	2.31	2.09	6.07	10.24
	(b) Basic and Diluted EPS (after exceptional Items) (in Rs.)	0.17	1.25	-2.25	1.41	1.18	2.31	2.09	3.08	10.24
NOTES:										
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the stock exchange website, www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www.modirubberlimited.com.										
2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meeting held on May 28, 2022. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out an audit of the aforesaid results.										
3. Previous quarter/ year end figures have been rearranged and / or regrouped, wherever necessary, to make them comparable with those of the current quarter/ year end.										
Place : New Delhi										
Date : 28th May, 2022										
By order of the Board Sd/- (Alok Kumar Modi) Managing Director DIN- 00174374										

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Naveentam Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Plot No.7, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085

Notice is hereby given to Public that membership of late Sh. Sadhu Singh (M.No.121) was transferred to Ms. Surinder Kaur (Nominer) ID/o, of Late Sh.Sadhu Singh in the Naveentam CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No.412 G/H), Plot No.7, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 in the Special General Body Meeting dated 04.05.2014. Now name of Ms. Surinder Kaur has been forwarded by the society to RCS office for clearance of membership for draw of lots on 27.04.2022 in Schedule-VII of DCS Rules 2007. If any person(s) having any claim/objection in respect of this membership are requested to inform file his/her objection to the under signed or in the office of RCS within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

President-For Naveentam C.G.H.S. Ltd

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Through this newsletter, I am informing the general public that mv client's original lease deed No.-2826. Dated 26/08/1985 seller-New Okhla Industrial Development Authority, buyer-M/S Skipper Fabricators and original lease deed No.-2260/ 2261, Dated 11/08/1997 seller-M/S Skipper Fabricators, buyer-M/S Ganpati Auto Industries, which is registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Noida. Both the above original lease deeds have gone missing somewhere in the National Capital Region, whose missing information has been lodged with the Crime Branch, Delhi on 29/04/2022. The gentleman who has received both the above deed, please kindly make it available at mv address. The gentleman who deliver will be given a respectable remuneration.

(Chandra Shekhar)  
Advocate



# Russia takes small cities, aims to widen east Ukraine battle

AP ■ KRAMATORSK UKRAINE

Russia asserted Saturday that its troops and separatist fighters had captured a key railway junction in eastern Ukraine, the second small city to fall to Moscow's forces this week as they fought to seize all of the country's contested Donbas region.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the city of Lyman had been "completely liberated" by a joint force of Russian soldiers and the Kremlin-backed separatists, who have waged war in the eastern region bordering Russia for eight years.

Lyman, which had a population of about 20,000 before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, serves as a regional railway hub. Ukraine's train system has ferried arms and evacuated citizens during the war, and it wasn't immediately clear how

the development might affect either capability.

Controlling the city would give the Russian military a foothold for advancing on larger Ukrainian-held cities in Donetsk and Luhansk, the two provinces that make up the Donbas. Since failing to occupy Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, Russia has concentrated on seizing the last parts of the region not controlled by the separatists. "If Russia did succeed in taking over these areas, it would highly likely be seen by the Kremlin as a substantive political achievement and be portrayed to the Russian people as justifying the invasion," the British Ministry of Defense said in a Saturday assessment.

Fighting continued Saturday around Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk, twin cities that are last major areas under Ukrainian control in Luhansk



province. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated that the situation in the east was "difficult" but expressed confidence his country would prevail.

"If the occupiers think that Lyman or Sievierodonetsk will be theirs, they are wrong. Donbas will be Ukrainian," he

said.

On Tuesday, Russian troops took over Svitlodarsk, a small municipality south of Sievierodonetsk that hosts a

thermal power station, while intensifying efforts to encircle and capture the larger city. The governor of Luhansk warned that Ukrainian soldiers might have to retreat from Sievierodonetsk to avoid being surrounded. The advance of Russian forces raised fears that residents would experience the same horrors as people in the southeastern port city Mariupol in the weeks before it fell.

Sievierodonetsk's mayor, Oleksandr Striuk, said Friday that some 1,500 civilians have died there during the war, including from a lack of medicine or because of diseases that could not be treated while the city was under siege.

Before the war, Sievierodonetsk was home to around 100,000 people. About 12,000 to 13,000 remain in the city, where 90% of the buildings are damaged, the mayor told The Associated Press. Ukraine's

police force said Saturday afternoon that the city is "under constant enemy fire" and civilians were wounded, but did not specify the number.

Just south of Sievierodonetsk, volunteers worked to evacuate people Friday amid a threatening soundtrack of air raid sirens and booming artillery. AP reporters saw elderly and ill civilians bundled into soft stretchers and slowly carried down apartment building stairs in Bakhmut, a city in northeast Donetsk province.

Svetlana Lvova, the manager of two buildings in Bakhmut, tried to convince reluctant residents to leave but said she and her husband would not evacuate until their son, who was in Sievierodonetsk, returned home.

"I have to know he is alive. That's why I'm staying here," Lvova, 66, said.

A nearly three-month siege of Mariupol ended last week when Russia claimed the city's complete. The city became a symbol of mass destruction and human suffering, as well as of Ukrainian determination to defend the country. More than 20,000 of its civilians are feared dead.

Mariupol's port reportedly resumed operations after Russian forces finished clearing mines in the Azov Sea off the once-vibrant city. Russian state news agency Tass reported that a vessel bound for the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don entered Mariupol's seaport early Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian navy said Saturday morning that Russian ships "continue to block civilian navigation in the waters of the Black and Azov seas" along Ukraine's southern coast, "making them a zone of hostilities."

# Protest seeking resignation of Lankan Prez enters 50th day

PTI ■ COLOMBO

As the ongoing anti-Government protest demanding the resignation of Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the worst economic crisis entered its 50th day, organisers on Saturday said the day would be marked with more intense agitation marches with wider participation.

Sri Lanka is near bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas to toilet paper and matchsticks. For months, people have been forced to stay in long lines to buy the limited stocks. Sri Lanka's economic crisis has created political unrest with a protest occupying the entrance to the president's office demanding his res-



ignation continuing for the past 49 days. The crisis has already forced prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of the president, to resign on May 9.

There has been an intense call for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to also resign however, he has refused to do so.

Saturday marks the 50th day of the "Go Rajapaksa" protest which has also seen the

death of a parliamentarian.

The Sri Lankan police have on occasions used force to control the unrest.

"The continuous protest demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has reached its 50th day today. The day is to be marked with protest marches with wider participation," the organisers said. The action started on April 9 when protesters walked into the Galle Face promenade central Colombo and camped there blocking the entry gate to Rajapaksa's presidential office.

They expanded activities at the site by naming it GGG 'Gota G Gama (village).

A reference library, a theater, a political podium with cultural and religious events.

## Palestinians: Teen killed by Israeli fire

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli forces shot and killed a teenager on Friday during an operation in a town near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank.

The ministry identified the slain teen as Zaid Ghunaim, 15. It said he was wounded by Israeli gunfire in the neck and back and that doctors failed to save his life. The death raises to five the number of Palestinian teenagers killed during Israeli military operations in the West Bank in the past month.

Israeli-Palestinian violence has intensified in recent weeks with near-daily arrest raids in Palestinian-administered areas of the West Bank and tensions around a Jerusalem holy site sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

## Police inaction moves to centre of Texas shooting investigation



AP ■ HOUSTON

The actions — or more notably, the inaction — of a school district police chief and other law enforcement officers moved swiftly to the center of the investigation into this week's shocking school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

The attack that left 19 children and two teachers dead in a fourth grade classroom was the nation's deadliest school

shooting in nearly a decade, and for three days police offered a confusing and sometimes contradictory timeline that drew public anger and frustration.

By Friday, authorities acknowledged that students and teachers repeatedly begged 911 operators for help while the police chief told more than a dozen officers to wait in a hallway at Robb Elementary School. Officials said he

believed that the suspect was barricaded inside adjoining classrooms and that there was no longer an active attack.

The chief's decision - and the officers' apparent willingness to follow his directives against established active-shooter protocols - prompted questions about whether more lives were lost because officers did not act faster to stop the gunman, and who should be held responsible.

The delay in confronting the shooter - who was inside the school for more than an hour - could lead to discipline, lawsuits and even criminal charges against police.

"In these cases, I think the court of public opinion is far worse than any court of law or police department administrative trial," said Joe Giacalone, a retired New York police sergeant.

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED					
Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P. CIN-L17291UP1979PLC004804					
PH: 0591-2223008/18, Fax-0591-2223009, Email: info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com					
Extract of Audited Financial Results (Standalone) for the Quarter and Year Ended 31/03/2022					
Particulars	Quarter ended			Year Ended	
	31-Mar-22	31-Dec-21	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-21
	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
Total income from operations (net)	2151.58	3900.64	1881.05	9866.13	9823.60
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(52.69)	40.93	(0.23)	(13.17)	495.51
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items	(52.69)	40.93	(0.23)	(13.17)	495.51
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items	(25.81)	18.17	29.06	(5.56)	377.36
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(12.62)	18.17	35.12	7.63	383.42
Equity Share Capital	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	—	—	—	—	—
Earnings per share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each):					
(a) Basic	(0.25)	0.18	0.28	(0.05)	3.68
(b) Diluted	(0.25)	0.18	0.28	(0.05)	3.68
Earnings per share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each):					
(a) Basic	(0.25)	0.18	0.28	(0.05)	3.68
(b) Diluted	(0.25)	0.18	0.28	(0.05)	3.68
<b>Notes:</b>					
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Annual Audited Financial Results (Standalone) filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Audited Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.prakashwoollen.com)					
By Order of The Board For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited Sd/- Vijay Kumar Gupta Whole Time Director & CFO DIN: 00335325					
Place : Village Amhera (Amroha) Date : 28-05-2022					

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates No 793847 for 100 shares bearing distinctive No 216895601-216895700 standing in the name of SUBHASH MAKKAR in the books M/s PRISM CEMENTS LTD Limited, has been lost/misplaced and the advertiser has applied to the Company for issue of the duplicate share certificate (s) in lieu thereof. Any person (s) who has/have claim (s) on the said shares should lodge such claim (s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents X viz KFin Technologies Pvt Limited, Kanvy Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31 & 32, Financial District Gachibowli, Hyderabad 500 032 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate (s) in respect of the said shares.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This publication in regards to Property No B 25 & B 26, Mayapuri, Rewari Line, Industrial Area, Phase 2, Delhi, owner of the property Mr Jagjit Singh Sahni. The partnership Deed of, M/s Sahni Bros (India) REGD. have been dissolved vide dissolution deed dated 10.04.2006 and 31.03.2011 and further no partnership has formed with Mr Chanpreet Singh Sahni.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is hereby informed that my client Nathoo Ram Jolly S/o Sh. Ishar Dass Jolly R/o Flat No. D-9, Akash Bharti Apartments, 24, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, has severed all relations with his daughter Rakhee Marwah W/o Maneet Roy, and maternal grandson Sagar Marwah S/o Gaurav Marwah Both R/o 12/18, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027 and has disowned/disinherited them from all his movable and immovable properties with immediate effect due to their bad and torturous conduct towards my client. Anyone dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and consequences. The general public is further notified that my client shall not be responsible for any acts, deeds, well being/ future life of Rakhee Marwah & Sagar Marwah in any manner.

