

OPINION 6

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR
MUMBAI'S POOR AQI?

WORLD 9

CHINA THREATENS US ENTITIES OVER
DOWNING OF BALLOON

MONEY 10

MOST OF ADANI GROUP
FIRMS CLOSE HIGHER

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

SANIA JOINS RCB
AS MENTOR OF
WOMEN'S TEAM
11 SPORT9,400 more ITBP jawans,
better infra to secure LACCabinet also clears
4.1-km Shinkun La
tunnel to provide
all-weather links

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday sanctioned seven new battalions and sector headquarters (operational border base) with additional manpower strength of 9,400 personnel for the India-China LAC guarding force Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

The Cabinet also granted sanction for the construction of the 4.1-km Shinkun La tunnel on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha road link to provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh.

A total of 9,400 posts will be created for the new battalions and the sector headquarters, both of which will be established by 2025-26.

An outlay of ₹1,808.15 crore is estimated for the creation of the new battalions and the sector headquarters for the non-recurring expenditure on construction of office and residential buildings, land acquisition, arms and ammunition purchase.

The creation of the new battalions and the supervisory



offices will entail a recurring expenditure of ₹9,63.68 crore towards the salaries and ration. The proposal was cleared after the meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the Government sanction, the fresh manpower will be utilised for manning 47 new border posts and a dozen "staging camps" or troops bases along this frontier. The armies of India and China are engaged in a standoff in Ladakh since 2020.

Presently, the ITBP has 176 border out posts (BOPs) along the LAC.

In order to strengthen surveillance along the frontier, the Cabinet Committee on Security sanctioned creation of 47 BOPs and 12 Staging Posts. The works on these BOPs are

underway, officials said.

The BOPs and Staging Posts will require additional manpower for which the Cabinet on Wednesday accorded sanction for creation of seven new battalions and the sector headquarters for their supervision, they said. The 90,000 personnel strong ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and it is tasked to guard the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) on India's eastern flank. ITBP is also the Lead Intelligence Agency on this frontier.

The construction of the 4.1-km Shinkun La tunnel on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha road link will provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh.

Continued on Page 2

₹4,800 cr OK'd
for development
of border villages,
to stop migration

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved ₹4,800 crore allocation for the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), a Centre scheme, to ensure development of villages along the northern border areas.

The financial allocation for 2022-23 to 2025-26 was approved at a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and will include ₹2,500 crore for the development of roads infrastructure, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters.

The VVP was announced by the Centre last year.

The scheme will provide funds for the development of essential infrastructure and the creation of livelihood opportunities in 19 districts and 46 border blocks in four States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Ladakh along the northern land border of the country, the Minister said.

Continued on Page 2

I-T 'survey' at
BBC Day 2: Fin
data collected

Media personnel outside the BBC office during an I-T department survey in New Delhi
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department survey operation against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) India continued for the second day on Wednesday with the officials making copies of electronic and paper-based financial data of the organisation.

The tax department had launched the action on Tuesday at the BBC's Delhi and Mumbai offices along with at least two linked premises as part of an investigation into alleged tax evasion against the British national broadcaster in India.

The Income Tax officials knocked at the doors of the BBC around 11:30 am on Tuesday and continued their operation on Wednesday, sources said.

The tax officials are speaking to staffers of the BBC in the finance and some other departments even as other staffers and journalists were allowed to leave last night.

Some computer peripherals and mobile phones were cloned as part of the operation, officials had said.

The action, which triggered a political slugfest with the ruling BJP accusing the BBC of "venomous reporting", and the Opposition questioning the timing of the move, which came weeks after the broadcaster aired a two-part controversial documentary, "India: The Modi Question".

The survey is being carried out to investigate issues related to international taxation and transfer pricing of BBC subsidiary companies, officials had said on Tuesday.

While there has been no official statement from the Income Tax department on the action, the BBC has said it was cooperating with the authorities.

"The Income Tax authorities remain at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai. Staffers have now left the building, but some have remained there to cooperate with the ongoing enquiries," a BBC News Press Team said.

Continued on Page 2

Aatmanirbhar boost!
75% of Def capital
outlay for desi buy

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases the 6th edition of the Indian Army's 'Compendium of Problem Definition Statements' in Bengaluru on Wednesday
PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

In a major step to boost self reliance and Indian defence industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the Government will spend 75 per cent of the total defence capital outlay for procurement from domestic defence manufacturers from 2023-24. The figure stood at 68 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 for procuring items from the Indian manufacturers.

The latest decision will mean setting aside of around

₹100,000 crore for procurement of military platforms and equipment from the Indian manufacturers, he said.

Rajnath made the announcement at an event named Bandhan ceremony where several agreements and technology transfer agreements were signed up among large number of defence companies which participated in Aero India 2023. "It is a very significant decision which will further strengthen the domestic defence manufacturing sector," he said.

Detailed Report on P4

Act strictly against
temple vandalism,
India urges CanadaPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI ■
TORONTO

Expressing concern over continuing acts of vandalism against temples in Canada by alleged Khalistani supporters, India has urged the authorities there to take strict action against the perpetrators. The latest incident took place on Tuesday in Greater Toronto Area (GTA) when a temple was targeted with anti-India and pro-Khalistani graffiti spray painted on its walls.

Incidentally, it was the fourth such incident in the last eight months. In the latest incident, Shri Ram Mandir in the town of Mississauga in the GTA was targeted. The slogans sprayed on the walls of the temple included those attacking India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and describing the founder of the separatist Khalistan movement, Jarnail



Singh Bhindranwale, as a "martyr".

Taking note of the act, India's High Commission in Ottawa raised the issue with Global Affairs Canada, the country's Foreign Ministry.

India's Consulate in Toronto tweeted, "We strongly condemn the defacing of Ram Mandir in Mississauga with anti-India graffiti. We have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action on perpetrators."

Mississauga's Mayor Bonnie Crombie tweeted she was "angered by the hateful and divisive graffiti" defacing the temple.

Continued on Page 2

Biker's brother
stabbed to death
over road rage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man was stabbed to death by some unidentified people when he had gone to collect the damaged bike of his brother who was earlier thrashed by RTV staffers after his bike had brushed the RTV in West Delhi's Nangloi area, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday evening on the Kavita Colony road nearly 150 metres from the Nangloi police station.

Three people have been arrested, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Malik, a resident of Kavita Colony in Nangloi, they said.

The elder brother of Sahil, identified as Vishal Malik, was returning from the gym when he had an argument with a RTV driver after his bike allegedly touched the latter's mini bus.

The argument escalated at



the bus parking near Nangloi metro station where Vishal's bike was damaged by the RTV staff. However, Vishal managed to escape and reached the nearest police station after narrating the incident to his family members over phone, the latter claimed.

Family members said during that time, Sahil also called his brother and got to know about the incident and reached the police station.

Sahil went back to the spot where the bike was lying in a damaged condition and was making a video when unidentified persons assaulted and stabbed him, they said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

AZAM KHAN'S SON LOSES
ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party MLA Abdullah Azam Khan was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday, an official said, days after a court sentenced him to two-year imprisonment in a 15-year-old case.

P5

BIHAR EX-MIN CONVICTED
IN MURDER CASE

Patna: A local court of Bihar's Saran has convicted then Rural Development Minister Ravindra Nath Mishra in the Rabri Devi Government in a murder case, an official said on Wednesday.

ED FREEZES ₹29.5 CR IN
APP-BASED TOKEN FRAUD

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has frozen ₹29.5 crore kept in bank and demat accounts after it carried out raids in multiple cities in a money laundering case linked to cheating of investors via a mobile app.

P4

Petroleum under
GST regime once
States agree: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that petroleum products can be included in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework once an agreement in this regard is reached among States.

"The provision is already available for petroleum products... My predecessor had made the window kept open," she said while speaking at the Post-Budget interactive session with the members of the industry chamber PHDCCI.

Petroleum crude, motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel have temporarily been kept out and the GST Council shall decide the date from which they shall be included in GST.

Continued on Page 2

India loses top
test spot within
hrs of ICC glitch
made it number 1

Dubai: India on Wednesday briefly claimed the top spot in the ICC Test rankings to become the number one ranked side in all three formats of the game only to drop back to number two in the longest format. India's had dislodged the Pat Cummins-led Australia, according to an ICC update in the afternoon.

Already the top T20 side, India had reached the number one spot in ODIs last month after beating New Zealand 3-0. However, after the latest update in the evening after the ICC gaffe, India have moved back to the second spot behind Australia in Test rankings.

India (115) are 11 rating points behind Australia (126) in the Test rankings.

Detailed report on P11

Unwed rape
survivor kills
her newborn


PNS ■ BHOPAL


An unmarried rape survivor Ain Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh killed her newborn under her family's pressure in order to protect the family's so-called honour, police said on Wednesday.

The rape survivor first deprived the baby of her milk and then killed him by crushing his neck under her foot. "Newborn's brutal killing was confirmed after the body was exhumed from grave and autopsy revealed multiple fractures on top of cervical spine. The woman and her uncle-aunt have been arrested and booked for murder," police said.

The woman had given birth to a baby boy four days back, was assaulted sexually by an unidentified man last year.

Continued on Page 2





Plan Your LIFETIME
GUARANTEED MONTHLY INCOME NOW
with our Enhanced Annuity Rates

Annuity can start after
minimum deferment period of One Year.



LIC's NEW
JEEVAN SHANTI
UIN-512N338V04 • Plan No. 858

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating,
Individual, Single Premium,
Deferred Annuity Plan

2
YEARS


4
YEARS

6
YEARS


12
YEARS

MAXIMUM
DEFERMENT
PERIOD
for Annuity plan

Also
Available Online



Fixed Annuity
Rates
from inception
of Policy



Multiple
Annuity
options




Increasing
Death Benefit
during deferment
period

Our WhatsApp No.
8976862090




Say
Hi


Download
LIC Mobile App

 Visit: licindia.in


 Call Centre Services
(022) 6827 6827

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in or
SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Follow us :     LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA



Har Pal Aapke Saath

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

LIC/PT/2022-23/23/Eng

Noida airport to evict 13,000 families: MLA

‘Farmers have choice to choose either resettlement and rehabilitation location as per their convenience’



STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Around 18,500 families will be affected by the second phase development of the Noida International Airport and over 13,000 of them will have to be relocated, Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh said on Wednesday.

The MLA said heeding to the demand of villagers, it has been decided that the families that need to be relocated will now have two options for resettlement — near Faleda Cut and at Modelpur, both near the airport.

“The farmers have the choice to choose either resettlement and rehabilitation location as per their convenience,” he said at a press conference along with Jewar Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Abhay Singh.

“Around 120 hectare land is available at Faleda Cut, close to the upcoming Film City, and 60 hectare at Modelpur, which is located near Jewar town on the Khurja road,” the BJP MLA said. About 1,365 hectare of land for the second phase development of the airport is being acquired from six villages — Dayanatpur, Karauli Bangar, Mudrah, Beerampur, Kuraib and Ranhera.

“Around 18,500 families will be affected by the second phase development of the airport. Of this, 13,320 families from Ranhera, Kuraib and Nagla Hukam Singh (part of Karauli Bangar village) will have to be relocated,” Dharendra Singh said. He added that of the families to be rehabilitated, 1,600 are from Nagla Hukam Singh, 6,120 of Ranhera and 5,600 of Kuraib. SDM Abhay Singh said now that the rehabilitation and resettlement locations have been finalised, objections, if any, from stakeholders will be invited. “After that process, the final proposal will be sent to the state government for its approval,” he said.

phase development of the airport. Of this, 13,320 families from Ranhera, Kuraib and Nagla Hukam Singh (part of Karauli Bangar village) will have to be relocated,” Dharendra Singh said.

He added that of the families to be rehabilitated, 1,600 are from Nagla Hukam Singh, 6,120 of Ranhera and 5,600 of Kuraib.

SDM Abhay Singh said now that the rehabilitation and resettlement locations have been finalised, objections, if any, from stakeholders will be invited. “After that process, the final proposal will be sent to the state government for its approval,” he said.

Nikki joins growing list of Indian-origin leaders dominating world politics

PTI ■ WASHINGTON | LONDON

With Republican Party's rising star Nikki Haley launching her US presidential campaign against her former boss Donald Trump, she joins a long list of Indian-origin leaders dominating politics at important world capitals.

In the US, the growing influence of the Indian-American community can be seen in the success of Kamala Harris, who became the first woman and the first coloured Vice President of the country. She was a senator for California from 2017 to 2021. Harris, a Democrat, also served as the attorney general of California from 2011 to 2017. She was born to Indian and Jamaican parents in California.

In the crucial midterm elections in November, a record five Indian-American lawmakers from the ruling Democrat Party — Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal, Ami Bera and Shri Thanedar — were elected to the US House of Representatives.

Harmeet Dhillon, a prominent politician in California, recently contested the election for the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee (RNC).

Less lethal crowd mgmt training for BSF, RPF, RAF in Meerut



STAFF REPORTER ■ MEERUT/NEW DELHI

In a first of its kind, a unit of Paramilitary force- Border Security Force (BSF), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), few State Police Force and couple of International police are together undergoing training at Meerut based RAF Academy for Public Order (RAPO) for minimum use of force and less lethal approach of weapons for crowd management.

While a RPF is seeking Public Order management course, BSF personnel are getting trained for the UN Mission at Congo for crowd management. Similarly the Uttar Pradesh Police is undergoing a mob dispersal course, the RAF undergoing riot control weapon & equipment course. “This would have never

been possible without the guidance and cooperation of Annie Abraham, IG RAF. RAPO has added one more feather to its cap by providing training to BSF, RPF, state police, RAF and international police all together at training unit in Meerut,” said RAPO DIG Akhilesh Singh.

RAPO is the premier institute for public order management (POM) which mainly focuses on crowd / riot control, Law & Order, mob psychology, gender sensitization, law and human right. International Police of Myanmar and Zimbabwe and Police Forces from all across the states of India. The organization has trained more than 18000 Officers / personnel of State Police like UP, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana amongst others, Indian Army, other Central Paramilitary Forces.

SC recommends names of 20 additional HC judges for permanent judgeship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Wednesday recommended to the Centre the names of 20 additional judges for making them permanent judges in high courts of Allahabad, Mumbai, Madras and Delhi.



Of the 20 names, the maximum 10 have been recommended for the Allahabad HC by the three-member Collegium, also comprising

justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph.

The Collegiums recommended five for the Madras High Court, four for the Bombay High Court and one for the Delhi High Court. “The Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri Justices (1) Chandra Kumar Rai, (2) Krishan Pahal, (3) Sameer Jain, (4) Ashutosh Srivastava, (5)

Subhash Vidyarthi, (6) Brij Raj Singh, (7) Shree Prakash Singh, (8) Vikas Budhwar, (9) Om Prakash Tripathi, and (10) Vikram D Chauhan, Additional Judges, be appointed as Permanent Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad against the existing vacancies,” a resolution uploaded on the apex court website said.

8 more granted interim bail in Lakhimpur violence

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has granted interim bail to eight more accused till March 20 in the 2021 Lakhimpur violence.

With this all the 13 accused in the case including Ashish Mishra, son of Union home

minister Ajay Mishra alias Teni, are now on bail.

A Lucknow bench passed the order on Tuesday considering the Supreme Court's January 25 order allowing bail to Ashish Mishra. The bench of justice Rajesh Kumar Singh Chauhan has fixed March 20 as the next date of hearing.

Petroleum under GST regime once States agree...

From Page 1

“Once the States agree, we will have the petroleum products also be covered under the GST. So, that's not so much of us not wanting it,” she said.

The 49th meeting of the GST Council is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on February 18, 2023.

“It is the entire (GST) council saying yes, and saying yes, not just yes, because it's already in there.

“What they have to do is to determine a rate and once they tell me the rate, we get it into the GST,” the finance minister said.

The minister said that the

government in the 2023-24 budget increased the capital expenditure by 33 per cent to Rs 10 lakh crore.

“Consistently for the last three-four years, the emphasis has been given on public capital expenditure. We have kept that up in this budget...Capital expenditure, clearly can be said as a real focus of this budget,” she said.

“This is the first time in many years that the capital

expenditure has reached a double-digit amount, making it the clear focus of this budget,” Sitharaman added.

The Minister pointed out that the budget has given a roadmap for fiscal consolidation.

“I must credit entire ministry for giving budget which is fiscally responsible, but very clear on the target that is, growth has to be given the momentum,” she noted.

Unwed rape survivor kills her newborn...

From Page 1

On learning about her pregnancy, the police asked her family to inform them when the baby was born, but fearing social stigma, the family decided to kill it.

The matter came to light,

when the police went to her house for collecting DNA samples for investigating the rape case.

Upon reaching there, the police learnt that the baby was killed and buried at a secluded place.

200 illegal guest houses to face action in Haryana

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) (formerly known as Huda) will soon launch a sealing drive against 200 unauthorised guest-houses, running illegal commercial activities from residential buildings in HSVP sectors. The HSVP has identified 200 illegal guesthouses. The department has already issued show cause notices to over 70 such buildings, while 125 more notices will soon be served to other violators in the sector areas.

9,400 more ITBP...

From Page 1

Elaborating on the cabinet decision, Union minister Anurag Thakur said the tunnel will be completed by December 2025 at a cost of Rs 1,681 crore.

The length of the tunnel will be 4.1 km. An approach road will also be built by December 2025.

The Shinkun La tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity to Ladakh and this will be the shortest route to the border areas of the Union

territory, Thakur said.

“The Cabinet Committee on Security today approved the Shinku La tunnel for the Ladakh area which will provide all-weather connectivity to the Ladakh region with the entire country,” the minister said.

