

**OPINION 6**  
“CHERISH VALUES,  
ENHANCE SKILLS”

**WORLD 8**  
HOPE FADING AS DEATHS IN  
TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE PASS 11K

**MONEY 10**  
MOST ADANI GRP FIRMS GAIN;  
ADANI ENT RALLIES NEARLY 20%

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.33 Issue 39  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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AUSTRALIA IN  
1ST TEST TODAY  
11 SPORT



# Rulers of ‘lost decade’ unable to digest India’s progress: PM

‘Opp parties should thank ED for their new-found unity’

DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday fired a broadside at the Congress for being “deep in negativity” as he described the decade prior to his coming to power as “dark age” beset with extreme corruption, terrorism and declining global prestige and slammed the Opposition party for not being able to “digest” India’s current “rapid economic progress recognised globally.”

The Prime Minister’s reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President’s Address in the Lok Sabha came a day after Parliament witnessed sharp exchanges over the Adani-Hindenburg issue.

Modi said, “2004 to 2014 was India’s ‘lost decade,’ while the decade of 2030 will be known as ‘India’s decade.’” The PM will reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President’s Address in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Raising slogans demanding a JPC probe into the Adani case, members of the BRS walked out soon after Modi began his reply in the Lok Sabha. Congress members too



Prime Minister Narendra Modi replies to the Motion of Thanks on the President’s address in the Lok Sabha during Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

walked out but rejoined the proceedings after Rahul Gandhi came. Opposition members abortively tried to interrupt the Prime Minister’s speech but were disciplined by the Speaker.

The Shiv Sena and the AAP boycotted the Motion of Thanks debate, imposing a condition that the Government first accept their demand for a JPC on the Adani row.

Modi said Opposition parties could not come together despite frequent election losses but they have now joined hands after the Enforcement Directorate’s action in corruption cases, he claimed. “They should thank the ED. It brought them together, something voters could not do,” he said.

In his nearly 85-minute

speech, Modi said now “Tiranga yatras” are being hoisted in Kashmir and “theaters are full” there, “where at one time tricolour was seen as a threat to peace.”

“Now theaters are full in Kashmir and the North-East is in peace with 7,000 extremists surrendering,” Modi said, striking a contrast with the previous Congress regime when, he said, violence and terrorism was prevalent in these regions and across the country.

He lashed out at the Congress for being “deeply negative” not able to “digest country’s progress” under the BJP Government.

“The reason for such negativity is the people’s repeated mandate,” Modi said and in a dig cited a Harvard University

study on the Congress’s rise and decline and rubbed salt into its wounds by saying “*ab university ki research Congress ki barbadi per hona hi hona hai* (now university research will be on the Congress downfall)”. Modi quoted noted Hindi poet Dushyant Kumar to hit out at the Opposition party: “*tumhare paon ke neeche Koi Jameen nahin. kamaal ye hai ke phir bhi tumhen yakin nahin*”.

Modi said besides voters’ rejection, the cause of Congress “despondency” is rapid progress in Indian economy in contrast to 2004-14. “During 2004-14, the economy had declined, inflation reached double digits. That’s why, every good thing that happens, evokes such reaction,” he said.

Modi said India now has a

stable and decisive Government and that reforms have been brought in out of conviction and not compulsion. He went on to say that “people’s trust in Modi is not because of newspaper headlines or TV visuals but because “of my years of dedication.”

“But some people who are neck deep in frustration cannot see India’s growth story. They cannot see the achievements of 140 crore Indians...they can’t see that India has reached number 3 level in startups. 108 have reached unicorn status, all this during the pandemic,” said the PM.

Continued on Page 2

# ‘Chinese balloon also spied on India, Japan’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE I  
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI I  
WASHINGTON

Even as the US recently shot down a Chinese spy balloon off the coast of South Carolina in the Atlantic Ocean last week, it said that these balloons also targeted countries, including India and Japan, as per *The Washington Post* report.

In the aftermath of shooting down of the Chinese surveillance balloon, US briefed its friends and allies, including India, on the finds of the Chinese balloon. On Monday, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman briefed officials from about 40 embassies in Washington about it.

“The surveillance balloon effort, which has operated for several years partly out of Hainan province off China’s south coast, has collected information on military assets in countries and areas of emerging strategic interest to China, including Japan, India, Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines,” *The Washington Post* reported on Tuesday.

The Post’s report was based on interviews with anonymous defence and intelligence officials. Officials have said these surveillance airships, operated in part by the PLA (People’s Liberation Army) air force, have been spotted over five continents, the daily reported.

Continued on Page 2

# India has ramped up strategic infra along China border: EAM

Opened 16 key passes in record time, says Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

With tension still persisting along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, India has ramped up its infrastructure development in the border areas for obvious “strategic reasons”, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Wednesday.

His observations came in the backdrop of tension in Eastern Ladakh since May 2020 and China’s attempt to alter the LAC in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, in December last year.

The Minister told a group of reporters that the work on the strategically important Chushul-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok road, spanning 135 kilometre in the Ladakh region, began last month.

Jaishankar pointed out that 16 key passes required to maintain troops along the border



with China have been opened in a record time and much ahead of the previous years, resulting in the saving of enormous funds in terms of the air sustenance of cut-off areas.

Some of the mountain passes along the border areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh have to be closed during the harsh winter months due to heavy snowfall.

Giving an account of the Government’s priorities, Jaishankar said the length of 6,806 kilometre of roads constructed along the borders with China from 2014 to 2022 was almost double the length of 3,610 kilometre built between 2008 and 2014.

Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

### LEOPARD STRAYS INTO GZB COURT, INJURES 10

**Ghaziabad (UP):** Ten people were injured after a leopard strayed into the district court complex here on Wednesday, triggering panic and a four-hour operation to catch the animal. “The leopard was tranquillised following a joint operation of police and the forest department,” said police.

### PUNJAB EX-MLA’S SON HELD IN DELHI SCAM

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Punjab-based businessman Gautam Malhotra, the son of former SAD MLA and liquor baron Deep Malhotra, in connection with its money laundering investigation linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy, officials said Wednesday.

### SCRIBE MOWED DOWN IN MAHA, ACCUSED HELD

**Mumbai:** Police on Wednesday slapped the murder charge against a man arrested for allegedly mowing down a journalist with his car in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, an official said.

# Home, auto loans to be expensive as RBI hikes lending rate by 25 bps

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India slowed the pace of interest-rate increases for the second straight time when it on Wednesday expectedly hiked borrowing costs by 25 basis points while keeping the door open for more hikes as core inflation remained high.

The move to raise the rate will make loans — including housing and auto — and corporate credit expensive.

The RBI’s six-member Monetary Policy Committee voted 4-2 to raise the benchmark repurchase or repo rate to 6.50 per cent and retain its stance of withdrawing accommodation, which was adopted early last year.

This is the sixth straight increase in interest rates since May last year, and the cumulative hike now totals 250 bps.

The RBI raised interest rates by 35 bps in December 2022. Rates were hiked by 40 bps in May and 50 basis points



each in June, August and September. While the headline inflation print has seen a downward trajectory and has remained below the upper limit of 6 per cent in November and December 2022, the MPC continues to have concerns about the core inflation, which has stayed above 6 per cent for the past 15 months.

“The stickiness of core or underlying inflation is a matter of concern. We need to see a decisive moderation in inflation. We have to remain unwavering in our commitment to bring down CPI headline inflation,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the committee’s decision.

Continued on Page 2

# Crime by acquitted death-row convict spurs SC to review Chhawla acquittal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to constitute a three-judge bench to consider Delhi Police’s plea for a review of its verdict acquitting three death-row convicts in the gangrape and murder of a 19-year-old girl in Delhi’s Chhawla area in 2012.

One of the acquitted convict recently slit a person’s throat, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Delhi Police, told a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala.

“What I am saying is that all these accused who were acquitted are hardened criminals. Therefore, we are seeking review of last year’s verdict,” the Solicitor General said, adding that a three-judge bench headed by then CJI UU Lalit had pronounced the verdict. Vinod, one of the three acquitted, has been arrested for killing an auto driver in Delhi’s Dwarka area last month.

Continued on Page 2

# Cow hug day on Valentine’s Day!

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Valentine’s Day, the Animal Welfare Board of India on Wednesday urged citizens to observe February 14 as “Cow Hug Day”, describing the animal as “the backbone of Indian culture and rural economy.”

“It is known as ‘Kamdhenu’ and ‘Gaumata’ because of its nourishing nature like mother, the giver of all providing riches to humanity,” reads the opening paragraph of the appeal.

The board has claimed that hugging cows will “bring emotional richness” and will “increase our individual and collective happiness”. The appeal has now received mixed reactions from Twitter users.

Detailed report on P4

# 30 lakh Indians at risk of flooding by glacial lakes: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Three million people in India are at risk of flooding caused by glacial lakes, the highest number of those exposed in the world, according to new study.

The study by an international team led by scientists at UK’s Newcastle University, UK is the first global assessment of areas at greatest risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

Published in the journal *Nature Communications* on Tuesday, it estimates that 15 million people around the world are at risk from flooding caused by glacial lakes.

The researchers, which also identified priority areas for

mitigation, said more than half the globally exposed populations are found in just four countries: India, Pakistan, Peru, and China. India and Pakistan contain the highest number of exposed people — nearly three million and two million people respectively, or one-third of the global total combined — while Iceland contains the least (260 people), they said.

As the climate gets warmer, glaciers retreat and meltwater collects at the front of the glacier, forming a lake.

These lakes can suddenly burst and create a fast-flowing GLOF that can spread over a large distance from the original site — more than 120 kilometres in some cases.

Continued on Page 2

# India rushes more relief to Turkey as toll over 11,000

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has stepped up the pace of sending rescue teams and relief — field hospital and medicines under “Operation Dost” — to earthquake ravaged Turkey and Syria, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Wednesday.

The confirmed death toll from the quake passed 11,000. “Every day we see ups and down in geopolitical situations but India has stable relations with countries. As per our policy of ‘Vasudaiva Kutumbakam’ — India stands forever for humanity,” Jaishankar told news agency ANI when asked about support to Turkey despite New Delhi’s differences with Ankara.

Detailed report on P4

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# Vigilance issues notice for undue benefit to BRPL, BYPL

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

The Department of Vigilance (DoV) has issued show cause notices to Naveen ND Gupta, former Vice Chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission Jasmine Shah, retired IAS officers AK Singh, Rashmi Krishnan, Umesh Tyagi and ex DANIPS officer JS Deshwal, seeking explanations for undue benefit extended to BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), by reducing rate of late payment surcharge.

The Vigilance Department has asked them to reply to the

show cause notices within seven days. According to the DoV, these people were nominee directors appointed by the Delhi Government, who did not protect the Government's interest which led to the loss of exchequer to the tune of over Rs 8,683 crore.

This comes after an inquiry report submitted by the Delhi Power Department and the Chief Secretary in light of a complaint on September 26, 2022. "According to the report, these Government nominees, in cahoots with the private nominees on the Board, facilitated a decision of BRPL and BYPL to unilaterally lower the interest rates on late payment

surcharge (LPSC), that these discounts owed to DTL/PPCL/IGPCL, from 15-18 per cent to 12 per cent, thereby causing a loss of Rs 8,683.67 crore," an official said, adding that the four nominees did not invoke their 'veto rights', in terms of Article VI of the Shareholders Agreement to block any such inappropriate proposal, which is detrimental to the State finances.

Earlier, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has directed the Chief Secretary to remove these private nominees appointed by the Arvind Kejriwal Government and ordered the Vigilance Department to investigate the

omission/commission noted on part of these private individuals acting as Government nominees for any possible quid pro quo. The Vigilance Department said in its notices that the Government nominee Directors on regular post should communicate and take advice from the department on regular basis and also sensitise the DISCOMs about the relevant Government guidelines but in case if the decision of DISCOMs are contrary to the Government policies, the Government nominee should voice the concern of the Government and get his/her version recorded in the Minutes of the Board meeting

and report the same to the Ministry/Department.

"Whether you have apprised DPCL and Power Department of Govt. NCT of Delhi about the agenda of the Board meetings and also the decision taken by the Board alongwith your comments. Whether you have given any timely feedback on decisions taken by the company on various aspects relating to the above allegations or violations of DERC regulations. Whether any regular communication you have maintained with Power Department with reference to the board meetings, you have attended," the Vigilance Department said in

its notices.

The notices further reads, "Whether you have raised any concern of the Government with respect to any issue. Whether any of your dissent has been recorded or given immediately after circulation of board agenda on prior to the decision or post decision. Whether you have taken any benefit in the form of sitting fee/honorarium or any other services or you have got any near or dear employed in the DISCOMs, if so details be provided".

"Whether any of your immediate family member working in Delhi Government either as a permanent employ-



ee or on contractual basis or on consultant basis or otherwise in any of the DISCOM or their sister company," it said. In October last year, the L-

G had directed the Chief Secretary to probe alleged irregularities in the power subsidy given by the Government.

# CBI's PE suggests FIR against Sisodia for FBU's political spying

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

After a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) unraveling that the "feedback unit" set up by the Delhi Government to check corruption allegedly collected "political intelligence", the CBI has recommended that an FIR be registered against Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The CBI had registered the PE on a reference from the Delhi government's vigilance department, which had detected irregularities in the FBU.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government had proposed setting up the feedback unit (FBU) in 2015 to gather relevant information and actionable feedback regarding the working of various departments and autonomous bodies, institutions and entities falling under the jurisdiction of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and also undertake "trap cases", the CBI said.

The unit started functioning in 2016 with an allocation of Rs 1 crore for secret service expenditure, the agency said. Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal moved the proposal in a Cabinet meeting in 2015, but no agenda note was circulated. Sanction from the Lieutenant Governor was also taken for appointments in the FBU, it alleged.

"The Feedback Unit, in addition to collecting the mandated information, also collected political intelligence/intelligence qua miscellaneous issues," according to the PE report.

Prima facie, there was deliberate violation of rules, guidelines and circulars by 'delinquent public servants', the report underscored.

"The nature of violations committed is inherently dishonest and as such materials disclose abuse of official position with dishonest intention by concerned public servants Manish Sisodia, Dy. CM and Sukesh Kumar Jain, the then Secretary (Vigilance)," the report alleged.

Sixty percent of the reports generated by the FBU pertained to vigilance and corruption matters, while "political intelligence" and other issues accounted for around 40 per cent, according to the CBI.



"The scrutiny of such reports during the period from February 2016 to the early part of September 2016 shows that a substantial number of reports submitted by FBU officials related not to actionable feedback or information on corruption in any department, institute, entity etc. under GNCTD but related to political activities of persons, political entities and political issues touching political interest of Aam Aadmi Party, BJP, which was beyond the scope and ambit of functions of FBU," the agency alleged.

The FBU was allegedly misused by the concerned public servants for a purpose other than the one for which it was manifestly created.

"Use of FBU to this extent for the purpose of gathering political intelligence for AAP or for convenor Arvind Kejriwal can reasonably be interpreted to mean and constitute the obtaining of valuable things or pecuniary advantage, as gathering this information otherwise would necessarily have entailed spending money," the CBI alleged.

The FBU was functioning for some "hidden purpose" which was not in the interest of the GNCTD but "private interest of Aam Aadmi Party and Manish Sisodia".

The PE findings further revealed that no formal action was taken against any public servant or department based on reports of the FBU.

# LG nod to CBI to file case against Dy CM for creating FBU to collect 'political intel'

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

In a major development, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has given approval to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to file a case against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and six others, including an IAS officer, over allegations that the AAP Government, after coming to power in 2015, created a Feedback Unit (FBU) under the vigilance department to "collect political intelligence".

"I am of the considered view that the case requires to be further investigated by CBI deeply, after registering a regular case. I, therefore, approve the proposal of the Directorate of Vigilance to forward the request of CBI in respect of Manish Sisodia, Dy Chief Minister, Delhi to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Competent



authority to consider granting approval for 'Investigation' under Sec 17A," reads the order issued by the L-G.

In its preliminary enquiry (PE), the CBI has found that the feedback unit (FBU) set up by the Delhi government collected "political intelligence and recommended that a First Information Report (FIR) be registered Sisodia and six others including an IAS official. According to the PE, the Feedback Unit has caused wrongful loss to the government exchequer to the tune of approximate Rs 36 Lakhs.

The CBI has recommend-

ed to convert an instant enquiry into a regular case under sections 120B r/w 403, 409, 468, 471 & 477-A IPC and 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of the PC Act, 1988 and substantive offences against Sisodia, Sukesh Kr. Jain (IRS-1992), the then Secretary Vigilance, Rakesh Kr. Sinha (retired. DIG, CISF), working as Special Advisor to the CM and Jt. Director, Pradeep Kr. Punj (retired. Jt. Deputy Director, 1B), working as Deputy Director, Satish Khetrapal (retired. Assistant Commandant, CISF), working as Feed Back Officer (FBO) Gopal Mohan, Advisor anti-corruption to the CM of Delhi and Others. The CBI had initiated a PE in 2016 based on a written complaint filed by the Deputy Secretary (Vigilance), GNCT of Delhi, KS Meena.

Prima facie, the agency noted, there was deliberate violation of rules, guidelines and circulars by "delinquent

public servants". "The nature of violations committed is inherently dishonest and as such materials disclose abuse of official position with dishonest intention by concerned public servants Manish Sisodia, Dy. CM and Sukesh Kumar Jain, the then Secretary (Vigilance)," the report alleged.

According to the CBI, 60 per cent of the reports generated by the FBU pertained to vigilance and corruption matters, while "political intelligence" and other issues accounted for around 40 per cent.

The CBI also sought permission of the LG for registering cases against others involved in functioning of the FBU. Sources said Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has referred the CBI request to the President through the Ministry of Home Affairs, for registration of a case against Sisodia.

# CM hands cheque of ₹1 cr to family of slain police officer

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday handed over a cheque for Rs 1 crore to the family members of Delhi Police personnel Shambhu Dayal, who died after being stabbed by a snatcher.

Kejriwal said the entire country is proud of Dayal, who was an assistant sub-inspector in the Delhi Police. "We handed over a cheque for Rs 1 crore to his family. Hope this will help them to some extent. We are there for the family," Kejriwal said.

Dayal was taking the snatcher to the Mayapuri police station after placing him under arrest when he was repeatedly



attacked with a knife by the latter. The ASI subsequently succumbed to his injuries. The elder daughter of the deceased policeman, Gayatri, thanked Kejriwal.

"My father was a heart patient. He had a stent but still, never took leave. For him, work was most important. I feel proud of him," she said.

Dayal, who was posted at the Mayapuri police station, was allegedly stabbed by the snatcher on January 4. He was seriously injured in the incident and admitted to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. A video purportedly of the incident showed the ASI trying to overpower the snatcher despite being stabbed.

# Govt to launch obstetrics, gynae OPD at hospital in Dakshinpuri

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Government will launch specialised obstetrics, gynaecology and paediatrics outdoor-patient department (OPD) services at the Ambedkar Nagar Hospital in Dakshinpuri to provide better healthcare to women and children, according to a statement.

The OPDs will have specialist doctors and provide round-the-clock services, the government statement said. "Currently, ICU (Covid), flu clinic, pharmacy and IPD (indoor-patient department) services are being provided to patients here and now OPD services for obstetrics and gynaecology and paediatrics will be started at the



Ambedkar Nagar Hospital," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the health portfolio, said.

"This will benefit lakhs of people in south Delhi. In the future, other specialised healthcare services will also be added to the hospital in a phased manner," he said.

Sisodia said the inauguration of the new OPD for

women and children at the Ambedkar Nagar Hospital will ensure that they do not have to travel far to avail services.

"The hospital will not only have specialised services to take care of pregnant women but will also be equipped to provide medical facilities for children and women with gynaecological issues," he said.