KANWAR UDAI BHAN SINGH SEHRAWAT  
ADVOCATE  
Chamber No.505, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001 Mob. 9810675691

SORIL INFRA RESOURCES LIMITED					
(CIN : L52190HR2005PLC077960)					
Extract of consolidated audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31st March 2022					
Particulars	(Rs. in crores)				
	3 months ended 31 March 2022	Preceding 3 months ended 31 Dec. 2021	Corresponding 3 months ended 31 March 2021	Current year ended 31 March 2022	Previous year ended 31 March 2021
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total income	51.18	52.39	50.41	192.27	193.06
Net profit for the year (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	3.29	2.41	0.52	8.49	23.72
Net profit for the year before tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	3.29	2.41	0.52	8.49	23.72
Net profit for the year after tax(after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	2.68	2.01	0.40	6.20	19.35
Total comprehensive income for the year [comprising profit/ (loss) for the year (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	2.77	1.88	0.53	6.29	19.75
Paid-up equity share capital	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)				236.10	229.42
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (face value of Rs. 10 per equity share) (EPS for 3 months and year ended are not annualised)*					
- Basic (Rs)	0.85 *	0.64 *	0.13 *	1.97	6.14
- Diluted (Rs)	0.85 *	0.64 *	0.13 *	1.97	6.14
<b>Note to the financial results:</b>					
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 May 2022. These financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company.					
2) <b>Key standalone financial information of SORIL Infra Resources Limited:-</b>					
Particulars	(Rs. in crores)				
	3 months ended 31 March 2022	Preceding 3 months ended 31 Dec. 2021	Corresponding 3 months ended 31 March 2021	Current year ended 31 March 2022	Previous year ended 31 March 2021
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total income	48.94	49.69	47.09	179.76	160.78
Profit before tax	0.88	0.83	0.44	0.17	7.57
Net profit after tax	0.88	0.83	0.80	0.17	7.57
3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly /yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly / yearly financial results are available on the company's website (http://sorilinfraresources.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).					
Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram - 122016					
Place : Gurugram					
Date : 28 May 2022					
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Anil Malhan Executive Director					

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED					
Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019					
CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550					
Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com					
ANNEXURE I					
Format for publishing financial results in newspapers					
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]					
(Amount in Lakhs)					
S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended		For the Year ended	
		31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2.65	1.83	15.20	6.02
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(65.51)	(110.64)	(324.44)	(85.89)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(65.51)	(110.64)	(324.44)	(85.89)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(80.52)	(42.10)	(229.99)	(793.68)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(80.52)	(42.10)	(229.99)	(793.68)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve )	(2,458.95)	(2,378.43)	(2,458.95)	(2,228.95)
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-
9	Net worth	(2,457.95)	(2,377.43)	(2,457.95)	(2,227.95)
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	59,823.71	59,808.82	59,823.71	61,820.94
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio*	(24.34)	(25.16)	(24.34)	(27.75)
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -	-	-	-	-
	1. Basic:	(805)	(421)	(2,300)	(7,937)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
	2. Diluted:	(805)	(421)	(2,300)	(7,937)
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.01)
<b>Note</b>					
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.					
b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).					
c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.					
d) * - The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.					
e) Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary.					
For and on behalf of Board of Directors of ATS Heights Pvt Ltd					
Date: 27.05.2022 Place: Noida		Sd/- Getamber Anand Director DIN: 00120610		Sd/ Lovely Pathak Director DIN: 06401442	



# MeitY issues draft norms to mobilise non-personal citizen data with Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has issued a draft National Data Governance Framework to mobilise non-personal data of citizens for use by both public and private entities to improve services.

The draft policy proposes the launch of a non-personal data based India datasets programme and addresses the methods and rules to ensure that non-personal and anonymized data from both Government and private entities are safely accessible by the research and innovation ecosystem.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the National Data Governance Framework is



of interest for artificial intelligence (AI) startups, AI research entities and government departments.

"Its imp piece of policy framework that's being developed to catalyze #India's \$1 Trillion #DigitalEconomy," he tweeted.

Asking stakeholders to comment on the draft framework, the minister said the National Data Governance Framework will also accelerate digital govern-

ment and digitisation of government with common standards, rules and guidelines for data storage and management across all departments.

The draft said during the COVID-19 pandemic, digital governance played a big part in India's resilient response to the pandemic and its impact on lives, livelihoods and the economy.

In the post-COVID era, digitisation of government is accelerating faster and data generation is also increasing exponentially which can be used in turn to improve citizens' experience and engagement with the government and governance as a 'Digital Nagrik'.

The digital government data is currently managed, stored and accessed in differing and

inconsistent ways across different government entities, thus attenuating the efficacy of data-driven governance, and preventing an innovative ecosystem of data science, analytics and AI from emerging to its full potential, the draft said.

"The power of this data must be harnessed for more effective Digital Government, public good and innovation, thus requiring a National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP)," draft said.

The proposed policy will be applicable to all government departments and entities and rules and standards prescribed will cover all data collected and being managed by any government entity.

It proposed to cover all non-personal datasets and data and platform, rules, standards governing its access and use by researchers and startups.

"State Governments shall be encouraged to adopt the provisions of the Policy and rules,

Whereas, Hansafcon Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. is in the process of undertaking the development of Commercial Plotted Colony in sector-79, Faridabad over an area measuring 5.44375 acres in revenue estate of village Bhatola in addition to already licensed area 3.35625 acres in Sector-79, Faridabad granted by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas, there is no third party right has been created in the said Plotted Colony. And whereas, the earlier approved layout plan is now proposed to be revised.

And whereas, the office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of 3.35625 acres and approval of proposed layout plan of additional area 5.44375 acres as a pre-condition for allowing such proposed and revision in the layout plan.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed and revision of the layout plan of the said colony. A copy of the proposed and revised Layout plan bearing dng. no.6332 dated 26/05/2022 and earlier approved layout dng. no. 8173 dated 10/03/2022 available for perusal on our website i.e., www.hansafcon.co.in. The said layout plan also be perused at the office of undersigned as well as in the office of District/Senior Town Planner, Faridabad, HUDA Complex, sector-12, Faridabad.

Any allottee having any objection on revised layout plan, may file his objection in the office of STP/DTP, Faridabad within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revised layout plan.

For Hansafcon Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. Sd/- Authorised Signatory Place : New Delhi Date : 27/05/2022

# Tesla won't manufacture in India unless allowed to sell, service cars: Musk



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

American electric carmaker Tesla, which has been seeking reduction in import duties to sell its vehicles in India, will not manufacture its products locally unless it is allowed to first sell and service its cars in the country, company founder and chief executive Elon Musk has said.

In a tweet responding to a user asking about Tesla setting up a manufacturing plant in India, he said, "Tesla will not put a manufacturing plant in any location where we are not allowed first to sell & service cars."

Last month, Union Road Transport and Highways

Minister Nitin Gadkari had said if Tesla was ready to manufacture its electric vehicles in India then there was 'no problem' but the company must not import cars from China.

In August last year, Musk had said Tesla may set up a manufacturing unit in India if it first succeeds with imported vehicles in the country.

He had said Tesla wanted to launch its vehicles in India "but import duties are the highest in the world by far of any large country!" Currently, India imposes 100 per cent import duty on fully imported cars with CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value more than USD 40,000 and 60 per cent on those costing less than the amount.

# Engineers India adopts new vision statement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned consultancy firm Engineers India Ltd (EIL) on Saturday said it has adopted a new vision statement that aims at the company becoming a global leader offering total energy solutions.

"The energy landscape in India and across the globe is changing at a swift pace and organizations across the globe are re-strategizing their business operations focused towards sustainability, climate change and energy transition," the firm said in a statement. EIL said since its inception it has always aligned corporate and business strategies with the energy ecosystem and aims to attain leadership position across the energy sector.

"To strengthen our resolve and commitments towards futuristic goals, we at EIL, would now be driven by our new vision statement - 'To be a Global Leader offering Total

Energy Solutions for a Sustainable Future'," the statement said.

This new vision would steer EIL towards a growth and transition pathway, thus evolving the firm into a total energy consulting organisation with leadership position across all the pillars and constituents of the energy sector.

"The Vision Statement would also motivate and drive us to strengthen our resolve and our aspirations to be global leader providing a complete range of solutions to its stakeholders across the energy sector with focus on minimizing overall carbon footprints in processes and designs," it said.

"We believe that this powerful vision statement, coupled with strong fundamentals, technical prowess and high skill sets that we possess, will further enthuse and motivate all of us at EIL to provide our niche and value added services across the energy landscape."

# M&M Q4 profit zooms to ₹1,192 crore

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra on Saturday reported nearly five-fold jump in standalone profit at Rs 1,192 crore for quarter ended March 31, 2022.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 245 crore for the year-ago period, it said in a statement. Revenue grew 28 per cent to Rs 17,124 crore in the period under review as compared with Rs 13,356 crore in March quarter 2020-21, it said. In full fiscal year 2021-22, the company logged a standalone profit of Rs

4,935 crore, a multi-fold growth from Rs 984 crore in fiscal year ended March 31, 2021. M&M said it achieved the highest ever standalone revenue for auto and farm segments at Rs 55,300 crore for FY22, which is 29 per cent higher than previous year's. It also said the company's auto business delivered highest ever quarterly UV (utility vehicle) volumes in Q4 with 42 per cent year-on-year growth while Farm Equipment Sector (FES) tractors market share for FY22 stood at 40 per cent, a growth of 1.8 per cent Y-o-Y.

INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN :U74140MH1993PTC074596)				
Extract of the audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022				
Particulars	(Rs. in crores)			
	3 months ended 31 March 2022	3 months ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 March 2022	Previous year ended 31 March 2021
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
Total income from operations	4.95	5.15	21.01	35.49
Net profit for the year (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	2.20	1.35	7.37	15.55
Net profit for the year before tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	2.20	1.35	7.37	15.55
Net profit for the year after tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	1.65	1.02	5.34	11.82
Total comprehensive income for the year [comprising profit for the year (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	1.66	1.02	5.36	11.97
Paid-up equity share capital	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	24.66	22.99	24.66	19.30
Securities premium account	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83
Net worth	141.29	139.62	141.29	135.93
Outstanding debt	49.75	49.70	49.75	49.56
Debt equity ratio	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (face value of Rs. 10 per equity share) (EPS for the quarter and year ended are not annualised)*				
- Basic (Rs)	0.39*	0.24*	1.28	2.83
- Diluted (Rs)	0.39*	0.24*	1.28	2.83
<b>Note to financial results:</b>				
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 May 2022. The financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the statutory auditors of the company.				
2) The above presentation is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly, year ended / annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosure requirements) regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly, year ended / annual financial results are available on the company's website (http://indiabullsruralfinance.com) and on the website of BSE (http://www.bseindia.com).				
Registered Office : One International Center, Tower-1, 4th Floor, S. B. Marg, Elphinstone(W), Mumbai, 400013		For and on behalf of the Board of Directors		
Place : Gurugram Date : 28 May 2022		Vijay Kumar Agrawal Whole Time Director		

ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd. Off. : 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
CIN: U45400DL2007PTC168922; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550  
Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com

**ANNEXURE I**

**Format for publishing financial results in newspapers**

**[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]**

**(Amounts in INR Lacs except per share data and ratios)**

S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended		For the Year ended	
		31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	1,230.26	450.24	6,590.82	1,620.03
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	9.92	3.75	93.67	(247.11)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	9.92	3.75	93.67	(247.11)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	0.45	(1.69)	31.24	(264.38)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	(3.54)	(1.69)	27.25	(258.04)
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve )	(965.73)	(962.19)	(965.73)	(992.98)
8	Net worth	(964.73)	(961.19)	(964.73)	(991.98)
9	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	14,789.52	14,733.65	14,789.52	14,450.70
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio*	(15.33)	(15.33)	(15.33)	(14.57)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
	1. Basic: (in Rs)	4	(17)	312	(2,580)
	2. Diluted: (in Rs)	4	(17)	312	(2,580)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	0.0007	0.0003	0.01	(0.18)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	0.03	0.01	0.07	(0.18)

**Note:**

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.

b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).

c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

d) \* - The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

e) Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary.

**For and on behalf of Board of Directors of  
ATS Infrabuild Private Limited**

Sd/-  
**Getamber Anand**  
Director  
DIN- 00120610

Sd/-  
**Lovely Pathak**  
Director  
DIN- 06401442

**Place: Noida**  
**Date: 27.05.2022**

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited (Formerly "Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited" & "Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited") (CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)					
Extract of Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	Quarter ended 31-Mar-21	Year ended 31-Mar-22	Year ended 31-Mar-21
	(Refer note 3)	Unaudited	(Refer note-3)	Audited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	50.24	52.31	82.83	204.62	247.22
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(55.85)	(60.62)	(8.15)	(156.57)	(74.74)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items))	(55.85)	(60.62)	(8.15)	(156.57)	(74.74)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(60.50)	(60.20)	(11.58)	(173.81)	(87.65)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(140.31)	(72.01)	(170.32)	(182.83)	125.81
Equity Share Capital	17.51	17.51	17.51	17.51	17.51
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet				306.56	486.27
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items					
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items					
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
<b>Note to the financial results:</b>					
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 May 2022.					
2) <b>Key Standalone Financial Information:</b>					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	Quarter ended 31-Mar-21	Year ended 31-Mar-22	Year ended 31-Mar-21
	(Refer note 3)	Unaudited	(Refer note-3)	Audited	Audited
Total Income	4.50	0.92	0.81	5.79	4.84
(Loss) / Profit before Tax	(41.97)	(68.48)	(29.80)	(178.59)	(88.09)
Net (Loss) / Profit after Tax	(41.97)	(68.48)	(29.80)	(178.59)	(88.09)
3) Figures for the quarters ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2021 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the respective financial year.					
4) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual 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 / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://www.yaari.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).					
Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram - 122016		For and on behalf of the Board of Directors			
Place : Gurugram Date : 28 May 2022		Kubair Khera Executive Director & CEO			

SANEH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED											
Regd. Office: Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Daryaganj New Delhi -110002, (India)											
Phone No. 91-11-23273907, CIN: L74899DL1980PL060079											
STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2022											
(Rs. in Lakhs)											
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended			Quarter Ended		Year Ended		
		31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	0.02	-	0.04	0.20	0.29	0.02	0.03	0.12	0.50	0.37
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(3.57)	(0.76)	(0.78)	(5.05)	(1.80)	(4.75)	(1.65)	(1.01)	(7.52)	(3.39)
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(3.57)	(0.76)	(0.78)	(5.05)	(1.80)	(4.75)	(1.65)	(1.01)	(7.52)	(3.39)
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	(3.57)	(0.76)	(0.78)	(5.05)	(1.80)	(4.75)	(1.65)	(1.01)	(7.52)	(3.39)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(40.97)	47.29	1.45	26.14	26.94	(191.84)	181.75	50.23	114.93	112.40
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs.10/- Per Share)	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
7	Reserves (excluding revaluation revaluation reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year )	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Earning Per Share (before & after extraordinary item) (face value of Rs. 10/- each)										
	Basic	(1.49)	(0.32)	(0.33)	(2.10)	(0.75)	(1.98)	(0.69)	(0.42)	(3.13)	(1.41)
	Diluted	(1.49)	(0.32)	(0.33)	(2.10)	(0.75)	(1.98)	(0.69)	(0.42)	(3.13)	(1.41)
NOTES :											
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges website.											
2) The above result have been prepared in accordance with principle and procedures of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as specified under section 133 of Companies Act, 2013.											
3) The above results have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on May 28, 2022. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out audit for the year ended March 31, 2022 and have expressed an unmodified audit opinion on these results.											
For Saneh Industrial Investments Ltd.											
Sd/-											
Vivek Gupta											
(Director)											
DIN No. 00035916											
Place : New Delhi											
Dated : 28.05.2022											



talktime

APACHE INDIAN

*The singer-songwriter and reggae DJ, who is known in the United Kingdom for the song Boom Shack-A-Lak, has recorded with Sean Paul, Maxi Priest, Shaggy, AR Rahman, Asha Bhosle, Jazzy B, among others. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his latest song, his experience and upcoming projects*

‘IT’S NECESSARY TO RISE AGAINST ALL ODDS’



■ **What is the song Rise Up about?**  
Written during the lockdown, the song is about rising against all things bad and negative. Rise up and be unified, for you are not alone! Life is difficult, with or without any pandemic. Which is why, it's necessary to rise against anything that's wrong, bad, evil. We must keep rising and not let anything or anyone stop us on our path to progress.

■ **How did you come up with the idea of creating this music?**  
Dinero, my dear friend and brother from India, came up with the idea for the song. He wanted artists from around the globe to amplify the strong and positive message of the song and mix different genres and style of music. Big respect to him! He called me to inform that he will be sending the beat and wants me to work around the theme. He got Shibani Kashyap and Chezin on board after I wrote and composed the beat.

■ **How was your experience working on it?**  
It was difficult working abroad during the lockdown as you're all alone in the studio and are trying to pour your energy into the song. So, it was a big challenge to vibe with other artists. I was so inspired by the concept of the song that it made me go the extra mile and give Dinero more than I do. Working with him is always a pleasure. Adding to that, it's always wonderful to work with established artists who have a fire in their belly and are determined to use their name, voice to make a difference. That's what music is all about.



THE INDIAN MUSIC INDUSTRY IS WELL ESTABLISHED. DESPITE HAVING RETAINED THEIR TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS, THE BOOM OF THE INTERNET HAS MADE THE YOUNGER GENERATION WANT TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW STYLES AND DIFFERENT GENRES

■ **Your song Dil Lutteya and similar others in India are loved by many. How has your journey been**  
Dil Luteya, a song that was a collab with Punjabi artist Jazzy B is a song that is loved by people all over the world to this very day. Having been part of the industry for over thirty years, I've performed all over the world. I was brought up in Birmingham, which is known for reggae. Growing up in a Punjabi household, I got introduced to bhangra and Hindi music at a very young age. I mixed it up because that's how we were raised. We mix languages and cultures and at the same time

retain our identity. As far as my love for reggae goes, it was a movement and still is. It's a reflection of a new style, culture and an expression of freedom. Music is liberating, for it has set me free and share the joy with the world. It has indeed been an amazing journey.

■ **Major differences between the British and the Indian music industry?**  
The British music industry has a long way to go. Having said that, it does represent the new generations and always tries to mix it with the pop sound and get it crossed over. It has always been one that has been inspired by other styles; western in the 50s and 60s, or pop in the 90s followed by reggae, hip hop and underground Asian sound. On the other hand, the Indian music industry is far more established. Despite having retained their traditional elements, the boom of the internet has made the younger generation want to experiment with new styles and different genres. Which is why I think that the Indian music industry will go through a few changes. Adding to that, it's amazing to see how big the market is for the Indian music on a global level. It's taken time, but you now see Bollywood in Hollywood. You see its influence all over the world.

■ **Upcoming projects?**  
I have a lot of upcoming tours in India and around the world along with a host of songs in the pipeline. I've collaborated with AR Rahman and Asha Bhosle and am very excited to see how things pan out. There are a few projects coming up with Dinero Ash, Shibani Kashyap and some of my own too.

Plan Your Day

THERAPEUTIC ART



Learn the Most Therapeutic Art Form  
**Self-Healing Mandala**  
FREE Workshop

Interested in trying different artforms and investing your creative energy in the right place?

Mandala Artform is all about creating circles and performing meditation in a different way.

Mandalas mean circles in Sanskrit, used during Buddhist time to help the practitioners focus. It also helps in relieving

stress, increasing concentration, and inducing good sleep.

Today, the Mandala art form is used widely as a therapeutic art to channel creative energies. This workshop will help you start your mandala journey.

**What:** Workshop  
**Where:** Online  
**When:** Multiple Batches

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



The Epic Stuff cushion covers provide cork bottom to prevent sticking /stains on the surface. It is easily washable with no fading.

Epic Stuff India is the home of superheroes created for the nerd in you. It has got the ultimate collection of super cool officially licensed fan merchandise of Harry Potter, Friends TV show, Game of Thrones, Batman, Superman, Tom & Jerry, among others.

**DC Flash cushion cover**

Add some colour to your world with our vibrant Flash cushion cover! Cuddle up with your favourite superhero or show your support for the Justice League with this stylish addition to any room.

**DC Superman cushion cover**

Bring home the power of Superman with this cover! Made with 100 per cent synthetic material for comfort and durability, this cover is the perfect addition to any fan's collection.

BURSTING MYTHS AROUND IT

Even though menstruation is such a big part of a woman's life, it is still considered a taboo in many societies. Taboos, myths and restrictions associated with it leave a negative impact. Here are a few tips on how to maintain menstrual hygiene

For some women, menstruation may just be that time of the month when they must submit to cramps, bear some discomfort and probably not wear light-coloured clothes. Howbeit, for millions of others, this biological process can equate to abuse (the onset of menstruation can signal that a girl is ready for marriage and childbearing, even if she is still a child herself), stigma (banished to menstruation huts, barred from sharing meals) and missed opportunity (skipping school or work because of pain and/or lack of personal hygiene products).