“This (project) is also very important as far as the security and safety of the country is concerned.... It will also help in the movement of our security forces in that region,” he added.

Biker's brother...

From Page 1

The police said the elder brother of the deceased was riding a bike and had some altercation with the staff of RTV after both vehicles touched each other.

“It further escalated at the bus parking near Nangloi Metro Station where bike of Vishal Malik was damaged by the RTV staff. Around 1930 hours, the victim (Sahil) along with his two friends went to take the bike lying in damaged condition where he was assaulted and stabbed, Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer) Harendra Kumar Singh said.

Raids were conducted in various parts of the city and three accused, including the driver of the bus, have been arrested. They have been identified as Sunny Kashyap (23), Sumit alias Pankaj (21), both residents of Ranholi village, and bus driver Ram Prakash (36), a resident of Nangloi Extension, police said.

The accused will be produced in the court, police said. “Sahil was taken to Maharaja Agrasen Hospital where he died during treatment,” a police officer said.

Meanwhile, CCTV footage of the incident is being circulated on the social media.

In the footage, the victim is seen in an injured condition while his friend is seen trying to hold him. The video also shows the victim finally collapsing to the ground.

Isaab Khan, who is the rel-

ative of the deceased, alleged that had a policeman accompanied Sahil, he would have not been attacked by the accused.

“I was here in the night. Sahil had a very painful death and police are responsible for this. Vishal had gone to police station in order to save himself from the attack and narrated about the incident. Had a policeman accompanied Sahil, he would have not been attacked by the accused persons. He was returning from his workplace when he was attacked. The incident took place around 100 metres far from the spot,” alleged Khan, who is a retired army man.

According to police, an enquiry will be conducted into it by the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police of the district.

IN-BRIEF

2 KILLED, 1 INJURED AFTER TRUCK RAMS INTO PICKUP

Gurugram: Two men were killed and one injured after a speeding truck rammed into a pickup at Rajiv Chowk flyover in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. The accident occurred around 6.30 am when five men in the pickup were headed to Sector 33 from Hero Honda Chowk. The vehicle got a flat tyre at Rajiv Chowk flyover and its driver and one other went to arrange tools. Two others stood behind the vehicle and one at the front to signal passing cars, the police said.

HELPLINE FOR CYBER CRIME IN NOIDA, G NOIDA

Noida: Residents of Noida and Greater Noida can now report cyber crimes at a new dedicated helpline number — 0120-4846100. Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh, who inaugurated the helpline on Wednesday, said it would be a one-stop solution for people and the focus would be on resolving matters in a time-bound manner with transparency. This round-the-clock service is a dedicated helpline at the district level for lodging complaints and is in addition to the central government's existing cyber helpline number ‘1930’, she said.

RECRUIT STAFF AT NATIONAL ZOO: DELHI HC

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the authorities to take steps for appointing adequate staff at the National Zoo to take care of animals. A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad termed as “genuine” the prayer made in a petition which sought to direct the authorities to fill up vacant posts of zoo keepers, assistant keepers, attendants, food distributor and chowkidar. The plea also sought direction to the authorities to install proper medical equipment and diagnostic facilities and to set up a committee to investigate the death of animals at the National Zoological Park.

AAP LEGAL CELL PROTESTS AGAINST L-G SAXENA

New Delhi: The Aam Admi Party (AAP) Legal Cell on Wednesday hit the streets to protest against L-G VK Saxena's obstruction in the functioning of the Arvind Kejriwal led Delhi Government. LG holds a constitutional post, he should follow the Constitution and not act as a party worker of the BJP- Sanjeev Nasir. If the BJP and their appointed LG set aside the Constitution of India, then all the lawyers of India will get together and set them aside- AAP Legal Cell. We stand with the government that operates according to the Constitution, and in Delhi, only the Kejriwal Government considers the interests of lawyers - AAP Legal Cell stated.

FOREIGN DELEGATES VISIT UNIVERSITY

Noida: A high-level delegation from the prestigious Law Schools of USA, including Dr. Sarah Gonzales, Director of Graduate Programs, University of Nevada Las Vegas , Dr. Maureen Tracy Leo, Associate Director, Boston University Office of Graduate and International Programs at Boston University School of Law, academicians from Temple University, University of Minnesota Law, Pritzker School of Law, amongst others visited Amity University Noida, to deliberate upon “Network Strategies for a global cause.”

SCHOLARSHIPS TO 370 STUDENTS

New Delhi: Power distribution company TPDDL has awarded scholarships to 370 students, including girls, from 35 government senior secondary schools under the Ujjwal programme, according to a company statement. Launched in 2007, TPDDL's Ujjwal Programme focuses on scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) students whose economic condition is not conducive for sustaining education, it said.

₹4,800 cr OK'd for development of border villages...

From Page 1

Thakur said the comprehensive development of villages along the northern border will improve the quality of life of people living there and help in encouraging them to stay in their native locations in these areas, thereby reversing the out-migration and adding to improved security of the border.

On a question if the decision is linked with strengthening the security in border villages with China, the Minister made it clear that those areas where development had not reached and the people of such areas had to migrate out, an opportunity has been provided to them to ensure they get employment and self-employment opportunities as the development will reach their villages on the same lines as that in other villages.

“You can see this linking it with national security or the development of these villages, there can be different perspectives, but these villages will become developed and it is also important from the security perspective. We have taken several steps to ensure India's security. Where India was an importer of defence equipment, now it is doing exports under Make in India in the defence sector,” Thakur added.

Act strictly against...

From Page 1

“These blatant attacks are not reflective of our City and region's diversity and will not be tolerated.”

Reacting to the act, Pandit Roop Nauth Sharma, president of the temple, said he was “disgusted” and the perpetrators seemed to have become even more bold. He believed there was a “clear attempt to sow disharmony” by showing such “distasteful feelings for Hindus.”

A statement from the temple on social media said, “We at the Ram Mandir are very disturbed by this occurrence and we are working with the appropriate law enforcement authority on this matter.”

The act of vandalism was detected Tuesday morning as a devotee spotted the graffiti and informed a priest. A team of the Peel Regional Police has started their investigation.

Various organisations expressed their concern over

the incident with The National Alliance of Indo-Canadians denouncing the vandalism. In a statement, Canadian Hindus for Harmony said, “These attacks by anti-Hindu extremists have caused significant damage to these places of worship, which has deeply impacted the Hindu community. This has resulted in fear, anxiety and a sense of insecurity among our community members.”

On January 30, the Gauri Shankar Mandir in Brampton was similarly desecrated. Prior to that, a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, located at the Vishnu Mandir in Richmond Hill, was defaced in July last year. The 20-foot tall bronze statue was situated in the temple's Peace Park.

Weeks later, in September, an episode of such vandalism occurred at the front entrance to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Toronto. No arrests have taken place in all the cases.

While they have been linked by some to the so-called Punjab Referendum being organised by the secessionist group, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Canadian authorities are yet to establish that alleged connection.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय)
तत्पर पेट्रोल पम्प के पास, स्मार्ट सिटी परिसर गोविंदपुरा, बी.एच.ई.एल. भोपाल (म.प्र.) 462023
क्रमांक/372/यां./वि./23
भोपाल, दिनांक 14.02.2023
निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	Probable Amount (In lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs)	Completion Period (months)
1	2023- UAD- 252898 _1	CONSTRUCTION OF RCC DRAIN AT (SUBHASH COLONY, SAUBHAGYA NAGAR, PURUSHOTTAM NAGAR, RAJEEV NAGAR, SHANKAR GARDEN, PRAGATI NAGAR, SWADESHI NAGAR, SANT NAGAR, SAMRAT NAGAR, DASHMESH NAGAR, VARDHMAN GREEN PARK, SAHANSHA GARDEN AND SURROUNDING AREA AT VARIOUS PLACES) ZONE 09 & 11	Rs. 985.16/-	Rs. 492582/-	12 months including rainy season

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The Bid Document can be purchased only Online from **15.02.2023 10.30 A.M. to 16.03.2023 05:30 P.M.**

3. The Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held in the office of the Chief Engineer (Civil), near tatpar petrol pump, smart city campus, Govindpura BHEL Bhopal (M.P.) at **11:30 A.M. (Time) on 24.02.2023 (Date)** to answer question of intending bidders, if any. The Chief Engineer (Civil) reserves the right not to answer a question raised by a bidder.

4. The bidder who bids in the tender will have to submit the document of participating firm. Document of other firm viz any other partnership firm/sister concern will not be valid.

5. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

The initial period of 05 (Five) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP)
IN. CHIEF ENGINEER
मि.क्र.1581/022/023
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME.
I, Bhawna Singh D/o Sh Rattan Singh R/o M-213, Greater Kailash Part-II, New Delhi-110048 hereby declare that my name Bhawna Singh mentioned in my Aadhar Card No. 694238460727 and Bhavna Singh mentioned in my 10th & 12th Class Certificate henceforth both names are one and the same person for all future purpose.
PD(90270)C

Nikki's movements hours before murder captured in CCTV

Accused Sahil sent to 5-day police custody

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Police on Wednesday retrieved footage from a CCTV camera installed at Nikki Yadav's Uttam Nagar house and it shows the 23-year-old performing small tasks, hours before she was killed by her boyfriend.

The footage are from February 9, the day of her boyfriend Sahil Gehlot's engagement. Nikki allegedly called to meet Gehlot and express her displeasure at his decision to get married. Meanwhile, a city court on Wednesday sent Sahil to five-day police custody for interrogation.

The first footage, which bears a timestamp of 1.10 pm, shows Yadav taking clothes upstairs to her rented home. The second footage, timestamped at 9.27 pm, shows her peeping out of a door of her



Sahil Gehlot with his live-in girlfriend Nikki Yadav. Gehlot allegedly killed Yadav, stuffed her body inside a refrigerator at his dhaba (eatery), and went off to marry another woman on the same day, according to police

rented house before leaving the premises. She is seen returning within a minute.

A senior police officer said, "We are looking into the CCTV footage and also scanning for more to collect evidence and ascertain the sequence of events that unfolded on the day of the murder."

Yadav was allegedly strangled to death by her 24-year-old boyfriend who stuffed her body inside a refrigerator of his

which was locked since the day of the murder.

The police said the accused had hidden from his girlfriend the fact that his marriage was fixed with another woman. When Yadav came to know about the wedding, she had a heated argument with Gehlot which led to her murder.

"It has been claimed that she was threatening to implicate the man in a case if he married another woman," a source said. The couple had been in a relationship for the past few years and Yadav wanted to marry the accused, the police said.

The alleged murder took place on the intervening night of February 9 and 10 when the victim confronted the accused about his marriage, a senior police officer said, adding that he killed her using the data cable of his mobile phone in his car and then kept the body in the refrigerator.

Narrating the sequence of events, the officer said Yadav was unhappy with the fact that Gehlot was getting married. On February 9 -- the day the accused got engaged -- she

called him up and told him to come to her flat in Uttam Nagar. "The accused went to the victim's place in his car and picked her up from there. She kept begging him not to get married."

"She had already planned to go with him to Goa and had booked tickets for February 9. She asked him to accompany her to Goa but he refused. This led to an argument and in anger, he killed her inside his car," the officer said.

Maliwal terms murder a 'terrifying' incident

New Delhi: Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Wednesday termed "terrifying" an incident in which a man strangled his girlfriend, stuffed her body inside a fridge, and went off to marry another woman the same day. The incident took place on the intervening night of February 9 and 10 in southwest Delhi and the accused has been arrested, police had said on

The accused then took the body to the dhaba, which had not been operational for a long time. After stuffing the body in the fridge, he locked the eatery, the officer added.

The body was found intact inside the refrigerator and was decomposing at a slow pace. Strangulation marks were found on her body. Police suspect that the accused committed the crime near Kashmir Gate but the location of the murder is yet to be verified.

Hang Nikki's killer to death: The only wish of her father

New Delhi: Sunil Yadav, father of Nikki Yadav who was strangled to death and her body stuffed in a refrigerator by her boyfriend in Southwest Delhi, said that all they want now is justice and the culprit should be hanged to death.

Waiting outside the mortuary of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital on Wednesday, Nikki's family members who had come from their village in Haryana's Jhajjar district, are yet to come to terms with the fact that their daughter, who was very ambitious and was preparing for her PHD, is no more.

Most impact among them is perhaps Nidhi, Nikki's sister who was very attached to her. "I am numb. I don't know what to say. I am currently not in a position to speak since I am yet come to terms with what has happened to my sister," she said over phone. The

post-mortem of Nikki's body went on for over two hours. According to the preliminary opinion of doctors, the cause of death was strangulation.

While leaving their hometown, Nikki's father Sunil Yadav, who runs a motor repair business in Gurugram told mediapersons, "Our daughter is gone. She is no more. All we want now is justice. The culprit should be awarded the strictest punishment and should be hanged to death for his brutal crime."

Nikki's elder cousin Jagdish Yadav, who was waiting outside the mortuary, said they were not aware about Nikki's relationship with Sahil nor had she ever told any member of her family about the man. Recalling Nikki, he said, "She was studying MA and wanted to pursue PHD further and that is why was staying at a rented flat here in Uttam Nagar. SR

SC to hear plea for rehab of razed night-shelter's inmates



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that it would look into rehabilitating occupants of a night shelter that has been demolished by the Delhi Development Authority in the city's Sarai Kale Khan area.

The court was originally scheduled to hear a petition against the demolition. However, by the time the case was taken up by a Bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Dipankar Datta, the night shelter was demolished. "Nothing can be done now at this stage," the Bench said. "If it is demolished, we have to now consider the question of rehabilitation."

The case was mentioned for an urgent hearing by advocate Prashant Bhushan before Chief Justice DY Chandrachud in the morning. Bhushan said that the night shelter was being demolished without any alternative arrangement to relocate its occupant. Advocate Prashant Bhushan mentioned the matter before a bench of

Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Dipankar Datta, and said the demolition was supposed to start at 10.30 am but the authorities commenced it at 10 am and the night shelter has been demolished. Bhushan said over 50 people were availing of the night shelter.

When he said that demolition has been done, the bench observed, "Nothing can be done now at this stage. If it is demolished, we have to now consider the question of rehabilitation." "The urgency element has gone away," the top court said.

Bhushan initially mentioned the matter for urgent hearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. He told the bench that earlier the matter pertaining to homeless people was heard by a bench of Justices S R Bhat and Dipankar Datta.

The CJ said that Justice Bhat was not available today and granted him liberty to mention the matter before a bench comprising Justice Datta. Bhushan rushed to the bench headed by Justice Roy which

was in the midst of hearing a matter listed before it.

"There is something very urgent that has propped up. I am sorry to interrupt. This is that homeless matter. There is a night shelter," Bhushan told the bench. The bench said it was in the midst of hearing a matter.

After the hearing in the matter was over, Bhushan mentioned the issue relating to demolition of the night shelter and said the authorities have come there with bulldozers. "The homeless matter is pending before this court. The issue is about a night shelter for homeless people," he said.

"One night shelter is being demolished right now without providing alternative accommodation. They (authorities) have preponed the demolition. It was supposed to start at 10.30 am but it started at 10 am today," Bhushan told the apex court. The bench told him to call the counsel for the other side so that the matter can be heard. Bhushan said he is being informed that demolition at the site has happened.

Identify land for settling people before demolition in Tughlakabad: Sisodia to CS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to identify land for the rehabilitation of victims ahead of a proposed demolition drive in the Tughlakabad Fort area. The Archaeological Survey of India has proposed a demolition drive in the fort area.

A political slugfest has erupted in the national capital over a Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolition drive in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park area after Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena directed the DDA to stop the drive, five days after the exercise began.

AAP MLA Somnath Bharti on Wednesday accused him of "indulging in politics" and trying to "malign" Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's image. In a letter to Saxena, Bharti sought compensation and rehabilitation package for victims who have been rendered homeless by the authority.

On the other hand, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri held AAP government responsible for demolition due to the wrong survey of its revenue department and demanded a special session of Delhi assembly.

According to a statement issued by Delhi government, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) intends to demolish over a thousand houses in Tughlakabad village as part of its demolition campaign. There was no immediate reaction available from the ASI. Sisodia has asked Kumar to identify land for the rehabilitation of those affected, urgently prepare a proper plan and submit a status report within a week, the government said in the statement.

"The proposed demolition drive in Tughlakabad village by the Archaeological Survey of India, a central government agency, will prove extremely cruel to the people living in that area for a long time and will have a very adverse impact on the people." The elderly, children, women, and disabled individuals there will be particularly impacted by it. The

75% of Defence capital budget for desi purchase, says Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

In a major step to boost self reliance and local Defence industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the Government will spend 75 per cent of the total Defence capital outlay for procurement from domestic Defence manufacturers from 2023-24. The figure stood at 68 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 for procuring items from the Indian manufacturers.

The latest decision will mean setting aside of around Rs 100,000 crore for procurement of military platforms and equipment from the Indian manufacturers, he said.

Rajnath made the announcement at an event named Bandhan ceremony where several agreements and technology transfer agreements were firmed up among large number of defence companies which participated in Aero India 2023.

"It is a very significant decision which will further strengthen the domestic defence manufacturing sector," he said. The defence minister also said Aero India 2023 has shown that the Indian defence sector is ready to march ahead along with top global defence companies. The MoUs and technology transfer agreements signed during Aero India will facilitate a new begin-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses the annual start-up event 'Manthan' on the sidelines of Aero India 2023, in Bengaluru, on Wednesday PTI Photo

ning for defence manufacturing in India, he said. A new chapter in India's aerospace sector has begun today, he said referring to the agreements. In budget for next fiscal 2023-24, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been allocated a total budget of Rs 5.94 lakh crore, which is 13.18 per cent of the total budget (Rs

45.03 lakh crore). Capital outlay pertaining to modernisation and infrastructure development has been increased to Rs 1.63 lakh crore. Rajnath termed the decision as an unprecedented step taken by the government at the outset of 'Amrit Kaal' to further strengthen the defence sector and minimise import dependency. "If you

take one step, the government promises to take ten steps forward.