The Delhi government's aim is not only to make its hospitals better than private hospitals but also to make its hospitals the best in the country, Sisodia said. "New hospitals in Delhi have been made fully air-conditioned. Besides this, by making necessary changes in the existing hospitals, they are also being made air-conditioned," he said.

# AIIMS orders healthy food on cafe menu

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Wednesday issued orders for inclusion of healthy food items like boiled eggs, milk, sprouts, boiled 'chana' and salad in the menu of the cafeteria and hostel mess.

In a communication sent to the chairman of the Cafeteria Management Committee, AIIMS Director M Srinivas said the existing menu of the cafeteria and hostel mess at the institute provides very limited and conventional food like 'samosa', 'kachori' and bread 'pakora' which are considered unhealthy food items.

The faculty, resident doctors, nursing officers and other staff members working at

AIIMS, New Delhi are involved in patient care and require healthy food to build up and maintain their immunity, the communication said.

"Chairman, Cafeteria Management Committee is hereby requested to issue necessary directions to the DGM, Central Cafeteria to make available healthy food like boiled egg, milk, sprouts, boiled 'chana', fruit salad, veg salad, fresh uncut fruits and fresh fruit juices along with other menu items in breakfast and lunch which is available at the Central Cafeteria, and also make arrangements for microwavable ready-to-made food items requiring 2-3 minutes of cooking like 'upma', 'poha' etc (rates of the same may be fixed accordingly)," the communication said.

# NGT fines Noida-based realtor ₹113 cr for flouting green norms, slams ED for inaction

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slapped an over Rs 113 crore fine on a Noida-based realtor for violating environmental norms and observed that inaction by the Enforcement Directorate for more than nine and a half years in the matter "encouraged" violations. It also observed that when action was taken in the case by the federal agency it was in a "narrow sphere".

The ED has "forgotten to take note" that the scope of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been widened and revenue earned by committing such crimes is proceeds of crime as defined in the law, the NGT said.

The green panel was hearing a petition claiming that Uppal Chadha Hi Tech Developers Pvt. Ltd. was violating environmental norms in its Hi-Tech township across

14 villages in Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar districts of Uttar Pradesh.

A bench comprising Chairperson Justice A K Goel noted that the project proponent (PP) violated several environmental norms and remedial action for the restoration of the environment required the proponent to pay environmental compensation on the basis of the polluter pays principle. The bench also comprising Judicial Member Justice

Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel composed environmental compensation at 0.75 per cent of the total project cost.

"Environmental compensation of Rs 113.25 crore shall be paid by the PP, and be deposited with the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) within three months," it said. Punitive action such as criminal prosecution would also be justified against the PP, the bench said.

# Delhi to get dinosaur themed 'Waste-to-Wonder' park

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi will soon get a theme park featuring dinosaur sculptures made of nearly 250 tonnes of scrap. Lt Governor VK Saxena on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the second phase of the Waste-to-Wonder Park at Sarai Kale Khan, officials said, adding that the dinosaur park would be constructed at a cost of Rs 13.72 crore.

"Under the dinosaur theme park project, 15 movable and standing dinosaur structures will be constructed from



approximately 250 tonnes of scrap material," a senior official said. Union Minister Rajnath Singh had inaugurated the Waste-to-Wonder Park in Rajiv Gandhi Smriti Van near Sarai Kale Khan in February 2019.

The second phase will be developed on a 3.5-acre land at the Waste-to-Wonder Park,

the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said in a statement. Ahead of the G20 Summit, such a project will enhance the beauty and green cover of the national capital, it added.

"Movable structures of dinosaurs like Coelophysis, Brontosaurus, Velociraptor, Tsintaurosaurus, Deinonychus, Rajasaurus, Prenocephale, Ankylosaurus, Triceratops, Amargasaurus, Spinosaurus, Tyrannosaurus, Diplodocus and Stegosaurus will be installed," the MCD said. The park will be illumi-

nated with ornamental lighting and have an aesthetic sound facility.

The landscaping will be done by planting trees, shrubs, grass and ornamental plants. It will have sitting facilities, connecting walkways to all sculptures, garden huts and a food court area for visitors, the officials said. The Waste-to-Wonder Park, built at a cost of Rs 7.5 crore, features a 60-ft Eiffel Tower, a 20-ft Taj Mahal and replicas of five other wonders of the world, built using 150 tonnes of industrial and other waste.

# Year after collapse, Chintels' residents face uncertain future

**STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM**

A year after portions of five apartments collapsed at a housing complex, forcing authorities to ask scores of families to move out, residents say they remain uncertain about their future. On February 10 last year, renovation work on the sixth floor apartment of Tower D at Chintels Paradiso in Gurugram's sector 109 triggered the collapse of its dining room floor. One after another roofs and floors of flats below

crumbled, killing two people. Vijay Mahanoori's flat in the same tower was not among the five directly involved, but he was shaken as he rushed home from work to his family after getting the news. "We spent four days in the same clothes at a neighbour's home and now, after a year, we are still waiting for our home," he says.

Tower D, with 64 apartments – 16 of them unoccupied – was sealed by the administration and is now marked for demolition. After a structural audit, the Indian Institute of

Technology-Delhi also recommended that people should move out of Towers E and F. Experts also expressed safety concerns about Towers G and H. But some families continue to stay in these blocks. Homeowners claim they are not clear on what would happen next -- whether they will get a refund for their flat or a new one, or their apartment blocks will be reconstructed from scratch.

Like Mahanoori, many people want another home in exchange for the home they

were forced to leave – and not the compensation the builders are offering.

They will mark one year of the Paradiso collapse on Friday by holding a candlelight protest at the housing society. They will also submit a memorandum to the district administration, Residents' Welfare Association president Rakesh Hooda says.

After evaluations by independent auditors, the district administration pegged the apartments to be worth Rs 6,900 per sqft, an official said. For the smallest flats in the

complex, this comes to about Rs 1.25 crore. Interiors will be evaluated separately. "The builder agreed to pay this, and some flat owners settled with the builder. This is the final valuation," Gurugram district commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav says, adding that those not satisfied with this could move the court and seek an increase. RWA president Hooda is among those unhappy with the offer. "There should be a fresh directive to reconstruct Paradiso, and to rehabilitate the residents till the

newly constructed flats are handed over to the owners," he says. "In the last one year, there has been no significant progress. It's highly disappointing. Paradiso flat owners are going through a difficult time and living in fear and stress, with uncertainty over the future," he adds.

He also claims that flat owners are yet to get any report or order on the final valuation of the flats. According to Mahanoori, the money on offer is not enough to buy a similar flat. "We want a home in



exchange of our home only," Hooda says.

Another resident Sandeep Barsaiyan insists that the only option is the re-construction of their flats. Sonam Arora too wanted a home, and not the

compensation from the builders. "The whole year after the incident has passed with mere assurances," she says, criticising the district administration as well as the local police.



# Opp hits out at PM, Rahul accuses Modi of protecting Adani

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties led by Congress hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday for not responding to allegations related to industrialist Gautam Adani, which they termed "the elephant in the room", with former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi accusing Modi of "protecting" the billionaire.

Rahul alleged it was clear that Prime Minister was protecting Gautam Adani as he did not order an inquiry into the allegations levelled against the industrialist by a US-based research firm. He said the Prime Minister did not answer the questions he had posed to him. The party at the same time posed another set of three questions to Modi on the controversy.

While Shiv Sena MP in Rajya Sabha Priyanka Chaturvedi said the PM's speech clearly says the government has no answers to the questions of serious lapses of checks & balances in the stock market nor to the brazen cronyism in handing over

important projects to the group, Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) Harsimrat Kaur Badal said "the elephant in the room" was not addressed by the government.

"I am not satisfied, but it reveals the truth. There was no talk of an inquiry. If he is not a friend, then he should have agreed to an inquiry. There was no probe into shell companies in defence sector and benami money is changing hands, but the prime minister did not say anything on that. It is clear that the prime minister is protecting him," Rahul told the media after the PM's reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address.

The grand old party also criticised the expunging of certain remarks by Rahul Gandhi in Parliament targeting Prime Minister and alleged that "democracy was cremated" in Lok Sabha while participating in a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

"He (PM) is surely trying to protect him (Adani) and I understand this and there are reasons for it," he also said.

Rahul said this is an issue of national security and concerns the country's infrastructure and the prime minister should have said that there will be a probe into the allegations. This is a very big scam. He did not even say that. He (PM) is surely trying to protect him (Adani) and I understand this and there are reasons for it," he said.

Asked if he got the answers to his questions, the former Congress chief said, "I did not get any reply from the prime minister to my questions." "The prime minister was shell-shocked. He was in shock and there was no answer. I have not asked any complicated question. I only asked how many times he (Adani) has gone with you. How many times did he meet you. I posed simple questions but got no answers," he said.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh described the prime minister's reply in Parliament as diversionary and said there was not even a word on his 'links' with his favourite "businessmen". "Not a word — direct or indirect — on the prime minister's links with his favourite businessman, Adani,



or his ghotalas," Ramesh said on Twitter after the prime minister's speech.

Sharing pictures of Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan in Rajya Sabha and Prime Minister Modi in Lok Sabha, he tweeted, "At 5:15pm today. One of India's most famous actress on the right speaking in Rajya Sabha. India's most famous actor on the left speaking in the Lok Sabha."

Congress also questioned as to why the Prime Minister's Office "ignored" Niti Aayog recommendations against handing over six airports to an "inexperienced" Adani Group, a day after Rahul Gandhi linked the meteoric rise in the

wealth of the business conglomerate to the BJP coming to power.

Trinamool Congress's (TMC) leader in the Lok Sabha Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the Prime Minister should clearly make a statement assuring the depositors of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and State Bank of India (SBI) that their money is in safe hands. "It is a fact that money has gone to Adani from them (LIC and SBI) and people were waiting for a reply to get an assurance from the Prime Minister but sadly, it did not come," Bandyopadhyay told reporters outside Parliament after Modi's address.

## Modi sports a jacket made of recycled plastic in Parliament

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday underlined the significance of sustainability by donning a sleeveless blue "sadri" coloured jacket in Parliament. The jacket is made of material recycled from plastic bottles.

He was seen wearing the jacket in the morning session of the Rajya Sabha when Leader of Opposition M Mallikarjun Kharge was speaking on the President's motion.

The jacket was presented to him by public sector undertaking (PSU) Indian Oil Corporation during India Energy Week in Bengaluru on Monday when he launched the uniforms under the "Unbottled" initiative of the company.

In line with his call to



phase out single-use plastic, Indian Oil has adopted uniforms for retail customer attendants and LPG delivery personnel made from recycled polyester (rPET) and cotton, officials said.

Each set of uniforms of Indian Oil's customer attendant shall support the recycling of around 28 used PET bottles. The PSU is taking this initiative further through

"Unbottled", a brand for sustainable garments launched for merchandise made from recycled polyester.

Under this brand, the oil giant targets to meet the requirement of uniforms for the customer attendants of other oil marketing companies, non-combat uniforms for the army, uniforms and dresses for Institutions, and sales to retail customers.

## Cong playing 'hit and run' game in Parl, PM's thinking pure, says BJP

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

BJP leader and Former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Wednesday attacked the Congress over frequent disruptions in Parliament, saying the party is playing a "hit and run" game in the House.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha witnessed multiple disruptions earlier this week and last week following the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group.

"The Congress' defaulter dynasty starts playing the drama of hit and run through depressed defeated political players," the former Minister said, responding to a question on the ruckus.

Naqvi said the Congress has become a "non-performing asset" which has no value outside or inside Parliament.

The two Houses resumed functioning from Tuesday as the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address was taken up.

The Opposition is demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the allegations of



accounting fraud and stock manipulation by a short-seller against the Adani Group, which has rejected all charges.

Hitting out at the Congress for attacking the prime minister in Lok Sabha during the debate on the President's address, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday said that PM Narendra Modi's thinking is pure like the Ganga river and no one can stain it. During an intervention in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Lok Sabha, the minister said that instead of pointing out issues with the central government schemes, opposition members are raising unrelated matters, which is against the tradition.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Rijiju said, should have adhered to the rules of parliamentary debate by speaking on the President's address rather than spreading negativity in the House.

## Kharge calls for JPC probe into charges against Adani Group

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha M Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations against the Adani Group and charged the ruling party with spreading hatred in the country and ignoring the weaker sections of society.

He also said the economy was in a poor shape and the government was unable to provide jobs to the youth despite promises. Kharge also said the recent 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' undertaken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was not aimed against any one and quipped "nafrat choro, bharat jodo."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the house when the leader of opposition (LOP) raised questions about the so-called meteoric rise of the Adani group in the last few years due to proximity to Modi and claimed the group had borrowed Rs more than Rs 80,000 crores from public sector banks. He also urged the Prime Minister to ask his ministers and MPs to refrain from making alleged inflammatory remarks.

The House saw repeated

exchanges between the treasury and the Congress members with Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar time and again asking Kharge to substantiate his charges.

Kharge made these claims while participating in the debate on the 'Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.' Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman objected to "insinuations" against the prime minister.

In 2014, the prime minister had made the statement "na khaunga, na khane dunga", Kharge said, and asked, "Was it a jumla?" The Congress leader also wondered if the prime minister was pandering to a select few industrialists.

Without naming Gautam Adani, who is in the middle of a political storm after the US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research's adverse report triggered a meltdown in the group stocks wiping out billions of dollars in market value, the Leader of Opposition said the wealth of a "close friend" of Modi has grown 13 times in two-and-a-half years.

The individual's wealth has gone up from Rs 50,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 1 lakh crore in 2019, Kharge alleged, and wondered what miracle happened

in two years that wealth of Rs 12 lakh crore has been acquired.

Stressing that he does not understand such a "fast development", Kharge asked if it was because of the friendship. Dhankhar intervened and said the discourse cannot stoop to allegations which are not substantiated or to the use of "loose expressions" and casting of aspersions without any basis.

Goyal also intervened and said Kharge was making an allegation which cannot be substantiated and about "an association which has absolutely no basis whatsoever".

"He is talking of a purported wealth which does not have any merit. That is a share market calculation, in which the government has no role to play. It is for the regulators to see and for the share market participants to decide what value they give," Goyal asserted. Sitharaman also objected to Kharge's statement. "It is one thing to say it is valuation, don't you understand? Please, alright, quote the valuation but they are subtly and overtly repeatedly insinuating against the honourable PM, that's what we are objecting to," she asserted.

When Kharge remarked that instead of strengthening public sector enterprises, which

provide jobs to 10 lakh people, the government was letting public money to the tune of Rs 82,000 crore to be used to support the Adani Group, which employs "only 30,000 people", Dhankhar intervened and said India has a robust mechanism on how people are awarded contracts.

"I am only cautioning the LoP that he is trying to give an impression that India is a country where contracts can be just given away," the Chairman said, drawing sharp response from the opposition members.

Goyal said the chair is duty-bound to protect Indians to ensure that the national interest is not compromised.



Dhankhar said any comments made in the House should be in national interest and should be authenticated. It cannot be an allegation without substance, he added.

Opposition members then jointly asked the Chairman to

point out the anti-national comments that Kharge has made. "Why I say so? An expression was given by the Leader of the Opposition that the largest democracy on earth is giving contracts like this," Dhankhar said.

## Some light moments in RS

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Even as M Mallikarjun Kharge levelled allegations against the Government, the Rajya Sabha also saw some banter and light hearted moments with Prime Minister Narendra Modi also laughing.

It happened when Kharge mentioned alleged remarks by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Kharge, who was initially hesitant about speaking about an alleged exchange

with Dhankhar, claimed that the Vice-President had told him how he, in his early years as an advocate, used to count cash with his hands but later bought a machine when his practice took off.

Kharge then asked the Rajya Sabha chairman if it was ok to speak about it. "Yeh theek hai (this is all right)," replied a smiling Dhankhar.

Kharge added, "When his practice expanded, he bought a machine and started count-

ing money with that machine." To this, Dhankhar, with folded hands, said, "Aisa maine nahi kaha (I didn't say that)."

The chairman quipped, "Aisa lagta hai aap mere upar JPC bitha doge (It seems you will set up a JPC on me)," referring to the Opposition's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Adani issue.

The House broke into laughter over this exchange.

## India rushes more aid, rescue teams to Turkey, Syria under operation 'Dost'

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

India has stepped up the pace of sending rescue teams and relief material to earthquake ravaged Turkey and Syria. The relief material includes a field hospital and medicines under "Operation Dost," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Wednesday.

"Every day we see ups and down in geopolitical situations but India has stable relations with countries. As per our policy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - India stands forever for humanity," Jaishankar told news agency ANI when asked about support to Turkey despite New Delhi's differences with Ankara. India has, so far, sent around 102 tons of relief materials to Turkiye.

Meanwhile, a fourth C-17 plane of the Indian Air Force carrying relief assistance for Turkey's earthquake victims landed in Adana on Wednesday.

"The fourth @IAF\_MCC aircraft leaves for Turkiye with the remaining component of the field hospital. This includes 54 members of the Indian Army medical team as well as medical and other equipment to establish the facility," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Turkey has called India a "dost" for its generosity for providing funds to the country after the earthquake caused massive destruction.

Ambassador of Turkey to India Firat Sunel thanked New



Delhi and said, "a friend in need is a friend indeed."

"Dost" is a common word in Turkish and Hindi... We have a Turkish proverb: "Dost kara gunde belli olur" (a friend in need is a friend indeed). Thank you very much India," said the Ambassador.

India decided to immediately send search and rescue teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), medical teams and relief material to Turkey following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions to offer all possible assistance to the country on Monday.

Giving details of the ongoing relief effort, Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs Sanjay Verma said here, India has set up a control room in Turkey's Adana. Ten Indians are stuck in remote parts of affected areas but they are safe. One Indian national, who was on a business visit, is missing. "We're in touch with his family and the company in Bengaluru which employs him," he added.

Describing the earthquake as the biggest disaster to hit Turkey since 1939, Verma said India has so far sent four flights there and one aircraft to Syria carrying rescue teams and relief material.

## Def Ministry approves indigenous manufacture of 41 modular bridges

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

In a major boost to indigenisation of Defence equipment, Ministry of Defence has approved the proposal for indigenous manufacture of 41 sets of Modular Bridges for the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army.

The contract is worth Rs 2,585 crores.

These game-changing bridges have been designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and shall be produced by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) as DRDO-nominated production agency. The contract for the procurement of



Modular Bridges was signed with L&T on Wednesday, officials said here.

Each set of Modular Bridge shall consist of seven carrier vehicles based on 8x8 Heavy Mobility Vehicles and two launcher vehicles based on 10x10 Heavy Mobility Vehicles. Each set shall be capable of mechanically launching a single span fully decked 46-meter assault bridge.

The bridge can be

employed over various types of obstacles like canals and ditches with quick launching and retrieval capabilities. The equipment is highly mobile, versatile, rugged and capable of keeping pace with wheeled and tracked mechanized vehicles.

The modular bridges will replace the manually-launched Medium Girder Bridges (MGB) that are currently being used in the Indian Army. The indigenously designed and manufactured Modular bridges shall have many advantages over the MGB such as increased span, less time for construction and mechanical launching with retrieval capability.

## Animal Welfare board urges citizens to observe Feb 14 as 'Cow Hug Day'

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

Ahead of the Valentine's Day, the Animal Welfare Board of India on Monday urged citizens to observe February 14 as "Cow Hug Day", describing the animal as the backbone of Indian culture. The Animal Welfare Board of India, which is under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in its appeal has claimed that hugging cows will "bring emotional richness" and will "increase our individual and collective happiness". The appeal has now received mixed reactions from Twitter users. While some spoke in favour of the idea, many said such a day will not bring about any change.