One among the several responsible initiatives to support menstrual health and hygiene, is the Menstrual Hygiene Day which is celebrated on May 28. The date signifies the average 28-day menstrual cycle and May being the fifth month of the year, stands for the average of five days women menstruate for each month. The day is meant to advance menstruation as a normal biological process so that women can go through it without being cast out or missing out, without feeling fear or shame and without being treated any less and exposed to more vulnerabilities.

It also raises awareness about period poverty or the inability of millions of girls to afford the basic menstrual supplies needed to manage health and hygiene with dignity during this period.

Menstrual Hygiene Day is especially dedicated to informing and educating people about the importance and awareness of menstrual hygiene management. Women menstruate for an average of four to six days a month for approximately 40 years. Even though menstruation is such a big part of a woman's life, it is still considered a taboo in many societies. Taboos, myths and restrictions associated with menstruation



leave a negative impact.

It is time to break the silence, create awareness and normalise menstruation for everyone around.

**Here are a few alarming myths:**

**Myth:** Women shed impure blood when menstruating

**Fact:** This is a common misconception that period blood is dirty or impure. However, what most people fail to understand is that the menstrual cycle is part of a woman's reproductive system that prepares her body for a (possible) pregnancy. The menstrual blood is also the same blood that circulates throughout the body.

**Myth:** Any form of physical activity can disturb the menstrual flow

**Fact:** Exercising and playing sports can actually help to relieve the pain. There is no scientific evidence that exercising while you are on your period can harm your physical health

**Myth:** Girls on their period should sleep in a separate room or space

**Fact:** Periods are not contagious and cause no harm to anybody else

**Myth:** You shouldn't wash your hair during your period

**Fact:** You don't need to compromise with your personal hygiene habits due to your periods. There is no study that states one cannot wash her hair or take a shower on her period. In fact, a warm bath can help you with the painful cramps

**Myth:** Don't use heat to reduce cramps pain; it can affect hormone levels

**Fact:** Heat therapy is one of the best ways to relieve menstrual cramps. Cramp Comfort Heat Patch by Nua is the perfect example to share, these patches are inspired by a hot water bag designed to fit your life. It is a self-heating patch that emits soothing heat for up to eight hours and hugs your body to give you relief from cramps

**Basic Menstrual Hygiene Do's:**

- ◆ Change sanitary pads every four to six hours to avoid any infection.

Changing sanitary pads within every four to six hours is the basic rule to establish vaginal hygiene. Menstrual blood, when released from the body, attracts various organisms from our bodies; multiplying the warmth of the blood and causing irritation or rashes.

- ◆ Change panties to keep it hygienic and fresh down there. Keep separate underwear to be used during your period. If stained, wash it immediately and disinfect it. It is not hygienic to walk around in stained underwear. Keep an extra pair handy when you are going out, just in case you need it.
- ◆ Regularly wash the vaginal area. Every time you use the toilet, washing your vulva regularly is extremely important because the organisms cling to your body after you have removed your sanitary napkin. We should also use an intimate wash which is specially formulated to eliminate infection-causing bacteria like Nua's Foaming

Intimate Wash, which is a gentle cleanser that eliminates infection-causing bacteria. The ingredients like aloe vera and lactic acid ensure it is gentle and safe for daily use.


- ◆ Give importance to proper disposal. Disposing your sanitary napkins properly is an important step. Make sure not to leave it exposed or in a condition that can contaminate the surrounding and create problems for people handling that waste. Most pads come in an individual disposal cover with a resealable flap. After use, place the pad into the disposal cover, seal the flap and discard it in a bin. Don't flush them, since that will block the toilet causing the water to clog. Washing your hands properly is of utmost importance after you have discarded the used sanitary napkin.
- How to choose right pads according to your flow?**
- Understanding your body and menstrual cycle is the first step towards choosing the right pads for yourself. The flow is not exactly the same throughout your period, it starts with heavier then proceeds to medium and ends with light flow. You have to choose a sanitary pad according to your needs and flow.
- The first time you get your period, you might want to try a regular-sized pad but if the regular size seems to be filling up too quickly, try a longer pad. It totally depends on the body shape and flow whether you need an extra-long pad with broad hip-guard or a regular one. There are some products like customisable pads available. Nua helps you choose your pack according to your flow.
- It is customisable! So, if two out of your five days are heavy flow, one is medium and two are light, you customise accordingly. This will make your periods hassle-free and a comfortable experience.

Nomeeta Saigal, Marketing Head, Nua

QUIRKYTALE


A woman's unconventional journey

Much like her one-liners, she is defined by her unabashed grit and resilience. She is not the quintessential *maa* to indulge her kids beyond measure nor does she gets bogged down by her tough life. Beyond her boisterous, unpretentious and hardworking exterior, lies a woman who finds solace in little joys of life, classic Hindi film songs and an ardent love for cricket. And it's time to know her and her story! Sony SAB brings to you a slice of life narrative in *Pushpa Impossible*, the story of a woman and her exceptional turnaround in her quest to earn respect from her family and society through education. Headlined by Karuna Pandey, the show underlines a woman's stellar transition from a victim of fate to a champion of her destiny. *Pushpa Impossible* premieres on Sony SAB on June 6 at 09:30 pm.




Happu Singh bana Happi Jaan!

&TV's *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan* never fails to entertain its audience with humorous and enjoyable tracks. Every time we see the characters landing themselves into amusing situations, making for a hearty laugh for the audience. So, get ready to experience hilarity at its best as Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh) turns into an entertaining courtesan, sabke dilon ki Jaan, Happi Jaan! So, as it goes, in a mission to arrest a gangster named JK, Daroga Happu Singh disguises himself as a beautiful and charming courtesan, Jiske Ek Ada Par Hoga Pura Mohalla Nyochavar!



Annual cook off competition in Bangalore Regency College, Hyderabad



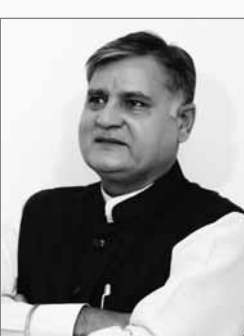
Academy Of Pastry & Culinary Arts, a world-renowned and esteemed group of professional culinary and pastry schools, culminating their annual cook off competition at the Bangalore center. The event featured 20 chefs from Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai competing as a duo to exhibit their unique culinary skills. Regency college, Hyderabad secured the first position followed by IHM Hyderabad and St Joseph, Bangalore secured second and third position, respectively in this highly anticipated event by displaying their impeccable pastry and culinary skills.

The students were asked to prepare a four-course menu with progressive India themes within eight hours. The dishes prepared by the chefs were judged by chef Jagadish Purushotham, Chef Charles Jayakumar and Chef Raghunandan V.

Expressing appreciation for the participants, Niklesh Sharma, Executive Pastry Chef & Managing Director APCA said: "It was delightful to see such talented chefs create delectable delicacies and each creation is worth the mention. We appreciate the efforts of all the chefs who participated in this event and also would like to congratulate the winners."

The winning team was judged based on creativity, hygiene, taste, texture, and appearance. The top three winning teams won prizes worth ₹3 lakh.

Chander Parkash Kathuria is championing the right's rights



The executive and judicial parts of our Government are involved in a maneuver in which they may wind up stepping on each other's toes. The case at hand is a petition seeking the court to order the Government to grant Hindus minority status in six states and three union territories where they are underrepresented numerically. The Centre has so far avoided publicly announcing its intentions, and the Supreme Court has been careful not to issue orders that could override the executive's authority.

Haryana Sugarfed Chairman Chander Parkash Kathuria has been advocating a Public Interest Litigation filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay in 2020, which asks the court to direct the Government to notify Hindus as a minority community in places like Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Punjab.

According to Kathuria, there are only one per cent Hindus in Ladakh, 2.75 per cent in Mizoram, and 2.77 per cent in Lakshadweep. He further adds that in States like Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab, where Hindus are in weak numbers, extra precautions are needed to ensure that minority communities' rights are not violated in the area.

When it comes to the notification of Hindus as minorities in the States in question, the Supreme Court has so far simply sought the Centre's response and has avoided issuing any instructions or directives.





sunday pioneer

# INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

8

This is different Virat, one who has made more mistakes in one season than his entire career.

— VIRENDER SEHWAG

## Titans brace up for fight against Royals

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Two leaders, who are minefields of talent in their own right, one team that has made a mockery of all betting odds and the other trying to complete a cycle that started 15 summers back, IPL final between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals is about this and much more.

When IPL started over two months back, nobody would have believed that two captains walking out for toss in the title clash will be Hardik Pandya and Sanju Samson.

'Remember the Titans', a 2000 Hollywood film headlined by Denzel Washington is considered one of the best sports films on the proverbial underdog story, which always has a capital.

It is not known if Titans skipper Hardik has watched it but for him and head coach Ashish Nehra, this journey of two months has been nothing short of spectacular. They have made a lot of people eat a humble pie because many, including experts, termed them a team of no-hopers post auction.

A team that looked like a rag-tag outfit with only a few good players like David Miller, considered past their sell by date, or one-match wonders like Rahul Tewatia, it didn't really look good on paper.

But then you wouldn't call cricket a 'game of glorious uncertainties' if everything would be decided on paper.

A fit-again Hardik took to leadership like fish takes to water and showed the way with his performances and the reason why he will always be an asset for Indian cricket.

Miller, who played his best cricket at least five years back,



GT vs RR  
Live from 8:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

showed his 2.0 version that stunned one and all. Tewatia showed that those five sixes in Sharjah wasn't a mere flash in the pan.

Rashid Khan knew that he would be read well, so he became all the more parsimonious. Wriddhiman Saha after Rahul Dravid's hard-talk had reached a dead-end in his career but got a new lease of life and at least one more season to look forward to.

Gujarat as a state has not been known for its sporting exploits.

It produced players like Parthiv Patel or one of India's greatest ever pacers in Jasprit Bumrah but just like Tamil Nadu never had an emotional connect with a team before CSK appeared in the horizon, same is the case with Gujarat.

Come Sunday, expect a partisan and vociferous crowd to chant 'Aava De' and that's the impact that Titans have had on their fans.

History will always throw

examples that sporting teams bind a community and perhaps Titans can strike that chord with the Gujaratis.

For Titans, if this is about carving a niche in-front of home crowd, Rajasthan would like to do it for someone, who would be watching up from the stars.

Shane Warne -- Rajasthan's forever first Royal had used the IPL stage in its inception year to show Australian cricket establishment what Ian Chappell had always maintained: "Shane Warne was the best captain Australia never had".

With the Ravindra Jadejas, Dinesh Salunkhes, Swapnil Asnodkars and Niraj Patels, Warne had guided tournament's then cheapest team to victory.

Thirteen summers have gone but there is no Warne in flesh and blood to watch his beloved team complete a cycle of life and sport.

Sanju is perhaps one of those rare Indian cricketers, who has a massive fan following despite not having played even

20 international matches for the country.

In terms of talent quotient, there is little to choose between Sanju and Hardik.

Sanju's batting like a pendulum swinging between heroism and insanity.