You spoke of land to run on the path of development. We are providing you full sky. Earmarking three-fourth of the capital procurement budget for the local industry is a step in that direction," he said.

He exuded confidence that with this step, the Indian industry will come forward with more enthusiasm and contribute in making the defence sector more powerful and prosperous. The defence minister was of the view that a strong and self-reliant defence industry not only strengthens the security system of the country, but also bolsters the economy.

He highlighted that, in the last few years, a domestic industry-friendly environment has been created in the country provides a runway for the local companies to grow and ensure holistic development of the nation while catering to the security needs of the friendly countries, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

The Bandhan ceremony also witnessed the forging of 266 partnerships including 201 MoUs, 53 major announcements, nine product launches and three Transfers of Technology, worth around Rs 80,000 crore.

Centre to set up 2L farm credit societies, dairy-fishery co-ops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to achieve the goal of "Sahakar-se-Samridhi" through the inclusive growth model of cooperatives which are presently unevenly distributed in the country, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of 2 lakh Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and dairy-fishery cooperatives in uncovered villages and panchayats over the next five years.

"Now the plan is to establish PACS in each uncovered panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered panchayat/village and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal panchayat/village as well as panchayat/village having large water bodies.

"The initial target is to establish 2 lakh multipurpose PACS/dairy/fishery cooperatives in the next five years," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said at a Cabinet briefing.

The plan will be implemented with the convergence of various schemes by leveraging the 'whole of government' approach. The proposal will enable cooperative societies to set up and modernise necessary infrastructure.

At present, there are around 63,000 functional PACS in the country while primary dairy cooperative societies are around 1,99,182 having around 1.5 crore members who are



engaged in procurement of milk from the farmers, providing milk testing facilities, cattle feed sale, extension services, etc. to the members.

Similarly, primary fishery cooperative societies are around 25,297 in number having around 38 lakh members. These cater to one of the most marginalized sections of the society, providing them marketing facilities, assisting in procuring fishing equipment, fish seed and feed, and also providing credit facilities to the members on a limited scale.

However, there are still 1.6 lakh Panchayats without PACS and nearly 2 lakh Panchayats without any dairy cooperative society. The Cabinet nod to the proposal aims to establish such societies across the panchayats/villages, as the case may be.

The action plan for implementation of the project shall be prepared by NABARD, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Fishery Development Board (NFDB).

It will provide farmer members with requisite forward and backward linkages and

enhance their income. The move will also help in generating employment opportunities in rural areas.

In June last year, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the computerisation of PACS to increase the efficiency of PACS as well as to bring transparency and accountability in their operations, said a statement here by the Union Cooperation Ministry.

It further informed that in order to increase the viability of PACS and diversify their business activities to make them vibrant economic entities at Panchayat level, model bye laws of PACS have been prepared by the Ministry after consultation with all the stakeholders.

"These Model bye laws of PACS will enable them to undertake more than 25 business activities which, include dairy, fishery, setting up of godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, short-term & long-term credit, custom hiring centers, common service centers, Fair Price Shops, community irrigation, Business Correspondent activities, Common Service Centre among others.

"The model bye laws have been circulated to all the States/UTs for their adoption by PACS after making suitable changes as per respective State Cooperative Acts," the statement said.

India continues to send aid to Turkey, Syria

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As India is continuing its rescue and relief efforts in earthquake ravaged Turkey and Syria, the Indian Army has rushed rations and medicines to Aleppo, Syria. The relief material was handed over to representatives of the local



administration at Aleppo on Wednesday. Giving details of the aid, army sources said here, the earthquake relief to Syria was supplied by the Indian army contingent deployed in United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mission at Golan Heights. The UN mission is deployed along the Area of Separation (AOS)

between the boundaries of the occupied Golan by Israel and Syria. The Indian Army has deployed 180 personnel to provide logistics support to the mission.

As regards the relief effort, they said a request was received from the Syrian government to the UN for assistance in earthquake relief. The proposal for

Indian Army personnel stationed in UNDOF to provide direct assistance was agreed upon by the Indian government.

An advance Indian Army party reached Aleppo on February 12 and liaised with Dr Maher, the Governorate Council of Aleppo and the Governor of Aleppo.

US: We back freedom of Press

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

As the Income Tax Department in India was carrying out raids at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) offices in New Delhi and Mumbai, the US has said it supports the importance of a free Press, freedom of expression and freedom of religion as universal rights which are the "bedrock of democracies" around the world, including in India.

The remarks by State Department Spokesperson Ned Price late Tuesday in Washington came a day after the Income Tax department carried out raids as part of an investigation into alleged tax evasion by the BBC.

"We are aware of the search of the BBC offices in Delhi by



BBC office building, where a survey operation is being conducted by Income Tax Department officials as part of a tax evasion investigation at KG Marg in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Indian tax authorities. I would need to refer you to Indian authorities for the details of this search. Beyond this discrete action, what I'll say more

broadly is the general point that I've consistently made in this context, but in a universal context as well," Price told reporters.

"We support the importance of a free press around the world. We continue to highlight the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief as human rights that contribute to strengthening democracies around the world. It has strengthened this democracy here in this country. It has strengthened India's democracy," Price said. "These universal rights are the bedrock of democracies around the world," he asserted.

Asked if this action went against some of the spirit or value of democracy, Price said, "I couldn't say. We're aware of the facts of these searches, but I'm just not in a position to offer a judgement."

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Soumen Paul/ Sudeshna Das/ Shashank Arun B Chaudhary/ LBNOD00002438587	Flat No- 2504, 25th Floor, Tower- Ganga, Mahagun Mantra- II Plot No- GH-01A, Sector-10 Greater Noida (West) Noida./ 10 February, 2023	September 26, 2022 Rs. 25,60,178/-	Delhi

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

Date : February 16, 2023

Place : Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Meenakshi Pandey/ Geeta Pandey/ LBDEL00002081323/ LBFDB00005250172	Flat No.3093, 9th Floor Tower-3, "ATS Tourmaline", Sector-109, Gurgaon Haryana/ February 10, 2023	June 23, 2021 Rs. 1,40,35,016/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Harendra Singh Rana / Richa Rana / LBDEL00002067655	EFP-25-0401, Emerald Floors, Premier Emerald Estate, Sector 65, Gurgaon/ February 13, 2023	August 27, 2020 Rs. 44,85,535/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : February 16, 2023

Place : Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Subrata Nag/ Lipi Nag/ B-1109, Aravali Apartment Sector- 34, Noida, Dist.- G.B. Nagar Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201301/ LBCAL00001927521	Flat No.3E, 3rd Floor, In Block No.80, Within The Housing Complex Named Greenfield City Situated In Mouza- Parui, JL No.3 And Mouza- Chakjotshirampur, JL No.25, Holding No - E-3398, Ward No.14 (New) Behala, PS Maheshtala, Maheshtala Municipality, Kolkata- 700141, West Bengal. (admeasuring An Area of 1, 110 Sq.ft. Super Built Up Area/ Date of Symbolic 10.02.2023	November 23, 2022/ Rs 3,23,521/-	Noida/ Calcutta

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

Date : February 16, 2023

Place : Noida

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

US policy manual update to help aged-out kids of long-term visa holders

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

In a major step benefiting Indians seeking long term visas to the US, the Government there has announced a policy manual update for the purpose of calculating a non-citizen's age in certain situations under the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA). It is seen as a small but important step in addressing the issues of the aged-out children, a large number of whom are Indians, who came to the US legally with their parents.

For a child to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States based on their parent's approved petition for a family-sponsored or employment-based visa, the child generally must be under the age of 21.

If the child turns 21 and "ages out" during the immigration process, the child generally is no longer eligible to immigrate with the parent based on the parent's petition. "The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has officially made one of our long-requested policy changes.

The USCIS will use the dates for the filing chart to determine CSPA age and any previously denied petition can be reopened," said Dip Patel, from the improvethedream.org, which has been leading such an effort on behalf of aged-out children numbering over 200,000.

Under this new guidance, the USCIS will now use the Dates for Filing chart to calculate these non-citizens' ages for CSPA purposes, which provides these non-citizens with more certainty about their eligibility to adjust their status, the federal agency said.

Congress enacted the CSPA to protect certain non-citizen children from losing eligibility to obtain lawful permanent resident status based on an approved visa petition by providing a method to calculate the child's age that considers when an immigrant visa number "becomes available."

The Department of State's Visa Bulletin is used to determine when a visa number becomes available. The Visa Bulletin has two charts — the Dates for Filing chart and the Final Action Date chart.

HPZ: ED holds searches in Delhi, G'ram, Mumbai; freezes ₹29.5 cr

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has carried out search operations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Salem in a case relating to the misuse of App-based token named "HPZ" and other similar applications by various entities.

During the searches, the agency froze ₹29.5 crore as the same was detected and found to be lying in various Bank accounts/DEMAT Accounts of the accused. Various incriminating documents and digital evidence were also found and seized during searches. With current seizure, total assets frozen in this case now stand at ₹86.5 crore.

The case was recorded on the basis of an FIR registered by Cyber Crime Police Station, Kohima, Nagaland, against HPZ token and others. The HPZ was an App-Based Token which promised users of high returns against 'investment' in mining machines for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, the ED said in a statement. "ED probe revealed that two entities—Lillian Technocab Pvt. Ltd and Shigoo Technology Pvt. Ltd. were involved in operation and collected money from investors in name of HPZ token," it said. **PNS**

NIA raids southern States in Coimbatore car bomb blast case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka in the Coimbatore Car Bomb Blast and Mangaluru Blast Cases. The agency conducted searches at 32 locations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the Coimbatore blast case and eight locations in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka in the Mangaluru blast case.

Houses of suspects were searched on the basis of findings at 32 locations in the districts of Coimbatore (14), Trichy (1), Nilgiris (2), Tirunelveli (3), Tuticorin (1), Chennai (3), Thiruvannamalai (2), Dindigul (1), Mayiladuthurai (1), Krishnagiri (1), Kanyakumari (1) and Tenkasi (1) of Tamil Nadu, Ernakulam, the NIA said in a statement

Eight such locations in the districts of Tirupur (2) and Coimbatore (1) of Tamil Nadu, Ernakulam (4) of Kerala and Mysore (1) of Karnataka, it said. The Coimbatore blast case relates to a bomb blast in a car laden with explosives in front of Kottai Eswaran Temple of Coimbatore District. **PNS**

Envoys of 5 countries present credentials

New Delhi: Ambassadors of five countries to New Delhi on Wednesday presented their credentials to President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Those who presented their credentials were Diana Mickeviciene, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania; Bounmy Vanmany, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Dimitrios Ioannou, Ambassador of Greece; Omar Lisandro Castaneda Solares, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala; and Menzie Sipho Dlamini, High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Eswatini, a statement issued by the President's office said. **PNS**

Cong may elect new CWC at Raipur plenary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress Plenary scheduled next week at Raipur in Chhatisgarh to ratify the election of M Mallikarjun Kharge last year, is likely to elect its new Congress Working Committee (CWC), the apex decision making body of the grand old party. Sources said the party's steering committee which is presently working in place of the CWC would meet on the morning of February 24 the first day of the four day plenary after which the party's subjects committee will meet to decide on the topics to be taken up during the party's 85th plenary session. There have been demands from within the party,



especially by the dissident voices, to have elections for the CWC, but the convention has been to authorise the Congress president to nominate the members to the party's prime body.

As per the Congress party constitution's Article XIX, the Working Committee should consist of the president, the Leader of the Congress in Parliament, and 23 other members. Of them, 12 should be elected by the AICC and the rest should be appointed by the

party president. As per the norm, only a member of the CWC can be appointed as party treasurer or general secretary. The provision for nominated category in the CWC is aimed at giving berths to women, weaker sections and minorities who often fail to make it to the CWC if a contest is held.

The leaders would meet in Raipur to brainstorm the party's strategy going forward, with a focus on Lok Sabha elections next year in April-May and before that crucial assembly elections in important States like Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan. Party sources said this will be the first meeting of the party top leaders after the

four months long Kaniyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra and the leaders are to assess the ground situation post the 3500 km foot march led by its top leader Rahul Gandhi.

The last when the party leaders and functionaries met were at Udaipur Chintan Shivir where it was decided for organizational overhaul leading to the election towards party president and stepping down of Sonia Gandhi as the longest serving Congress president followed by her son Rahul who quit as party chief post the debacle of 2019 general elections. The Gandhis had then announced that the next Congress president should be a non-Gandhi.

Pandit staff seek pay, stage stir at BJP office

J&K BJP chief promises to take up case with LG

PNS ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the festival of Maha Shivratri, a large number of PM Package Kashmiri migrant employees on Wednesday intensified their ongoing agitation by launching a dharna outside the office of the BJP in Jammu.

The agitating employees were demanding immediate release of salaries as a confidence building measure. These employees have been sitting on a dharna for the last 286 days and seeking relocation to Jammu. These employees returned to Jammu in the second week of May 2022 after the targeted killing of a Kashmiri migrant employee Rahul Bhat inside his office in the Chadoora tehsil of Budgam.

On Wednesday morning they were prevented by the district authorities from staging a protest outside the Press Club of Jammu. The administration



had imposed Section 144 CrPC in the area. As the employees resisted, the police detained them and shifted them to the District Police Lines.

After the employees were released and asked to return home they reached the office of the BJP located in Trikuta Nagar area and sat on a dharna in support of their demands.

The employees raised slogans if the UT administration can release salaries ahead of the festival of EID why they are not releasing their salaries ahead of Shivaratri. Till the time of filing the report J&K BJP chief

Ravinder Raina was trying to pacify the employees and sought some time to plead their case with the UT authorities including L-G Manoj Sinha.

However, he failed to convince the employees as they remained firm on their demand and reiterated their stand in support of their long pending demands.

The J&K Administration had earlier passed an order to release the salaries of those migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees 'who have resumed their duties in Kashmir'.

There will be no media left in India: Didi on BBC raids

Only judiciary can save the nation, says Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In the midst of controversy over Income Tax raids in the offices of the BBC Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday slammed the BJP Government for pursuing a policy of "political vendetta" not only against its political Opposition but the media too.

Alleging that there was a "blatant attempt" to gag the media Banerjee said, "It is very unfortunate. The BJP is running the Government with a political vendetta," adding how the BJP's vindictive policy was "affecting the freedom of the Press."

She said that if such a situation continued then "there will be no media left in the country," and alleged how a large part of the "media is already controlled by them. I



am sorry to say the media cannot raise their voices, their management will just cut their service within 24 hours. This is their controlling power."

Once again drawing a parallel between the BJP Government and Hitler's Nazi regime Banerjee said that the saffron Government had no regard for popular will. "They have no regard for the people's mandate ... their only mandate is dictatorship just like Hitler ... they are more than Hitler," Banerjee said, extending her support to the foreign media conglomerate.

"I extend my sympathy and my support with media and BBC," Banerjee said adding how the Government was trying to usurp all the free institutions including the media and the judiciary.

"Sometimes they attack the

judiciary ... (as) they want to capture the judiciary also. But we want the judiciary to be neutral...only the judiciary can save this country," Banerjee said, drawing instant counter attack from the BJP leadership.

Advising Banerjee to desist from attacking the BJP for trying to control media and judiciary State saffron leader Samik Bhattacharya said, how "it is the same Chief Minister which has stopped Government advertisements to certain media houses, it is the same Chief Minister whose police had arrested and harassed an innocent professor for about 10 years for passing a meme in the social media ... she is the same Chief Minister whose colleagues have been attacking the High Court Judges for delivering justice in favour of the victims of school recruitment scam ... High Court judges are openly insulted inside the court and posters are pasted in their names buy her cadres while the police keep silent."

Banerjee also attacked the Centre for playing discriminatory politics against her State by refusing to pay up its financial dues.

Azam's son disqualified from UP Assembly

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mohammed Abdullah Azam Khan, the Samajwadi Party MLA from Suar in Rampur district and son of veteran SP leader Azam Khan, has been disqualified from the membership of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha. He is so far the only MLA of UP assembly who has been disqualified from the membership of the House twice in the last three years.

The notification for Abdullah Azam's disqualification with effect from February 13 was issued by the UP assembly secretariat here on Wednesday. The notification was issued after the receipt of the recommendation from the Election Commission of India.

Abdullah Azam was first disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh assembly with effect from December 16, 2019, but was re-elected from the same seat in the 2022 UP assembly poll.

The Allahabad High Court in 2019 had set aside the election of Abdullah Azam to the Uttar Pradesh assembly in 2017. The litigation was due to the existence of two birth certificates of Abdullah Azam, who allegedly gave the wrong

date of birth while filing his nomination papers for the 2017 poll. A special court in Moradabad on Monday sentenced Abdullah Azam and his father, former Samajwadi party MLA Mohammad Azam Khan, to two years' imprisonment in a 15-year-old case in which they were booked for blocking traffic after their vehicle was stopped by the police for checking in Moradabad. A fine of Rs 3,000 each was also imposed on them. Later, Azam Khan and his son filed a bail application, which was granted by the court. They were released after submitting the required surety.

The incident for which the case was registered against the two leaders occurred a day after the terror attack on the Central Reserve Police Force camp in neighbouring Rampur district on January 1, 2008, which claimed the lives of seven jawans and a rickshaw-puller.