"We all know that the cow is the backbone of Indian cul-

ture and rural economy, sustains our life, represent cattle wealth and biodiversity. It is known as 'Kamdhenu' and 'Gaumata' because of its nourishing nature like mother, the giver of all providing riches to humanity," reads the opening paragraph of the appeal signed by Secretary SK Dutta and issued on February 6.

"Vedic traditions are almost on the verge of extinction due to the progress of the west culture over time. The dazzle of western civilization has made our physical culture and heritage almost forgotten," it adds. The letter goes on to say that hugging a cow will bring 'emotional richness' which will increase our 'individual and collective happiness'.

"In view of the immense benefits of the cow, hugging

[the] cow will bring emotional richness hence will increase our individual and collective happiness. Therefore, all the cow lovers may also celebrate February 14 as Cow Hug Day, keeping in mind the importance of the mother cow and making life happy and full of positive energy. This [was] issued with the approval of competent authority and on the direction of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying," the appeal further read.

In recent years, followers of religious leader Asaram have also urged Indians to celebrate February 14 as Matri Pitru Pujan Diwas or Parents' Worship Day.

Interestingly, cow hug-



ging has been a trend in some Western countries for a while now. It may be mentioned in some countries like the Netherlands, "koe knuffelen" (Dutch for cow hugging) is

seen as a self-care practice and is offered as a service by farm owners. Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh, the Gautam Budh Nagar police have imposed restrictions under Section 144

of CrPC in districts in the Noida and Greater Noida regions from February 4 to February 28 in view of Valentine's Day and Shiv Ratri.



# BJP disrupts Bengal Guv speech

## Accuses Bose of ignoring graft in West Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI ■ KOLKATA

Unlike what it used to be in the Jagdeep Dhankhar era, the BJP which occupies almost the entire Opposition space in Bengal Assembly on Wednesday raised anti-Government slogans during the entire speech of Governor CV Ananda Bose alleging he had given into the pressure of the ruling TMC. The Governor was addressing the House ahead of the Budget Session.

Bose addressed the State Assembly for the first time after taking charge, amid protests by BJP MLAs against “corruption” by the ruling outfit.

Unlike Dhankhar who would often refuse to read out the lines given to him by the Government, Bose read out the speech in its entirety even as the BJP MLAs shouted slogans

before staging a walkout. “We are disappointed with the Governor who knows what is happening in the State ... still he is silent and read out a speech prepared by the state government, which has no relation with reality,” Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said.

While the State BJP enjoyed an excellent chemistry with the then Governor Dhankhar the saffron outfit has been raising questions on the style of Bose’s functioning.

“He should go and get some briefing from the Vice President of India about running the Raj Bhavan,” Adhikari had on an earlier occasion said, referring to the close chemistry developing between the Mamata Banerjee Government and the Governor’s House.

In his address Bose also urged the Centre to release funds to the state for the benefit of the poor people. His speech comes after the Mamata Banerjee government and the ruling Trinamool Congress repeatedly accused the Centre of "not releasing funds" to the state. "There are three areas

where the state could have done better - MGNREGA, rural housing, and rural roads. Till 2021-22, West Bengal has been number one in these areas. But this year, the state is yet to receive funds from the Centre," he said.

He also said, "I hope the Centre will release the funds soon in the interest of poor people. And I am sure; West Bengal will continue to hold the No. 1 place in MGNREGA, rural housing, and rural roads as soon as it gets its dues from the Central Government."

While lauding the initiatives by the state government in the last decade to provide the best possible amenities and facilities to the pilgrims, the Governor said, "My government is riding on the wave of its immensely popular pro-people policies".

Claiming that the state government is committed to upholding the noble tenets of cooperative federalism as "enshrined in our constitution", Bose said the TMC government is steadfast in its course to withstand all possible assaults on the secular fabric of the state.

"The members (of the Assembly) can be rest assured that my Government will deal with all inimical forces of divisiveness, hatred and intolerance with a firm hand and defeating all kinds of negativity," he said.

Lauding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bose said it was due to her persistent efforts that Durga Puja of Kolkata has been included in UNESCO's 2021 list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

Speaking about initiatives of the state government to boost the industrial sector, the Governor said the development of Tajpur Deep Sea port is expected to draw an investment of Rs 15000 crore. "Shale Gas Exploration License has been given to exploit 6.6 trillion cubic feet shale gas in the Raiganj region of the state," he said. He said the Bengal Silicon Valley is being established at Newtown close to Kolkata and has drawn a tremendous response from data centre players, which signals strong confidence in the newly formulated "WB Data Centre Policy, 2021".

# Scribe mowed down by land dealer in Maha, probe sought into death

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

A day after journalist Ashashikant Warishe was mowed to death by a vehicle driven by land dealer in Ratnagiri district, the Opposition Congress, Bombay Union of Journalists and Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) have on Wednesday termed the death as a “well-planned murder” and demanded an “impartial” investigation and stringent action against the accused behind the incident.

Forty-eight-year-old Warishe — who was working for a local Marathi newspaper “Mahanagari Times” and was injured in the mishap on Monday evening — succumbed to injuries on Tuesday morning.

Warishe, who had written a series of articles against the proposed complex of Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (RRPCL) coming up with foreign collaboration, at Barsu, had published an article that named Pandharinath Amberkar, a supporter of the proposed refinery and alleged that he was criminal.

On February 6, Warishe had written an article against Amberkar in “Mahanagari Times” headlined “Photo of criminal on banner alongside



that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, chief minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. In his article, Warishe had written that FIRs had been lodged against Amberkar for land grab intimidation.

Amberkar was behind the wheels of an SUV (MH08 AX6100) when the mishap took place near a petrol pump on a highway. Amberkar allegedly mowed down Warishe, who was on a scooter. The scooter was crushed under the SUV.

Warishe was rushed to a nearby local hospital where he succumbed to injuries on Tuesday morning. Within hours after the incident, Amberkar was arrested by the Ratnagiri police. He was produced at a local court which remanded him in police custody till February 14. Dubbing

the mishap as a “well-planned murder” Chief spokesperson of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee Atul Londhe demanded that the person who killed journalist Warishe should be punished strictly.

“The killing of a journalist is an atrocious murder of democracy and a stain on a progressive state like Maharashtra.. It is a matter of concern that attacks on journalists are increasing in Maharashtra for doing their work. Even when there is a journalist protection Act, criminals still don’t seem to be scared,” Londe said.

Alleging that the law and order had broken down in the state ever since Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government came to power in June last year, Londhe said: “MLAs of the ruling alliance openly fire bullets, threaten to beat up people, assault principals. Police officers are also threatened but the Shinde-Fadnavis government is not taking any action against those taking law into their hands.

Expressing shock over the killing of journalist Warishe, the Maharashtra state unit of PUCL demanded an “impartial” investigation into the incident and prosecution of the accused behind the incident. It also demanded adequate com-

pensation to the family of Warishe and urged the state government to police protection to his family members. Condemning the “murder” of Warishe, the BUJ said that the accused Amberkar was involved in cases of land grab and of intimidation and force against activists opposing the refinery project in the area.

“This area has been the site of intense agitation over the Nanar refinery where local agriculturalists have been staunchly opposing the project as they fear it will destroy the environment, besides their lives and livelihood,” BUJ’s general secretary Indrakumar Jain said in a statement.

While the MVA government had scrapped the refinery project what was to come up at Nanur. However, the current Shinde-Fadnavis government shifted the project to Barsu-Salgaon, 20 kms away from Nanar. However, local groups are resisting the project.

Meanwhile, three other journalist organisations --All India Marathi Patrakar Sanghi, Mumbai Marathi Patrakar Sangh, the Mantralay Ani Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh have urged the state government to take immediate action in the matter and hand out stringent punishment to the accused.

# TMC dares PM to order ED probe into Adani row

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Wednesday dared Prime Minister Modi to allow the JPC and ED to probe the matter "instead of taking recourse to diversionary tactics."

Senior TMC MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said, "instead of attacking the Opposition by saying that the ED has united them, Modi should better have come to the point raised by the Opposition parties ... instead of doing so he side-stepped the issue and dwelt on so many other things which were not matters of immediate concern." The senior TMC leader said, "Instead of resorting to oratory let the Prime Minister should allow a JPC probe into the Adani matter and make the results public so that it can be considered in right perspective by the 140 crore people that he



was fervently referring to."

The TMC leader had earlier demanded that the Government should impound the passports of top executives of the Adani Group so that they might not flee the country.

Another senior TMC leader JP Majumdar said that "the people had already punished Congress for the scams during the UPA regime that Modi was referring to ... it is almost 20 years ... now the PM should speak about his own Government."

Bengal Left leadership too attacked Modi saying, "he is avoiding the Adani issue and resorting to counter attacks because he fears the truth coming out."

# Edu Min calls for CAG audit into ‘misuse’ of PM Poshan funds in Bengal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education has asked the Comptroller and Auditor General for a special audit of alleged misuse of funds for the PM Poshan scheme in West Bengal over the last three years, officials said on Wednesday. Necessary corrective action will be taken by the ministry based on the audit report, they said.

"The education ministry has requested the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for a special audit of implementation of PM Poshan scheme in West Bengal for the last three financial years. This audit will encompass compliance, performance and financial audit," a senior ministry official said. "CAG is empowered to conduct the audit under Regulations on

Audit and Accounts (Amendment) 2020 framed in pursuance of Section 23 of the Comptroller and Auditor Generals (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 (Act No 56 of 1971)," he said.

The Department of School Education and Literacy administers the PM Poshan scheme vide which funds are provided to states, based on proposals received from them, for providing one hot cooked meal to eligible children from classes I to VIII and those in Balvatika (below class I).

The scheme, formerly known as the mid-day meal scheme, benefits about 11.80 crore children in the country studying in 11.20 lakh government and government-aided schools.

# Am okay with anybody except for Tejashwi as leader, says Kushwaha

PTI ■ PATNA

Disgruntled JD (U) leader Upendra Kushwaha on Wednesday said he would give up his rebellion if Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ruled out the possibility of handing over the mantle to his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, who is from the RJD.

Talking to reporters here, the former Union minister asserted that he would happily function as "an ordinary party worker, worth five rupees", if the JD(U) leadership was assumed by "anybody from among the Luv Kush Samaj (Kurmis and Koeris) or the EBCs whose aspirations have been the party's driving force". "The RJD people keep saying a deal was struck at the time of formation of the alliance. This has led to turmoil in the party. Only the CM can put an end to rumours by announcing that he was not backing Tejashwi as the leader for 2025 assembly polls", he said.

Kushwaha, who had returned to JD(U) in 2021 merging Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, claimed he was not interested in being a claimant for the leadership of the party.

"But this party will sink if the current situation continues. Nitish Kumar had pulled Bihar out of the dark ages. His legacy is under cloud", said Kushwaha who was rewarded with the post of parliamentary board chief and a berth in legislative council immediately upon return to JD(U).

Asked about suspicions that he was acting at the behest of the BJP which he had allied with as the RLSP chief,



Kushwaha replied testily "how does it matter whether the BJP or the Muslim League is behind me". He also maintained that Kumar, now in his 70s, was no longer able to exercise his own judgement but being swayed by "two-three people close to him".

True to form, Kushwaha declined to take any names when asked pointedly as to whom he was talking about.

Meanwhile, the RJD slammed Kushwaha for opening a front against Tejashwi Yadav, its founding president Lalu Prasad's younger son and heir apparent.

"Yes, a deal was indeed struck when Nitish ji joined us last year. The deal was to fight against the onslaughts on the Constitution by the ruling BJP at the Centre", said RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari.

"But Kushwaha must disclose whom he has fallen in love with these days (kinko dil de baithe hain). Is he still a socialist or has he struck a deal with communal forces", said Tiwari.

The RJD spokesman also said, "it is of no use to declare someone or other as the leader. Leaders earn their position by the blessings of the people".

# Morbi bridge collapse: Oreva Group MD sent to judicial custody

PTI ■ MORBI

A court in Gujarat's Morbi town on Wednesday sent Oreva Group Managing Director Jaysukh Patel, one of the accused in the Morbi bridge collapse case, to judicial custody after the end of his police remand.

Patel, whose company was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the bridge, surrendered before the court on January 31 after it issued an arrest warrant against him. He was later arrested by the police.

On February 1, Patel was remanded to police custody for seven days by Morbi's Chief Judicial Magistrate M J Khan in the case of collapse of the suspension bridge here in October last year which claimed 135 lives.

Patel was produced before the magistrate on Wednesday after the completion of his police remand.

Since the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the state government to conduct a probe into the case did not seek further remand, Magistrate Khan sent Patel in judicial custody.

The development comes days after a sessions court here rejected the bail applications of seven other accused persons arrested last year in the bridge collapse case.

In all, the police have so far arrested 10 persons, including Patel, in connection with the incident. Besides Patel, the others arrested in the case are two managers of the Oreva Group entity, two ticket-book- ing clerks, three security guards and two sub-contractors who were given the bridge repair



work by the Oreva Group. While the Morbi sessions court had denied bail to seven persons, the two sub-contractors - Prakash Parmar and Devang Prakash Parmar, approached the court for relief on Monday.

The court is likely to decide their fate on Thursday. All the 10 accused, including Patel, have been charged under Indian Penal Code Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 336 (act which endangers human life), 337 (causing hurt to any person by doing any rash or negligent act) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by doing rash or negligent act).

Ajanta Manufacturing Limited (Oreva Group) was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the British-era suspension bridge on the Machchhu river which collapsed on October 30 last year. The SIT had found several lapses in repairs, maintenance and operation of the bridge.

The investigation revealed that there was no restriction on the number of persons accessing the bridge at a given point in time, no restriction on the sale of tickets, leading to unrestricted movement on the bridge and repair being carried out without consulting competent experts.

# PM to inaugurate UP Global Investors’ Summit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors’ Summit-2023 on February 10. He will also inaugurate the Global Trade Show and launch Invest UP 2.0. UP Global Investors’ Summit 2023 is scheduled from February 10 to 12.

It is the flagship investment summit of the Uttar Pradesh government. It will bring together policy makers, industry leaders, academia, think-tanks and leaders from across the world to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships.

Invest UP 2.0 is a comprehensive, investor-centric and service-oriented investment ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh that endeavours to deliver relevant, well defined, standardised services to investors. UP has received investment proposals to the tune of Rs 21 lakh crore in the run-up to the UP

Global Investors’ Summit (GIS) later this week. The government had already revised its initial investment target to Rs 17 trillion. The total job creation potential of these proposals, numbering more than 13,000, is pegged at about 18 lakh.

According to official sources, the manufacturing sector alone accounts for the lion's share of 55 per cent or almost Rs 12 trillion of these proposals. "Agriculture and allied sectors have logged investment proposals of 15 per cent, followed by textile 7 per cent, tourism 5 per cent, etc," sources said.

These proposals were netted during a series of international and domestic investors’ roadshows held in the past two months at prominent global financial hubs spanning 16 countries, as well as Indian state capitals. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had interacted with top Indian industry captains in Mumbai on January 5. This

garnered investment proposals of Rs 5 lakh crore. Earlier, the global roadshows had clocked investment proposals of about Rs 7 lakh crore from global biggies representing different continents and sectors.

Recently, UP’s Additional Chief Secretary (Industrial Development) Arvind Kumar had briefed the UP industrial development minister about the investment road map ahead of the summit.

All major sectors, including manufacturing, infrastructure, education, tourism, textile, health, renewable energy, IT (information technology) and electronics, housing, logistics, medical, etc. have witnessed investment pipelines.

Meanwhile, the state has received 120 investment proposals of more than Rs 3,000 crore each, which collectively amount to almost Rs 14 trillion with an estimated employment potential of 1.1 million. "Leading Indian business groups viz. Reliance Industries,

Tata Sons, Adani, Godrej, Birla, Piramal, Lodha, Vedanta, Parle, Hinduja, etc. are bullish about the UP growth story and willing to partner the state in varied sectors," a senior government official noted.

## Tight security in place, says Prasad

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh government has taken several measures to ensure adequate security as well as smooth traffic movement during Global Investors’ Summit beginning from Friday, said Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad.

Besides the sleuths of reserved and armed police forces, commandos of Special Protection Group as well as of Anti-Terrorists Squad will ensure foolproof security arrangements for VIPs, guests as well as the President and the Prime Minister. PNS

# Transcouple in Kerala blessed with baby

PTI ■ KOZHIKODE

A transgender couple in Kerala, which recently announced pregnancy, was blessed with a baby at a State-run hospital here on Wednesday, considered to be the first such case in the country.

"The baby was born by around 9.30 am through a Cesarean Section at the Government Medical College Hospital," Ziya Paval, one of the trans partners, told PTI.

Both the baby and Zahhad, her partner who delivered the child, are doing well, Paval added. However, the trans person declined to reveal the gender identity of the newborn and said they did not want to make it public right now.

Ziya Paval recently took to Instagram and announced that Zahhad was eight months pregnant. Paval and Zahhad have been together for the past three years. Meanwhile, the transgender community expressed happiness and excitement in welcoming the baby.

Adam Harry, the country's first transgender pilot, said he has never felt such happiness in his life. "The baby came...Both Zahhad and the baby are healthy. Ziya is waiting outside excitedly,"



Transgender couple Ziya and Zahad's newly born baby in Kozhikode, on Saturday. Ziya and Zahad claim this to be the first baby for a transman in India. PTI

the trans man said in a Facebook post soon after the baby's birth. In the brief post, sprinkled with emojis of love and excitement, Harry also said the gender of the newborn will be revealed when the baby

grows up. "A healthy baby is born. Not a baby girl or baby boy... After all who are we to assume their gender. Let them grow and explore their identity," he added. Sheethal Shyam, a trans gender activist, shared the pictures of the trans couple in her social media accounts to convey her happiness.

"That child is born," she said in her whatsapp status. The trans couple recently revealed that both of them were undergoing hormone therapy to change their genders but halted that for the purpose of having the baby.

Zahhad, who was transitioning to become a man, has stalled it to conceive a baby. Though they had initially planned an adoption, the couple abandoned the plan midway as the legal procedures were found to be difficult.

Ziya and Zahhad were also worried by the thought that if the child they bring up leaves them, then they would be shattered. Thus the trans couple had finally decided to have their own biological child and stop the hormone therapy for that. They had also said that the medical college authorities assured them that breast milk would be made available for the baby from the milk bank there. PNS



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath being garlanded during a BJP election campaign rally for the upcoming Tripura Legislative Assembly elections, in Agartala, on Wednesday PTI Photo



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PAPER WITH PASSION

# Good move

Govt has initiated action against EV makers which have been accused of wrongly claiming subsidies

The Government has rightly expanded the scope of investigation into the alleged misappropriation of the subsidy called the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India). The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has questioned big companies making electric two-wheelers about the alleged breach of the maximum ex-factory price cap. FAME India is aimed at giving a push to electric vehicles (EVs) in public transport and encouraging the adoption of EVs by way of market creation and demand aggregation. With the scheme, the Government envisaged the holistic growth of the domestic EV industry, including greater indigenisation. FAME intends to support, through subsidies, 7,090 e-buses, five lakh e-3 wheelers, 55,000 e-4 wheeler passenger cars, and 10 lakh e-2 wheelers. But, as it happens in most programmes that are oriented around subsidy, there were accusations of industry players wrongly availing subsidies. Last year, the Government stopped FAME subsidy to the two big companies, Hero Electric and Okinawa Autotech, for allegedly not complying with the localisation norms under the scheme. More accusations surfaced, and the number of EV makers being deprived of the subsidy kept rising. A few weeks ago, six more companies were denied the subsidy, with the total number rising to 18. With so many companies not availing the benefit (which is to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore) and a dozen-and-a-half companies facing probe



for having wrongly taken subsidies, it's not a happy situation.