One ball, he can audaciously flick Kagiso Rabada or a Josh Hazlewood for a six and the next delivery could be an atrocious shot that would make his biggest supporter tear his hair in frustration.

But captaincy has made him explore a different aspect - the skills of a manager.

It is not easy to lead a pack that has bonafide stars like Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jos Buttler, Trent Boult along with young guns Yashasvi Jaiswal or Prasidh Krishna but Sanju has handled it well.

It will be one hell of a battle where Buttler with 800-plus runs will not only fight a Lockie Ferguson or a Yash Dayal but also withstand crowd pressure:

about 1,11,000 fans would be cheering for the hosts.

Similarly, Shubman Gill would like to own the big stage and show what he can do when the canvas is as large as the IPL final.

Prasidh Krishna is a handful when his team bowls first but how will he react against a ram-paging Miller if he has to defend in a tense situation?

What will be Hardik's tactic against a wily Chahal and an experimental Ashwin during the middle overs? Or will Buttler take risks against a Rashid Khan?

We will get all those answers in the next 24 hours.

There will be heroes, there will be heartbreaks but above everything, perhaps a contest that everyone will remember for ages.

### Squads

**Gujarat Titans** Hardik Pandya (c), Abhinav Manohar, David Miller, Gurkeerat Singh, B Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill, Rahul Tewatia, Vijay Shankar, Matthew Wade, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Wriddhiman Saha, Alzarri Joseph, Darshan Nalkande, Lockie Ferguson, Mohammed Shami, Noor Ahmad, Pradeep Sangwan, Rashid Khan, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Varun Aaron, Yash Dayal.

**Rajasthan Royals** Sanju Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravichandran Ashwin, Trent Boult, Shimron Hetmyer, Devdutt Padikkal, Prasidh Krishna, Yuzvendra Chahal, Riyan Parag, KC Cariappa, Navdeep Saini, Obed McCoy, Anunay Singh, Kuldeep Sen, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel, Tejas Baroka, Kuldeep Yadav, Shubham Garhwal, James Neesham, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Rassie van der Dussen, Daryl Mitchell, Corbin Bosch.



## Supernovas post 165/7 in WT20 Challenge final against Velocity

PTI ■ PUNE

West Indian opener Deandra Dottin made full use of an early reprieve to score a blistering half-century and power Supernovas to 165 for seven against Velocity in the Women's T20 Challenge final here on Saturday.

The 30-year-old Dottin was dropped on 13 by Sneha Rana off Deepti Sharma in the fourth over, and she made Velocity pay for that costly mistake by making 62 off 44 balls, which was studded with one four and four sixes.

The experienced campaigner stitched 73 runs for the opening wicket with Priya Punia (28) and added 58 for the second wicket with in-form captain Harmanpreet Kaur (43 off 29 balls). For Velocity, captain Deepti Sharma, Kate Cross and Simran Bahadur took two wickets apiece, while Ayabonga Khaka got one. The Supernovas could only score 34 runs in the last five overs while losing five wickets.

Dottin and Punia gave the Supernovas a flying start after being put in to bat, scoring at a

brisk pace and reaching 46 for no loss in the powerplay.

Punia hit a six off Cross in the third over but her partner Dottin did even better, smashing consecutive maximums in the sixth over bowled by Rana. Punia was going strong when she got out in the 10th over bowled by Simran Bahadur, after smashing a six.

Captain Kaur, the tournament's highest scorer, came out and straightaway began collecting the runs, hitting a six off Rana in the 12th over and following it up with two maximums in the 14th over bowled by Yadav. In the next over,

Velocity captain Deepti struck as she bowled Dottin. The Supernovas suffered a batting collapse in the death overs as they lost four wickets for the addition of just 11 runs.

Pooja Vastrakar (5) was cleaned up by Ayabonga Khaka in the 17th over before Cross claimed two wickets -- that of Kaur and Sophie Ecclestone (2) -- in the space of three balls in the next over.



## Bopanna, Middelkoop save 5 match points to knock out Wimbledon champions from Roland Garros

PTI ■ PARIS

The never-say-die spirit was at work as Rohan Bopanna and Matwe Middelkoop saved five match points to knock out Mate Pavic and Nikol Mektic, the reigning Wimbledon champions, from the Roland Garros, here on Saturday.

Bopanna's serve was as venomous as it has been throughout his career and his volleys too were as sharp as ever while his Dutch partner showed exemplary calm under pressure in an edge-of-the-seat action in the men's doubles third round.

A break of serve early in the third set put them at a disadvantageous position but there was no dearth of spirit or class from Bopanna and Middelkoop, who eventually prevailed 6-7 (5) 7-6 (3) 7-6 (10) in two hours and 32 minutes.

Bopana, thus, matched his

best performance at the clay court major by reaching the quarterfinals, having done it four times in the past.

After annexing a set each, the pair of Mektic and Pavic got a break chance straight away in the opening game of the decisive third set when Middelkoop fired a forehand long at 30-all.

Middelkoop put a terrific first serve in but Mektic found a solid return which the Dutch could not put across the net, his backhand kissing the net.

Mektic had no trouble whatsoever in making it 2-0 with a comfortable hold. Bopanna held his own and left-hander Pavic too stayed solid on his serve as the second seeds were now leading 3-1.

Bopanna made a backhand error, close to the net when Middelkoop served at 30-30 to be down by another breakpoint but they saved that and the next one too.

## Rafa vs. Uncle Toni: Nadal to meet Auger-Aliassime in Paris

AP ■ PARIS

Rafael Nadal knew this was bound to happen. So, too, did his uncle, Toni Nadal, who coached Rafael to most of the nephew's men's-record 21 Grand Slam titles.

Also well aware this moment would come, of course, was Felix Auger-Aliassime, the promising player who brought aboard the man known to many simply as Uncle Toni for some extra assistance last year.

Once Toni and Rafael ended their professional partnership, and once Auger-Aliassime hired Toni to work in tandem with full-time coach Frederic Fontang, they all figured that somewhere, sometime, their paths would cross.

Now it'll happen in the French Open's fourth round: Nadal vs. Auger-Aliassime. Which in some



ways is also a matchup of Nadal vs. Nadal.

So, the 13-time champion at Roland Garros was asked, might there be some awkwardness there? Probably no way you'll be chatting with your uncle ahead of Sunday's meeting against the ninth-seeded Auger-Aliassime, a 21-year-old from Canada, right?

Nadal shook his head and said he already had spoken to Toni straight after beating 26th-seeded Botic Van De Zandschulp 6-3, 6-2,

6-4 on Friday.

"For me, it's very simple. He's my uncle. I don't think he will be able to want me to lose, without a doubt, but he's a professional and he's with another player," said the fifth-seeded Nadal, who has dealt with chronic foot pain and a rib injury this season but also won the Australian Open in January.

"It's not a story at all for me. I know what the feelings are that we have between each other. I know he wants the best for me. Now he's helping another player," he said. "But honestly, for me, it's zero problem."

Auger-Aliassime, meanwhile, resolved one little bit of intrigue, saying that he expected Uncle Toni to sit in a neutral spot in the stands, rather than being forced to choose between one player's guest box or the other.

## Tamil Nadu, Karnataka dominate Day 2 of Indian Open Surfing

PTI ■ MANGALORE

Karnataka's Ishita Malviya (6.17) and Sinchana Gowda (7.30), along with Goa's Sugar Banarse (11.27) and Tamil Nadu's Srishthi Selvam (10.37), advanced to the finals of the women's competition in the Indian Open of Surfing here on Saturday.

Banarse will also compete in the finals of the groms (16 & under) girls surf category on Sunday.

Banarse, 16 impressed all the



judges with her surfing, gathering the highest points among the women who made it to the finals at the Panambur beach.

The three-day competition is the official national championship of the Surfing Federation of India, - the country's governing body for the sport of surfing and stand-up paddling.

In the Groms Boys (U16) surf category semifinals it was a clean sweep by Tamil Nadu surfers, with Kishore

Kumar leading the race by a huge margin.

Kishore emerged with the highest marks in the competition. His 15.50 points from the judges was a testimony to his impressive surfing and maneuvers that also included a reverse flip, helping him comfortably secure a spot in the finals.

The others who have made it to the finals are Tayin Arun (11.10), Naveenkumar R (10.17) and Jeevan S (6.46).

## Liverpool, Real Madrid play Champions League final in Paris

AP ■ PARIS

Thousands of soccer fans were descending on Paris to see Liverpool and Real Madrid meet in the Champions League final later on Saturday.

There are milestones at stake in the Stade de France.

Carlo Ancelotti is looking to become the first coach to win European club football's top prize four times, adding to his 2014 success during his first spell in charge of Madrid. The Italian's first two triumphs came with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007. Ancelotti has already delivered the Spanish title in his first season back at Madrid, which beat Liverpool in the 2018 final led by Zinedine Zidane for a record-extending



13th European Cup. "We are very close to achieving something huge this season, and we will give our all to achieve it," Ancelotti said.

"We are very calm in the camp. This team is very good

handling the pressure of this matches." Liverpool went on to become European champions for a sixth time by returning to the final in 2019. Since then Jurgen Klopp has ended the team's 30-year English champi-

onship drought in 2020. While the Premier League was missed out on by a single point last weekend, the season can end with a rare treble of trophies, having already won the FA Cup and the League Cup.

Liverpool's route through the knockout phase past Inter Milan, Benfica and Villarreal seemed relatively smooth. Madrid had to mount repeated comebacks. It was facing elimination in the round of 16 before two of Karim Benzema's 15 European goals this season turned around the game against Paris Saint-Germain. It took an equalizer with 10 minutes to go against Chelsea to stay in the quarterfinals before ousting the defending champions in extra time.

## Rudrankksh makes it through qualification at Baku World Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil carried forward his good form from the Junior World Cup to make it through to the last-eight stage of men's 10m air rifle competition in the combined ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The final stages are set for Sunday. India has fielded a 12-member rifle squad only in this World Cup.

Rudrankksh, who emerged triumphant in the same event at the Junior World Cup held three weeks ago, shot 628.8 to finish fourth in the 78-strong qualification field.

## Asia Cup hockey: India beat Japan 2-1 in first Super 4 league match, avenge pool loss



PTI ■ JAKARTA

The Indian men's hockey team scored two fantastic field goals to beat Japan 2-1 in its first Super 4 league match and avenge its loss in the pool stage of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

The defending champions,

who lost 2-5 against Japan in the pool stage, scored two eye-catching field goals through Manjeet (8th minute) and Pawan Rajbhar (35th) to register a narrow win.

Japan's lone goal came from a penalty corner through Takuma Niwa in the 18th minute.

Japan threatened India initially and secured a penalty corner as early as in the opening minute but the Indians thwarted the danger.

The Indians grew in confidence and got their footing as the match progressed.

It was a moment of brilliance from Manjeet that handed India the lead. He made a brilliant solo run down the left flank after receiving a pass from Pawan Rajbhar and used 3D skills to perfection to beat Takashi Yoshikawa under the Japanese bar.