The court convicted the two under IPC sections 341 (wrongful restraint) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharging duty), and under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. Seven other accused in the case were acquitted due to lack of evidence.

UP Opp seeks judicial probe into Kanpur Dehat deaths

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Leaders of Uttar Pradesh Congress on Wednesday staged a demonstration and demanded a judicial probe into the death of mother-daughter duo during an anti-encroachment drive in Kanpur Dehat on Monday.

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati also strongly attacked the Yogi Adityanath Government over the same issue. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, UP Congress president Brjilal Khabri lashed out at the Yogi Adityanath Government over the death of a woman and her daughter

during an anti-encroachment drive in Kanpur Dehat. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter and proper financial assistance to the victim's family. Attacking the Government, Khabri claimed that he and his party leaders were leading a peaceful march to Raj Bhawan to hand over a memorandum of their demand to Governor Anandiben Patel but the government forcibly stopped them from meeting the governor. He said that as they tried to proceed further, the administration used force on them in which several party leaders were injured.

Khabri said Congress wanted a judicial probe into the matter along with compensa-

tion to the family members. Meanwhile, Mayawati on Wednesday tweeted against the government after two days of the Kanpur Dehat incident.

The BSP supremo attacked the bulldozer politics of the Yogi Adityanath government and tweeted that innocent poor people were now losing their lives because of the bulldozer politics, which was very sad and condemnable. She said the government should change its anti-people attitude.

"The death of a mother-daughter duo living in a hut during the atrocity and arson in the name of removal of encroachment in Kanpur Dehat district and their dead bodies being recovered after 24

hours are in more discussions than the Global Investors' Summit advertised by the UP government. How is it possible for the welfare of the people of UP?" questioned Mayawati. The BSP supremo also raised questions about the absence of any tweet from the government on the Kanpur Dehat incident.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) demanded a high level probe into the Kanpur Dehat's incident in which a woman and her daughter were charred to death during an anti-squatter drive and also demanded strict punishment to the policemen and district administration officials.

TMC Govt presents poll-oriented Budget

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the panchayat elections round the corner, the Mamata Banerjee Government on Friday presented a poll-oriented Budget worth Rs 3.39 lakh crore projecting an ambitious GDP growth rate of 8.4 per cent. The State which is already carrying a debt load of about Rs 6 lakh crore is likely to take a fresh loan, worth Rs 63,000 crore in the ensuing financial year.

The Government proposed to waive charges on irrigation water supplied to the fields as also it exempted payment of rural employment cess, said Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya.

With special focus on North Bengal over which,

Opposition BJP has apparently started losing grip, the Finance Minister announced a waiver on agricultural income tax on tea gardens for the next two financial years.

"I am pleased to propose a waiver of agricultural income tax on tea gardens for 2023-24 and 2024-25 with a goal to revive the tea industry that is facing hardship," the Finance Minister said. She also said that the "Government will bring out a policy for issuance of homestead patta for eligible tea garden workers."

The Government also proposed construction and restoration of 11,500-km of rural roads under the new "Rastasree" project. "I propose to set earmark Rs 3,000 crore for the construction and

upkeep of 11,500 km of rural roads under the Rastasree scheme," Bhattacharya who has succeeded her predecessor Dr Amit Mitra said.

Besides at a time when an industry-starved State was witnessing a steady migration of labour and with an eye on the unemployed youth the Minister proposed an allocation of Rs 350 crore to extend up to Rs 5 lakh credit to two lakh entrepreneurs aged between 18-45 years.

With Bengal primarily being a fish-eating State and a large number of people engaged in the fishery business the Government made an attempt to reach out to the fisher community even as the Finance Minister launched a new 'Matsyajeebi Bandhu' scheme to support the family

of a fisherman who met untimely death.

"The family of a registered fisherman between the age of 18 and 60 will get Rs 2 lakh in case of one's untimely death," Bhattacharya said.

Bhattacharya said, "Upon the directions of the Chief Minister I am glad to announce an additional Dearness Allowance of 3 per cent for the Government employees which will be applicable from the month of March."

The announcement came in the midst of a massive statewide protest being carried out by 10 lakh-strong Government employees and pensioners demanding, 38 per cent DA hike. Presently Bengal Government gives a DA of 3 per cent.

Modi to inaugurate 14-day Aadi Mahotsav as BJP woos tribals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its efforts to woo the country's tribal population ahead of upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP-led central Government on Thursday will kick off a two-week long mega national tribal festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The festival aims to showcase the tribal culture and their contribution in the country's growth and development. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said that the Modi Government has been at the forefront of taking steps for the welfare of the tribal population while also respecting their contribution in the country's growth and development.

Themed, "A Celebration of Crafts, Culture, Cuisine and Commerce" the Aadi Mahotsav aims to celebrate the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, commerce and traditional art. It is an annual initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing



Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Around 1,000 tribal artisans from across the States including the poll-bound one like Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland country will participate in the exercise. Of nine states headed for polls this year, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland have over 85% tribal population, while two, Chhattisgarh and Tripura, have more than 30%.

The event will also showcase a Tribal Freedom Fighters' Gallery, arranged by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes; cultural (song and dance) performances by over 500 tribal artists and stalls showcasing and publicis-

ing information about Eklavya Model Residential Schools and the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation.

Since 2023 is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets, a special focus will be on showcasing "Shree Anna", a recent government nomenclature for millets grown by tribals along with usual attractions like handicrafts, handloom, pottery and jewellery, the statement added.

In fact, the Union Budget 2023-24 for tribal communities and scheduled castes has a lot of sops doled out to the tribal communities. For instance, budgetary allocation for the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry has been increased by 50 per cent to Rs 12,847 crore for FY24, from Rs 8,451 in FY23. To improve the socio-economic condition of the particular tribal groups. Also, PMPVTG (Prime Minister's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) Development mission has been proposed to be launched.

'Will set up STF to probe graft in Meghalaya'

BJP manifesto for Feb 27 Assembly poll promises 7th Pay Commission implementation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday released the party's manifesto for the Meghalaya Assembly elections, announcing a Special Task Force (STF) with a retired Supreme Court judge at its head, to investigate the corruption cases in the State and promised to implement the 7th Pay Commission in Meghalaya and disburse salaries on time.

Meghalaya will go to polls on February 27 along with Nagaland. The counting of votes, along with those of Tripura, will be done on March 2. The BJP has already released its manifesto for Tripura which would vote to elect new Assembly on February 16.

Releasing the party's 'Sankalp patra' in Shilong, Nadda announced free education for girls from the primary level to Post Graduation. Nadda said women would get 33 per cent reservation in Government jobs and a free scooty



would be provided to meritorious college-going students if the party was voted to power.

Campaigning has intensified with leaders from national parties addressing election meetings and rallies in the State. All the three Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hill regions are witnessing a number of public meetings, community gatherings and door-to-door campaigns.

Explaining the manifesto titled 'eMpowered Meghalaya', Nadda said the 'M' in its name signifies 'Modi for Meghalaya'. Speaking at the unveiling of the party's poll pledges, Nadda said the

potential of the Northeast State, which is rich in culture and tradition, hasn't been suitably harnessed and utilised to date.

He said there is a lot to be done in the state as there is plenty of scope for development. "Corruption is also a major issue, which has posed a hindrance to the development of Meghalaya," Nadda said. He said the BJP wants to work towards a corruption-free Meghalaya by delivering strong governance.

A STF, under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge, will also be formed to investigate all corruption cases in the State, Nadda said.

"We need to raise visions of Mega Meghalaya, we have to think big. Speed, scale and skill, all have to come together if we are to take Meghalaya to its promised state," he said

While stressing the importance of the state machinery in bringing these changes, he said it is also important for the people to be content with the administration.

"To ensure that this happens, we have promised in our manifesto to implement the 7th Pay Commission in Meghalaya and disburse salaries on time," Nadda added.

Pension for senior citizens will also be doubled, Nadda said, adding that income support would also be provided to women.

Pope Francis grants audience to Bishop Mulakkel

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ VATICAN/KOCHI

More than a year after he was acquitted of all charges by a court in Kottayam, Franko Mulakkal, the former Bishop of Jalandhar Diocese of the Catholic church was given a special audience by Pope Francis, spiritual head of the global Catholic community.

The two-minute long audience took place at Vatican on Monday, the video of which was released by Vatican Media. Franko Mulakkal, was seen kneeling in front of the Pope who listened to him for some time and patted him on his shoulder.

A nun in the diocese had accused Mulakkal of raping her for more than a decade and had filed a police complaint against the Bishop. Kerala saw many nuns and member of various civil rights groups staging demonstrations demanding action against him in connection with charges of sexual abuse. The Kottayam District Court where the trial took place acquitted Mulakkal of all charges as the prosecution failed to furnish any evidence to substantiate the allegations. Meanwhile the Bishop was arrested and sent to prison for weeks.

The Kerala Government had approached the High Court challenging the trial court verdict. Mulakkal who is on a sabbatical since the court verdict has visited all the holy shrines of the church as a mark of thanksgiving. Speaking to *The Pioneer* from Vatican, he said the audience with the Pope was the denouement of the pilgrimage. "The Pope was happy to hear about the court verdict. He consoled me for all the sufferings I have undergone," he said.

The Pope will be paying a State visit to India in early 2024, his first to the sub-continent after assuming charges as the spiritual head of the Church.

Three arrested for arson at church in MP

This was 2nd strike on place of worship in a month; two vandals were from UP

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Police in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram district have arrested three persons, including two from Uttar Pradesh, in connection with the alleged torching and defiling of a church, an official said on Wednesday.

The arson and vandalism at the church located in tribal-dominated Sukhtawa came to light on Sunday when some people went to the shrine to offer prayers, said the official.

Three persons were arrested in connection with the arson of the church under Kesla police station, said Narmadapuram Superintendent of Police Gurkaran Singh.

The SP said an almost similar incident had taken place in front of a church at Kheda village near Itarsi about a month ago.

The police identified the accused as Avnish Pandey, a resident of Faizabad in UP, an electrician named Shiv and Akash Tiwari, who is from UP's Jhansi.

Calling Tiwari the mastermind behind the attack on the church, the SP said he used to send locations, especially of "churches, mazars and dargahs" to the other accused to commit such attacks. Tiwari also sent money to the two for the work, he said.

Apart from the lure of money, the SP said, Pandey and Shiv also agreed to work for Tiwari on the belief that "they should do something for their religion".

The senior official said police will sternly deal with those who try to disrupt communal harmony.

Citing the complaint, an official had earlier said that some religious texts and furniture were also destroyed in Sunday's incident.



Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy during Bhoomi Pooja of JSW Steel Plant at Sunnapurallapalli Village, YSR Kadapa, on Wednesday PTI

Big deal

Air India is spending \$70 billion to buy 470 planes from France’s Airbus and the United States’ Boeing

Air India’s deal to buy 470 planes from France’s Airbus and the United States’ Boeing is important not just because it is the largest biggest purchase by any carrier but also because it has geo-economic and geopolitical ramifications. Tata group chairman N Chandrasekaran said the \$70-billion deal happened at a time when the airliner plans to become “a world-class proposition.” The purchase, which beats the previous record of American Airlines’ 460-plane deal in 2011, would modernise Air India’s fleet and help it to “dramatically” expand its network, he told the media. Air India has retired most of its older planes; it plans to induct the first new aircraft into service by the end of this calendar year. This is the best piece of news about Air India in the last few years. As a public sector carrier, it was beset with a host of problems, from mounting losses to its marginalisation in the business. Privatisation didn’t end its woes; in 2022, it recorded its lowest-ever market share—8.7 per cent. In the last few months too, it hit the headlines for wrong reasons—the so-called peegate. The announcement regarding purchase of hundreds of aircraft has not just given a new profile to the airline but also informed the world that the India Story is vibrant and interesting. Also, this enhances the image of corporate India against the backdrop of the controversies over the Adani Group.

Further, the deal brings India closer to the Western camp. US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak welcomed Air India’s deals. Sunak has pointed out that Airbus will manufacture the wings in the UK and A350 aircraft will be powered by Rolls-Royce’s XWB engines. He is happy because his country’s aerospace industry employs more than 111,000 people. On his part, President Biden noted that the sale of over 200 Boeing aircraft will support over a million jobs in the US and help Air India meet its transportation demands, according to a White House release. The release also highlighted “the strength of the US-India economic partnership.” President Macron emphasized not just the economic aspect of the deal but also said that the Air India-Airbus contract “marks a new stage in India and France’s strategic partnership.” It may be recalled that India is already buying Rafale fighter aircraft from France. The dominant domestic market place IndiGo is also reportedly in the process of buying 500 jets. In fact, Indian carriers are said to be on a shopping spree, intending to buy almost 1,700 aircraft in the next few years. While an imminent boom in the aviation sector is heartening, there are a few things the authorities must ensure. The first and foremost is infrastructure. Airport expansion must be high on the priority list. Generally, our airports are crowded and badly managed. Also, the Government must expedite reforms so that smaller towns also get access to air travel. And, of course, passenger behaviour has to improve.



Need to revive Saarc

Saarc must be revived to counter China’s influence in South Asia

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) was formed in 1985 as a platform for promoting economic and cultural cooperation among countries in the South Asian region. Its member States include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. While the organisation has had some successes in the past, its future prospects are somewhat uncertain. But in the wake of Chinese inroads into South Asia, it is imperative that India takes initiatives to revive Saarc at the earliest. One of the main challenges facing South Asia is the longstanding tension between India and Pakistan. These two nuclear powers have a history of conflict and mistrust, and their disputes have often derailed Saarc meetings and initiatives. But India must take the initiative to work with Pakistan to put Saarc back on track as it would provide a mechanism to counter China’s influence. Saarc can be effective in meeting the growing influence of China. China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to promote infrastructure and trade links across Asia and beyond, has drawn many Saarc countries into its orbit. Some experts worry that this could lead to a situation where China becomes the dominant player in the region.

There are reasons to be optimistic about the future of Saarc. For one, there is a growing recognition among member States of the need for greater regional integration. This has been reflected in initiatives such as the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which aims to create a free trade zone among Saarc countries. While progress on SAFTA has been slow, there is still potential for it to be a significant driver of economic growth and cooperation in the region. There is rising interest in the Indo-Pacific among global powers such

as the United States and Japan. These countries have been looking to deepen their engagement with countries in the region, and Saarc could be a valuable partner in this effort. This could lead to increased support for Saarc initiatives and a greater focus on regional integration. Though Saarc’s future is uncertain, there are reasons to be hopeful as there is growing recognition of the need for greater regional integration. The rise of global interest in the Indo-Pacific region could also provide an opportunity for Saarc to increase its relevance and influence. Ultimately, its success will depend on the ability of the member States to put aside their differences and work towards a shared vision of economic and cultural cooperation.



Who is to blame for Mumbai’s poor AQI?

In the absence of concerted efforts, Mumbai’s AQI is deteriorating. At least authorities could take preventive measures for some relief for Mumbaikars

Mumbai is witnessing its worst air pollution season in years. While Delhi was always considered the worst in air quality among metropolitan cities, Mumbai, unfortunately, seems to be taking over the title quickly. There are generally two factors behind ambient air pollution - anthropogenic, or man-made, such as industries, vehicles, and construction; natural such as dust storms, weather, or climate change. Fast urbanization, growing population, need for construction and industrialization have been a matter of concern for years.

AQI is not always the correct measure of the actual air you are breathing. The monitors are analyzing the air within a certain radius of the sensor, and cannot be accurate for you unless you are breathing the air within that radius. So the AQI of a city is an average of the air quality readings of a lot of air monitors.

Presently, it has been stated by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) that the monitors installed by the System of Air Quality Weather and Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) are placed at mostly traffic junctions and that the readings could be high due to vehicular emissions and do not represent the actual air quality of the city. The poor quality of air in Mumbai has alarmed authorities who are rushing to implement solutions such as relocating air monitors, forestation, and installing more smog towers.

MPCB has asked SAFAR to relocate the air monitors to show a more accurate reading of ambient air quality data. At present, there are 9 devices placed in BKC, Chembur, Worli, Colaba, Bhandup, Andheri, Borivali, Malad, Mazgaon, and Navi Mumbai, all major districts of the city. There are districts in the city and on the outskirts that are struggling with air pollution daily due to the industrial cluster or waste disposal around them such as Thane, Ambernath, Vasai, Virar, and Govandi. The air quality in these areas has not



even come under the radar of the authorities yet.

The relocation might be able to change the AQI number on average for the world to know, but the city is still struggling with poor air quality and is open to a tsunami of health-related disorders. Instead of relocating the air monitors, Mumbai needs more air monitors in different areas with real-time data so that the source of pollution can be identified based on the level of PM2.5 or PM10, and the problem can be fixed at the root.

Urbanization has always been an enemy of nature. Although Mumbai has the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Aarey Colony, Miyawaki forests, and more in the name of green belt, that hardly does any good to the main city and its residents in terms of clean air.

The seedlings we plant today near our homes will probably be a tree in 10 years. If we relocate grown trees to our homes, we are causing more disaster by uprooting them. A greenery is always a good option for the natural balance of the environment. But even trees cannot absorb the emissions from our man-made pollution.