The Government has reportedly engaged the accounting services firm EY for a financial audit of all the companies which have been accused of wrongly claiming subsidies under the scheme. The Automotive Research Association of India, which earlier did the audits pertaining to localisation by auto components, will now also probe into the breach of price controls. If any EV manufacturers have indulged in any wrongdoing, they should be penalised in accordance with the law of the land, but the Government must ensure that the probe is completed fast. For the entire ecosystem associated with EVs is suffering, from the dealers to battery makers. Felony by a few shouldn't result in punishment for all. At the same time, there may also be a need to reconsider the policies which are based on subsidies and price controls. It may be mentioned that such measures were the hallmarks of the pre-liberalisation era, the era in which socialism dominated the policy framework. The Government would be well-advised to try a paradigm shift; instead of relying on subsidies and price controls, it should follow what its own Economic Survey suggested in 2018-19—that is, 'nudge' policies. The survey defined nudge policies as those that "gently steer people towards desirable behaviour even while preserving their liberty to choose." This should become the heart and soul of not just EV policy but economic policy in general.



Fishermen release whale shark back into the sea after it got entangled in a fishing net in Thiruvananthapuram

# Gowri on crosshair

Gowri's appointment as a judge is being criticised for her strong views on religious conversions

The appointment of Victoria Gowri as a judge of Madras High Court has drawn the ire of a group of lawyers and former judges of the Court. The Union Government has ratified her elevation as the judge by the Collegium of Judges of the Supreme Court. Her critics allege that Gowri is a Hindu fundamentalist with strong views against religious conversion and Love Jihad. There are many lawyers who want to convert democratic India into a Communist nation. Late V R Krishna Iyer had contested the assembly election to Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1957 with the support of the Communist Party. He was the Minister for Law, Justice, and Jail Reforms till the ministry was dismissed by the Centre in 1959. When he lost the subsequent election Iyer gave up electoral politics and got elevated to the Bench at the instance of the then chief minister EMS Namboodiripadu "for being a tool for transformation of India into a socialist republic". This is what Iyer has written in his autobiography "Wandering in Many Worlds". Kurian Joseph, from Kerala Congress (Mani Group), an outfit representing the interests of the Catholic community was appointed as judge of the Kerala High Court. He retired as a judge of the Supreme Court. There was no opposition from any quarters though Joseph was a mediocre judge. His tenure in the apex court stands out because of his resistance to attend a Sunday meeting convened by the then chief justice Dattu.

The resentment against the appointment of Gowri is from two retired judges whose political affiliations are known to all. An affidavit submitted by the then police chief K Ramanujam to the High Court stated that there are 1200 lawyers with criminal backgrounds in Tamil Nadu and 1424 criminal cases filed against these lawyers under sections ranging from murder, dacoity, sexual assault, criminal misconduct, dowry harassment, and Kangaroo Court. Gowri has every right to have her own views about any issues facing the nation. Her critics are silent about the fact that she holds a crucial position in Kurian Abraham and Company, a leading business house in Kanyakumari. She is also the legal consultant to many Christian business groups. She was honored as the best female lawyer by St Francis Engineering College, Tirunelveli. Gowri is a strong proponent of setting up Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in Tamil Nadu so that the poor and downtrodden get the opportunity to study in public schools. It seems the Dravidians and Marxists do not approve of a developed Tamil Nadu.



# “Cherish values, enhance skills”

The PM rightly reminded the students the value of ethics and that their pursuit should be to enhance their skills rather than take shortcuts for success

The recent live telecast of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha- Pariksha ki Baat 2023' was the sixth edition of the ongoing interaction with students to teach them how to drive away the specter of examination fear. The indirect or direct pressure of marks morass those unable to compete into a state of extreme anxiety and tension. Hence, the parents ought not to force their ambitions on their wards; this highlights the PM's deep concern about the well-being of the new generation. The Venerable Prime Minister further advised students to avoid shortcuts while preparing for the examination, he was replying to a question on how students can avoid cheating in the examination.

He emphasized the need for time management and micro-analysis of any challenge to solve it timely. While answering the questions from students the Prime Minister showed his concern about changing value systems in society and how to encounter new challenges. He also suggested new tips for smart hard work for stress management and asked students to recognize their inner strength and never practice unfair means. He also called on parents to evaluate the right potential of their children and let them choose their careers according to their interests and should not impose their ambitions on their children. The interaction proved to be a mass movement and a great initiative to enhance the self-confidence and boost the morale of students in the transitional phase due to the rapidly changing value system across the globe. To deal with the situation, experts have talked about the course of direction, the pattern of completion of course work, the methodology of teaching, and examination. The Higher Education Information System's recent attempt to ensure a high level of partnership among institutions through equity and access to all shows the level of insight in empowering and motivating students and faculty members.

Besides, the pursuit of the National Education Policy (NEP)



to cover school, adult, and higher education and efforts towards the promotion of Indian languages and online education exhibit tremendous effort towards enhancement of the overall educational scenario. Indian universities are being encouraged to improve their performances by making a push towards more merit-based peer-reviewed research and the chimera of fulfilling the aim of 7 percent of GDP expenditure on education. A few experts are of the view that we have at least got an opportunity to analyze and address the multidimensional issues in the education sector. The pursuit of a National Education Policy to cover Schools, Adults, and Higher and efforts towards the promotion of Indian Languages and online education exhibit tremendous effort towards the enhancement of the educational scenario.

The flexibility of a Master of one and two years is another positive effort. The high performance of Indian Universities is encouraged as it makes a push towards more merit-based peer-reviewed research and the chimera of fulfilling the aim of 6 percent of GDP expenditure on the same.

Multiple viewpoints would help in broadening the ethical horizon and enhancing the decision-making capabilities while also letting the new

THIS WOULD HELP IN BROADENING THE ETHICAL HORIZON AND ENHANCING THE DECISION-MAKING CAPABILITIES WHILE ALSO LETTING THE NEW GENERATION KNOW WHAT IS ETHICALLY AND MORALLY CORRECT

generation know what is ethically and morally correct. Students' success lies in contemplation of the possibility of timeless and endless hope in his/her capabilities. The Indian education system is known for embracing values and approaches that shape the creative urge of the student community. However, we all acknowledge the challenges that are posed by the increasing tentacles of the transitional phase. Although one cannot but admire the ingenious display of rich content by our traditional education set-up, the inexorable demands of competition are compelling the students to focus on content. This initiative would go a long way to open new vistas besides, this would help develop practical skills in techniques through critical thinking. When it comes to ethics it means going beyond the set clichés and moving from paradigm to paradigm shift. At the higher education platform, a departure from the methodologies of many earlier existing education parameters, the remarkable efforts by NEP provide a cutting-edge and trans-disciplinary overview of some crucial issues. The purpose of education is to improve reasoning, observation, and experimentation skills. The topics should be interesting, thought-pro-

voking, and oriented toward reasoning, analysis, and proper application. Recent developments have established a new basis for understanding the changing nature of polity and community. The ongoing debates in contemporary politics have been dominated by the relationship between global, national, and regional levels. The purpose of the change in the policy is to provide a comprehensive view of politics and emphasize the following main areas to make the subject more relevant Not every innovative attempt starts with a serious analytical interpretation of contemporary issues, therefore, unconventional attempts ought to be tried to put forward myriad exploration of ideas and topics in which each pupil can participate and display talent. No positive attempt is to be viewed through the political prism or considered as a construction of a social narrative, the pious and genuine penchant of the policymakers is to provide a new platform for the creation of the greatest country of the world and this can only happen if new generation started getting right value system from the tertiary stage itself.

(The writer is a recipient of Bharat Gaurav Award and is a professor and expert on strategic affairs. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHY SHY AWAY FROM PROBE?

Sir — To clear doubts and suspicions, the Centre must have a discussion on the Adani issue in Parliament to know what power lies behind the billionaire businessman. The Congress has stepped up the offensive against the Government over the Adani-Hindenburg issue and is seeking an immediate discussion in Parliament. The party has also demanded an impartial investigation under the supervision of the Supreme Court or a joint parliamentary committee to probe the charges levelled in the Hindenburg report against the Adani Group. The Congress is alleging that the issue involves crores of rupees of common people invested in the Adani Group.

The company's shares have seen a beating in the market ever since the allegations of "financial malpractices and stock manipulation" came out in the Hindenburg research report. The Congress and other Opposition parties have stalled proceedings in both Houses of Parliament for the last few days while seeking a discussion on the issue. Several Union Ministers have stated that the Government has nothing to do with the Adani issue, so why the hesitation to have a discussion or probe? It is high time the Government took the people of India into confidence to restore their faith and trust.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### METHANE POLLUTION IS ESCALATING

Sir — Methane is a colourless, odourless gas. However, the increasing presence of methane in our atmosphere is threatening multiple species of wildlife by hastening climate change. According to studies, this pollutant from oil and gas facilities impacts our climate, communities and wildlife. One must speak up now to help reduce methane emissions and ensure a healthy environment for vulnerable wildlife. It is critical to keep super-pollutant methane under control as it can be especially harmful to most terrestrial species. To protect biodiversity, we should do everything we can to protect wildlife

## Gowri's appointment is fair



Advocate Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri's appointment as additional judge in the Madras High Court met with stiff resistance from a section of lawyers in Tamil Nadu on the pretext that she had association with the BJP and RSS. The role of judges is different from the role of advocates. A judge disposes of cases on their merit; political affiliations hardly matter. There are some judges who have plunged into politics post-retirement but that cannot be the reason to suspect their judgments. Judges

are also human beings. They may sometimes err in the interpretation of laws, in which case justice may elude the needy. In order to address this situation, judgments are liable to be appealed against or challenged.

Two pleas against Gowri's appointment have been dismissed by the Supreme Court, maintaining that consultative process had taken place before her name was recommended by the collegium for appointment, which has set a good precedent. This judgment gives a clear and loud message that no one can be disqualified for appointment as judge just because someone had a different view from that of the petitioners. The opposition to Gowri's appointment is a misplaced idea. Adherence to their service rules during their service can only matter both for judges and other Government employees. Politically motivated agitations for or against constitutional appointments cannot be allowed to take place.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

like these social, herbivorous creatures and other diverse wildlife species.

Pollution from oil and gas industries endangers human health. Methane is emitted in conjunction with toxic pollution, which can cause asthma-inducing smog or even cancer. To continue protecting frontline communities and wildlife, cutting methane emissions from the oil and gas sector must be made stringent. Regular inspections and repairs should be required at all oil and gas facilities, particularly those with methane leak-prone equipment. It's important to eliminate unnecessary gas flaring and establish community monitoring programmes. A healthy environment is a right, not a privilege, and strengthening methane rules will have a positive wildlife and human health impact for our future.

Vijaykumar HK | Raichur

### KEEP HEALTHY WITH YOGA

Sir — A regular contemporary life is quite hectic where our body, mind and spirit go through various spins. Running amuck

while tending to chores and fulfilling our duties, we have a tendency to fall out of the grid which eventually results in a deterioration of health and wellbeing. The truth is that we all need a support system in the form of something which can help us keep running and remain healthy even on the most occupied days. All you have to do is breathe in to the full capacity of the lungs, retain the breath for a few seconds, and gently breathe out through the nostrils.

What matters at the end of a practice is the state of your body and mind. If you feel at peace and in the present moment, then you are practising yoga. Yoga is work within and not a 'workout'. Don't let the intimidating postures scare you away and dim your enthusiasm to practice yoga. Yoga is the order of the day and there is no doubt about it. It is time to keep abreast with yoga for a healthier life.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

## SOUND BITE

PM Modi goes to Australia and by magic, SBI gives \$1 billion loan to Adani. Then he goes to Bangladesh & then the Bangladesh Power development board signs a 25-yrs contract with Adani.

Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

It is now a race against time...We have activated the WHO network of emergency medical teams to provide essential health care for the injured and most vulnerable.

WHO chief — Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Once I had moved out of his (Akshay Kumar) life, I was already dating someone else, and he was already dating someone else, so where will jealousy come from?

Actor — Raveena Tandon

Tough choice. You have to pick the best player for that position (No. 5). Surya is one player who will be proactive and looking to rotate the strike.

Former Cricketer — Ravi Shastri

The Narendra Modi administration did not force GVK to hand over Mumbai Airport to the Adani Group.

Vice Chairman GVK — GV Sanjay Reddy



FIRST COLUMN

DIGITAL PAYMENTS WILL BOOST GROWTH

Digital payments rise in many emerging economies



SAKSHI SETHI

Back in 2010, when NPCI launched IMPS to offer instant inter-bank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones followed by the launch of UPI in 2016, leading to one of the most popular tools in the country for carrying out digital transactions, little did we know that this concept of going digital and that too something involving our hard-earned money will boom at such a rapid pace.

E-payments or electronic payments are a way of making transactions or paying bills online without the need of credit or debit card details. Such a payment method helps a customer to transfer funds as an alternative to cash payments. These payment modes enable purchases with a simple swipe or tap, resulting in processing and completion of transactions within a couple of minutes. Also, the payments so made reflect in the digital wallets or bank statements followed by instant SMS alerts after every transaction. Not only this, in case the funds are wrongly debited such transactions get reversed within 24-48 hours, or at times when incorrect password is entered, instant message or a pop-up is reflected stating to enter the correct password.

Much thanks to COVID and the post-COVID digital revolution. Today, UPI and other payment applications such as BHIM, BharatPe, Paytm, PhonePe, Google Pay, Amazon Pay, JIO money, Freecharge, YONO SBI, Airtel Money, CRED and the list goes on and on, have gone a long way in making digital payments a habit, and in firmly placing India on the track towards a cashless – economy. Being too quick and faster than physical cheques or other bank instruments, this mode of payment saves time, is efficient and, most importantly, helps in building a cashless economy, especially in urban areas of the country by reducing the reliance on cash.

As a part of the ‘Digital India’ initiative, the government has an aim to create a digitally empowered economy that is “Faceless, Paperless and Cashless”. The National Database and Registration Authority (NDRA) introduced a new digital payment system which will serve as an alternative to Automated Teller Machines (ATM’s), thereby resulting in payment of utility bills and identity documents. Recently, Reliance retail became the first organised retail chain in India that has started to begin accepting digital rupee for sales.

Customers can simply scan the QR code on the digital Rupee app and enter the passcode to authorise the e?-R followed by instant notification of the payment. Such instances clearly reflect that India is on the path of steady development and that no one can stop it from any situation or circumstances.

Many digital payments platforms and private entities are helping and training vendors to shift from traditional cash transactions to the new digitized online payments system, resulting in the increased demand of smartphones.

However, many private entities are providing an efficient and effective way to ensure alternative payment methods to its customers. Digital payment adoption is on the rise in many emerging economies. Such technological development will help Indians to transact more digitally. This mode of digital transactions is very advantageous for start-ups. Payments made electronically prove to provide high profit potential to entrepreneurs around the world. It can even help them reduce the high cost of tax compliance. Transactions are transforming over a period from cash payments to digital payments catering to the needs of people adapting to their changing environment.

There is no denying the fact that constant innovations and adaptations to more and more digital payments will help India, to withhold its title of World Leader in the field of digital payments proving it to be beneficial for India’s growth.

*(The author is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi)*

# India is paradise for adventure, ecotourism



VK BAHUGUNA

## A policy framework must be put in place to tap the unlimited potential of ecotourism in our country

In the midst of rising tensions in modern materialistic life, most of the people all over the world need to take a break and be with natural surroundings like forests, wildlife, rivers and lakes. Scientists have proved that a few days of trips to natural surroundings away from the hustle-bustle of urban life make a big impact on the way we think, behave and how to take things in correct perspectives in life.

It influences correctness in taking decisions, relationships and also improves our health and wellbeing. It is because of this reason these days the top corporations take their employees periodically to such nature trips to improve their performance, creativity, analytic power, connect with each other and reduce stress.

European countries generate about 15 to 16 per cent of their GDP through tourism and the United State of America during 2021 received from inbound tourism a whopping \$70 billion. Compared to these nations, Indian tourism is around 7 per cent of the GDP and is growing at a very rapid pace.

However, unbridled and haphazard tourism is a big threat to the environment especially in tropical developing countries like India and hence now the emphasis is on promoting sensible ecotourism. The global share of ecotourism in the tourism industry is only 5-6 per cent. In India, with the support of our domestic tourists, ecotourism is growing at the rate of 15 per cent annually as more and more awareness is coming among the organizers and the visitors.

India is a very rich country with a varied landscape and rich flora and fauna. The Karnataka government’s Jungle Lodges Corporation is the first of its kind of a flagship ecotourism destination in the country and is in a unique position for achieving a big success because it has a very big clientele of IT and other professionals from Bangalore. Within a radius of 80 to 100 km from Bangalore there are a few world class nature adventure and wildlife national parks and sanctuaries with beautiful landscapes, forests and rivers. Every successful institution has someone behind it.

The then Chief Minister of Karnataka late Gundu Rao after returning from attending a meet on Tigers in Nepal in 1978 picked up two IFS officers Mr RM Roy and Mr Vinay Luthra and asked them if they could create a world class ecotourism spot in Karnataka as India has a rich variety of flora and fauna like Tigers, Elephants, leopards, Deer Peacock, etc. They took up the challenge and started with Kabini River lodge in the Nagarhole National Park with meticulous planning which opened the flood gate of Ecotourism adventure ably supported by the burgeoning clientele of professionals from Bangalore who were looking for



THE GLOBAL SHARE OF ECOTOURISM IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IS ONLY 5-6 PER CENT. IN INDIA, WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR DOMESTIC TOURISTS, ECOTOURISM IS GROWING AT THE RATE OF 15 PER CENT ANNUALLY AS MORE AND MORE AWARENESS IS COMING AMONG THE ORGANIZERS AND THE VISITORS

*(The author is former Director-General, ICFRE, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change)*



relaxation during weekends.

It was the first in India and that too of unparalleled world class Ecotourism infrastructure matching with the enchanting scenic beauty of landscape. The success of Kabini led to the establishment of 20 such lodges and resorts in different parts of Karnataka. The theme of all these resorts is based on local traditions, geographic features, and culture and linked with local people’s livelihood. Ecotourism in Karnataka is providing employment to lakhs of people directly and indirectly apart from sustainably managing the forests, wildlife and other natural features for the best of both people’s entertainment as well as maintaining stability of the ecosystem.

Bheemeswari Adventures and Nature Camp is one of the best ecotourism adventure sites. It is situated 80 km away from Bangalore in about 40-acre area in the midst of beautifully forested landscape. On the other side is the breathtaking view of crystal clear water of Cauvery River flowing in between the fabulous hills covered with dense forests and chirping sounds of birds. The site has a lot of adventure sports like Zip lining, Kayaking, Sky walking where the tourist can feel their adrenal gland work a bit more. The Coracle ride and Jungle safari are so enjoyable that one gets totally

relaxed before returning to their workplace. The 20 log huts and tents are all very clean with ACs and the food is included in the accommodation charges which range for two people from Rs 10,000 to Rs 14,000.

The best part of the management is that only local people (as all 45 employees are locals except the Manager) are employed in all the activities of the resort and is an example how to encash the scenic beauty of the landscape to earn revenue for the government and income for the locals through employment and by using the local products like diary items and local organic vegetables, while fulfilling the objectives of conservation of forest and wildlife. The nature camps are arranged for the school students and children to spread awareness about environmental conservation.

The purpose of bringing this article is to impress upon the planners and policy makers to put up a mechanism to cash in on the country’s stupendous splendour of our varied and unmatched landscape to create millions of jobs in and around 32 million hectare of forested areas where tribal and rural poor reside and earn much needed revenue for the government treasury.

The Karnataka model is an example to be emulated and replicated. For this a separate ecotourism department should be created at the state level to be manned by the trained forestry professionals as well as other Ecotourism experts and form a joint mechanism for management with local people through Joint Forest Management/Eco-development Committees/Panchayats and Community Forest Right Management Committees so as to realize the true potential of Ecotourism as a money spinner for both the government and the people.