Maninder Singh earned India a penalty corner in the 13th minute but Nilam Sanjeev Xess' effort was saved by the Japanese defence.



The lesson I've  
learned the most often  
in life is that you're  
always going to know  
more in the future than  
you know now  
— Taylor Swift



# A PANDORA BOX

The ongoing Gyanvapi mosque dispute has led to similar petitions being filed in other temple-mosque cases, which would have larger implications for the country, writes **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**

On November 9, 2019, when the Supreme Court delivered a judgment on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Mosque dispute in Ayodhya, many thought this was the end of such contentious issue as the court in its order dwelled at length about the Places of Worship Act, 1991. But within a year, petitions were filed across the country with Gyanvapi mosque and Krishna Janmashtami-Shahi-Idegah cases hogging the limelight. Hindu organizations also filed petitions demanding they should be allowed to offer prayers at Quwwatul Islam mosque in the Qutub Minar premises in New Delhi, while another Hindu organization claimed Taj Mahal as Tajo Mahal temple of Lord Shiva and asked for the court's permission to offer prayers there

This was not limited only to Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, but in down South, too. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad volunteers demanded they should be allowed to offer prayers at the outskirts of Mangaluru after a Hindu temple-like architectural design was purportedly found there underneath the Juma Masjid on April 21 2022. The VHP claimed that the mosque was built atop Sri Ramanjaneya Bhajana Mandira. Prohibitory orders were imposed in the city after Hindu organizations said they will be organizing "Tambula Prashne" at Sri Ramanjaneya Bhajana Mandira.

The police claim that the status quo should be maintained as the matter is already in the court and temporary injunctions have been issued to the president of the mosque as well as all the parties.

The legal battle is the latest instance of a growing phenomenon in which Hindu groups petitioning courts demanding land where mosques are located by claiming these belong to Hindus. They claim that these mosques were built after demolishing temples

A senior advocate appearing for the Varanasi mosque management committee informed the lower court that the ongoing dispute had led to "similar petitions" being filed in other temple-mosque cases, which would have "larger ramifications across the country". The statement signifies the petitions filed in different courts by Hindu plaintiffs against mosque committees across the state claiming

ownership right of land where the mosque stands now. Inevitably, such petitions claim that the said mosques were built atop Hindu temples and thus the right be restored to the rightful owner.

In the forefront is the Gyanvapi case of Varanasi. Historians claim that originally it was Lord Visweswar Temple. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a French merchant, described a cruciform structure of the temple complex with multistoried domed towers at the four ends and at the center. It was the most sacred shrine in the subcontinent after the Jagannath Temple at Puri. In September 1669, Moghul emperor Aurangzeb ordered the demolition of the temple and a mosque was constructed in place. Initially, the mosque was called Aamgir mosque – under the name of Aurangzeb but later it was called Gyan Vapi (Well of Knowledge). Scholars attribute political reasons rather than religious zealotry to be the primary motivation for Aurangzeb's demolition. Madhuri Desai — in her magnum opus on Banaras — opines that Aurangzeb's complex and often-contradictory policies can be "more accurately analyzed in the light of his personal compulsions and political agenda, rather than as expressions of religious bigotry."

Muslims, however, argue that the Gyanvapi was constructed much before Aurangzeb's reign. Syed Mohammed Yasin, Joint secretary of Anjuman Intizamia Masajid Committee, the organization responsible for the maintenance of the mosque, claims that the mosque was built in 12th Century and later Aurangzeb renovated it in the 17th century. "The mosque was not built by demolishing the temple," he said. He claims Akbar had renovated an adjacent Shiva temple as a mark of Hindu Muslim unity. In fact, both the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Gyanvapi were constructed by Akbar in a true to his spirit of religious tolerance

Cut to present scenario: In August 2021, five women, belonging to Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh,d filed a civil suit in the Varanasi civil court on the "Right to Worship", seeking daily access to the Shringaar Gauri temple, the Swayambhu Jyotirling, the Maa Ganga temple, and the Nandi temple to offer daily prayers. Shringar Gauri is a small temple at the western side of the mosque where till 1992 Hindus

SCHOLARS ATTRIBUTE POLITICAL REASONS RATHER THAN RELIGIOUS ZEALOTRY TO BE THE PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR AURANGZEB'S DEMOLITION. MADHURI DESAI — IN HER MAGNUM OPUS ON BANARAS — OPINES THAT AURANGZEB'S COMPLEX AND OFTEN-CONTRADICTORY POLICIES CAN BE "MORE ACCURATELY ANALYZED IN THE LIGHT OF HIS PERSONAL COMPULSIONS AND POLITICAL AGENDA, RATHER THAN AS EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY."

were allowed to offer prayers. Ramatama Srivastava, a resident of Varanasi, said that he had gone there many times where a group of Hindu women could be seen offering prayers. But after the demolition of the Babri mosque in 1992, Hindus were not allowed there and the area was sealed.

Eight suits are currently pending before the Varanasi civil court, which on April 8 passed orders for videography and survey of the area by court commissioners. The survey and videography inside the mosque were carried out for three days after which the Hindu side claimed that a "shivling" was found from 'wazookhana', which is a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering the namaz.

The lower court ordered the sealing of the premises, but the Supreme Court ordered that Muslims should not be prevented from offering prayers.

Besides, a separate application seeking an ASI survey through Ground Penetrating Radar are pending in the Allahabad High Court. The Supreme Court in its directives of May 20 said that the district judge will hear the issue of maintainability of the Right to Worship petitions.

**Shahi Eidgah case**, in Mathura, at least 10 suits were filed in the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple and the Shahi Idgah mosque dispute in 2020, even though a compromise was reached in two sections over the title suit in 1968, and the issue was settled by the civil court.

In its new petition, Ranjana Agnihotri, who claimed herself as the "next friend" of Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman, said that the 1968 compromise was achieved "through fraud". She said that the Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan, which had agreed to the compromise, was not the owner of the disputed land. Instead, Shri Krishna Janmasthan Trust was the rightful owner of the land.

The civil court of Mathura dismissed the case in September 2020, but the petitioner challenged the order and moved a review petition. The District Judge on May 19, 2022, directed the civil judge to re-hear the matter. Another case has been filed demanding the appointment of a Court Commissioner and videography be carried out to ascertain whether the mosque has

Hindu religion signs, as is done in the Gyanvapi case.

**Petitions are also filed in other places:**

**QUWWATUL MOSQUE, DELHI**

Ranjana Agnihotri, also moved Delhi civil court in October 2021 seeking the restoration of Hindu and Jain temples demolished to build the Quwwatul Islam mosque in the Qutub Minar premises in Delhi. Early this month, volunteers of VHP also held a prayer meeting at the Qutub Minar premises and recited Hanuman Chalisa there. The petitioners claim that 27 Hindu and Jain temples were demolished by Qutubuddin Aibak to construct the Quwwatul Islam mosque. They say the walls of the mosques are adorned with symbols of Hindu gods and goddesses. The plea had called for the restoration of the temples.

The petition was dismissed by the civil judge in November 2021. The verdict was challenged in the court of the district judge and is currently pending.

**TAJ MAHAL, AGRA**

In May 2022, a PIL was moved in the Allahabad High Court by Rajneesh Singh who sought a "fact-finding commission" and survey of the Taj Mahal's premises. It had argued that there are "Hindu symbols" on the premises and sought orders from the court to open the 22 locked rooms in the basement of the mausoleum. The plea was thrown out by the Allahabad High Court. Singh was pulled up for "making a mockery of the PIL system". The controversy was first stirred by Purshottam Nagesh Oak, a historian, who in his book in 1989 named "Taj Mahal: The True Story" where he claimed that the Taj Mahal initially was a Shiva temple and a Rajput palace named Tejomahalaya, which Mughal emperor Shah Jahan seized and adopted as a tomb.

The argument was debunked by a number of historians, and even the Supreme Court in 2000 rejected a petition by Oak to declare that the Taj Mahal was constructed by a Hindu king. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in August 2017 said that that Taj Mahal was not a temple but a tomb.

*The writer is Political Editor of The Pioneer, Lucknow*



# BE ALERT BUT DON'T PANIC

An outbreak of monkeypox, which is related to smallpox, in around 20 countries has alerted public health officials. The virus can, however, be contained with vaccines that are already available in some countries, doctors say, asserting that there is no need to panic. The HEALTH PIONEER profiles the disease.



With the world still reeling from the effects of the covid-19 pandemic, the rise of a different disease called Monkeypox is putting many people on edge. It has taken into its grip atleast 20 nations. Over 200 cases have been reported so far.

Thankfully, India is spared for now. “But the only policy right now is to monitor the global scenario, step up the vigil and expand testing,” Dr Nivedita Gupta, head of virology at the ICMR told a news channel.

The Centre has already issued an alert to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the ICMR and asked them to keep a close watch on the situation evolving in relation to the monkeypox cases abroad. Among States, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been at the forefront in asking their officials to keep a watch on airports and water borders.

ICMR scientist Gupta also made it clear that monkeypox will not spread like wildfire as had happened in the case of Coronavirus as “it’s not a new virus and has been in existence in some African regions and has caused sporadic outbreaks.”

The ICMR has designated the virus as exotic and all samples are being sent to the Pune lab for testing. “All viruses which don’t exist in India are labelled exotic and their samples are sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, which is a BSL4 facility,” she said.

The facility ensures there are no chances of leakage of virus in India,

leading to an outbreak here. “This communication has been sent to all airports. All samples of incoming passengers will be sent to the NIV,” Gupta told the channel.

**CAUSE:** It is caused by a virus of the same name that is closely related to smallpox, which has now been eradicated from the planet. Both are members of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.

**HISTORY:** It was first discovered in 1958 when outbreaks of a disease causing a pox were discovered in monkeys held in captivity for research. It was first seen in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and it is now endemic in Central and West Africa.

In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 4,594 suspected cases of monkeypox, including 171 deaths (case fatality ratio 3.7%).

**SYMPTOMS:** It starts with a headache and fever, the usual things that you deal with when you get a viral infection. Then, within a week or two, some people get a rash which develops into pustules. If you’re covered in these pustules, then you’d have the risk of bacterial infection and, in some cases, sepsis. That’s where the lethality can come from. Although symptoms often ease within a month, one in ten cases can be fatal. Children are particularly susceptible.

MONKEYPOX WHICH HAS ERUPTED IN MANY COUNTRIES IS NOT NEW TO THE WORLD. THOUGH NO CASE OF VIRUS INFECTION HAS BEEN REPORTED IN INDIA YET, STATES AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION.

**DOCTORS' SPEAK**

Health experts say that one should not let their guard down but there is no need to panic. “We need to keep a surveillance on how it is evolving, and how many people are getting affected. Fortunately, it is not as severe as smallpox,” says Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the Community Department, Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

“There is a need to keep a watch on borders and international travelers and ensure that those having rash-like symptoms or reporting fever are kept in quarantine as per protocol.”