In 2019, Delhi installed 2 smog towers costing 20 crores

“URBANIZATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ENEMY OF NATURE. ALTHOUGH MUMBAI HAS THE SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK, AAREY COLONY, MIYAWAKI FORESTS, AND MORE IN THE NAME OF GREEN BELT, THAT HARDLY DOES ANY GOOD TO THE MAIN CITY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME TO HOLD POLLS IN J&K

Sir — The political process in J&K has remained stalled since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. To prevent violent protests, this process had to be suspended. By allowing the citizens to participate in the democratic process through voting, their trust in the mainstream will be strengthened. Leaders must represent and support the people’s aspirations by shunning their selfish motives, if any. Being an integral part of India, the rights of the citizens of the Union Territory should be similar to those elsewhere in India to move on the path of peace and progress.

Much water has flown down the river since then and there is hardly any possibility of eruption of violence. Our vibrant democratic system makes it imperative to conduct the elections in J&K. People of J&K can’t be denied their right to be governed by their elected representatives. When elections are being conducted in the NE States, why not in J&K? The Centre must take a leap of faith and respect the public mandate, irrespective of the political party voted to power. The time is ripe to conduct the elections so that people’s faith in democracy is restored.

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

INDIA IN DEFENCE SECTOR

Sir — The editorial ‘Great feat’ highlights India’s capability in defence exports even as Aero India in Bengaluru showcased India as an attractive destination for investment in defence manufacturing. Moreover, when the country has strengthened its ties with the US in the aftermath of Russia-Ukraine conflict, it is significant that Aero India is an ideal forum to showcase the most advanced and lethal weapon systems that the US has to offer. By and large, the five-day exhibition participated in by 700 defence companies and delegates from 98 countries clearly reveals that India is an emerging hub for advanced and sophisticated new-age military aircraft, helicopters etc.

It is certain to push the nation towards becoming one of the leading

Dubious honour for Mumbai



Mumbai recently beat Delhi to become the most polluted city in India. It is now in the second position worldwide for the period between January 29 and February 8, according to Swiss air tracking index IQAir (a real-time worldwide air quality monitor). Surprisingly, Delhi did not feature in the list of top 10 most polluted cities. On February 2, Mumbai climbed to the top of the list before falling down again after a few days. The metropolis then again rose above in being the most pol-

luted Indian city and the third most unhealthy city worldwide with regards to air quality.

The Swiss air tracking index, IQAir, in collaboration with UNEP and Greenpeace, calculates air quality in India. It uses the data shared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It categorises air quality as “healthy”, “unhealthy” and “hazardous” as per US air quality index (AQI) standards. As per the CPCB data, Mumbai had “poor” and “very poor” days in November-January during the current winter season, more than the previous three winters. The dust was generated mostly through construction work and vehicular emissions. As per a 2020 research by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and IIT-B, construction dust contributed to more than 71 per cent of the particulate matter load in Mumbai’s air. The rest was attributed to factories, power plants, airports and waste dumps.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

exporters of military equipment. It also reflects in abundant measure India’s self-confidence and capabilities; there is no iota of doubt that Aero India will also act as a catalyst in future growth of the aerospace sector. All in all, while the Russia-Ukraine conflict has stressed the importance of being self-reliant in niche defence technologies to fight future wars, Aero India not only brings cheers to all Indians but also reflects India’s new strength, capability and aspirations in the defence sector.

KR Srinivasan | Secunderabad

KERALA’S BUDGET BURDEN

Sir — The Kerala budget for 2023 has imposed a social security cess on petrol, diesel and liquor and a one-time cess on newly registered motor vehicles and increased the land and stamp duty, to gross ₹2955 crore during 2023-24. The additional levies would keep the fiscal deficit at 3.6 per cent of GSDP. Needless to say, these proposals burden the already beleaguered common man. Yet,

the compulsions of the Finance Minister should not be glossed over. The Centre transfers (share of taxes and grants-in-aid) from the divisible pool to total revenue receipts came down from 44 per cent in 2020-21 (Actuals) to 28 per cent in 2023-24 (BE).

In marked contrast, the transfers from the Centre in Uttar Pradesh’s budget for 2022-23 were 55.32 per cent. This anomalous situation has arisen mainly due to the flawed horizontal devolution criteria and weights adopted by the 15th Finance Commission. Further, the pool of divisible funds has itself shrunk, as the Centre is more interested in levy of cesses than taxes to generate additional revenues. The ‘White Paper on TN finances’ amply illustrates this aspect. There is an urgent need to end cross-subsidisation and evolve a formula for fair distribution of divisible Central receipts.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



ABHINAV GUPTA

not always in the control of an individual but indoor air quality is. Fortunately, most of us spend 70-80% of our daily time indoors, be it in homes, schools, or work spaces. It is important to monitor the air quality in our indoor spaces as well because pollutants like elevated CO₂, gases from stoves, particles from cooking, tobacco smoking, and incense burning can make our air 2 to 5 times worse than outside.

Once we test the air quality of our indoor space, we can apply the necessary changes to reduce household pollution, such as facilitating ventilation in the rooms, using a dehumidifier, or installing an air purifier as needed. Ambient air pollution claimed 9.8 lakh lives in 2019 India, while household pollution claimed 6.1 lakh lives. The air we breathe is responsible for the quality of life we get to live physically. We hope the authorities and concerned parties will find better solutions for outdoor air pollution, meanwhile, keeping ourselves safe from household or indoor air pollution is our responsibility.

(The author is the CEO & Co-Founder of Active Buildings’. The views expressed are personal)

SOUND BITE

There is no question of it (crony capitalism). No one can accuse the BJP of any such thing. During their (Congress) time, their own agencies had registered cases related to scams worth over Rs 12,000 crore.



BJP leader — Amit Shah

I’ve never lost an election, and I’m not going to start now. Get excited! Time for a new generation. Let’s

do this! For UN Ambassador — Nikki Haley

Pathaan worked purely because of the charisma and fan following of Shah Rukh, the way he marketed it, and the way he took it on his shoulders that ‘it is my film and I am responsible for it’, which is pretty good.

Filmmaker — Vivek Agnihotri

The auction happened yesterday, and you started batting (to a girl in rural India) today itself. Well done. Really enjoyed your batting. Former cricketer — Sachin Tendulkar

Today we pay homage to the 40 CRPF Martyrs who died because of the blatant Intelligence Failure in Pulwama. I hope all the Martyred Families have been suitably rehabilitated.



Congress leader — Digvijay Singh

FIRST COLUMN

WOMEN IN THE VALLEY
FIGHT DRUG ADDICTION

There are various reasons for
increasing drug abuse




MUDASSIR KULOO

While men are mostly seen taking drugs due to their availability, women on the other hand in the Kashmir valley are also falling for drug-addiction in their bids to ease trauma faced due to domestic violence.

Saima Bano (name changed), a resident of Srinagar, was married in 2018. But things started getting uneasy for her as she had to face mental and physical torture from her husband for dowry. She landed at her parents' home several times with bruises on her body. "He would beat me up and easily lose his cool. Then in 2021, things became unbearable for me and I returned to my parents and then got divorced," she said in a broken voice.

She was mentally disturbed and tried to end her life several times. After which, one of her friends advised her to take some drugs that would ease her stress and anxiety. "I first snorted a small amount of drugs. Then I shifted to injecting heroin. For over a year, I put my parents in deep trouble. They stood by my side and did not lose their hope. Today, due to my parents' efforts, I managed to quit drugs. I am now taking counseling sessions for several months," she added.



Kashmir's well known women's rights activist and mediator Ezabir Ali said, "In my work with women, there are many cases of domestic violence that have come to light and are being reported due to the aftermath of this addiction. Previously, we used to see painkillers and cannabis users, but now unfortunately, there are reports of thousands of syringes being used to inject heroin by drug abusers in the valley on a daily basis."

According to her, there are various reasons for increasing drug abuse in the valley. Unemployment, the loss of job opportunities due to Covid's impact, and the abnormal situation in Kashmir, which has led to a life of uncertainty and frustration are some of the triggers that have led to drug addiction in both men and women.

As a recommendation, Ezabir Ali suggested that efforts at drug prevention should be made in schools, workplaces, community centers, and families to communicate a healthy abstinence-based lifestyle. Youth should be an essential part of the prevention efforts.

Medical practitioners in the valley also believe in the urgency of raising voices against the easy availability of drugs. "We need to raise our voices against drug addiction, including its supply, and make people aware of its consequences," said Dr Yasir Rather of IMHANS-K.

He further highlighted how drug addiction is prevalent among educated as well as uneducated ones. Although youth are more involved with drugs, there are also people in their 50s who consume drugs and devastate themselves and their families.

Similarly, Abid Bhat, a sociologist, suggested that society take a multi-pronged approach to drug eradication and be more supportive rather than stigmatising drug addicts. "Parents must remain alert to any behavioural change among their children. Even if any child has tried drugs, parents should not be harsh on them but instead counsel them. Besides, if there is a drug addict in a family, people don't want to keep any ties with that family," Abid said.

"Preachers and social leaders must also raise voices for eradication of drugs," he added.

Jammu and Kashmir Police claim to be taking active measures to stop the drug menace in the Union Territory. Dilbagh Singh, the Director General of Police of J&K, recently said that the police are active in dealing with narcotics. According to police records, 815 FIRs were registered in 2021 in drug related cases in J&K. During 2022, 1021 cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and 1685 drug peddlers were arrested.

((Concluded...))
(The writer is an independent journalist from Jammu and Kashmir: Charkha Features)

Off-budget liabilities return in Budget '23

Unless PM Modi cracks the whip on reforms in food and fertiliser subsidy, such liabilities will haunt economy

In Budget 2020-21, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman candidly acknowledged the existence of the so-called off-budget liabilities and extra-budgetary resources (EBRs) and mentioned these in an annexure. EBRs are those financial liabilities or borrowings that are raised by public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other agencies of the government to fund latter's schemes for which repayment of entire principal and interest is done from its Budget.

If all obligations pertaining to the borrowings are met by the Union government then why does it not take these on its own balance sheet (BS) instead of riding piggy-back on its agencies/PSUs? The reason is by not borrowing itself and hence not reflecting on its BS, it is able to show lower fiscal deficit to the extent of EBRs.


Against this backdrop, acknowledging the existence of EBRs by itself was an unprecedented step by the Narendra Modi government. Presenting Budget 2021-22, the FM took the logical step forward of actually taking off-budget liabilities on the Union government's books not just for FY 2021-22 but also in the revised estimate (RE) for FY 2020-21. Take the case of food subsidy which is administered by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), around 820 million beneficiaries receive food grains, primarily wheat, rice and coarse cereals, at the heavily subsidized price of Rs 2, Rs 3 and Rs 1 per kg, respectively, which is a fraction of the cost of procurement, handling and distribution. The task is performed by the FCI et al on behalf of the Government, which reimburses the shortfall in realization from sale vis-à-vis the cost to the former as food subsidy. This is solely the liability of the Centre and is paid from the Union Budget.

Prior to 2020-21, the Government was invariably keeping a portion of the reimbursement amount due to the FCI pending. The extant method of accounting expenses on a cash basis, i.e., when actual payments are made, enabled it to do this. This forced FCI to borrow the "unpaid amount" from the banks or any other source. These borrowings plus interest accrued remained on the books of FCI.

This mechanism might have helped the Centre show that it is sticking to the fiscal consolidation road map. But it gave a misleading picture of the Government's finances and made it complacent with regard to the dire need for bringing about genuine and sustainable reduction in expenses. It also affected the financial health of the agency implementing welfare schemes.

The ballooning unpaid food subsidy dues forced the FCI to even borrow from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF)—a totally undesirable and unconscionable practice. Since 2016-17, when the FCI started borrowing from the NSSF, as on March



THE
BALLOONING
UNPAID FOOD
SUBSIDY DUES
FORCED THE FCI
TO EVEN
BORROW FROM
THE NATIONAL
SMALL SAVINGS
FUND (NSSF)—
A TOTALLY
UNDESIRABLE
AND
UNCONSCIONABLE
PRACTICE. FCI
STARTED
BORROWING
FROM THE NSSF
IN 2016-17

(The author is a policy analyst)



31, 2020, it owed a staggering Rs 300,000 crore to the Fund.

In Budget 2020-21, the FM allocated a mere Rs 116,000 crore for food subsidy. However, in the RE for the year, she provided for Rs 422,000 crore (this was later raised to Rs 525,000 crore), thereby enabling the government to not only pay for all of the expenses incurred during that year, which included free food scheme launched in April 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), but also help FCI clear all its dues to NSSF.

During 2021-22, the government gave a substantial hike in allocation at Rs 242,000 crore over BE for 2020-21. The RE for 2021-22 was even higher at Rs 286,000 crore which fully covered the requirement during the year leaving no room for any off-budget liabilities. In fertilizers also, prior to 2020-21, a large chunk of subsidy payments to manufacturers were kept pending by the government of the day if only to show a better picture of the fiscal deficit. During 2020-21, Modi-government put an end to this disingenuous practice by making sufficient provision/RE for fertilizer subsidy at Rs 128,000 crore (against BE of Rs 71,000 crore), thereby enabling payment of all bills for 2020-21 as well as all arrears from previous years.

For 2021-22 also, it kept the RE at Rs 162,000 crore (against BE of Rs 80,000 crore) enough to fully pay for all liabilities from the budget. However, the numbers for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 make one apprehensive about the government's intention.

In case of fertilizer subsidy, Sitharaman allocated only Rs 105,000 crore in the hope that fertilizer prices in the international market would decline drastically from the elevated levels of 2021-22. But that hasn't happened; in fact, these have increased further (courtesy, Ukraine war). This would have meant a likely subsidy outgo of around Rs 250,000 crore (as alluded to by officials during the course of the year).

Against this, Sitharaman has kept the RE for 2022-23 at Rs 225,000 crore implying a shortfall of Rs 25,000 crore, which will be kept pending. For 2023-24, she has allocated Rs 175,000 crore for fertilizer subsidy. With no end to the Ukraine War in sight and tight global supply conditions likely to continue till the end of FY 2023-24, fertilizer prices will remain elevated. As a result, the outgo during the year would be well above Rs 200,000 crore.

Together with carry forward from current FY, the actual could be touching Rs 250,000 crore, Rs 75,000 crore more than the BE. Coming to food subsidy, against BE of Rs 207,000 crore for 2022-23, the officials were estimating the actual outgo to be Rs 330,000 crore (this includes payment on PMGKAY till December 31, 2022). But the FM has kept RE at Rs 287,000 crore implying carry forward of Rs 43,000 crore to the next year.

For 2023-24, she has allocated Rs 197,000 crore for food subsidy - a cut of Rs 90,000 crore over the RE for 2022-23. This may well be due to the discontinuation of PMGKAY from January 1, 2023. However, in view of impending elections during 2023/2024, the possibility of reviving the scheme can't be ruled out; in any case, Modi is free to revive it for three months i.e. January 1-March 31, 2024, as the extant arrangement will end on December 31, 2023.

Together with carry forward from 2022-23, the government could be staring at a shortfall of around Rs 100,000 crore. The trend in food and fertilizer subsidy payments during 2022-23 and 2023-24 vis-a-vis budgetary allocation clearly points towards resurgence of the practice of off-budget liabilities.


The paramount reason behind this sordid state of affairs is that successive governments haven't made efforts to bring about sustainable reduction in expenditure on subsidies. Even as they have talked of big bang reforms in these schemes including DBT (direct benefit transfer) of subsidy to the beneficiaries but none walked the talk. Another factor has to do with the extant accounting methodology of recognizing expenses on cash basis i.e. when payment is actually made. This gives ample leverage to the government to defer payments to agencies.

In 2015, an Expenditure Management Commission (EMC) under Bimal Jalan, ex-Governor of the RBI, had recommended switching to accrual-based accounting of receipts and expenses, besides strongly disapproving of the practice of deferring major payments, especially subsidies to the following year. That hasn't been acted upon.

Unless PM Modi cracks the whip on reforms in food and fertiliser subsidy schemes, off-budget liabilities will continue to haunt.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE BJP WILL COME TO POWER
ONCE AGAIN. PEOPLE WILL VOTE FOR US FOR
DEVELOPMENT.
— TRIPURA CHIEF MINISTER
MANIK SAHA




OUR FOCUS IS ON ONLY ONE THING. WE DON'T WANT
THE BJP TO GET AN ADVANTAGE DUE TO A SPLIT IN
VOTES.
— CONGRESS CANDIDATE IN AGARTALA
SUDIP ROY BARMAN



Lower rates will reduce interest burden on Govt debt

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government had managed public debt well by taking advantage of low interest rates



ASHWINI MAHAJAN

For the last few days, a discussion has been going on in the media that the debt on the government has increased much more than before. The Congress says that when they left office in 2014, the country had a debt of only Rs 56.7 lakh crore, which has increased to Rs 152.6 lakh crore in 2022-23. Apparently, this figure appears big.

Theoretically, the government debt is not measured by its absolute size. It's measured as a percentage of GDP.

Accordingly, in the context of GDP of Rs 112 lakh crore at current prices in the year 2013-14, the total debt and liabilities of the government which were Rs 56.7 lakh crore, in absolute terms, were 50.5 per cent of India's GDP.

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

By the year 2018-19, the total debt and liabilities of the government, though reached 90.8 lakh crores, but they were only 48 per cent of the GDP of 189 lakh crores of GDP (at current prices), that is, as a percentage of GDP, the government debt and liabilities had decreased by 2.5 percentage points in five years.

The outbreak of the pandemic upset production and tax revenue. In such a situation, despite an increase of only Rs 12 lakh crore in government debt, it as a percentage of GDP increased by 3 percentage points to reach 51 per cent in 2019-20. The year 2020-21 was badly affected by Covid-19, in which the nominal GDP also decreased by Rs 2 lakh crore, but due to the



relief to the poor and other affected sections of the society, and huge increase in relief and public health related expenditures, the government debt and liabilities had increased by Rs 18 lakh crore. Due to this, government debt and liabilities as a percentage of GDP reached 61 per cent by 2020-21.