At the Government of India level also a separate organization within the forestry wing is needed to oversee the implementation of the scheme through site specific fool proof guidelines/ infrastructure and without violation of the sanctity of forest laws. It is necessary for the Central government to decide that in certain sectors like environment and forest conservation where there is scope for economic gains we need to create posts in new schemes to achieve the goals, hence outside the box thinking and innovative approach are necessary.

Without the support for innovation from the political leaders, the government bureaucracy tends to tread the beaten path only.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

HE (ADANI) WAS IN 609TH SPOT (IN 2014) ON THE LIST OF RICHEST PEOPLE...AND CLIMBED TO THE SECOND SPOT.  
— CONGRESS MP RAHUL GANDHI



RAHUL MADE BASELESS ALLEGATIONS. THE CONGRESS AND ITS LEADERS WERE INVOLVED IN SCAMS WHICH TARNISHED INDIA’S IMAGE.  
— BJP MP RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

# Post-war, women must be part of decision making

## Amid growing food insecurity, women tend to become more vulnerable to malnutrition and anemia

“Conflicts and instability exacerbate pre-existing patterns of gender discrimination,” rued the UN’s human rights agency (OHCHR). The UN Secretary-General’s latest report on conflict-related sexual violence, alerted the world about continuing use of “sexual violence as a tactic of war.” Several research studies have pointed out that “the overall prevalence rates of sexual violence in conflict zones are three times more than in non-conflict settings”. As the war prolongs in Ukraine, U.N. Women and CARE International expressed concern about its adverse impact on women and girls with increasing care burden, worsening gender inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV).



ARCHANA DATTA

(The author of a former Director General of Doordarshan and All India radio)

While a Ukrainian lawyer activist observed that “the true scale of GBV is not yet known, but it will definitely have long-lasting consequences”, and a researcher assessing gendered costs of the war commented that “it will add further miseries to Ukrainian women, who are already bearing the brunt of the eight years of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine”.

Incidents of such atrocities generally are slow to come to light as survivors generally desist from reporting because of trauma, fear and insecurity, and lack of specific attention to such cases of victimisation. The office of the OHCHR, till January this year, only documented around 90 such cases since February last year.

As Ukraine witnesses a huge exodus and internal displacements (IDPs), the UN’s International Organisation for Migration (IOM), noted that more than half of them have been women and girls, who, while fleeing for safety, security and shelter, confronted the dangers of trafficking, and forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage or coerced sex. Moreover, the crumbling health infrastructure, has also made a heavy toll on pregnant women with pre-natal complications, premature or stillbirths, while, the stress of the war, caused severe mental health outcomes. Amid growing food insecurity, women tend to become more vulnerable to malnutrition and anemia. In a bid to make up for the lost household income, they are also joining the hitherto prohibited hazardous occupations like de-mining, long-haul trucking, welding, firefighting, etc. In war-ravaged Afghanistan, an Amnesty International’s impact study of the Taliban’s one year rule revealed that “Afghan women and girls encounter discrimination in every aspect of lives, from reproductive rights to personal freedom, and governance to labour market access”.

To many Afghan women, it is a death in slow motion. A joint research by Human Rights Watch and San Jose State University (SJSU) remarked that “Taliban’s right-violating policies destroyed women’s livelihoods and identity, who now, live a life of fear, harassment and intimidation”. The country recorded the highest rate of IPV, 35 out of every 100 women. Women’s financial inclusion is barely 7.2 per cent. Taliban’s latest missive was stopping the female aid workers from working with the foreign aid agencies and NGOs, for not “adhering to Islamic dress code”. In insurgency dominated Somalia, the UNSRSG-SVC’s 2019 report highlighted “the heightened rates of sexual violence, especially in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab insurgents”.

Families live in fear of abduction and forced marriages by Al-Shabaab insurgents. In every 100,000 live births, 829 Somali women die, one of the highest maternal mortality rates (MMR) in the world, and only two per cent of them have access to modern reproductive and sexual health care. Globally, Somalia ranks fourth lowest for gender equality (GII).

While the situation in war-ravaged Syria has been described by the UN human rights chief as “the worst man-made disaster ever since World War II”, rendering about 11.7 million people, mostly pregnant women and adolescent girls, either into IDPs or refugees. In 2022, the UNFPA urged upon defending the “rights to give birth safely and live life free from violence”, when nearly 7.3 million women and girls were in desperate need of life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, and many died in the course of pregnancy. Looking at ethnically and politically unstable South Sudan, one in three women and girls underwent violence (VAWG) during their lifetime, both, by conflict and non-conflict actors. It has the highest MMR in the world. The MPS, 2021, index, ranked it 165th out of 170 countries.

As a mitigation strategy, often a narrative of “protection” by controlling behaviours of women and girls is adopted, which eventually leads to further gender divide. Isn’t it high time now that the world pays heed to the Security Council’s 2019 resolution which called for an effective role of woman and girl survivors in decision-making in justice, peace-building and reconstruction processes, and using it as an opportunity in transforming the gender-imbalanced societal structures?



# Hope fading as deaths in Turkey-Syria quake pass 11K

AP ■ GAZIANTEP (TURKIYE)

With the hope of finding survivors fading, stretched rescue teams in Turkiye and Syria searched Wednesday for signs of life in the rubble of thousands of buildings toppled by a catastrophic earthquake.

The confirmed death toll from the world's deadliest quake in more than a decade passed 11,000. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan toured a "tent city" in hard-hit Kahramanmaras where people forced from their homes were living.

Amid calls for his government to send more help to the disaster zone, Erdogan conceded initial shortfalls in the response to Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake but vowed that no one would "be left in the streets." Search teams from more than two dozen countries have joined tens of thousands



Collapsed buildings are seen in Antakya, southern Turkey, on Wednesday. Nearly two days after the magnitude 7.8 quake struck southeastern Turkey and northern Syria, thinly stretched rescue teams work to pull more people from the rubble of thousands of buildings

AP Photo

of local emergency personnel on the ground in Syria and Turkiye, and aid pledges have poured in from around the world. But the scale of destruction from the earthquake and its powerful aftershocks was so immense and spread over such a wide area, including places isolated by Syria's ongoing civil war, that many people were still waiting for help.

Experts said survival window for those trapped under rubble of collapsed buildings or unable to access water, food, protection from elements or medical attention was closing rapidly almost three days after quake.

Rescuers at the times used excavators in their searches and picked gingerly through debris at other points to locate survivors or dead. With thousands of buildings toppled, it was not clear how many people might still be caught in the rubble.

## A glance at world's deadliest earthquakes in past 25 years

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake shook Turkiye and Syria on Monday, killing thousands of people in the two countries.

The death toll is expected to rise as rescuers working in cold and snow look for trapped people in the rubble of toppled buildings.

Here are some of the world's deadliest earthquakes in the past 25 years: - June 22, 2022: In Afghanistan, more than 1,100 people die in magnitude 6.1 earthquake. - Aug. 14, 2021: In Haiti, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake kills more than 2,200 people.

- Sept. 28, 2018: A magnitude 7.5 earthquake hits Indonesia, triggering a tsunami and killing more than 4,300 people. - April 25, 2015:

In Nepal, more than 8,800 people are killed by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake. - March 11, 2011: A magnitude 9.0 quake off the northeast coast of Japan triggers a tsunami, killing nearly 20,000 people.

- Jan. 12, 2010: In Haiti, over 100,000 people are killed by a magnitude 7.0 quake. Government estimates put the number at a staggering 316,000 dead.

- May 12, 2008: A magnitude 7.9 quake strikes eastern Sichuan in China, resulting in over 87,500 deaths.

- May 27, 2006: More than 5,700 people die when a magnitude 6.3 quake hits the island of Java, Indonesia.

- Oct. 8, 2005: A magnitude 7.6 earthquake kills over 80,000 people in Pakistan's Kashmir region.

- March 28, 2005: A magnitude 8.6 quake in northern Sumatra in Indonesia kills about 1,300 people.

- Dec. 26, 2004: A magnitude 9.1 quake in Indonesia triggers an Indian Ocean tsunami, killing about 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

- Dec. 26, 2003: A magnitude 6.6 earthquake hits southeastern Iran, resulting in more than 20,000 deaths.

- May 21, 2003: More than 2,200 people are killed in a magnitude 6.8 earthquake in Algeria.

- Jan. 26, 2001: A magnitude 7.6 quake strikes Gujarat in India, killing as many as 20,000 people.

- Aug. 17, 1999: A magnitude 7.6 earthquake hits Izmit, Turkey, killing about 18,000 people. - May 30, 1998: Over 4,000 people are killed after a 6.6 magnitude temblor hits

Afghanistan's Badakhshan province.

## Wreckage, rescue and hope in Turkey's earthquake epicentre

AP ■ NURDAGI (TURKIYE)

Zeliha Hisir tried to speak, but could barely move after her hourslong rescue Tuesday near the epicentre of a powerful earthquake that has devastated parts of Turkiye and Syria.

The 58-year-old woman's eyes darted around in shock and relief as a rescue crew covered her in a bright pink and green fuzzy blanket. Dressed only in shorts and a T-shirt, she had survived through freezing temperatures in Kahramanmaras.

Her son, Mufti Hisir, told The Associated Press that firefighters who flew in from Antalya had rescued his relatives. "Two hours ago my sibling was rescued after a six-hour effort. And my mother's rescue took two hours. They're both well," he said. Crowds gathered at wreckage sites



Rescue teams evacuate a survivor from the rubble of a destroyed building in Kahramanmaras, southern Turkey. A powerful earthquake hit southeast Turkey and Syria early Monday, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing and injuring thousands of people

(AP Photo)

throughout Turkiye, vapour showing the air as people breathed in and out in anticipation of reaching more survivors. Even those who had emerged or escaped collapse in Monday's magnitude 7.8 earth-

quake and its aftershocks now had to sleep in cars, outside or in government shelters. Many felt abandoned. "We don't have a tent, we don't have a heating stove, we don't have anything.

## Engineers, search dogs sent to Turkey, Syria after earthquake

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Structural engineers, soldiers, paramedics and handlers with trained search dogs are heading to Turkiye and Syria to help locate and rescue survivors of Monday's earthquake. Here's a glance at the assistance being provided:

— The European Union has mobilised search and rescue teams to help Turkiye, while the bloc's Copernicus satellite system has been activated to provide emergency mapping services.

At least 19 member countries have offered assistance. The European Commission is also helping neighbouring Syria by funding humanitarian organizations supervising search and rescue operations.

— The United States is coordinating immediate assistance to Turkiye, including



teams to support search and rescue efforts. In California, nearly 100 Los Angeles County firefighters and structural engineers, along with six specially trained dogs, were being sent to Turkiye.

— War-ravaged Syria called for the United Nations and its members to help with rescue efforts, health services, shelter and food aid. Both government-held territory and the last opposition-held enclave



were damaged by the earthquake.— The International Committee of the Red Cross has sent enough surgical material to treat 100 people to one of the public hospitals in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

More medical equipment is on its way to Aleppo, Latakia and Tartous. The Red Cross also is donating canned food, blankets, mattresses and other essential items for distribution in the many shelters being

set-up in affected areas. — Russian rescue teams from the Emergency Ministry were sent to Syria, where Russian military deployed in that country already has sent 10 units comprising 300 people to help clear debris and search for survivors.

The Russian military has set up points to distribute humanitarian assistance. Russia also has offered help to Turkiye, which has been accepted.

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED							
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008							
Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178							
E-mail id: cs@himalayainternational.com   website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com							
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR TO DATE ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022							
(Rs. In Lakhs)							
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			9 Month ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	2074.97	1755.43	2054.08	5457.36	5093.12	6550.24
2.	Net Profit for the period (before tax & exceptional items)	538.76	444.58	228.33	1358.19	440.62	1137.43
3.	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after exceptional items)	538.76	444.58	228.33	708.19	440.62	9492.32
5.	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	538.76	444.58	228.33	708.19	440.62	9524.32
6.	Total Comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	538.76	444.58	228.33	708.19	440.62	9524.32
7.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29
8.	Earnings Per Share i Basic in Rs.	0.93	0.77	0.39	1.22	0.76	16.46
	ii Diluted in Rs.	0.93	0.77	0.39	1.22	0.76	16.46
<b>Notes:</b>							
1. The financial results for the quarter ended 31st December, 2022 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and thereafter approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 08th February, 2023. The Statutory Auditor of the Company has conducted a limited review of the said financial results.							
2. 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 Stock Exchange BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the Company Website (www.himalayafoodcompany.com).							
* Operating expenses include raw-material consumed, packing, labour, power & fuel.							
**G & S:( General- Sales & Admin Exp. of India & USA including logistics cost)							
By Order of the Board For HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED							
Sd/- Man Mohan Malik Managing Director							
Date: 08.02.2023 Place: Paonta Sahib							

SANEH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED									
Regd. Office : Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Daryagunj New Delhi -110002 (India)									
Phone No. 91-11-23273907 , CIN: L74899DL1980PL060079									
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022									
(Rs. In Lacs)									
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated			Quarter ended 31.12.2021	Quarter ended 31.12.2021
		Quarter ended 31.12.2022	Nine Months ended 31.12.2022	Quarter ended 31.12.2021	Quarter ended 31.12.2022	Nine Months ended 31.12.2022	Quarter ended 31.12.2021		
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited		
1	Total income from operations (net)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.87	1.97	0.03		
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2.20)	(3.35)	(0.76)	(2.04)	(2.40)	(1.65)		
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2.20)	(3.35)	(0.76)	(2.04)	(2.40)	(1.65)		
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2.21)	(3.34)	(0.76)	(2.04)	(2.73)	(1.65)		
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	6.86	36.16	47.29	43.49	205.64	246.19		
6	Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- each)	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00		
7	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (Face Value of ₹ 10/- each)								
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	(0.92)	(1.39)	(0.32)	(0.85)	(1.14)	(0.69)		
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	(0.92)	(1.39)	(0.32)	(0.85)	(1.14)	(0.69)		
NOTES:									
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Quarterly / nine months ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.cse-india.com.									
2) The above results 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 the Companies Act, 2013.									
3) The above Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in its meeting held on 08 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023.									
By order of the Board For Saneh Industrial Investments Limited									
								Sd/-	
								Vivek Gupta	
								(Director)	
Place : Delhi									
Date : 08 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2023								DIN 00035916	

## Zelenskyy tells UK 'freedom will triumph,' pushes for warplanes

I thank you for your bravery... London has stood with Kyiv since Day One: Ukraine Prez in British Parliament

AP ■ LONDON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the British people on Wednesday for their support since "Day One" of Russia's invasion, as he addressed UK Lawmakers during a rare trip outside his country to seek more support.

"I have come here and stand before you on behalf of the brave," the president said, paying tribute to Ukraine's military. "I thank you for your bravery. ... London has stood with Kyiv since Day One."

House of Commons



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, right, inside Downing Street in London, on Wednesday. It is the first visit to the UK by the Ukraine President since the war began nearly a year ago

AP photo

## Germany, Denmark, Netherlands pledge Leopard 1 tanks to Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands announced Tuesday that they plan to provide Ukraine with at least 100 refurbished Leopard 1 battle tanks in coming months, a pledge that comes as Kyiv anticipates a new Russian offensive around the anniversary of its invasion.

The announcement followed Germany agreeing last month to allow deliveries of the more modern German-made Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine.

In a joint statement, the defense ministers of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands said the shipment of the older Leopard 1 tanks was part of an effort "to support Ukraine in their endeavor to withstand Russian aggression."

"(It) will significantly enhance Ukraine's military potential for the restoration of their violated territorial integrity," they said, adding that the delivery would occur "within the coming months" and include logistical support and training.

Ukrainian officials say they expect Russian forces to make



a new drive in eastern and southern Ukraine, as the Kremlin strives to secure territory it illegally annexed in late September and where it claims its rule is welcomed.

The anticipated Russian push may seek to recapture territory Moscow lost in a late summer counteroffensive. Battlefield setbacks in Ukraine have embarrassed the Kremlin, and Russian President Vladimir Putin is keen to cement public support for war.

Some Western military analysts were skeptical, however, of Russia's ability to mount a large new offensive in coming weeks, particularly in time for the Feb. 24 anniversary, that might alter the course of the war.

Ukraine and Russia are both still training their new troops and amassing weapons.

Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said that lawmakers were honoured that Zelenskyy had put himself at risk to make the address. Zelenskyy's daring to visit Britain in a bid for more advanced weapons comes as Kyiv braces for an expected Russian offensive and hatches its own plans to retake land held by Moscow's forces. Hundreds of lawmakers and parliamentary staff packed the

900-year-old Westminster Hall, the oldest — and unheated — part of Parliament for Zelenskyy's speech. It was only his second confirmed journey outside Ukraine since Russia invaded nearly a year ago.

Zelenskyy has rallied support for his country repeatedly through such speeches — mostly given remotely — to Western lawmakers. Support from allies has helped Ukraine mount a surprisingly stiff defense — and now the two sides are engaged in grinding battles.

The Ukrainian leader arrived on a Royal Air Force plane in London on Wednesday. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak greeted him on the tarmac, tweeting a photo of him embracing the Ukrainian leader. "The United Kingdom was one of the first to come to Ukraine's aid. And today I'm in London to personally thank the British people for their support," Zelenskyy said on Instagram. A large convoy of vehicles left the airport and headed straight to Downing

Street in central London. Both leaders posed briefly for photos in front of the famous black door that leads into the U.K. Prime minister's residence.

The U.K. Is one of the biggest military backers of Ukraine and has sent the country more than 2 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion) in weapons and equipment.

The visit comes as Sunak announced that Britain will train Ukrainian pilots on "NATO-standard fighter jets." Ukraine has urged its allies to send jets, though the U.K. Says it's not practical to provide the Ukrainian military with British warplanes.

More than 10,000 Ukrainian troops have also been trained at bases in the U.K., some on the Challenger 2 tanks that Britain is sending.

"I am proud that today we will expand that training from soldiers to marines and fighter jet pilots, ensuring Ukraine has a military able to defend its interests well into the future," Sunak said.

## Ukrainian skier pushes to keep Russians out of Olympics

COURCHEVEL, France: Ukrainian skier Ivan Kovbasnyuk, a two-time Olympian, can't train at home in the Carpathian Mountains because war in the country has damaged the power grid so severely that there's not enough energy to make the chairlifts operate.

That's just one of the reasons why he thinks athletes from Russia and Belarus shouldn't be allowed to compete at the next Olympics - or in any international sports events. "It's not fair when Ukrainian sportsmen don't have a chance to participate in the Olympics because they are dying on the battlefields while Russian athletes are just silent-

ly supporting (Vladimir) Putin's crime regime," Kovbasnyuk said after competing in the combined race at the Alpine skiing world championships on Tuesday. "This is absolutely not OK," he added through a translator. "We will do everything in our powers to prevent them from being a part of the Olympic family again. And we will defend ourselves until the end, down to the last soldier, to the last person in Ukraine."

Then, to make sure his message got through, Kovbasnyuk added in English to The Associated Press, "Russia is killing my people. Not good situation for Olympic Committee."

## Russia requests lengthy prison term for ex-governor

MOSCOW: Russian authorities on Wednesday requested a lengthy prison term for a former regional governor who is standing trial on murder charges and whose arrest two years ago prompted weeks-long mass protests.

The prosecutor has asked a court in Moscow to sentence Sergei Furgal, former governor of Russia's far eastern Khabarovsk region, to 23 years in prison on charges of murder, attempted murder and illegal arms trafficking. Earlier this month, a jury found Furgal guilty on all counts. Furgal, a former businessman, was arrested in July 2020 on suspicion of involvement in murders and taken to jail in Moscow.