Dr Kishore adds that the virus can spread through touching or using clothes or towels of someone who is infected; touching monkeypox skin blisters; coughs or sneezing. Hence, health hygiene is a must. Also, those venturing in wildlife should stop doing so for some time.

“We encourage you all to increase the surveillance of monkeypox to see where transmission levels are and understand where it is going,” the WHO's director for Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness, Sylvie Briand, said at a conference recently.

Dr Faheem Younus, Chief Quality Officer and Chief of Infectious Diseases at the University of Maryland, says: “Monkeypox cases are concerning but the risk of this becoming a COVID like pandemic is zero% Why? This virus is not novel; is typically not deadly; is less contagious than Covid and has been around for 5 decades. Also, it can be prevented by a smallpox vaccine.”

**WHO RECOMMENDATION:** Given that rashes are seen in many other diseases such as chickenpox and measles, WHO recommends diagnosis when identification is necessary. This has to be with PCR testing.

**TRANSMISSION:** The virus generally spreads to people from infected wild animals such as rodents and primates, found in the rainforests of Central and West Africa, but human-to-human transmission can also occur. Similar to viruses like Ebola,

transmission only happens in close proximity by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets or contaminated materials such as bedding or clothes.

**TREATMENT:** At present, there is no specific treatment. But there are antivirals licensed to combat orthopoxviruses, such as tecovirimat. The smallpox vaccine was key to eradicating smallpox decades ago, and this vaccine can be highly effective – 85% – in preventing monkeypox.

■ **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD 22) is round the corner. You have been vocal against tobacco consumption for quite a long time.**

I have started my life from a small village in Haryana, born as a rheumatic arthritis kid. Hailing from a humble family and having a disability, everyday was a struggle for everything—physically, financially and mentally. Those were very difficult days. Doctors had dumped me, saying that I won't survive long. But with the blessings and care of my mother and my strong will, I was able to be physically fit and played for the country. I feel bad when I see youth and kids around me addicted to smoking and chewing tobacco, unaware of its harmful impact. It pains me. We have got this precious life only for once. I want these kids and youth to not waste their life but help contribute to make India a strong nation.

■ **What is the reason that despite various efforts, we have failed to curb tobacco habits among people? Lakhs of youth continue to succumb to the hazardous items every year. Where are we faltering?**

At times political parties get influenced by the tobacco or liquor barons in anticipation of getting funds for their party activities. Also, celebrities too, do not think twice about the ill-effects their endorsement of harmful products can have on youth and kids.

The Government should take strong steps to check availability of these products while celebrities should introspect what they are promoting. So much money is spent on healthcare for people falling ill due to tobacco related diseases. It is important to implement and enforce the most effective tobacco control policies aimed at reducing the supply and demand for tobacco.

‘Tobacco is slow poison, killing our youth’

SANGRAM SINGH is a wrestler, actor, motivational speaker, philanthropist and health guru, who wears his heart on his sleeve. Recently in Delhi to support the anti-tobacco campaign, he shared his thoughts with ARCHANA JYOTI on the need for stringent COTPA law to protect youth and kids from falling prey to the deadly products.



Health is something that I hold very dear. I also do not support what I do not believe in. So how can I knowingly promote something that will risk people's life? As a celebrity, it's my responsibility towards people to not endorse anything that could be harmful to human health.

Everyone knows that toxic items like tobacco, cigarettes, gutka and other harmful products like liquor, junk food products, and online games are like poison for the new generation. But still there are some celebrities who, for earning quick bucks, forget that their callousness and greed can kill many children and youth who take them as their idols. I want to ask these

**It angers me that many celebrities do not think twice about the ill-effects of their endorsement of harmful tobacco products on the lives of youth and kids. They do not deserve Government awards like Padma Shri.**

public celebrities, will they allow their kids to chew tobacco or cigarettes, gutka and other harmful products like liquor, junk food products etc?

■ **Activists have been seeking stringent COTPA Act such as ban on Point of Sale advertisement and on public designated smoking areas to curb tobacco consumption. What is your take on this?**

I am always on the same page on all the issues if it saves a life. The WHO data says that every year more than 8 million people die of tobacco consumption. The addiction continues to

rapidly increase among people of all age groups in India. We all know that it causes a range of deadly diseases related to the heart and respiration system and cancer.

In such a scenario, we definitely need to not only emphasize on creating awareness against tobacco hazards but also tighten the gaps in the COTPA Bill which is giving tobacco manufacturers a leverage to play around the system. I feel that to curb tobacco consumption amid kids, Point of Sale should be banned. After all, why are we allowing tobacco items to be sold amidst candies and toys meant for kids. We should also take steps to protect non-smokers by banning designated smoking zones in airports, restaurants and hotels.

■ **What is your message to youth who refuse to quit tobacco?**

My advice to them is that by consuming tobacco they are not only harming themselves but also their loved ones in their homes. Smoking kills you daily. Your lungs get damaged and stamina weakens.

We get only one life. It is upto tobacco users what type of life they want to choose: good and health life or a torturous death. They have to choose between the two. If I can, who was in a wheelchair for years, win the World Wrestling Championship, anybody can quit tobacco and lead a healthy life.

**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.



## The Long And Short Of Beard

According to Victorian writer Thomas S Gowing, “The absence of Beard is usually a sign of physical and moral weakness.” Letting it grow is “reverencing the Creator’s laws as above the dictates of man”.

Dr. Himanshu Verma, Head of Department of Nephrology and Renal Transplant at one of the country’s premier medical institutions, Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi who wears a well-groomed beard, agrees. A beard does draw attention. Most of the popular style icons like Ben Affleck and George Clooney too had once started growing one too.

For Dr Verma, keeping a beard is a symbol of manliness and, in fact, “It’s not about just Beards, it’s about Beards With Substance,” he stresses.

“Whether it is long or short, I always have a beard. Beard is an asset that can make most men look quite suave and masculine,” the 39-year-old doctor muses his childhood memories that connect him with Rambo-like characters equated with masculinity.

Dr Verma, a gold medalist in DM (Nephrology) from prestigious RML Hospital in Delhi finds a parallel in bearded scientists like Darwin and Aristotle known for their wisdom. He feels keeping a beard has several benefits. For instance, “it protects skin from the harmful Ultraviolet rays; it can add a layer of protection to your chin and neck; Your beard and moustache works as a filter that helps to keep allergens from entering your nose and mouth, thereby reducing chance of skin infections.”

Data says, the average man spends approximately 4.5 months in shaving. Imagine all the time you would save and invest it in overall men’s health. Hence, it is also a ‘way to show support to men’s health’, Dr Verma tries to make a point.

Hence, whenever he gets an opportunity, he takes out time to participate at various fundraisers like the global No Shave November movement, aka ‘Movember’, which creates awareness about the hazards of prostate cancer and other health issues in men. It was started in Australia in 2003 and now spread across the world.

Dr. Verma, the father of two sons, laments that men do not take care of their health. “Males usually give priority to their family and in the process neglect their own health. This leads to stress in them.

“Prostate cancer, unbalanced lipid profile and depression are some of the diseases that remain undiagnosed in men and ignorance of these ailments can be fatal,” points out Dr. Verma, himself an asthmatic since childhood.

“In fact, male depression needs to be addressed. Suicidal tendencies among them are becoming common. This can be prevented by emotional counseling,” he continues.

It’s not just that he loves keeping mane to highlight health issues, this 39-year-old soft-spoken medico is also an avid bike lover, a dancer and a model who walks down fashion ramps with an equal ease.

But this first generation doctor who is also the youngest HOD in the history of Nephrology in India, amidst a huge extended family of engineers hailing from Agra, remains committed to his patients as he says my motto is: “For patient’s care, I am there.” We are sure his friends and patients will agree with him.

—As told to Archana jyoti  
(Medicos may write to us at healthp100@gmail.com)

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**OTC SALE OF 16 DRUGS PROPOSED**

The Government, for the first time, has proposed to introduce over-the-counter (OTC) drugs through an amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and allow their sale in the retail market without doctors’ prescription. Around 16 drugs, which include common antipyretic medicine such as paracetamol 500 mg, some laxatives, nasal decongestants and topical antifungal creams have been proposed to be included in the OTC drug category.

**‘EPILEPSY & HEARING LOSS, EARLY SIGN OF PARKINSON’S DISEASE’**

According to a study published in JAMA Neurology, epilepsy and hearing loss have been found to be two early signs of Parkinson’s disease. Lead study author Cristina Simonet, MD stated, “It’s important that primary care practitioners are aware of these links and understand how early the symptoms of Parkinson’s can appear, so that patients can get a timely diagnosis.”

**DELHI HOSP’S ‘CROSS-SUBSIDY MODEL’ LAUDED**

Delhi-based Sir Ganga Ram Hospital’s Cross-Subsidy model—where rich patients pay for poor—got appreciation from Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health who said that such a system should be replicated by other hospitals too. She was speaking at an event of the 66th batch of nursing students from School of Nursing, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital recently. “Our nurses are in huge demand all over the world due to their humility, passion and giving best care to the patients. They are the backbone of our healthcare industry. We are proud of them,” she added.

**WHO HELPS RAJASTHAN TO CREATE HEALTH ACCOUNT**

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to institutionalise health accounts which will help in estimating the amount spent on the health sector and its impact. The data or facts available from these accounts would be used in future for policy making, and technical and financial assistance will be provided by the WHO to create health accounts, as per a statement here.



# Can Quad restrain wayward China?

The May 24 face-to-face meeting of the Quad leaders is considered very crucial against the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine war. All the four heads of the Governments — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US president Joe Biden, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese — came together on a platform to display strength and sustainability of the group at a crucial juncture when the world is gradually emerging out of the monstrous Covid-19 pandemic and entering into nothing short of Third World War in Europe.

It must be said once again the global governance institutions, especially the UN and the US-led liberal West have miserably failed to stop the most devastating war in Ukraine. Undoubtedly, the centrality of the Quad summit was the Russian onslaught in Ukraine. The Quad summit is indicative of a new beginning as it has also witnessed the formation of two fresh initiatives: The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA).

The IPEF, launched by the US with 12 members on board now, is precisely its answer to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TTP) and its successor, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the TPP (CPTPP) and towards the China-led 15-country grouping called, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The IPMDA is aimed at building a “faster, wider and more accurate maritime picture of near real-time activities in partner’s waters”. Basically, it will directly facilitate the tracking of “dark shipping” across the Indo-Pacific region. These all seem to be a detailed preparation by the members of the Quad for preventing China-led initiatives both in the trade and security spheres in one of the busiest sea-communication lanes in the world.

The joint statement issued after the summit addressed the concerns emerging from the war in Ukraine. The statement underlined that the member countries “discussed respective responses to the conflict in Ukraine and the ongoing tragic humanitarian crisis and assessed its implica-



Leaders of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) from left to right, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pose for photo at the entrance hall of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan in Tokyo on May 24

tions for the Indo-Pacific region”. The Quad summit has also highlighted and discussed any possible Chinese military adventures in the Indo-Pacific after Europe experienced Russia’s bloodiest invasion of Ukraine.