According to the budget estimates for the year 2023-24, the government debt and other liabilities will be Rs 169.5 lakh crore. However, as percent of the GDP of Rs 301 lakh crore it will be reduced to only 56 per cent of the total GDP. In this context, interestingly, in India, foreign debt is a very small part of total public debt, which is less than two per cent of the GDP.

Whether the loan is private or public, there is a liability attached to it, to repay interest and principal. As far as governments are concerned, governments continuously borrow and this debt keeps increasing progressively. It is worth mentioning that in 1950-51 the total debt and other liabilities of the government were only Rs 2,865.4

crore, which according to the revised estimates of 2022-23 has reached Rs 152.6 lakh crore. In Budget 2023-24, a provision of about Rs 10.8 lakh crore has been kept for interest and principal return, which is 24 per cent of the total expenditure of the government.

It can be understood that the repayment of interest and principal, which is increasing year after year, cannot be met with the current revenue of the government and hence more loans have to be taken for interest and loan repayment. But we need to understand that governments of all countries borrow. Therefore, it has to be seen what the position in comparison to other countries of the world is in terms of public debt.

According to the IMF, in the year 2021, the government debt in the US was 122 per cent of GDP, in Japan it was 221.3 per cent and in India it was only 54.3 per cent. Although the IMF does not publish figures for China, other global estimates put it at 79.2 per cent. Only Germany's debt to GDP ratio was slightly less than that of India at 46.3 per cent.

The Government's debt in the US in the year 2019 was only 93.1 per cent as a percentage of GDP, which increased to 122 per cent now.

The ratio of government debt and other liabilities to GDP remained around 50 per cent, but this ratio has increased recently, which may decrease again when the situation becomes normal.

The only way to reduce the burden of interest on government debt is by reducing interest rates. In India, the government has to pay about 7 per cent interest on government bonds. If the inflation rate comes down, the government can take new loans at low interest rate, which can reduce the burden of government debt.

In the past also, during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, when the inflation rate had reached around three per cent, bonds were sold at low interest and loans taken at very low interest rate for infrastructure construction. The debt burden on the government was reduced. It is imperative to reduce the interest rates by controlling inflation.

Russia claims minor Ukraine progress

Kyiv readies offensive

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces claimed some battlefield success on Wednesday as Moscow's invasion of Ukraine laboured to gain momentum almost a year after it began, while Ukraine said it needs another few months to stage its own offensive.

The Russian Defence Ministry said its troops broke through two Ukrainian defen-

sive lines in the eastern Luhansk region and pushed back Ukrainian troops some three kilometers (two miles), forcing them to leave behind equipment and the bodies of those killed.

It was not possible to independently verify Moscow's claim. Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment.

Russian artillery, drones and missiles have been relentlessly pounding Ukrainian-held eastern areas for months, indiscriminately hitting civilian targets and wreaking destruction, as the war largely slowed to a grinding stalemate in the winter.



Moscow is hungry for some progress after months of setbacks.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said his country's forces would need "a few months" to learn how to use new Western weapons before

they can try and push the Russians out of Ukraine.

The Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which together make up the industrial Donbas region bordering Russia, continue to bear the brunt of Russia's bombardments as Moscow reportedly moves

more troops into the area.

In Luhansk, the number of Russian ground and air attacks is "growing every day," Gov. Serhiy Haidai said on Ukrainian TV.

"The Russians were able to transfer new forces for the offensive and now they are trying to overwhelm us with sheer human mass," Haidai said.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Wednesday that one town had come under "nonstop" fire from multiple rocket launchers for over three hours the previous day, damaging at least 12 residential buildings.

At least 12 civilians were wounded when Russian forces struck a five-story apartment block in the city of Pokrovsk, Kyrylenko said. At least two others remained under the rubble.

Sweden: Our weapons vital boost for Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Sweden pledged on Wednesday to rush fearsome Archer artillery cannons to Ukraine "as soon as possible" but also cautioned that future military aid would have to be balanced with its own defence needs as a would-be future member of the NATO military alliance.

Speaking on a visit to the Ukrainian capital, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Archer howitzers, as well as 51 infantry fighting vehicles and anti-tank weapons that Sweden has promised, will together "make a significant contribution to Ukraine's combat power".

The latest promised package of Swedish military aid comes as Ukraine is fiercely clinging to territory in the east of the country against renewed Russian assaults.

Kristersson, speaking at a news conference in Kyiv with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, wouldn't say exactly when the Archer cannons would arrive, citing security needs and "practical reasons as well, in terms of training and things like that".

But he said training will start "very soon" and pledged Archer deliveries "as soon as possible".

Kristersson was less emphatic about another weapons system on Kyiv's wish-list: Fighter planes.

He didn't rule out such support. But he also suggested that Sweden wouldn't want to go it alone as a potential supplier and that other nations would have to rally around the idea of plane deliveries, as they eventually did around sending NATO-standard tanks to Ukraine.

Russian scribe gets 6 yrs over Ukraine posts

Moscow: A Russian journalist was convicted of disparaging the military on Wednesday and received a six-year prison sentence, the latest punishment in a relentless crackdown on critics of Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

The court in the city of Barnaul in southern Siberia found Maria Ponomarenko guilty of "spreading false information about the Russian armed forces' actions" with her posts on a messaging app. Ponomarenko, who worked for the RusNews portal, denied the charges.

Days after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the Kremlin-controlled parliament approved legislation that outlawed the spread of "false information" about the country's military campaign in Ukraine.

AP

EU seeks new Russia sanctions package, targets Iran's drones

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union is considering a new set of sanctions totaling 11 billion euros against Russia and some third countries providing vital goods that Moscow uses to boost its troops on the battlegrounds in Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday that the package under consideration by the EU's 27 member countries specifically seeks to deprive Russia of military equipment it needs and cannot get anywhere else.

It includes proposals to subject seven Iranian entities to sanctions to try to prevent Russia from using Iranian drones to hit Ukrainian civilian infrastructure.

The proposals put forward by von der Leyen center on additional electronic weapons components for equipment such as drones,



missiles, helicopters and thermal cameras. She had hinted at some of the measures during an EU-Ukraine summit early this month.

If the proposals are endorsed unanimously by the EU members, "we have banned all tech products found on the battlefield," von der Leyen said.

Ambassadors were to assess what is called a 10th package of sanctions against

Russia later Wednesday. It is further expected to be discussed during a Monday meeting of EU foreign ministers in hopes of having final approval by the Feb. 24 anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The package also tries to close loopholes that have allowed some measures from earlier packages to be circumvented and seeks to go after oligarchs who try to escape sanctions.

EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said it will also seek to target 100 additional individuals and entities, including those who have been involved in kidnappings and taking Ukraine children to Russia.

Usually, EU sanctions are decided in close cooperation with major Western partners like the United States and Britain. The partners usually announce similar packages within a very short time frame.

UN appeals for USD 397 mn to help Syrian quake survivors

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations chief launched a USD 397 million appeal Tuesday to help nearly 5 million survivors of last week's devastating earthquake in rebel-held northwest Syria who have received very little assistance because of deep divisions exacerbated by the country's 12-year war.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appeal a day after he welcomed an agreement between the UN and Syrian President Bashar Assad to open two new crossing points from Turkey for an initial period of three months.

The UN has only been allowed to deliver aid to the northwest Idlib area through a single crossing at Bab Al-Hawa -- at Syrian ally Russia's insistence. Since the quake, the UN says 84 trucks have gone through Bab Al-Hawa.

Guterres said the devastation from the magnitude 7.8



earthquake that ravaged southern Turkey and northwestern Syria on February 6 "is one of the worst in recent memory," and "we all know that lifesaving aid has not been getting in at the speed and scale needed."

He said the USD 397 million will provide "desperately needed, life-saving relief for nearly 5 million Syrians — including shelter, health care, food and protection" for three months. Guterres said the UN is in the final stages of preparing an emergency appeal for quake-ravaged southern Turkey.

Jordanian FM visits Syria, promises more earthquake aid

AP ■ BEIRUT

Jordan's foreign minister Tuesday met with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus, vowing to continue delivering earthquake aid and work to find a political solution to Syria's 12-year conflict, Syrian state media reported.

Ayman Safadi's visit to the earthquake-hit country makes him the first Jordanian official to do so since the onset of Syria's conflict in 2011.

It marks a new thaw in relations between the two countries and more generally between Assad and the Arab world.

Jordan's King Abdullah II had called Assad last week to express Amman's willingness to send humanitarian aid.

Since then, cargo planes and trucks loaded with assistance from the neighbouring country have reached Syria to help with relief efforts.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed over 1,400 people in government-held areas and displaced thousands more.

Berlusconi acquitted in trial tied to 'bunga bunga' parties

AP ■ MILAN

Italian former Premier Silvio Berlusconi was found not guilty Wednesday of witness tampering, in a trial related to the sexually charged "bunga bunga" parties at his villa near Milan while he was in office.

The six-year-old trial is the third and likely final in a scandal that made headlines around the world in 2010 when Berlusconi as a sitting premier faced charges — of which he was eventually acquitted — of having paid for sex with an under-age teen.

Berlusconi faced charges in the third trial of paying off witnesses to lie in earlier trials,



with prosecutors seeking six years in prison along with 10 million euros (\$10.68 million) in damages.

Another 28 people charged, including the woman at the center of the scandal, Karima el-Mahroug, were also all found not guilty on Wednesday.

"I am very happy," el-Mahroug, now 30, told

reporters after hearing the verdict.

"I just need a moment to assimilate this fact, to believe it." Berlusconi was not present as the verdict was read.

The earlier trials took place as Berlusconi still wielded considerable power as premier, raising concern among security officials that he had left himself vulnerable to extortion by hosting young women at his villa.

The 86-year-old three-time former premier is currently head of the third party in Italy's right-wing governing coalition, whose popularity polls show has shrunk significantly from its heyday to some 6 per cent.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Govt. Undertaking)

CORRIGENDUM-III
(e-tendering mode only)

The date of submission and opening of tender for "Providing Tungsten Carbide 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 Bhaba HEP" having tender specification No. HPSEBL/CEG/WP-122/2022-23-02 is hereby **EXTENDED** as per the following schedule :-

• Last date and time of online bid submission	Up to 21.02.2023 (17:00 Hrs.)
• Date of opening of Techno-commercial bid (Part-I)	23.02.2023 (11:30 Hrs.)

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/ downloaded from website <https://www.htenders.gov.in>. Any clarification/ amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer (Generation),
HPSEB Ltd., SUNDER NAGAR

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self & Nation

UNITED TEXTILES LIMITED
Registered Office:- 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Particulars	(Rs. in Lakhs.)					
	Quarter Ended			Nine months Ended		
	31.12.2022	30.9.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total income from operations	366.84	421.95	596.95	1313.50	1326.82	1774.12
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	0.41	0.40	1.04	2.92	3.66	3.82
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	0.40	0.16	0.27	2.16	2.73	2.19
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	-	-	0.09	-	0.28	0.31
Total Comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax))	0.40	0.16	0.36	2.16	3.01	2.50
Equity Share Capital	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	741.32
Earnings per Share (of 2/- each)	-	-	-	-	-	-
(1) Basic	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.09	0.07
(2) Diluted	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.09	0.07

Note:
1. 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 Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website, www.unitedtextileslimited.com.

For United Textile Ltd.
Director

Place : Hisar
Date : 13th February, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
SCO-304, 2nd Floor, Sector-29, Gurugram. 0124-4569999
Whereas, Y B Builders Pvt Ltd has constructed a commercial project in sector 114, Gurugram over an area measuring 3.0125 acres in the revenue estate of Village Bajghera in accordance with the provision of license no. 126, 20/12/2012 granted by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.
And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of commercial unit in the said project (hereinafter referred as allottees).
And whereas, the Building plans earlier approved at the time of grant of license for the said project was revised.
And whereas, the office of Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of Building plans as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the Building plans.
Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said project on the revision of the Building plans of the said project. A copy of the earlier approved Building plans bearing memo no. ZP-862/SD(BS)/2013/43054, dated 18.06.2013 & the Building plans revised is available for perusal on website www.ybuilders.in. The said Building plans can also be perused at the office of undersigned at SCO-304, 2nd Floor, Sector-114, Gurugram, Haryana as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), Sector-14, HUDA Complex, 3rd Floor, Gurgaon.
Any allottee having any objection on revised Layout Plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), Sector-14, Huda Complex, 3rd Floor, Gurugram, within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the Layout Plan.

Vikas Sharma (Vice President)
For YB Builders Pvt. Ltd.
Place: Gurgaon **Date: 16-02-2023**

WELCURE DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
CIN NO : L24232DL1996PLC227773
Regd. Off. : 33/36 Basement (Back side), West Patel Nagar near Ram Jass Ground, West Delhi, Delhi-110008
Corporate Office : 33/36 Basement (Back side), West Patel Nagar near Ram Jass Ground, West Delhi, Delhi-110008
Email ID : welcuredrugs227@gmail.com, Website : www.welcuredrugs.com

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2022
(In Rs. - Lacs.)

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Year to date	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (31/12/2021)
	(31/12/2022)	(31/12/2022)	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
(Refer Notes Below)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
1. Total Income from Operations	0.89	1.59	-
2. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items")	(0.24)	-0.87	(0.58)
3. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items")	(0.24)	-0.87	(0.58)
4. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(0.24)	-0.87	(0.58)
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(0.24)	(0.87)	(0.58)
6. Equity Share Capital	1,343.91	1,211.86	1,343.91
7. Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-
8. Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	0.00	-0.001	0.00
1. Basic	0.00	-0.001	0.00
2. Diluted	0.00	-0.001	0.00

Notes
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI(Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Half Year Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and the Company website.
2 The impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial items due to changes in accounting policies shall be disclosed by means of footnote.
3 # Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind-AS Rules/AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

For WELCURE DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
Sd/-
Date : 14.02.2023 **Name : Vishal Mehra**
Designation : Managing Director
DIN : 09717741

UJVNL Limited
(An Uttarakhnad Govt. Enterprises)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135-2763506
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvnl.com

R.O. No.: 153 **e-Tender Notice** **Date: 15.02.2023**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVNL, Pashulok Barrage
Rishikesh invites online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
Tender No. 25/2022-23/EE (Civil)/UJVNL/Pashulok Barrage.
Name of work :Protection Work in Left Bank at Just Upstream of Bin Super Passage.
Estimated cost : Rs. 4,59,86,758.04 only (GST Extra).
Date of availability of bid document on website: From 17:00 hrs of 16.02.2023
Last date for submission of bids on website- Upto 17:00 hrs of 09.03.2023
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://ukenders.gov.in>"
Executive Engineer (Civil)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812, 66 www.verka.coop

Notice Inviting e Tender

Name of the Work/Item	Contract Period/ Tentative Requirement
Sorghum Sudan Grass (SSG) Hybrid	Annual/ 72 MT
NOTICE Jowar Seed. (Verka Head Office)	

NIT: 1. For complete details regarding all above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.
Incharge (Purchase)
NA/12/14464/2022/21237 Dt. 2/15/2023

FORM G
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
M/S I-DZIRE HOSPITALITY PVT. LTD
OPERATING IN TRAVEL INDUSTRY AT DELHI
(Under Regulation 36A(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN/ CIN/ LLP No.	M/s I-Dzire Hospitality Private Limited PAN - AADCC05303J CIN - U93000DL2014PTC265146
2. Address of the registered office	145 A/9, KISHANGARH, VASANT KUNJ NEW DELHI - 110070
3. URL of website	NIL
4. Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	145 A/9, KISHANGARH, VASANT KUNJ NEW DELHI - 110070
5. Installed capacity of main products/ services	N/A
6. Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	Details can be obtained by emailing at - ldzire.cirp@gmail.com
7. Number of employees/ workmen	No workmen or employees as on CIRP commencement date.
8. Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors, relevant dates for subsequent events of the process are available at:	Details can be obtained by emailing at - ldzire.cirp@gmail.com
9. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Details can be obtained by emailing at - ldzire.cirp@gmail.com
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	03 MARCH 2023
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	13 MARCH 2023
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	18 MARCH 2023
13. Process email ID to submit EOI	ldzire.cirp@gmail.com

(Suman Kumar Verma)
Resolution Professional.
For M/s I-Dzire Hospitality Private Ltd.
Registration No. IBBI/IPA-003/IPA-N00342/2023-2022/13657
Office: R-Z-26P/205E, Lane No.10, Indra Park Palm Colony, New Delhi-110045
E-mail - ipskverma@gmail.com Contact No. 9716633301
Date : 16 Feb 2023
Place : New Delhi

GOLDEGE ESTATE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED
Regd Office:- C-115, Ground Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015
CIN: L70101DL1992PLC047541

EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022
Amt. in Rs. except per share data

S. No.	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED					
		Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		
		31-Dec-22	30-Sep-22	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21	31-Mar-22
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (gross)	6.76	6.28	6.76	19.07	32.67	38.78
2	Total income from operations (net)	6.76	6.28	6.76	19.07	32.67	38.78
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	3.37	2.12	2.95	7.97	12.45	13.37
4	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	3.37	2.12	2.95	7.97	12.45	13.37
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(1.15)	1.59	1.99	2.29	9.10	9.99
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(1.15)	1.83	1.99	2.29	9.10	9.99
7	Equity Share Capital	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24
8	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	73.93
9	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Basic :	(0.014)	0.036	0.036	0.056	0.187	0.214
	Diluted :	(0.014)	0.036	0.036	0.056	0.187	0.214

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022
Amt. in Rs. except per share data

S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					
		Quarter					

China threatens US entities over downing of balloon

AP ■ BEIJING

China said on Wednesday it will take measures against US entities related to the downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the American East Coast. At a daily briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin gave no details and did not identify the targets of the measures.