AP



# Smeared in Biden State of Union speech: China

AP ■ BEIJING

China says it was smeared in U.S. President Joe Biden's State of the Union address that repeatedly mentioned competition between the two countries. China does not fear competing with the U.S. But is "opposed to defining the entire China-U.S. Relationship in terms of competition," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing Wednesday.

"It is not the practice of a responsible country to smear a country or restrict the country's legitimate development rights under the excuse of competition, even at the expense of disrupting the global industrial and supply chain," Mao said.

China will defend its interests and the U.S. Should work with it to "promote the return of bilateral relations to a track of sound and stable development," she said.

Mao's comments came against a background of raging disputes over trade, Taiwan, human rights and access to advanced technologies.

Biden mentioned China and its leader, Xi Jinping, at least seven times in his address Tuesday night, focusing mainly on how the U.S. Was increasingly prepared to compete with



## US, States weigh farmland restrictions after Chinese balloon

AP ■ HARLOWTON (US)

Near the banks of Montana's Musselshell River, cattle rancher Michael Miller saw a large, white orb above the town of Harlowton last week, a day before U.S. Officials revealed they were tracking a suspected Chinese spy balloon over the state.

The balloon caused a stir in the 900-person town surrounded by cattle ranches, wind farms and scattered nuclear missile silos behind

chain link fences.

Miller worries about China as a rising threat to the U.S., but questioned how much intelligence could be gained from a balloon.

China's bigger threat, he said, is to the U.S. Economy.

Like many throughout the country, Miller wonders if stricter laws are needed to bar farmland sales to foreign nationals so power over agriculture and the food supply doesn't end up in the wrong hands.

Beijing while also seeking to avoid conflict.

"I've made clear with President Xi that we seek competition, not conflict," Biden said. "I will make no apologies that we are investing to make America strong. Investing in American innovation, in industries that will define the future, and that China's government is intent on dominating," he said.

Biden said his administration is "committed to work with China where it can advance American interests and benefit the world." However, he also warned that "if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country," a pointed reference to the shooting down on Saturday of a suspected Chinese spy balloon that had traversed the continental United States.

China says the balloon was an unmanned civilian airship used for meteorological research and has strongly protested the U.S. Action while threatening unspecified countermeasures.

The incident prompted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to cancel a trip to China this week that had stirred hopes of reversing the continued deterioration of relations between Beijing and Washington.

# International team suspends probe into MH17 downing



AP ■ THE HAGUE

An international team of investigators has suspended its criminal investigation into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014, saying they have insufficient evidence to launch any new prosecutions.

Dutch prosecutor Digna van Boetelaer said Wednesday that "the investigation has now reached its limit. All leads have been exhausted" as the team began laying out the evidence

it uncovered in its long-running investigation. Dutch prosecutors said in their summary of findings that "there are strong indications that the Russian president decided on supplying" a Buk missile system to Ukrainian separatists.

A Buk system was used to bring down MH17 on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew.

However, "Although a lot of new information has been discovered about various people involved, the evidence is at the moment not concrete enough

to lead to new prosecutions," they added. Russia has always denied any involvement in the downing of MH17.

The announcement comes nearly three months after a Dutch court convicted two Russians and a Ukrainian rebel for their roles in shooting down the Boeing 777 and killing all 298 people on board on July 17, 2014. One Russian was acquitted by the court.

None of the suspects appeared for the trial and it was unclear if the three who were found guilty of multiple murders will ever serve their sentences. The convictions and the court's finding that the surface-to-air Buk missile that blew the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight out of the sky came from a Russian military base were seen as a clear indication that Moscow had a role in the tragedy.

## United Airlines flight turns around after fire in cabin

AP ■ SAN DIEGO

A fire on board a New Jersey-bound United Airlines plane prompted it to return to San Diego International Airport and four people were taken to a hospital for treatment for smoke inhalation, authorities said.

Flight 2664 was heading to Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey when a passenger's external battery pack caught fire shortly after takeoff on Tuesday morning, authorities said.

Passenger Caroline Lipinski told KFMB-TV that a few minutes after takeoff, a bag belonging to a first-class passenger began smoking.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) TATAMOTORS T1518FBGD  
REG. NO. HR3622646-YOM-2018  
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 4,64,271.27

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 24.02.2023 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).

BRANCH ADDRESS:  
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,  
PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA,  
SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL  
CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313  
OR CONTACT : JAGDISH SINGH  
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.  
CONTACT : 919582795967  
EMAIL:jagdish.singh@kotak.com

# Lanka's ex-FM Basil ready to renounce US citizenship

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Basil Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's former finance minister and the younger brother of ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, said he is ready to renounce his US citizenship, which he believed was an "obstacle" to his political career and robbing him the opportunity to serve the nation.

Basil, 71, who is a US passport holder, resigned as Sri Lanka's finance minister in April last year as anti-government protests intensified against severe shortages of fuel, food and other essentials.

Consequently, he quit his seat in Parliament in June 2022.

"I am ready to give up my US citizenship if dual citizenship was an obstacle to my future political activities. I am

also ready to remove any other legal obstacle so that I can work for my people," he said during a television programme on Tuesday.

Basil said Ranil Wickremesinghe has achieved the two key requirements for which he was appointed the Sri Lankan President.

"Due to the 'Aragalaya,' we were unable to step outside of our houses and several properties of politicians were attacked and burned down by the public. But Wickremesinghe has changed that situation," news portal Newswire.Lk reported, quoting the former lawmaker and the national organiser of SLPP.

Since he assumed power, Wickremesinghe was also able to resolve the key issues of fuel shortages and frequent power cuts, he said.



"At present, we are not facing any of those social issues. We believe he is an individual who has the capacity to resolve such issues and he has proven so," the report quoted him as saying.

In July last year, Basil was prevented from leaving Sri Lanka following protests from passengers and officials at the

Bandaranaike International Airport here.

But in September 2022, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court permitted Basil to travel to the US to receive medical treatment.

Basil's elder brother Gotabaya, formerly a dual citizen of both Sri Lanka and the US, had to give up his US citizenship ahead of the 2019 presidential elections.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, the 76-year-old patriarch of the Rajapaksa family has been the country's president and prime minister.

He was also forced to resign in May amidst the anti-government protests in the country.

The powerful Rajapaksa family has dominated Sri Lankan politics for over two decades.

# Israel steps up Jerusalem home demolitions as violence rises

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Ratib Matar's family was growing. They needed more space.

Before his granddaughters, now 4 and 5, were born, he built three apartments on an eastern slope overlooking Jerusalem's ancient landscape. The 50-year-old construction contractor moved in with his brother, son, divorced daughter and their young kids — 11 people in all, plus a few geese.

But Matar was never at ease. At any moment, the Israeli code-enforcement officers could knock on his door and take everything away.

That moment came on Jan. 29, days after a Palestinian gunman killed seven people in east Jerusalem, the deadliest attack in the contested capital since 2008. Israel's new far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called not only for the sealing of the assailant's family home, but also the immediate demolition of dozens of Palestinian homes built without permits in east Jerusalem, among other punitive steps.

Mere hours after Ben-Gvir's comments, the first bulldozers rumbled into Matar's neighborhood of Jabal Mukaber.



beside the ruins of their home, drinking bitter coffee and receiving visitors as though in mourning. "We try really hard to build, but in vain," he said.

Last month, Israel demolished 39 Palestinian homes, structures and businesses in east Jerusalem, displacing over 50 people, according to the United Nations. That was more than a quarter of the total number of demolitions in 2022. Ben-Gvir posted a photo on Twitter of the bulldozers clawing at Matar's home.

"We will fight terrorism with all the means at our disposal," he wrote, though Matar's home had nothing to do with the Palestinian shooting attacks.

dozens rumbled into Matar's neighborhood of Jabal Mukaber.

For many Palestinians, the gathering pace of home demolitions is part of the new ultra-nationalist government's broader battle for control of east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and claimed by the Palestinians as the capital of a future independent state.

The battle is waged with building permits and demolition orders — and it is one the Palestinians feel they cannot win. Israel says it is simply enforcing building regulations. "Our construction is under siege from Israel," Matar said. His brothers and sons lingered

# Blaze at US drone plant in Latvia; arson not suspected

AP ■ HELSINKI

Firefighters worked for a second day Wednesday to fully extinguish a blaze at a US company's drone plant in Latvia. Local police said nothing had been found so far to indicate sabotage.



work to fully extinguish the fire early Wednesday.

Edge Autonomy, based in San Luis Obispo, California, is a maker of unmanned system technologies and equipment including drones for civilian and military purposes. The US Department of Defense, US Army and US Marine Corps are among its clients.

The company's Latvian drone production plant was established in 2009. Among

other countries, Edge Autonomy's facility in Marupe has delivered drones to Ukraine.

BNS said the two-story drone production building with a floor space of 600 square metres (6,500 square feet) and objects next to the building caught fire. It said two people were hospitalised while one person received medical assistance on the spot.

Riga's main airport is close to the plant and Latvia's public broadcaster LSM said the airport sent its own fire brigade to assist in putting out the blaze, which spread smoke into nearby areas.

# Belgian police seize USD 1.6 million in sex trafficking probe

AP ■ BRUSSELS

About 1.5 million euros (USD 1.6 million) in cash were seized during raids in Belgium targeting an alleged criminal organisation suspected of sending Chinese women to Europe and forcing them into prostitution, the federal prosecutor's office said Wednesday.

In addition, investigators took hold of four tons of coins with an unspecified value, prosecutors said. Belgian police took control of several buildings during the raids in Antwerp, Charleroi, Louvain, Neufchateau and Brussels, prosecutors said. After a two-year investigation, some 300 police officers took part in Tuesday's raids targeting human traffickers. The prosecutor's office described the operation as one Belgium's biggest targeting human traffickers in recent years.

A total of 27 people were detained, including nine who appeared before a judge

and charged with human trafficking and money laundering. Three suspects had Belgian nationality, and the rest were of Chinese origin.

Police raided more than two dozen locations across Belgium, discovering 20 alleged victims, all of them from China. Searches also took place in Spain and Switzerland, where two people were detained, according to the prosecutor's office. Prosecutors said Chinese sex workers are increasingly present in Belgium, particularly in the capital, Brussels. They said the criminal organisation targeted in the raids allegedly recruited women in China and transferred them to Europe, where they were "sexually exploited" and forced to surrender most of their earnings.

The alleged prostitution ring used online rental platforms, hotels or vacation homes and websites specialising in sex advertisements for appointment bookings, prosecutors said.

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED												
CIN : L28219HR1988PLC030347												
Regd. Office: Plot No. 17, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District - Mewat, Haryana -122103, India												
E-mail : investor.relations@okplay.in, Website: www.okplay.in												
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2022												
(Rs. in Lacs)												
Sl No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated				Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
		Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended			
		31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Revenue from operations	3,622.36	3,001.42	2,112.61	9,700.19	4,455.43	7,640.77	4,700.40	4,019.35	2,728.22	12,831.56	10,236.27
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	451.73	(133.61)	(193.43)	131.35	(1,518.22)	(1,124.10)	431.51	(97.03)	(225.88)	34.03	(1,053.72)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	446.91	(142.80)	(193.95)	105.97	(1,521.95)	(1,132.26)	426.69	(106.22)	(226.41)	8.65	(1,061.93)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	446.91	(142.80)	(193.95)	105.97	(1,521.95)	(821.88)	448.68	(129.92)	(226.41)	6.94	(771.83)
5	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	446.91	(138.70)	(193.95)	105.97	(1,521.95)	(817.78)	448.68	(129.92)	(226.41)	6.94	(767.73)
6	Equity Share Capital	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81
7	Other Equity (Reserves excluding revaluation reserve)	-	-	-	2,589.13	1,778.99	2,483.17	-	-	-	1,968.31	1,964.78
8	Earning per share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)											
	(a) Basic (in Rs.)	2.33	(0.72)	(1.01)	0.55	(7.92)	(4.26)	2.34	(0.68)	(1.18)	0.04	(4.00)
	(b) Diluted (in Rs.)	2.33	(0.72)	(1.01)	0.55	(7.92)	(4.26)	2.34	(0.68)	(1.18)	0.04	(4.00)
NOTES:												
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.okplay.in).												
2 The above standalone and consolidated financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on Wednesday, 08 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023.												
for OK Play India Limited												
Sd/-												
Rajan Handa												
Managing Director												
(DIN 00194590)												
Place : New Delhi												
Date : 8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023												

MAX Healthcare		
PUBLIC NOTICE		
DESTRUCTION OF MEDICAL RECORD OF PATIENTS		
Notice is hereby given that Max Multi Speciality Centre, Panchsheel Park will be destroying medical records related to the treatment and/or test performed of its patients at the Centre pertaining to the period January - 2019 to December - 2019.		
In addition the Centre will be destroying the Death records from January - 2019 to December - 2019.		
Any patient who wishes to acquire Certified True Copy of his/her Medical Records pertaining to above stated period may request in writing to the contact person mentioned in the table below, within 10.00 am - 5.00 pm (Monday to Saturday). All such request applications must reach the concerned person as mentioned below, within 3 (three) month from the date of publication of this notice. The request for medical records should be submitted in the prescribed format along with the self-attested copy of the photo identity proof of the patient. The patient can also authorise someone else to apply for and/or collect the Medical Records on his/her behalf with a valid authority letter/power of attorney. The authorised person should submit self-attested copy of photo and signature proof for the patient and himself/herself. In case of deceased patients, the attendant recorded in the Medical Records may apply/authorize someone to apply for the same. Please note that standard charges shall be applicable for supplying such records.		
Name of the Hospital	Contact person Details	Date of medical records to be destroyed
Max Multi Speciality Centre Panchsheel Park, N110, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi - 110017	Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma E-Mail - rakesh.sharma@maxhealthcare.com MOB: 9811298534 OFFICE: 011-46097200	PNDT Documents Jan 2019 to Dec 2020 OPD & IPD Documents Jan 2019 to Dec 2019
Max Institute of Cancer Care 26A, 2nd Floor, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi - 110024	Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma E-Mail - rakesh.sharma@maxhealthcare.com MOB: 9811298534 OFFICE: 011-46097200	Jan - 2019 to Dec - 2019



# Most Adani Grp firms gain; Adani Ent rallies nearly 20%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of most of the Adani Group companies ended higher on Wednesday, with the flagship company Adani Enterprises rallying nearly 20 per cent.

Seven of the group companies ended in the positive territory while three settled in the red on Wednesday.

In the last two trading sessions, Adani Group companies have recovered around Rs 70,000 crore in combined market capitalisation. The group stocks have lost around ₹8.7 lakh crore or about 45 per cent of their combined market valuation since January 24, Manish Chowdhury, Head of Research at brokerage firm Stoxbox, said.

The US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research came out with its adverse report about Adani Group on January



24.

On Wednesday, shares of Adani Enterprises rallied nearly 23 per cent to ₹2,163, also its upper price band on the BSE. It later ended at ₹2,158.65 per share, up by 19.76 per cent.

The flagship company's market valuation rose ₹40,601.14 crore to ₹2.46 lakh crore.

Shares of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone zoomed 8.34 per cent to end at ₹599.45. The company's market valuation rose ₹9,969.04

crore to ₹1.29 lakh crore.

Adani Power closed at ₹182, Adani Transmission at ₹1,314.25, NDTV at ₹227.75 and Adani Wilmar at ₹419.35 per share. These firms settled with 5 per cent gains and their closing levels touched the respective upper price bands on the BSE.

Besides, Ambuja Cements rose 0.17 per cent to close at ₹384.35.

On the other hand, three of the Adani group companies closed in the red. Adani Total Gas and Adani Green Energy plunged 5 per cent each while ACC fell 1.11 per cent to end at ₹1,973.35.

Adani Total Gas settled at ₹1,394.15, the lower price band. Adani Green Energy fell 4.92 per cent to end at ₹801.75. During the day, the stock declined to touch its 52-week low of ₹801.05 over its previous close.

# Sensex rebounds 377 pts, Nifty closes above 17,850 after small rate hike by RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher by more than half a per cent on Wednesday following buying in IT, financial and oil stocks after the RBI slowed down the pace of interest rate hikes.

Ending its two-day slide, the 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded by 377.75 points or 0.63 per cent to close at 60,663.79 with 24 of its constituents posting gains.

The broader Nifty of the NSE spurted by 150.20 points or 0.85 per cent to settle at 17,871.70, riding on a rally in Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and HDFC Life.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Bulls took charge of the markets as the RBI's MPC meeting delivered a smaller rate hike in line with



market expectations. The RBI has taken a more optimistic view on domestic growth by increasing the GDP forecast while cautiously keeping CPI inflation at 5.3 per cent for FY24."

Among Sensex stocks, Bajaj Finance rose the most by 3.14 per cent. Ultratech Cement, Reliance Industries, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech, TCS, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Maruti were among the major gainers.

# Rupee rises 19 paise to end at 82.51 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 19 paise to close at 82.51 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked the repo rate by 25 basis points.

A rally in the domestic equity markets and weakness in the greenback against major crosses overseas also supported the rupee, forex traders said.

However, surging crude prices in the international market and persistent foreign fund outflows restricted the appreciation bias in the local unit, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 82.67 and touched an intra-day high of 82.47 and a low of 82.72 against the greenback.



It finally settled at 82.51, up 19 paise over its previous close of 82.70.

The Reserve Bank of India slowed the pace of interest rate increases for the second straight time when it on Wednesday expectedly increased borrowing cost by 25 basis points but hinted more to come as core inflation remained high.

The central bank projected India's economic growth at 6.4 per cent for 2023-24, broadly in line with the estimate of the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament last week.

# Gold jumps ₹335; silver climbs ₹516

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price jumped ₹335 to ₹57,463 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday amid a rally in yellow metal prices internationally, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at ₹57,128 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver climbed ₹516 to ₹68,075 per kilogram.

"Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹57,463 per 10 gram, up ₹335 per 10 gram," Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas market, both gold and silver were trading higher at \$1,880 per ounce and \$22.45 per ounce, respectively.

Comex gold prices moved up in the Asian trading hours on Wednesday, Gandhi said.

# Domestic banks' exposure to Adani group not very significant; single case can't impact system: RBI

Mumbai: Domestic banks' exposure to the Adani Group is "not very significant", and the system is strong and large enough to not get impacted by a single case, the Reserve Bank said on Wednesday.

Replying to a specific question on whether the RBI will

give any guidance to lenders on their exposures to the Adani group, given certain flags raised by rating agencies, Deputy Governor MK Jain said the domestic banks' exposures are "not very significant" and termed the exposures against shares as "insignificant".

# TotalEnergies puts H2 ties with Adani on hold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

France's TotalEnergies, one of the largest foreign investors in billionaire Gautam Adani's business empire, said it has put on hold participation in Indian conglomerate's \$50 billion hydrogen project pending results of an audit launched following allegations by a US short-seller.

TotalEnergies has not yet signed a contract, the French group's chief executive Patrick Pouyanne said at earnings call.

# Adani Wilmar Q3 net profit rises 16% to ₹246.16 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Edible oil major Adani Wilmar Ltd on Wednesday reported a 16 per cent increase in its consolidated profit to ₹246.16 crore for the third quarter ended December 2022, on higher revenue.

Its net profit was ₹211.41 crore in the year-ago period.

The total income rose to ₹15,515.55 crore in the third quarter of this fiscal from ₹14,398.08 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

# Sebi amends rules governing mode of payment by market intermediaries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi has notified rules asking all market intermediaries and companies to make regulated payments to it by way of direct credit into the bank account through digital payment systems.