How did the Quad originate? It all began as a loose partnership against the background of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004. In fact, all the four nations came together to offer humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. But today China complains that the group is intending to form an “Asian NATO” simply to act against the Beijing’s interests in the region.

Is China threatened by the Quad grouping? The Quad had its first historic meeting in the year 2007. Then no one thought it would be another platform to counter China in the days to come. But afterwards, the forum went into oblivion for a decade or so. It

reemerged in November 2017. Its regrouping piqued Chinese interests. And the Communists in China seriously gauged that America was plotting a Cold War style strategic encirclement of China by taking two other Indo-Pacific nations — India and Australia — into the orbit. Initially, when then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invited officials from India, Australia and the US to gather in Manila, the Xi Jinping regime was not much worried. Wang Yi, the Foreign Minister of China, had scoffed at the grouping: “They (the Quad nations) are like sea foam in the Pacific or Indian Ocean: They get some attention but will soon dissipate.”

Is there any urgent need to thwart China in the Indo-Pacific? Yes, of course. China’s growing expansionist policies particularly under the current President Xi Jinping is worrisome. His “China Dream” projects are nothing but to assert

Beijing’s soft and hard power around the world.

What role India must play in the group? For Delhi, multilateral forums like the Quad are of high importance. China’s growing encirclement and its recent aggressive actions against India are an immediate threat to the latter’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. Xi’s hidden agenda is all out in public now. India at the moment needs external balance. And in this regard, Quad is considered as the best alternative for the country.

How is the old Quad different from the new Quad that India joined in 2021? Yes, they are different in their own way, yet some of the concerns are almost identical. Indeed, India’s growing insecurity in the Indo-Pacific can be sensed when it joined the new Quad comprising Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last year. Like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the old

Quad among the US, Australia, Japan and India, this new economic forum also equally emphasised on trade, climate change, energy and maritime security.

Unlike the earlier group, the current one is not aimed at countering China. It is largely felt that the new one certainly lacks a shared objective, and its future trajectory seems to be uncertain. However, this grouping may facilitate India to pursue its foreign policy goals by aligning more with the UAE and Israel in the West Asian region.

And, this will offer Delhi another opportunity to engage more closely with Washington. Further, India sees West Asia strategically important. India depends heavily on its energy imports. Nearly 9 million Indian workers earn their livelihood from the Persian Gulf. Israel and the UAE can enhance India’s role in the region. What prompted the

US to ramp up ties for another Quad is the growing Chinese interest in Israel and the UAE.

But the same is not true for other members of the group. In the recent past, both Israel and the UAE amplified their commercial investments with China, particularly in the shipping sector. Therefore, Washington takes this opportunity to convince Israel and the UAE to come out of the Chinese net. Clearly America’s intention dovetails with India’s as the latter has been continuously fighting to wean off Chinese influence in a region wherein it wants to remain a potential player for long.

The Quad needs to consolidate further. The Indo-Pacific is heading for a serious crisis. China’s ever-expanding agenda accompanied by sheer aggression might destabilise the whole region. Most probably, this kind of a future scenario may drag the US for an all-out war against China.

Along these lines, Japan, Australia and India will certainly be involved in this quagmire. Though the Quad group has been formed to boost economic prosperity, geostrategic equilibrium and tranquility in the Indo-Pacific, it is clearly making an alliance that is directly targeting China today. And the latest IPEF will be an advanced economic platform again to target China-led development initiatives in the region. Hence, the Quad and its extended members are all forging together to ramp up support to stop Chinese expansion across the Indo-Pacific.

Beijing now knows it very well. Its full-blown preparations to encounter this alliance are underway. Inevitability of another global conflict in this part of the globe cannot be denied.

The road ahead for the Quad and its new avatars like the IPEF should be to minimise any possible countdown with China. Washington knows fully well that Xi is an over-ambitious leader like Russian President Vladimir Putin. Xi is going to stay in power for long and his third term, unlike his immediate predecessors, is most likely to be endorsed by the Communist Party of China in the coming months. Moreover, he has already shuffled his cronies in such a manner that his grip on the Party and the throne will be completely safe for years from now.

Looking at all these developments back home in China, the Quad group leaders and its allies in the IPEF must be cautious while dealing with Xi. Though the US-led IPEF is centrally aiming at strengthening economic ties and achieving shared goals, its anti-China tag may escalate the trade war between Washington and Beijing in future. After having a bitter experience with Putin, Biden needs to maintain more restraint, simply to avoid another catastrophe in the Indo-Pacific.

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It’s a tightrope walk for the grouping at a time when US-China trade war has reached a peak. After having a bitter experience with Putin, Biden may need to maintain more restraint, simply to avoid another catastrophe in the Indo-Pacific



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Down dragon’s deep-debt maze

China’s basic criteria behind the selection of BRI projects have been to consolidate its geostrategic position, to facilitate easy access to natural resources of the host state and its market for Chinese exports. To lure vulnerable small developing nations into its debt-trap strategy, Beijing offers a hefty loan which they won’t manage otherwise



SONAL SHUKLA

There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation. One is by the sword. Other is by debt.

— John Adams

Sri Lanka’s economic collapse and its unsustainable debt has brought the world’s spotlight back to China — the government’s biggest bilateral lender, owing at least 10 per cent of its external debt (non-inclusive of hidden loans). A real concern exists for nations like Pakistan and Nepal, among others, who might fall prey to a similar destiny.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative, for which 146 nations from Indo-Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbeans have signed up, has resulted in several unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals, which further Beijing’s political, economic and geostrategic ambitions. It is the single largest lender globally, bigger than the World Bank, IMF and the Paris Club (industrialised nations grouping that lend to the developing nations), and has over 100 ports in 63 countries.

The debt-trap strategy

US-based research lab AidData has found that 42 low-to-middle income coun-

tries owe a debt bigger than 10 per cent of their GDP to China. BRI loan contract contains secrecy clauses: Amount and conditions attached are to be kept confidential from other creditors, IMF and citizens. Loans are systematically under-reported (to the tune of \$385 billion), debt-burdens kept off the nation’s balance-sheet through use of special-purpose, semi-private loans or loans to state-owned companies and banks — still enjoying government’s liability protection — amounting to 70 per cent of funding. China lent disproportionately to countries that performed poorly on conventional measures of credit worthiness, in contrast to other international lenders, but demanded far higher interest rates with shorter repayment periods and is more aggressive than its peers at positioning itself at the front of the repayment line via collateralisation. World’s 74 lowest income nations owe 37 per cent of their loans to Beijing. Many of the debtor states are in a situation where their debt is unsustainable.

Beijing’s basic criteria behind the selection of BRI projects have been to consolidate its geo-strategic position,

to facilitate easy access to natural resources of the host state and its market for Chinese exports. Some other features of Chinese debt-trap strategy are: A hefty loan is advanced which small developing nations would not manage otherwise, use of corruption to make the leaders of borrowing nations willing and pliable, setting terms for hire of Chinese companies and workers for project execution, higher loan rates than peers with shorter (less than 10 years) loan repayment period. On loan-default, it seeks creation of equity in the project or demands new projects, thus tying the subject state into an interminable knot.

Dragon’s advocates

Expectedly, Beijing has pushed back against the allegations, denying existence of any bad motive and justifying that the loans were demanded by the debtor countries and were economically beneficial for them.

An interesting phenomenon has occurred recently, some publications have stood up in defence of Beijing, upholding the Chinese narrative. Last year US’ *The Atlantic* and UK’s *Chatham House* published reports calling Chinese

debt-trap a myth. The publications attempted a systematic refutation of any intention or liability on Beijing’s part, towards saddling nations with unsustainable debts or unviable projects, or of having any geostrategic ambition behind them. Indeed, they portrayed the dragon to be innocuous and uncoordinated, making poor economic choices. A leading newspaper in India recently published a piece on Chinese lending, titled, “Entrapment” or “ineptitude?” along the same lines. A Chinese think tank, CISS, has acknowledged and thanked some of these think tanks — like *The Atlantic* — and media houses for “willing to communicate” with it by joint research or joint meetings and helping them establish “a brand and reputation”.

The right questions that need to be asked here are: Why is Beijing interested in loans for projects which are unviable and have no other takers? Do the debts given under BRI have the potential to function as tools to advance China’s geostrategic interests? To argue that such was not the intention of the dragon — or steps towards acquisition of the assets due to loan default have not yet been undertaken — is foolhardy.

Why would Beijing want to spook and warn the world, especially India and the West, so well in advance?

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar quipped, “We have seen projects which are commercially unsustainable; airports where aircraft don’t come, harbours where a ship doesn’t come” (Hambantota port and international airport, Gwadar is another example). The sole motive to undertake these ‘white elephant’ projects is to secure geostrategic advantage for Beijing: Chinese submarines docks at Sri Lankan ports and Chinese warships are pressed into the security of Gwadar. The whole structure of BRI debts is such that they become unsustainable - action is the biggest indicator of intention. Whether or not it causes an economic crisis in the host nation will depend on its economic management, however, unarguably, it provides Beijing a strong foothold in the nation which is exploited for furthering dragon’s ambitions.

Behind the scenes

In 2018, the *New York Times* reported the Sri Lankan officials stating that intelligence sharing was an integral part of Hambantota deal and

strategic possibility of the port location was also discussed from the beginning. It also reported about the millions of dollars that flew from the project fund to the Rajapakshas’ election campaign. It revealed an insistence on the Chinese side to hand over equity in the port and 15,000 acres of surrounding land, rather than allowing any easing of negotiating terms. Some Chinese companies have also faced ban in Bangladesh and the Philippines for engaging in corrupt practices.

Montenegro presents another example of Chinese strategy behind BRI where Beijing is funding and building an economically unviable highway — 78 per cent of Montenegro’s external debt is owed to China and in case of a default Beijing has a right to access Montenegrin land as collateral. Any arbitration would be conducted according to Chinese laws. Such strategies will be at play at all BRI sites.

Three years ago, IMF’s then Managing Director Christine Lagarde raised the same issue, stating that BRI should go only where it’s needed and where the debt it generates can be sustained.

Alternatives to BRI

One would have expected that BRI with 18 EU members and 20 Latin America and Caribbean nations would have sent shivers down the spine of Western world. But the Chinese, unlike the Russians, ace the art of subtle game play that the West blindly falls for. Washington’s Build Back Better World (B3W) and the EU Global Gateway, still in the launching phases, are too little too late; the analysts have already declared them incapable of competing with BRI.

Now there’s concern and debate in the BRI states about debts, however, if their common populace can continue to put consistent pressure on their governments about complete transparency over the loans, the situation can improve. International development banks and multilateral initiatives will also need to step up their game. Finally, IMF and World Bank will have to provide debt to needy nations while toning down the harsh conditions and dropping the imposition of Bretton Woods consensus, if they were to have a real choice to get out of Beijing’s deep-debt maze.

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