China says the balloon was an unmanned weather airship that was accidentally blown off course and accuses the US of overreacting in bringing it down with a missile fired from an F-22 fighter jet.

Since the February 4 downing of the balloon, the United States has sanctioned six Chinese entities it said are linked to Beijing's aerospace programs.

The US House of Representatives subsequently voted unanimously to condemn China for a "brazen violation" of US sovereignty and efforts to "deceive the international community through false claims about its intelligence collection campaigns".



Secretary of State Antony Blinken also canceled a visit to Beijing that many hoped would stabilise ties that have cratered amid disputes over trade, human rights, Taiwan and China's claim to the South China Sea.

While China denies the balloon was a military asset, it has yet to say what government department or company was responsible.

After initially expressing regret over the balloon's entry into US airspace, China has returned spying accusations against Washington, alongside

its threats of retaliation.

"China firmly opposes this and will take countermeasures in accordance with the law against the relevant US entities that undermine China's sovereignty and security," Wang said at Wednesday's briefing. China will "resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and its legitimate rights and interests," Wang said.

Also on Wednesday, US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel said the Chinese balloon's intrusion was part of a pattern of aggressive behaviour by Beijing.

Emanuel noted China's recent beaming of military-grade laser on a Philippine coast guard patrol vessel, the harassment of US planes by Chinese jets and China's opening of illegal police stations in the US, Ireland and other countries. "The balloon to me is not an isolated incident," Emanuel said.

If China wants to be a respected member of the international community, "then you act appropriately to certain basic premises. That is you don't open police stations in other countries ignorant of their laws as if your laws don't have any boundaries," he said.

"This is not exactly the qualities and characteristics of the good neighbour policy," the ambassador said, referring to China's outreach to countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

On Tuesday, Japan's Defence Ministry said at least three flying objects spotted in Japanese airspace since 2019 were strongly believed to have been Chinese spy balloons. It said it has protested and requested explanations from Beijing.

S Korea: Unlikely that Kim's daughter groomed as successor

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea on Wednesday said that it's still premature to determine whether the recently unveiled daughter of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is being groomed as her father's successor.

Speculation about the status of Kim's daughter, reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and aged about 10, has further intensified since she recently took centre stage at a massive military parade in Pyongyang and appeared in soon-to-be-released postal stamps — both events with her all-powerful father.

During a parliamentary committee meeting in Seoul, Unification Minister Kwon



Youngse, South Korea's top official on North Korea, questioned a belief that she's being primed as the North's next leader.

Kwon cited Kim Jong Un's relatively young age — Kim turned to 39 last month — and North Korea's male-dominated power hierarchy.

"There are views that (her appearances) are aimed at talking about a hereditary power

transition. But considering Kim Jong Un's age and the fact that North Korea has a much more patriarchal nature than ours, there are also lots of questions about whether North Korea having a woman (prepared to) inherit power now is indeed right," Kwon told lawmakers.

Kwon said the girl's repeated appearances in recent months were more likely meant to shore up public support of Kim's ruling family and prepare for a future hereditary power transfer.

South Korean media have speculated Kim Jong Un also has a son who is older than Kim Ju Ae and a third child, likely a daughter. But Kwon said only Kim Ju Ae is her father's officially confirmed child.

US military downs Iranian-made drone in Syria

AP ■ BEIRUT

US forces shot down an Iranian-made drone flying over a base housing American troops in northeastern Syria, the U.S. Military said Wednesday.

The incident comes more than a week after a deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked Turkey and Syria, followed by a significant deescalation of violence across the war-torn country.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement that the reconnaissance drone flew over Mission Support Site Conoco on Tuesday afternoon before American forces shot it down.

No group claimed responsibility for flying the drone in northeastern Syria, where it is not uncommon for bases housing U.S. Troops to come under rocket fire or mortar attacks. Iran-backed militia are based nearby, as are sleeper cells of the Islamic State group that was defeated in Syria in March 2019.

Saudi Binladin Group fined over 2015 crane collapse, says report

AP ■ DUBAI

A criminal court has imposed a \$5.3 million fine on the Saudi BinLadin Group and sentenced seven people to prison over the deadly collapse of a crane ahead of the 2015 hajj pilgrimage, a leading Saudi daily reported.

More than 100 people were killed in the incident. Buffeted by strong winds, the 1,350-ton crane collapsed onto the Grand Mosque that houses Islam's holiest site, the cube-shaped Kaaba, bringing down slabs of concrete on worshippers below. Less than two weeks after the Sept. 11 crane collapse, a stampede and crush of pilgrims killed more than 2,400 people, according to an Associated Press count.

The Okaz daily reported Tuesday that the company was fined 20 million Saudi riyals, or about \$5.3 million, for negligence and violation of safety regulations. Three defendants were sentenced to six months in jail and fined 30,000 riyals (\$8,000) and another four were sentenced to three months and fined 15,000 riyals (about \$4,000). Okaz did not report their names or nationalities.

The court ruled that the company is not required to pay blood money to the families of those killed, a traditional form of restitution in the conservative kingdom.

The Saudi Binladin Group did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

French pension tension triggers turbulent parliament debate

AP ■ PARIS

Sparks are flying over French President Emmanuel Macron's plan to raise the retirement age — not just in the streets, but in parliament too. The proposed pension reforms have unleashed the most turbulent debate in years in the National Assembly, with uncertainty looming over the final outcome.

Tensions at parliament are fed by the unpopularity of the reform aimed at raising the minimum retirement age from 62 to 64 and requiring people to have worked for at least 43 years to be entitled to a full pension, amid other measures.

The bill started being examined in the lower house of parliament, the National Assembly, last week. Over 20,000 amendments have been proposed, mostly by the leftist opposition coalition Nupes. This makes the debate almost impossible to finish before a Friday night deadline. The government denounced the tactic.



"What do our fellow citizens see? asked Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne at the National Assembly on Tuesday. "A held-up debate — held up by the multiplication of amendments... Held up by the multiplication of insults... held up by abhorrent personal attacks."

In recent days, multiple incidents have marked the debate, from legislators shouting and interrupting each other to insulting remarks toward a minister. In addition, a leftist lawmaker was excluded for 15 days after he tweeted a manipulated photo of himself and Labor Minister Olivier Dussopt.

Magnitude 5.7 quake hits New Zealand, no damage reported



AP ■ WELLINGTON

A magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck near the New Zealand capital Wellington on Wednesday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of damage. The quake struck under the Cook Strait that separates the North and South Islands at a depth of 74 kilometers (50

miles), USGS reported.

Wellington is on the southern end of the North Island, which is responding to a cyclone this week that caused widespread flooding and landslides that left four people dead.

UJVN Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bugh, CMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Phone No. 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax : 0135-2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

RO. No. 152 **Corrigendum (Date Extension)** Date: 15.02.2023

Due to non submission of sufficient bids & typographical error in date in the tender No. 15, 16 & 17/EE(M&G)/MPH/2022-23 invited by Executive Engineer (M&G) Mohammadpur Power House office, the last date of submission of bids may read as 20.02.2023 till 18:30 hrs & date of opening of tender may be read as 21.02.2023 from 12:00 hrs.

Rest terms & conditions remain unchanged. For all details, bidders are advised to visit our website www.ujvn.com

Executive Engineer (M&G)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.
CIN - U67100MH2007PLC174759
Registered Office : Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098
+91 22 4088 6090 / 6620 3149

APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) r/w proviso to Rule 9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Public Notice for E-auction sale of immovable property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) r/w proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and Borrower & guarantor in particular that the immovable property described herein below ("**Secured Asset**"), mortgaged to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC Trust SC- 30, ("**EARC**"), the physical possession of which has been taken by Authorised Officer of EARC on October 31, 2022, will be sold by way of E-auction on **March 04, 2023 at 12:00 Noon** with unlimited extension of 5 Minutes each through e-Auction Agency M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) on the website/portal <https://edelweissarc.auctiontiger.net> on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "no recourse" basis for recovery of aggregate dues of **Rs. 505,29,95,872.25/- (Rupees Five Hundred Five Crores Twenty Nine Lac Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two and Twenty Five Paise Only)** as on **August 23, 2022**, together with interest at contractual rates and other costs and expenses thereon to EARC from **KLG SYSTEL LIMITED (in Liquidation) ("Borrower")** and **Mr. Kumud Goel and Ms. Pushpa Lata Goel ("Guarantors")**

The Description of Secured Asset, Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit for the Secured Assets shall be as follows:

Description of Secured Asset	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit
All that piece and parcel of Industrial plot of land being Plot No. 24, admeasuring 1000 sq. mtr. in Sector 18, Electronics City, Gurgaon, Haryana along with all the building/structures being thereon (total built-up structure-15,750 Sq. Ft.) and bounded as follows North: Access Road, South: Plot No.22, East: Access Road West: Plot No. 23	Rs.11,47,50,000/-	Rs.1,14,75,000/-

OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS

Site Inspection	20/02/2023 to 28/02/2023, between 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Document Verification	On working days between 20/02/2023 to 28/02/2023.
Bid Document Purchase	On working days between 27/02/2023 to 02/03/2023.
EMD amount payment	By 2pm on 03/03/2023
Last Date of submission of bid document	By 5pm on 03/03/2023
Commencement of e-auction sale	12 Noon on 04/03/2023
Bank details	Ac No. 0004103000054719, IFSC No. IBKL0000004, IDBI Bank, Mittal Court, Nariman Point, Mumbai.
Officer contact details	7506642534 Meghraj.deshmukh@edelweissarc.in

For detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale, please refer to the link provided in the Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.edelweissarc.in/PropertySale

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large Mr. Jai Dayal who had purchased the **Commercial Shop No. 3 (Ground Floor) total area measuring 12.31 Sq. Mtrs. built on Plot No. III/F/575 Situated at Vashali, Ghaziabad, U.P. from Mohd. Shahid, holder of Sale Deed dated 06.08.2015, (Doc. No. 14948)** and same to be financed & mortgaged by **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.**

If any person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector - 2, Noida, UP-201301; Contact # 0120 - 4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our Client i.e. ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Purvi Matra is owner / mutule of Residential Dwelling Unit (Flat Bearing no. 401, on 4th Floor, (super area measuring 1316 sq. ft.) in Block-K, situated in complex known as "Stellar Green", Built on Plot No. 2-06, Sector-65, North, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana (U.P.) the said property by virtue of Mutation letter dated 15.09.2022, issued by Noida Authority, after demise of Late Mrs. Varsha Vaid, who was owner of the said property by virtue of Transfer Deed cum Sale Deed dated 22.11.2016, Registration No. 4527 executed by Mr. Sunil Mohan Bajaj. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to someone who is taking Loan for purchase the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd. if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of Mrs. Purvi Matra in respect of the said property its Sale / Mortgage / Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-41112527-28 kumarsassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Folio No. Folio No. 71L0024184 Share Certificate No(s) 24184 for 400 Share(s) bearing Distinctive Nos. 187031295-187031694 (both inclusive) of Tube Investments Of India Limited having its Registered Office at Dare House-234 NSC Bose Road, Chennai, Chennai, (Madras), Tamil Nadu-600001 registered in the name(s) of Gurumothry Tirupurasundari has/have been lost. I/we, have now applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate Share Certificate(s) in lieu of said original Share Certificate(s) is requested to lodge his/her objection thereto with the Company at the above address or with their Registrars, KIRN Technologies Pvt. Ltd Add:- Solenium Tower-B, Plot-31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad- 500032, in Writing, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Name & Address of the Shareholder(s)
Gurumothry Tirupurasundari Add:- A1, Rahul Narmla Apartments, Pattabhi Street, Near-Krishnan Temple, Krishnapuram, Ambattur, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu- 600053
Date: 15-02-2023 Place: Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Folio No. Folio No. 71F0024184 Share Certificate No(s) 24184 for 400 share(s) bearing Distinctive Nos. 187031295-187031694 (both inclusive) of Chotamandani Financial Holdings Limited having its Registered Office at Dare House-234 NSC Bose Road, Chennai, Chennai, (Madras), Tamil Nadu-600001 registered in the name(s) of Gurumothry Tirupurasundari has/have been lost. I/we, have now applied to the Company for issue of duplicate Share Certificate(s) in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate Share Certificate(s) in lieu of said original Share Certificate(s) is requested to lodge his/her objection thereto with the Company at the above address or with their Registrars, KIRN Technologies Pvt. Ltd Add:- Solenium Tower-B, Plot- 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad- 500032, in Writing, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Name & Address of the Shareholder(s)
Gurumothry Tirupurasundari Add:- A1, Rahul Narmla Apartments, Pattabhi Street, Near-Krishnan Temple, Krishnapuram, Ambattur, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu- 600053
Date: 15-02-2023 Place: Delhi

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Chg.), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites sealed e-tender on "SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM" comprising of Technical & Financial Bid, for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

Name of work	Standardization of piping and clamping of piping for FIBA, Air spring and Air suspension control equipment in Delhi division for a period of 6 months.
Advertised Value	₹29,11,838/- (including the provision of GST)
Earnest Money to be deposited	₹58,200/- through net banking or gateway only
Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Submission up to 12:00 hrs. on 09.03.2023 and opening after that.
Website particulars, Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Website www.ireps.gov.in Mechanical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-55 on any working day up to 17:00 hrs.
Note:	The complete particulars of the tender may be found in website www.ireps.gov.in
No. : 197-SI254/FIBA-A.spg & A.susp control/22/MC-IV Dated: 15.02.2023	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 477/2023

Emaar India Limited
(formerly known as Emaar MGF Land Limited)
CIN-U45201DL2005PLC133161

Registered Office : 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017
Email ID - bharat.garg@emaar.ae, Website - www.in.emaar.com

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022									
(Rs. in million)									
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Nine months ended			Year ended	
		31 December 2022	30 September 2022	31 December 2021	31 December 2022	31 December 2021	31 March 2022		
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited		
1	Total Income from Operations	6,814.99	3,725.96	10,974.36	13,297.05	19,111.26	25,486.65		
2	Net Profit/(loss) for the period/year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,370.99	(1,010.59)	1,165.56	(576.16)	76.67	1,894.47		
3	Net Profit/(loss) for the period/year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	87.14	(1,010.59)	1,165.56	(1,860.01)	76.67	1,894.47		
4	Net Profit/(loss) for the period/year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	87.14	(1,010.59)	1,165.56	(1,860.01)	76.67	1,894.47		
5	Total Comprehensive Income/(loss) for the period/year [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period/year (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	93.63	(1,010.11)	1,168.71	(1,853.15)	84.37	1,907.93		
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(37,504.38)	(37,598.00)	(37,474.78)	(37,504.38)	(37,474.78)	(35,651.22)		
8	Net Worth	(35,810.51)	(35,904.13)	(35,780.91)	(35,810.51)	(35,780.91)	(33,957.35)		
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	78,831.95	78,387.27	67,066.34	78,831.95	67,066.34	65,560.88		
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-		
11	Debt Equity Ratio	(2.05)	(2.08)	(1.79)	(2.05)	(1.79)	(1.82)		
12	Earning / (Loss) Per Share (in Rupees) (Basic & Diluted)	0.51	(5.97)	6.88	(10.98)	0.45	11.18		
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-		
14	Debt Redemption Reserve	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13		
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.29	0.13	0.65	0.08	0.40	0.54		
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.07	0.43	1.76	0.64	1.03	1.32		

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with stock exchange under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full formats of financial results are available on the website of the stock exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.in.emaar.com.
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the website of stock exchange www.bseindia.com.
- The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on February 14, 2023.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of
Emaar India Limited
Sd/-
Jamal Majed Khalifa Bin Theniyah
Director
DIN - 07534610

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173
Regd. Office : 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007
Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in
Tel : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2022

(₹ in lacs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1	Total Income from operations	3,952.51	3,853.77	3,460.82	11,170.63	9,489.45	13,701.06
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax	48.48	13.63	104.73	78.56	151.64	250.90
3	Net Profit for the period after tax	53.35	7.24	64.60	67.37	95.69	192.01
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	53.35	7.24	64.07	67.37	95.37	212.30
5	Equity Share Capital	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10
6	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	4,168.39
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10 each)						
(a)	Basic (₹)	1.28	0.17	1.55	1.62	2.30	4.61
(b)	Diluted (₹)	1.28	0.17	1.55	1.62	2.30	4.61

Notes :-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in.
- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the meeting held on February 14, 2023.

By Order of the Board
for Cosco (India) Limited

Narinder Kumar Jain
Managing Director
DIN : 00195619

Place : Delhi
Date : 14.02.2023

Most of Adani group firms close higher

Adani Ent rises 1%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Most of the Adani group stocks closed higher with the flagship Adani Enterprises settling higher by 1 per cent on Wednesday, a day after the conglomerate asserted that its balance sheet is “very healthy”.

At close, six of the group firms were in the green while four were in the red.

“The market cap of Adani group companies continued to fall, down 1.5 per cent on February 15, even as 4 out of 10 conglomerate’s stocks ended in the negative. “The combined market valuation of the group is now down 54.9 per cent as compared to that on January 24,” Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said.

On BSE, Adani Enterprises shares surged 1.61 per cent to close at ₹1,778.45 apiece, with



a market valuation of ₹2.02 lakh crore. Shares of NDTV jumped 4.70 per cent to settle at ₹197.20 per share. During the day, the scrip zoomed 5 per cent to touch ₹197.75 — its upper price band on the bourse.