Under the rules, market intermediaries and companies are required to pay various fees to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

In a notification, Sebi said that the fee can be paid to the regulator by way of direct credit into the bank account through digital payment systems — NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer), RTGS (Real-Time Gross Settlement), and IMPS (Immediate Mobile Payment Service) — or online payment using the Sebi Payment Gateway.

To give these effects, the regulator has notified Sebi (Payment of Fees and Mode of Pay). The amendment has been brought into various regulations with respect to fees to be paid to Sebi.

# India is leading world in eco growth: Rosneft CEO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CEO of Rosneft, Igor Sechin, participated in the India Energy Week, a key forum in the South Asia dedicated to the energy security and ecological sustainability.

He thanked Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for the invitation. "I thank my friend Hardeep Singh Puri for extending me an invitation and am glad to welcome all the participants in this representative forum," he said.

During the session with Ministers, he highlighted India's position as a leader in the global economic growth and Russia's achievements despite unprecedented sanctions and pressure.

"Indian economy is leading the world in terms of economic growth. According to the IMF's latest calculations, India and its neighbors will account for half of global economic growth this year, with the U.S. and the Eurozone accounting for only 10%. India, having become the most populous country in the world, is turning into a leader of global economic



dynamism, a leader demonstrating a rapid improvement in the lives of its citizens. A big country with a huge young ambitious population, where the most important thing is the dynamics," said the CEO.

He also spoke about the destruction of the single energy market and the consequences of Europe's rejection of Russian gas, resulting in increased prices and a drop in GDP. He also elaborated on the need for investment in the energy industry to meet growing demand and emphasized the importance of energy security in the global energy balance.

He added that Russia, in turn, was able to achieve a result more significant than many of the world's leading economies in the face of unprecedented sanctions, pressure and confrontation with almost the

entire Western world. The implementation of major economic programs has already become, irrespective of the situation developing around us, a great psychological victory. This will predetermine our successes in other spheres.

He further said, "Energy security has ceased to be global. Because of these actions, all the principles of market trading have been destroyed, market pricing, contract law have in fact been abolished, logistics chains built up for decades have been forcibly severed. A vivid illustration of the current situation is the blown-up Nord Stream, a pipeline laid on the bed of the Baltic Sea."

"Look at the reformatting of the European gas market. At first, contrary to common sense, Europe was made to abandon long-term contracts and was requested to ensure switching over to spot pricing, which led to an unprecedented prices increase – mind you – before the well-known events in Ukraine, on the background of the forced green transition and underinvestment in conventional energy.

<div><div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div></div></div><div><div>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance</div></div></div>			Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website: www.piramalfinance.com Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.		
<b>DEMAND NOTICE</b>			(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of <b>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL)</b> [formerly known as <b>Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL)</b> ] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
<b>Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)</b>	<b>Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date</b>	<b>Property_Address</b>			
(LC No. 25600000503 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Vishal Khurana (Borrower) Neha Khurana (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 3211064 /-(₹ Thirty Two lakh Eleven Thousand Sixty Four Rupees) NPA (04-08-2018)	Unit No. 1804 Floor No. 18Th Tower T 18 Nirala Estate At Plot No Gh-04 Techzone 4 Greater Noida Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308			
(LC No. 11900002367 of Noida Branch) Bharat Sachdeva (Borrower) Kalpana Das (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 125938 /-(₹ One lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No. Wz- 21, [Plot No- 23], Rhs 3rd Floor With Roof, Gali No. 4, Kh No. 1, Village Nanaji Jaib Krishna Puri, Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110018			
(LC No. 25600000753 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Mushkarat Fatimah Saiyeda (Borrower) Surendra Mohan (Co Borrower1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 3129945 /-(₹ Thirty One lakh Ninety Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Five Rupees) NPA (04-10-2019)	Unit No. Flat 1703 (R01909B1703) Tower/ Block B9 Tower At Eco Village -2 Situated At Gh-01, Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201301			
(LC No. 26600000863 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Dinesh Kumar (Borrower) Sumran (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 1426316 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No-25/1, 2-2nd Floor Lhs Flat, Block No-4, Khasra No-1824/415, Villi-Chandrawali Sri Ram Nagar, Shahdara New Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110032			
(LC No. 25600000719 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Surjit Singh (Borrower) Ashalata Samanta (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 15506633 /-(₹ One Crore Fifty Five lakh Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No. 8006 Eight Floor Nalanda Heights Ta Nagri, Phase-2 Fatehabad Road Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 283111			
(LC No. 27400000573 of Bhiwadi Branch) Swapna Sharma (Borrower) Pankaj Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 390307 /-(₹ Three lakh Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Seven Rupees) NPA (31-10-2021)	Unit No 204, Tower No 15 B, Lig 2Nd Floor, Ricco Anandam Neemrana, Alwar Neemrana Alwar Rajasthan :- 301706			
(LC No. 26600001276 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Nikhil Kumar Verma (Borrower) Rajrani Devi (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 2699204 /-(₹ Twenty Nine lakh Ninety Two Thousand Forty Four Rupees) NPA (30-08-2022)	1/5745, Old Mc No-1261- A/5, Upper Ground Floor Without Roof, Gali No-15, Kh No232/1 Ballir Nagar, Sahadra, Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110032			
(LC No. 09600001602 of New Delhi-west Branch) Vinod Kumar Khandelwal (Borrower) Mamta Khandelwal (Co Borrower 1) Pawan Khandelwal (Co Borrower 2)	27-12-2022 /₹ 1086636 /-(₹ Ten lakh Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight Rupees) NPA (29-09-2022)	Flat No-102,Rzh-734 /A(Plot No-8)1St Fir Rear Lhs,Kh No-56/17 & 18,Gali No.14 Vill Palam, Raj Nagar-II Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110045			
(LC No. 13100001893 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Vinod Kumar Gang (Borrower) Uma Gang (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 10062226 /-(₹ One Crore Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Six Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	Property No. Wz-316, Plot No. A-172 Block A, Khasra No. 2051, Village -Tihar Now Colony Know As Haj Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110033			
(LC No. 24900001390 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Vijay Gupta (Borrower) Alpna Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 2285768 /-(₹ Twenty Two lakh Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Rupees) NPA (29-09-2022)	Plot No- 25 And 26, Ground Floor Ground Floor Pocket-7 Sector-24, Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110085			
(LC No. 20000042563 of Noida -sector 2 Branch) Manohar Lal (Borrower) Mansheel Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 1033152 /-(₹ Ten lakh Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	H. No. 1810,2Nd Floor Without Roof, Gali No -6, Kh No. 2388/1317/638,Rama Block Block Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110032			
(LC No. 25500001595 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Sadaandam Chaudhary (Borrower) Pravin Kumar Patel (Co Borrower 1) Sandhya Choudhary (Co Borrower 2)	27-12-2022 /₹ 2376585 /-(₹ Twenty Three lakh Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five Rupees) NPA (30-10-2022)	Rzf-757/18/3,Ugf(Frnt Side Without Roof) Gali No. 2, Kh No-47/18/2, Village Palam Raj Nagar-2, Palam Colony Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110075			
(LC No. 13100002024 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Taslim Ahmed Salmani (Borrower) Israt (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 1717053 /-(₹ Seventeen lakh Seventeen Thousand Fifty Three Rupees) NPA (30-10-2022)	1/9387,3Rd Floor With Roof,Gali No-7, Kh No -354,Vill-Udhampur Shahi Mohali, West Rohtas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110032			
(LC No. 25600000752 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Harendra Kumar (Borrower) Archana Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 1072400 /-(₹ Ten lakh Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No 007, G F Tower A 8 Signature Global, Solera 2, Gurgaon Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana :- 122104			
(LC No. 01400004696 of New Delhi Branch) Sanjay Jain (Borrower) Poonam Jain (Co Borrower 1) Ajay Jain (Co Borrower 2) Mona Jain (Guarantor 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 7960181 /-(₹ Seventy Nine lakh Sixty Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Rupees) NPA (30-10-2022)	Prop No F-601, Kh.No-136/85 And 135/85, Village Meerpur Turk, Karawal Nagar Khajuri Khas Main Road Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110094			
(LC No. 11900002757 of Noida Branch) Jugendra Singh (Borrower) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 3076037 /-(₹ Thirty lakh Seventy Six Thousand Thirty Seven Rupees) NPA (30-10-2022)	D-54, Lal Bagh Colony, No-166&167, Vill-Ahmed Nagar,Navada-Pargana-Loni, Nr-Sabji Mandi, Ghaziabad, Up Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201102			
(LC No. 26600001235 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Prince (Borrower) Geeta Monga (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 2445812 /-(₹ Twenty Four lakh Forty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Rupees) NPA (09-10-2022)	5126/Kxii, Third Floor, Harshpool Singh Building Clock Tower Subzi Mandi New Dlehi New Delh Delhi :- 110007			
(LC No. 19900042001 of Faridabad - Sector 19 Branch) Deepak Kumar Pradhan (Borrower) Chandana Pradhan (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 2216875 /-(₹ Twenty two lakh Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Rupees) NPA (08-11-2022)	Flat No 608 6Th Floor Tower 74 Agman Sector 70 Faridabad Faridabad Faridabad Haryana :- 121001			
(LC No. 09200002128 of Rohini Branch) Interpal Singh Bhatia (Borrower) Tajinder Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 1554468 /-(₹ Fifteen lakh Forty Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Eight Rupees) NPA (29-09-2022)	Flat No. 13/100 Janta(Slum)1St Floor Dda Flat Block 13 Near Kabool Nagar Gurdwara Double Store,Kabool Nagar Gt Road Shahdara New Delhi Delhi :- 110032			
(LC No. 26600001605 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Pankaj Jain (Borrower) Soniya Jain (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2022 /₹ 3890018 /-(₹ Thirty Eight lakh Ninety Thousand Eighteen Rupees) NPA (30-08-2022)	P-44/1, 1St & 2Nd Floor WithOut Roof, Kh No. 194, Vill-Ghondi, Gali No-3, Shankar Nagar Extn. Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110051			

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 09-02-2023  
Place : Delhi  
Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer)  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Joginder Singh & Mrs. Indrajit Kumar were joint owner of the Property/Plot bearing No. 4, on Road No. V-22, area measuring 50 Sq. Mtrs. (60 Sq. Yds. Appx.) & Property/Plot bearing No. 3, on Road No. V-22, area measuring 50 Sq. Mtrs. (60 Sq. Yds. Appx.) situated in the residential colony known as DLF City, Phase III, (Formerly known as DLF-CTC Enclave Complex) in and around village Badli, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 20/04/2016, regd. at doc. No. 785 & Sale Deed dated 20/04/2016, regd. at doc. No. 786, and the same to be transferred & mortgaged with my client i.e. Axis Finance Limited and the only legal heirs of Late Mr. Joginder Singh namely Mrs. Indrajit Kumar W/o Late Mr. Joginder Singh. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of aforesaid property.  
Raghav Tiwari, Advocate  
Ch-830, Patalia House Courts, New Delhi-110001  
Mob.-+91-8070688326

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. that Mr. Kamlesh Gera is claiming owner of Property bearing No. 98 A, area measuring 75 Sq. Yds., Situated at Shwaji Garden, Extension Kian Garden of Najafgarh Road, area of Village Malinda, New Delhi Delhi, vide virtue of G/A Agreement and will dated 18.12.2008. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner want to sell the said property to Mrs. Priya & Mr. Kapil Dev who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance company Ltd. for purchase of the said property. If anybody has any objections upon the ownership of Mr. Kamlesh Gera in respect of the said property i.e. Sale Mortgage, and any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.  
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
202, 2nd Floor, 23, Shwaji Marg, Mot Nagar, New Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

"A State Government Undertaking"

**CORRIGENDUM-II (e-tendering mode only)**

The date of submission and opening of tender for "Providing Tungsten Carbon hard coating by HP-HVOF coating method on runner buckets from inside of 'W' portion of bucket (inclusive of major repair and surface finishing by means of grinding and grit blasting before the Tungsten Carbide coating) of the existing Coated Forged Fabricated Pelton runner (with coating) having 21 buckets including stress relieving, balancing and testing of runner as per relevant standards after HP-HVOF Coating for the 3x40 MW Bhamba HEP" is hereby extended as per the following schedule:-  
• Last date and time of online bid submission : Up to 14.02.2023 (17.00 Hrs.)  
• Date of opening of Techno-commercial bid (Part-I): 16.02.2023 (11.30 Hrs.)  
The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded from website <http://www.hpnders.gov.in>. Any clarification/ amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

"SAVE ENERGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SELF & NATION"

Chief Engineer (Generation),  
HPSEB Ltd., Sunder Nagar.

**KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING CO. LIMITED**

Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003 PB  
CIN:L65910PB1981PLC023058, Ph.: +91-161-5066605.  
Website: [www.ovmnhar.com/kovalam](http://www.ovmnhar.com/kovalam), Email:[kovalam@ovmnhar.com](mailto:kovalam@ovmnhar.com)  
EXTRACT OF THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31.12.2022 (Rs. In Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2022 Unaudited	31.12.2021 Unaudited	Nine Months Ended 31.12.2022 Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	14.03	1.10	120.19
2	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	11.09	(1.53)	110.59
3	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	11.09	(1.53)	110.59
4	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	7.78	(3.66)	109.97
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	176.24	604.82	(2,578.92)
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.10/-)	222.39	222.39	222.39
7	Reserves (including Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Balance sheet of previous year)			
8	Earning Per Share (EPS) Face value of Rs. 10/- each. (For Continuing and discontinuing operations)	0.35	(0.16)	4.94
Notes: 1. The Unaudited financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2022 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on February 08, 2023. The financial results have been subjected to				



# INDIA EYE SUMMIT CLASH, OZ SEEK REVENGE

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Rohit Sharma, a bonafide white-ball legend, will face his biggest test as India's red-ball captain against a determined Australian side which would be hungry for revenge when the much-awaited Border-Gavaskar series starts here on Thursday.

It is a series that promises a lot of twists and turns, engrossing sub-plots and probably career-defining performances.

It's such a high-profile rubber that non-performance could lead to end of career for some after this series.

The back-to-back series defeats in their own den (2018-19 and 2020-21) have hurt Cummins and his players and they certainly have revenge on its mind, even though it will be easier said than done on a pitch that promises appreciable turn from first day itself.

The quality of India versus Australia Test matches since the epic 2001 series has, at times, been better than the Ashes. The journey of this batch of Australian cricketers won't be complete if they don't emulate the exploits of the Matthew Haydens, Justin Langers, Glenn McGraths or the Adam Gilchrist of 2004.

Steve Smith put it aptly, saying a series win in India will be bigger than the Ashes.

For Rohit, who has unfortunately missed all the Test matches or series against bigger teams either due to injuries (hamstring vs South Africa and split webbing vs Bangladesh in 2022) or illness (Covid-19 vs England in the one-off game), would like to emulate his predecessor Kohli in leading the team to another World Test Championship final.

For that to happen, India will need a clear two-match vic-



tory margin and Rohit's biggest weapon of execution will be his quartet of spinners, out of which three are supposed to play. Not to forget, his batters need to rise up to Nathan Lyon's challenge. The hosts haven't been up to scratch when they play slow bowlers on rank turners.

Those who have followed the developments in Indian cricket, know that Rohit was initially reluctant to take up red-ball captaincy and is yet to face any major opposition as leader in the format.

This is the series which will actually chart his legacy as a leader.

No one knows how he must have felt when the BCCI removed him from T20I captaincy after the World Cup defeat in Australia last year. But knowing Rohit, he will never say a word publicly though he would definitely have been hurt.

The decisions he takes during the series will go a long way in defining his leadership qualities in testing times.

He will miss Rishabh Pant,

his biggest game-changer, and how the team adjusts to the keeper-batter's absence will be the most important aspect during the series.

Kona Bharat's ability as a keeper is impressive but despite a triple hundred at the Ranji level, one isn't quite sure about his capabilities as a batter while facing high-quality Test match bowling.

Bharat was troubled a lot by a fifth-string Delhi bowling attack on a tacky Kotla track in Delhi. He huffed and puffed to

80, but the way he struggled against the fast off-breaks of Hrithik Shokeen, offers a preview of what could be in store for the 29-year-old against someone like Nathan Lyon.

Ishan Kishan, with his left-handed flair, was closer to Pant in terms of batting skill-set but can Rohit or coach Rahul Dravid take the risk if he misses a stumping or a low catch when the ball starts turning square on the third evening or fourth afternoon?

People would be sceptical as

he hasn't kept wickets in red-ball cricket.

To be some sort of a maverick, Rohit perhaps needed to drop KL Rahul straightaway, but sending him for the media conference two days before the Test was a statement that his deputy's place is non-negotiable despite a string of horrendous performances.

Which effectively means that either Suryakumar or Gill, two potential match winners, will have to sit out.

But the biggest decision for Rohit would be to choose between Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, although the Gujarat man looks favourite to get the nod. There is a theory that India might play four spinners and Ravichandran Ashwin could be handed the new ball.

But on a pitch that is bone dry on both sides, reverse swing might come into play and both Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj can make that old ball deviate in the opposite direction.

For Australia, it seems, Ashton Agar with better lower-order batting abilities, will get the nod as Lyon's spin partner ahead of Mitchell Swepson, as Scott Boland prepared to share the new ball with his skipper.

The Australian team is loaded with left handers and four of them — David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Travis Head and Alex Carey — are almost certain to play. The two right handers will be Smith and Marnus Labuschagne.

But in Cameron Green's absence, the choice for an additional batter will be between the right-handed Peter Handscomb and southpaw Matt Renshaw.

For bookmakers, the series would be nightmare as odds can swing wildly in a matter of a few deliveries.



## This Aussie team doesn't carry baggage of past: Cummins

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Australian cricket teams haven't won a Test series in India for the past 19 years but current skipper Pat Cummins would tell anyone who cares to listen that his unit doesn't carry the baggage of victories and defeats of his predecessors.

As Cummins leads Australia to one of its toughest assignments in India, the skipper also underlined the importance of a good first-innings score, which will be crucial in the context of the series.

"No, this team is very different to a lot of the teams that have played here in the past. So we don't carry the wins, we don't carry the losses," Cummins told reporters when asked if past results would weigh heavily on his mind.

"We know it's tough to tour here, India are a really good cricket side, especially at home, so we are excited. And, yeah, we will give it our best shot," Cummins added.

Asked about first-innings totals, the world's premier speedster said, "Yeah, I think it's more important here than

anywhere else in the world, that first-innings lead, hopefully. You just got to find a way to put a big total on the board, especially thinking if it is going to spin, it's going to get really hard in that second innings."

The Australian media has already started raising a hue and cry about "doctored pitches" with one article in Sydney Morning Herald predicting the nature of the wicket even before a ball has been bowled on the VCA stadium track.

Cummins, however, put things in perspective, saying his lineup being loaded with left-handers had prompted curators to dry areas where India's right-hand seamers will create rough spots for the host spinners to exploit.

"Potentially, yes. Looks a little bit dry for the left-handers and knowing how much traffic will probably go through there from the right-arm bowlers, potentially might be a fair bit of rough out there," Cummins said.

But unlike his country's media, Cummins wants to embrace the challenge.



## SKY perfectly equipped to play Tests: Tendulkar

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Test cricket is indeed a different ball game but Surya-kumar Yadav with his amazing skill-set and the ability to think out of the box is "perfectly equipped" to play the traditional format, the legendary Sachin Tendulkar opined on Wednesday.

"From entering into T20s and ODIs and now in the Test squad, he has made an incredible impression around the globe. Whoever follows Surya, they fall in love with his ability and way he thinks," Tendulkar said.

"But Test cricket is going to be different. Surya looks perfectly equipped to play Test cricket. Someone of his calibre should be considered along with KL Rahul and Shubman Gill. All three are capable players and I don't want to pass any judgement here but all three are capable enough to walk into the team," he said.

Tendulkar, Test cricket's highest run scorer, did not want to be dragged into the debate on ideal playing XI but said consistency is a must to retain spot in the team.

"I don't want to get into team combinations and all that. But if we get into recent past, Shubman Gill has been in good form and Rahul hasn't been able to contribute, but such is life. You go through these ups and downs. They both are excellent players and to retain position in the team, one has to continue scoring runs," Tendulkar said when asked whether the team management would struggle to finalise the playing eleven.

Talking about India's No. 1 batter Virat Kohli and his return to form in white-ball cricket, Tendulkar said it augurs well for the team ahead of Test series against Australia.

"With the way he has played in last few months, I really liked watching that, very assertive,

very certain of what he wanted to do." Tendulkar would be certainly watching the keen contest between Nathan Lyon and Kohli as that would be one of the great match-ups.

"World cricket needs these kind of rivalries. It is important to have those rivalries and remember when Australia had come in 1998, it was termed Warne vs Tendulkar and I had to remind everyone that it is not Warne vs Tendulkar but Australia vs India. But everyone likes to see such rivalries."

Pujara is set to complete 100-Test milestone during the second game of the series at the Kotla in New Delhi. Someone with 7000-plus Test runs in 98 games, Pujara is expected to be another thorn in Aussie flesh.

"I feel Pujara's achievements aren't recognised enough and his importance in the team isn't recognised enough, generally," said the man, who has played an unprecedented 200 Tests.

"He has played magnificently for the country and his contribution has been immense in whatever success Indian cricket team has had," said Tendulkar, who was in fact at the other end when Pujara scored a half-century on his Test debut.

The Australians will certainly miss Mitchell Starc but for Tendulkar, left-arm pacer's absence might lessen the impact of off-spinner Lyon.

Starc, who comes around the wicket (over the wicket for left-armers) often creates rough with his footmarks in his follow through and that becomes troublesome for right-handed batters (when a spinner operates and exploits rough patch).

"Lyon is a world class bowler and he becomes more effective when Starc is there because of the rough patches created for right handers outside the off stump. These are the things which will come into play."

## WTC final at The Oval from June 7-11: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Wednesday confirmed that the second edition of the World Test Championship (WTC) Final between the top two Test-playing nations will take place at The Oval from June 7 to 11, with June 12 as the designated reserve day.

The South London venue has hosted over 100 Test matches in its rich history, and in June will welcome the top two Test sides in the ICC World Test Championship standings, which will compete for the ICC WTC Mace following two years of hard-fought competition.

The ICC WTC Final is the pinnacle event in the Test calendar and is a week-long celebration of the longest format of the game. This Ultimate Test is the culmination of two years of intense competition in the ICC WTC, spanning 61 Test matches over 24 series played to date.

While the two competing nations had not yet been known, there are a host of significant fixtures due to be played in the coming weeks to determine the finalists. While six teams in total stand a chance of qualification, among the front-runners to challenge the India and Australia are Sri Lanka, who sit third in the standings and South Africa in fourth, who take on reigning WTC champions New Zealand and the West Indies respectively over two two-Test series during February and March.

## Gill or Surya? Rohit says it will be 'horses for courses' in Tests too



PTI ■ NAGPUR

India skipper Rohit Sharma chose to keep suspense over his preferred batting and bowling line-ups in the opening Test against Australia, saying they will go into the high-profile series with "horses for courses" approach.

Rohit Sharma was asked specifically about his choice between Suryakumar Yadav and Shubman Gill as there are enough indications that team management won't drop an out-of-form vice-captain KL Rahul.

"Tomorrow 9 o' clock at toss," Rohit answered with a wry

smile, knowing the line of questioning well.

Shubman Gill's sparkling form is important and so is Suryakumar Yadav's incredible ability to tame a raging bull like Nathan Lyon and the Indian captain made it clear that as much emphasis there will be on consistent form, the skills suitable for a particular surface will determine the playing eleven.

"It's going to be a tough one. We know lot of guys are in good form, that's a good sign for the team," Rohit said. "You have selection issues and it says a lot about the guys performing. That's quite crucial from team's

perspective, what we have to do is go to each venue, see the pitch and pick the best eleven. We have been doing that in past and we will be doing that going forward," the skipper made it clear.

"Message to the boys is very clear. We are ready to play horses for courses. Whichever pitch, whoever we need, we have to bring them in. As simple as that. That is something we have spoken to the guys. We will have to assess conditions and see who are the right guys, so we are quite open with all options," he was more intent on hammering home the point.

He smartly parried the

## Shubman should get nod, vice-captains shouldn't be automatic choice: Shastri

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Former India coach Ravi Shastri wants in-form batter Shubman Gill to be in the playing XI ahead of vice-captain KL Rahul in the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar series, beginning in Nagpur on Thursday.

The former India all-rounder also said vice-captaincy should not guarantee one a place in the playing eleven if someone like Gill is hitting the sweet spot with monotonous regularity in white-ball cricket.

Picking his XI for the opening game of the four-Test series, Shastri also said no one comes close to Suryakumar Yadav at No.5, and the middle-order T20I batter should get his preferred position in the series.

"Shubman or Rahul (selection) depends on the team management, what they think. Obviously, you'd want to go with what you've been doing in the past, but form becomes critical."

"Someone's hitting it real sweet and it's coming out of the centre of the bat. Then, you know, you wake up, and say, 'listen'," Shastri said on the ICC Review on Wednesday.

"I've been watching Gill and Rahul very closely in the nets. If it's a hard call; when I see footwork, when I see timing as to who is batting better. If it has to be Shubman ahead of Rahul, so be it. You know, straight. You have to see that. I won't say that Rahul is the vice-captain so he becomes the automatic choice."

query when asked who between Suryakumar and Gill is more suitable for the Jamtha track?

"They bring different things to the table for us. Gill we all know has been in supreme form in last three to four months. Lot of big hundreds as well. Surya has shown in T20s what he is capable of and what sort of game

he can bring to Test cricket as well.

"Both are quality options for us and we haven't yet decided who will play among the two guys, keep in mind all aspects of the game. I will not give you guys anything today," the smile was back, gauging the desperation of the media contingent.

## Mayank's 110\* helps K'taka post 229/5 vs Saurashtra

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Skipper Mayank Agarwal scored an unbeaten century as he rescued Karnataka from a poor start to guide the hosts to 229 for five against Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy semi-final here on Wednesday.

Sent in to bat, Karnataka were in some trouble, losing half their side for 112 in 40.3 overs.

But opener Agarwal (110 not out) held one end together and in the company of wicket-keeper Srinivas Sharath (58 not out) steadied the innings with an unbeaten 117-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

Karnataka scored their runs off 87 overs before the umpires called stumps to the opening day's proceedings.

Agarwal's patient knock came off 246 balls during which he struck 11 boundaries and a six, while Sharath faced 143 deliveries during his unconquered knock and hit four fours in the process.

Right-arm medium pacer Kushang Patel picked up two wickets, while Chetan Sakariya and Prerak Mankad accounted

for one Karnataka batter each. The other wicket fell to a run out.

Karnataka did not have the best of starts as they lost opener Ravikumar Samarth in the sixth over, caught by Vishvaraj Jadeja off the bowling of Patel.

New man in Devdutt Padikkal didn't last long, caught by Sheldon Jackson off Sakariya's bowling in the opening delivery of the ninth over.

Agarwal and Nikin Jose (18) shared 47 runs for the next wicket before the latter nicked a Patel delivery to Harvik Desai behind the stumps in the 29th over.

Manish Pandey didn't trouble the scorers much, becoming Mankad's scalp and overs later Shreyas Gopal (15) became the victim of a run out as Karnataka slumped to 112 for 5.

But Agarwal and Sharath joined hands and played sensibly without taking any risks to deny Saurashtra further inroads.

**MAJUMDAR, GHARAMI SLAM TONS VS MADHYA PRADESH**  
**Indore:** Bengal's crisis man Anustup Majumdar and young Sudip Gharami



slammed centuries under pressure but ceded ground to reigning champions Madhya Pradesh at the fag end of the day in their semifinal here, which was evenly poised on Wednesday.

Displaying resilience, Majumdar (120) and Gharami (112) put together 241 runs from 414 balls as Bengal rebuilt the innings from being reduced to 51 for 2 in less than an hour into the opening day's play at the Holkar Stadium here.

But the duo departed in quick succession with Madhya Pradesh striking with the new ball to open up the match in the final session.

At close, Bengal were 307 for four with skipper Manoj Tiwary (5) batting alongside Shahbaz Ahmed (6).

In his 206-ball innings, Majumdar smashed 13 fours and one six en route to his 13th first-class century, while Gharami made full use of his reprieve on 26 by Rajat Patidar to notch up his fourth ton.

Gharami's 213-ball knock had 12 boundaries and two sixes as the duo dominated the second session and frustrated the Chandrakant Pandit-coached side by picking easy runs in a spread-out field.





ECONOMY

## “China’s economy shows great momentum”

Fights and high-speed trains shuttled to and fro, tourist attractions were packed to the full, people waited in long queues before restaurants, cinemas and theaters were filled to capacity. During the Spring Festival holiday, which lasted from January 21 to 27, China was immersed in a festive atmosphere, and its economy showed great momentum.

In the newly concluded holiday, China registered 308 million domestic tourist trips, achieving a tourism income of 375.843 billion yuan (US\$55.474 billion), a year-on-year increase of

30 percent; the country’s express delivery industry handled more than 700 million parcels, nearly doubling the record of the same period in 2019; domestic cinemas and theaters sold 129 million movie tickets, which brought in more than 6.7 billion yuan (US\$ 988.92 million), up 11.89 percent year on year and second only to the China film history’s best record during the Spring Festival holiday. Economic data show that after China adjusted its epidemic prevention and control policy, people’s demand for catering, hospitality, travel, entertainment and

shopping needs were released in a concentrated way, thus boosting the holiday economy.

According to Alex Impabien, an expert on Ghana’s fiscal policy, the lively and inspiring scenes around China during the Spring Festival holiday demonstrated the vitality of the world’s second largest economy. Fawoz Bahar, editor-in-chief of a mainstream Kuwaiti newspaper, said that the Chinese market has sufficient consumption power to support the country’s economic stability.

“Chinese people send Chilean cherries to each

other as the first choice gift during the Spring Festival,” the Chilean journal of *Agricultural World* reported on its website a few days ago. Claudia Soler, executive director of the Chilean Cherry Committee of the Chilean Fruit Exporters Association (ASOEX), said that with the robust growth in demand for Chilean cherries in second- and third-tier Chinese cities, the Chinese market promises great opportunities this year.

VAT invoice data published by the State Taxation Administration of China shows that dur-

ing this year’s Spring Festival holiday, Chinese consumer-related industries registered a 12.2 percent increase in sales revenue year on year, and achieved an average annual growth of 12.4 percent since 2019, indicating that China is maintaining steady economic growth on the whole.

Hamdi al-Tabbaa, president of the Union of Arab Businessmen and the Jordanian Businessmen Association, said that during the Spring Festival holiday, China’s culture and tourism industry ushered in a nationwide consumption boom. Chinese outbound

tourists and holidaymakers once again showed the world the strong resilience and vitality of China’s economy.

According to the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 launched a few days ago, China’s economic growth will accelerate to 4.8 percent this year. UBS Group AG also pointed out in a report that China will continue to be an engine of global growth, and its economic growth will benefit Chinese enterprises and people as well as a large number of developing and developed countries.

(Xinhua)

FOCUS

## “China injects important impetus into global sustainable development”

“The CPC always adheres to the vision of people-centered development, strives to meet the people’s desire for a better life, and makes unremitting efforts to improve people’s well-being,” Azizi Abdurabbor Abdulkahhor, first deputy chairman of the People’s Democratic Party of Tajikistan, said in an interview.

Azizi has paid many visits to China, each of which left a deep impression on him. In his view, the secret of China’s rapid economic and social development lies in the CPC leadership. “China’s long history and brilliant culture do not prevent its rapid development,” he said.

China has won the battle against poverty and achieved the poverty reduction goals set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule. “This is a remarkable achievement, proving that the CPC always pursues happiness for the people,” Azizi relayed that by sharing his ex-

perience in poverty reduction and strengthening cooperation with the international community. China has made vital contributions to global poverty reduction and human development and progress.

As a loyal reader of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Azizi said that Xi’s books are rich in Chinese philosophy, history and culture, and have opened a window for the international community to get to know China better.

Azizi highly praised the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative put forward by President Xi, saying that these solution ideas have played a part in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, and injected confidence and impetus into the joint construction of a peaceful and stable development environment and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

(People’s Daily)

TOURISM

## “You’re always welcome to Yunnan”

A family of three from Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang province, came to Yunnan for the Spring Festival holiday. One day, they were looking for a place to grab a bite to eat, but there was a long queue in front of every restaurant to be served, they went to a local family outside the scenic spot and offered 600 yuan (US\$88.56) for lunch and supper. They were warmly received. When they had left, however, they found the money in a handbag of them, together with a note that read, “You’re always welcome to Yunnan.”

Simple as these words were, the tourists were deeply impressed by the hospitality of Yunnan people. If you hope to find more evidence of Yunnan people’s honesty and hospitality, you will not be disappointed.

An equally touching story happened in Lijiang, northwest Yunnan.

“Hopefully, the platform will notice my message of gratitude,” a tourist nicknamed “Ecstatic Mother Kou” posted on a Lijiang-based culture and tourism service website in late January.

When this tourist was buying some souvenirs in a shop in Lijiang, her child did not feel well, so she left in a hurry without carefully checking the goods. Later, she found a defect in the goods and complained to the shop owner. In less than an hour, a shop assistant came to the hotel and gave the tourist a full refund.

Whether the friendly note or the full refund, they make Yunnan more attractive to tourists. “Lijiang is really strong in reception and organization,” said one tourist. “Today, you can travel safely and enjoy carefree shopping in Yunnan,” said another tourist. The public praises have helped to boost tourism in the province.

On January 23, a little girl came to the information desk of the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden of Chinese Academy of Sciences. She had been separated from her parents for 40 minutes and was in need of help. A staff member named Yibobing managed to calm down the girl before calling her parents with her phone watch. Ten minutes later, the girl was reunited with her parents.

On January 26, there was a long queue of tourists at the Xiapingzi pick-up spot in the Jiaozi Snow Mountain Scenic Area. Perhaps due to the chilly weather and high altitude, a man in his sixties was not feeling well and tried to seek help from a driver surnamed Dong of Yunnan Tourism Automobile Co Ltd. Judging from his symptoms, the driver thought the tourist could be suffering from mountain sickness. Dong immediately contacted the scenic area staff and specially sent the tourist to a lower altitude. The sick tourist was very grateful, and other tourists also gave Dong thumbs-up.

During the holiday, the weather was mostly pleasant in Yunnan, but it was the hospitable locals and thoughtful tourist service that added more to the festive and peaceful atmosphere.

(Yunnan Daily)



During the 2023 Spring Festival holiday, Yunnan province received a total of 45.1461 million tourists (including 20.582 million tourists from outside the province) and achieved a tourism income of 38.435 billion yuan (US\$5.673 billion). The 45 A-rated key scenic spots in the province received 502,400 tourists on a daily basis and a total of 3,516,900 tourists cumulatively.

IN-PICS



Thanks to the booming flower consumption during the holiday and other factors, the prices of flowers in the Dounan Flower Market of Kunming, Yunnan jumped in recent days, marking a good start for 2023. (Xinhua)

INVESTMENT

## Yunnan offers new opportunities to foreign companies

At the start of the new year, the British company Diageo has intensified its presence on Yunnan market. “We’ll advance the construction of the whisky distillery and experience center in Eryuan, Yunnan in an orderly manner. We look forward to bringing our local products to consumers as soon as possible,” said Chen Min, change director of Diageo’s Supply Chain in Greater China.

Diageo, a world-renowned multinational liquor group, laid the foundation stone for its whisky distillery and ex-

perience center in Eryuan in November, 2021. Today, the project design has been finished and the project’s main structure has been capped. “Since the foundation was laid, relevant departments of the Yunnan provincial government have maintained close contact with our team and provided loads of help for project construction,” Chen said. She also attributed the project’s smooth progress to the friendly locals.

In Chen’s view, the relationship between Diageo and the locals is a win-win one: The locals’

friendliness has enabled the project to progress smoothly, and Diageo has also made great efforts to support the local community. For example, by joining hands with the local tourism industry association in organizing free employability training programs, Diageo has helped to improve the quality of local players.

Diageo is not the only foreign company to invest in Yunnan. The province’s constantly improving business environment has attracted many foreign companies in recent years. From 2019 to

2021, 843 foreign-funded enterprises were established in Yunnan, with an annual growth rate of 19.5 percent on average.

“We’re full of confidence in China’s future development, and we have particularly high expectations for Yunnan,” said Geoffroy Ladet, CEO of Puy du Fou Asia, adding that as Yunnan builds itself into China’s radiation center for South and Southeast Asia and improves its business environment, foreign-funded enterprises are enjoying more opportunities.

(Yunnan Daily)

CONNECTIVITY

## China-Laos Railway transports over 10 million passengers

According to China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Co Ltd, since the China-Laos Railway fully went into operation on December 3, 2021, it has significantly brought the cities along the line closer and

benefited the people of both countries. As of January 31, 2023, the railway has operated 20,000 passenger trains and transported 10.3 million passengers.

The China-Laos Railway, a golden train

route connecting the two countries, stretches for more than 1,000 kilometers between Kunming in the north and Vientiane in the south. Its China section, operating 56 passenger trains every day, has

cumulatively transported 8.7 million passengers. Its Laos section, operating 8 passenger trains on a daily basis, has cumulatively transported 1.6 million passengers.

(People’s Daily)

OPENING-UP

## Yiwu “World’s Supermarket” attracts global merchants

On February 2, 2023 (the Year of the Rabbit according to the Chinese lunar calendar), the world’s largest commodity distribution center—Yiwu China Commodity City—opened its gate to 75,000 fully prepared merchants from all over the world upon conclusion of the holiday.

It was the opening day of Yiwu China Commodity City, known as the world’s supermarket, after China adjusted its epidemic prevention and control policy. Buyers speaking different languages or dialects went from shop to shop, searching for business opportunities and seeking cooperation.

Raja, a merchant from India, was one of the first buyers to enter the market. He ignored the dragon dance and went straight to the toy market in Zone 1. In Jingrong toy shop, he decided on a plush panda and a dress-changing bear. He placed an order of 200,000 yuan (US\$29,520) without hesitation and told the shop owner Lu Qingrong that he would come back in a few days.

“I’ve got a tight schedule for the opening day. I must search for more products,” Raja said. He arrived in Yiwu in mid-January. This is his first visit to China since the COVID-19 outbreak. He plans to purchase some toys, stationery and artificial flowers. Before

the pandemic, there used to be more than 2,000 Indian merchants stationed in Yiwu during peak periods.

“I purchased a container of cloth materials and sent them back to my country at the end of last year. I hope to double my purchases in Yiwu this year,” said a Nepalese merchant who is full of expectations for 2023. “All sorts of goods in demand in Nepal can be purchased in Yiwu and delivered in containers to Nepal in six to eight days.”

After the first wave of buyers left, Lu told our reporters that his enterprise already has a waiting list of about five months for all the orders, and he expected to increase sales by 30 percent from those of the past two years. To achieve this sales goal, his enterprise needs to do two things. One is to enhance research and development and launch at least 10 new products a week. The other is to build more production lines and increase production capacity by 50 percent. “Now that buyers and orders are here, we’re confident in our business this year,” Lu said.

As our reporters learned, to help enterprises seize opportunities, Yiwu has begun to strengthen supporting services for market operation-related industry chains, such as logistics, express delivery, and e-commerce.

(Xinhua)



On February 2, a Iraqi businessman watched the opening performance in the lobby of Yiwu China Commodity City. (Photo by Xinhua)