Besides, Ambuja Cements soared 2.36 per cent to close at ₹344.60, ACC rose 1.13 per cent to end at ₹1,851.55, Adani Wilmar gained 0.93 per cent to settle at ₹397.25 and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone increased 0.68 per cent to end at ₹568.95 on the exchange.

However, four Adani group firms, Adani Power, Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy and Adani Total Gas declined by 5 per cent each at close.

RBI publishes 54 existing online payment aggregators

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday released a list of 54 entities, including Amazon (Pay) India, Google India Digital Services, NSDL Database Management, and Zomato Payments, which can continue to operate as Online Payment Aggregators (PAs).

In a statement, the RBI said while the exercise of scrutiny of applications of PAs is an ongoing process, for the purpose of disseminating information and ensuring greater transparency, the list of entities that have submitted applications to RBI seeking authorisation to act as online PAs with the current status of their application as of February 15, 2023, is published.

The list has three tables. One of the tables is on ‘Existing PAs who can operate as Online Payment Aggregators’ and has 54 names. Another table is on ‘New PAs who have been granted in-principle authorisation and whose application is currently under process – Cannot operate’. It has 28 names.

The third is on ‘List of PAs



whose applications were returned/withdrawn - Cannot operate’ and has 57 entities.

“All stakeholders are advised to transact with only those existing PAs who have been granted in-principle authorisation or whose application is currently under process,” the RBI said.

It further said that stakeholders may transact with new PAs only after these entities have received ‘authorisation’ under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act from the Reserve Bank of India.

SBI hikes MCLR-based lending rates by 10 bps to 7.95-8.70%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The nation’s largest lender State Bank of India on Wednesday marginally increased the short-term lending rates across overnight to three year maturities by 10 basis points (bps) with immediate effect.

While banks have almost fully passed on the 250 bps interest rate hikes by the Reserve Bank since last May, they have not yet increased deposit rates commensurately, leading to a funding gap and forcing them to borrow from the market.

For the fortnight ending January 13, 2023, credit growth rose 16.5 per cent annualised as against 10.6 per cent growth in deposits.

Sensex, Nifty rise for 2nd day on gains in oil, IT & auto shares

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex pared barely losses to close 242 points higher while Nifty settled above the 18,000-mark on Wednesday following gains in IT, oil and select banking stocks amid mixed global trends.

Extending gains for a second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 242.83 points or 0.40 per cent to close at 61,275.09 with 20 of its constituents ending in the green.

The index opened lower at 60,990.05 but later regained foot to touch a high of 61,352.55 in day trade.

The broader Nifty of NSE rose by 86 points or 0.48 per cent to settle above the 18,000-mark at 18,015.85, following gains in RIL, Tech Mahindra and Adani Enterprises. As



many as 37 of its stocks advanced while 13 declined.

“Despite a sluggish start in the domestic market, recovery in the IT and auto sectors contributed to a positive finish. A reversal in the FII pattern to net buying has also helped maintain optimism in the market,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Weakness in the global markets was weighing on the sentiment in early trades but resilience in the select heavyweights pushed the index gradually higher, Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Govt focusing on public expenditure to propel growth: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that the effort of the government over the years has been to increase public expenditure with a view to promote growth.

Speaking at the Post-Budget interactive session with the members of the industry chamber PHDCCI, the minister said that the government in the 2023-24 budget increased the capital expenditure by 33 per cent to ₹10 lakh crore.

She further said that the States were being nudged to carry forward reforms in various sectors including power and also implement the ‘one nation, one ration card’.

Gold tumbles ₹475 amid weak global trends

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price tumbled ₹475 to ₹56,345 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday amid a decline in rate of the precious metal globally, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had ended at ₹56,820 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver also fell by ₹195 to ₹65,925 per kilogram.

“Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹56,345 per 10 gram, down ₹475 per 10 gram,” said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities. In the overseas market, both gold and silver were quoting lower at \$1,834 per ounce and \$21.58 per ounce, respectively.

Integra Telecommunication and Software Limited				
CIN:L74899DL1985PLC020286				
Registered Office: Flat No. 1311,13th Floor, Devika Tower 6, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019				
Corporate Office: 610/611, Nirmal Galaxy Avior, L.B.S. Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai-400080				
Email ID: info@integratelesoftware.com; Website: www.integratelesoftware.com				
Extract of Statement of Audited Results for the Quarter and Year Ended 31.12.2022				
(Amount in lakhs)				
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended
		31.12.2022 Un-Audited	30.09.2022 Un-Audited	31.03.2022 Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	3.78	28.85	27.13
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(4.95)	21.11	15.46
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(4.95)	21.11	15.46
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(4.95)	21.11	15.46
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income(after tax)]	(4.95)	21.11	15.46
6.	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share)	1,056.00	1,056.00	1,056.00
7.	Reserve (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)	-	-	(0.94)
8.	Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic & Diluted	(0.05)	0.20	0.15
Notes :-				
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Un-Audited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 14th February, 2023 format of the Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) at www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.integratelesoftware.com				
For Integra Telecommunication and Software Limited				
Sd/-				
Ramaswamy Narayan Iyer				
Managing Director				
DIN:03045662				
Place: Mumbai				
Date: 14.02.2023				

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED												
Registered Office: '38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049												
Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com; website: www.sunilhealthcare.com												
CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662												
Extract of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine months ended 31st December 2022												
Rs. in Lakhs												
S.No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended			Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended	
		31st December 2022	30th September 2022	31st December 2021	31st December 2022	31st December 2021	31st March 2022	31st December 2022	30th September 2022	31st December 2021	31st December 2022	31st March 2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2,589.90	3,235.65	3,132.84	9,267.19	8,627.63	11,792.71	2,603.43	3,241.24	3,162.94	9,276.99	12,083.96
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax,Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	50.33	315.16	311.03	975.49	406.56	957.11	11.26	303.54	304.14	897.23	926.47
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	50.33	315.16	311.03	975.49	406.56	957.11	11.26	303.54	304.14	897.23	926.47
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	31.46	224.90	223.76	703.11	290.91	677.68	(7.94)	212.65	216.18	623.21	642.06
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	31.46	224.90	223.76	703.11	290.91	671.71	(24.84)	204.03	216.70	586.57	642.06
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	4,453.49	-	-	-	-	3,970.01
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each)											
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	0.31	2.19	2.18	6.86	2.84	6.61	(0.08)	2.07	2.11	6.08	2.35
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	0.31	2.19	2.18	6.86	2.84	6.61	(0.08)	2.07	2.11	6.08	2.35
Notes:												
1 The Above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Nine Months ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full Format of the Quarterly/Nine Months ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and the company's website (www.sunilhealthcare.com).												
2 As the Company's business fall within a single primary business segment viz. sale of capsule, the disclosure requirement of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS-108) "Operating Segments" prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder, is not applicable.												
3 The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on February 14, 2023.												
4 The figures for the previous periods have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever considered necessary, to conform current period classifications.												
Place : New Delhi												
Date : 14.02.2023												

BUSINESS BRIEF	
PFC INKS 3 HEALTHCARE, SKILL DEVT MOUS	
New Delhi: The Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a Maharatna Company and India's leading NBFC in power sector, has signed 3 different Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with MNJ Institute of Oncology & Regional Cancer Centre (MNJ), Hyderabad, The Kalgidhar Society (TKS), Baru Sahib, Sirmaur, H.Pand the Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) to provide Healthcare Services and Skill Development Training as part of its CSR initiative. The first MoA with MNJ Institute of Oncology & Regional Cancer Centre (MNJ) was signed for 'Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 64 Slice Computed Tomography Scanner to be placed at MNJ. The second MoA with The Kalgidhar Society (TKS) was aimed at 'Upgradation of Healthcare Services and providing Equipment for Free Community Kitchen at the Kalgidhar Society. The third MoA with Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) relates to providing Skill Development Training to 1000 people belonging to underprivileged sections of the society in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.	
INDIA OVERTAKES FRANCE IN SCOTCH WHISKY IMPORT	
New Delhi: India has overtaken France to become the largest market of Scotch whisky in terms of volume with a 60 per cent hike in imports in 2022 over the previous year, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Industry (CIABI) has raised serious concerns over the massive growth in the import of the Scotch whisky from the UK. "As per the Scotch Whisky Association, India has become the largest export market globally for Scotch whisky. This is also supported by the Government of India import data which shows that the import of Scotch whisky grew by 148% in the period April to September 2022 over the same period previous year. During this period the domestic industry grew by just a little over 20%. These facts simply disprove the claim made by some SWA members that the Scotch whisky is being denied fair opportunity in India," said Vinod Giri, Director General of CIABI.	

Rupee falls by 5 paise to close at 82.83 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI



The rupee pared most of its initial losses to close down by 5 paise at 82.83 against the US currency on Wednesday on lower trade deficit data for the month of January and FII inflows.

Forex traders said a stronger American currency in the overseas markets capped the appreciation bias.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 82.90 against the greenback amid early loss-

es in domestic equities.

The local unit recovered some ground later in the day in line with equities to close at 82.83, down 5 paise over its previous close of 82.78.

During the session the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.79 and a low of 82.90 against the American dollar.

SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED			
Registered Office: R-13, S/F GREATER KAILASHI NEW DELHI, DELHI - 110048, INDIA			
CIN :L34102DL1985PLC020156			
Email: sidhindia1985@gmail.com , website: www.sidhgroup.in			
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 st DECEMBER, 2022			
(Amount in Rs. Lakh)			
Particulars	Quarter Ended 31-12-22 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 31-12-21 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31-03-22 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	3.48	2.87	13.02
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.60	0.39	(4.27)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.60	0.39	(4.27)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.60	0.39	(4.27)
Total Comprehensive Income (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax)	0.60	0.39	(4.27)
Equity Share Capital	296.23	296.23	296.23
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year	-	-	0.0377
Earnings Per equity Share (of Rs.10/each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)			
(a) Basic:	0.02	0.01	(0.14)
(b) Diluted:			
Notes :			
1. Above results were reviewed by Audit Committee and taken on record by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on February 14, 2023. The Statutory Auditors of the company have carried out a limited review of the result for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2022.			
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter and Nine Months Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.			
3. The full format of the Quarter and Nine Months Unaudited Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and Company's website i.e. www.sidhgroup.in			
4. Figures pertaining to the previous period have been rearranged/regrouped, wherever considered necessary, to make them comparable with those of the current period.			
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors			
SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED			
Sd/-			
(ANIL SHARMA)			
MANAGING DIRECTOR			
DIN: 02928210			
Date : 14.02.2023			
Place : Delhi			

SOJO INFOTEL PRIVATE LIMITED			
CIN: U74999DL2016PTC302026;			
Regd. Office Address: M-11, Mezzanine Floor, Balrama House Commercial Complex, Karampura, New Delhi 110015, Contact No. 7428193046			
E mail: info.sojoinfotel@gmail.com , Website: sojoinfotel.sojo.co.in ;			
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 st DECEMBER, 2022			
(Rs. In lakhs unless otherwise stated)			
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.12.2022 (Un-audited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2021 (Un-audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations including other income	19.94	14

India win 2nd match in a row

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

Deepti Sharma shone with the ball before Richa Ghosh led India to a six-wicket win over West Indies in their Women's T20 World Cup Group 2 match here on Wednesday.

Deepti spun a web around the West Indies batters to restrict them to 118 for six after being asked to bowl.

The seasoned off-spinner (3/15) picked three wickets to become the first Indian to get to 100 women's T20I wickets.

Ghosh (44 not out) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (33) then put up a vital 72-run stand to take India to their second victory of the tournament with 11 balls to spare.

Needing less than run a ball, India were off to an electric start with openers Shafali Verma (28) and Smriti Madhana (10) taking the team total to 31 in four overs on the back of six fours.

But India lost the momentum as slow bowling did the trick for West Indies.

Mandhana missed off-spinner Karishma Ramharack's (2/14) ball completely, resulting in an easy stumping for wicketkeeper Rasha Williams.

Last game match-winner Jemimah Rodrigues (1) became Hayley Matthews (1/12) first and only victim of the day as the skipper took a stellar catch



of her own bowling.

After two low-scoring overs, Shafali tried to up the ante only to be caught at long leg and West Indies picked three wickets in quick succession.

Harmanpreet took her time to settle down before hitting back-to-back fours off Afy Fletcher (0/24) in the ninth over. The India skipper's knock came off 42 balls with the help of three boundaries.

Ghosh did what she does best — finish the game.

The youngster hit five fours, including one to finish off the match in her unbeaten 32-ball innings. She took India to

119 for 4 in 18.1 overs.

Earlier, Pooja Vastrakar (1/21), opening with the new ball, gave India the early breakthrough, getting rid of the dangerous Hayley Matthew (2), striking on her very first ball.

The West Indies skipper was done in by the extra bounce as Richa Ghosh completed a regulation catch.

Pooja continued to put pressure on the West Indies, bowling a wicket maiden.

Shemaine Campbelle (30) hit West Indies' first boundary in the third over, slapping a Renuka Singh (1/22) delivery past square leg.

The introduction of spin

led to West Indies collecting 12 runs, including two fours from Rajeshwari Gayakwad's over.

West Indies were 53 for 1 at the halfway mark. Campbelle and Stefanie Taylor (42) steadied the West Indies innings as they slowly but steadily stitched a 73-run partnership. The two shared nine boundaries between them.

However, twin strikes from the ever-reliable Deepti led to a mini batting collapse. The off-spinner first punished Campbelle for going for a reverse sweep with Smriti Mandhana completing a lovely catch at short third.

Three balls later, she trap-

ped Taylor leg before which was initially deemed not out by the umpire but India successfully reviewed the decision and got it changed.

Chinelle Henry (2) was the next to go as Mandhana and Ghosh effected her run out.

India were able to stem the flow of runs but their fielding was found wanting. Deepti dropped Chedean Nation on 3 in the 16th over.

Nation and Shabika Gaj-nabi (15) took West Indies past the 100-run mark.

Deepti reached the 100-wicket milestone in the last over when she bamboozled Aly Fletcher (0).

Brown, Wareham set up second win for Australia

AP ■ GQEBERHA

Leg-spinner Georgia Wareham made a successful return to international cricket with a player of the match performance for Australia against Bangladesh at St George's Park in Gqeberha on Tuesday.

Wareham took three for 20 as Bangladesh were restricted to 107 for seven despite a half-century by captain Nigar Sultana.

Australia won by eight wickets, with captain Meg Lanning making 48 not out.

"It was pretty tough," said Wareham, who suffered a left knee cruciate ligament injury in

October 2021 and had a race against time to be fit for the current tournament.

"I missed the 50-overs World Cup, the Ashes and the Commonwealth Games," she said.

"To come out on the other side I am pretty thankful for those people who helped me. Thanks to the selectors for backing me despite me not having played any cricket leading up to the World Cup."

Lanning was delighted to have Wareham back and in form. "She's had a long way back after a serious injury. She's a game changer." The initial



damage was done by fast bowler Darcie Brown, who took two early wickets.

Nigar scored 57 for Bangladesh but lacked support. She came to the crease after Brown had reduced Bangladesh to 11 for two in the fourth over and was the mainstay of the innings until the penultimate over when she lofted a catch to cover off off-spinner Ash Gardner.

Nigar hit a six off leg-spinner Alana King and seven fours in a 50-ball innings but none of her teammates could make more than Shorna Akter's 12 against the varied attack of the defending champions.



Ram Baboo & Manju break 35km race walk national records

PTI ■ RANCHI

Ram Baboo and Manju Rani made big improvements in their personal timings to rewrite the men and women's 35km national records en route to winning gold medals on the concluding day of the National Race Walking Championships here on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old Manju, representing Punjab, became the first Indian woman to clock sub-3 hour in 35km race walk event, winning in 2:57.54s, as she broke the earlier national record of 3:00.04s set last year by Ramandeep Kaur.

Manju completed the race nearly eight minutes faster than her earlier personal best of 3:07.49s, which she had clocked while finishing second behind Ramandeep in the last edition of the championships here in 2022.

Baboo of Uttar Pradesh,

also 23, improved his own national mark of 2:36.34s by nearly five minutes to 2:31:36s.

However, they failed to match the World Athletics Championships qualifying standards of 2:29.40s (men) and 2:51.30s (women).

The 35km race walk is a very new event, introduced in India only in 2021 in the wake of World Athletics' decision to do away with the 50km discipline after the Tokyo Olympics.

For Manju, it was the first win in five starts since preferring the 35km event during the National Open Championships in Warangal in September 2021, when she had clocked 3:32:57s.

She had won a silver and a bronze respectively in the National Games in Gujarat and National Open Athletics Championships in Bengaluru last year, clocking 3:22:32s and 3:17:02s respectively.

Sania Mirza to mentor RCB in WPL



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian tennis icon Sania Mirza, who played her last Grand Slam at the Australian Open last month, was roped in by the Royal Challengers Bangalore team as its mentor in the upcoming Women's Premier League.

"It is a pleasure for me to join the RCB women's team as a mentor," the winner of six Grand Slam and 43 WTA titles said in an RCB statement.

"Indian women's cricket has seen a tectonic shift with the Women's Premier League, and I am really looking forward to being a part of this revolutionary pitch," Mirza said in a statement issued by the franchise.

"RCB and its brand philosophy perfectly resonates with my vision and outlook as that's how I have approached my playing career and it's also how I see contributing to sports post my retirement."

"RCB has been a popular team and much followed team in the IPL over the years. I am

immensely happy to see them building a team for the Women's Premier League...

"It will push the women's sports to new heights in the country, open new doors to women cricketers and help make sports the first career choice for young girls and young parents with a girl child," she added.

Mirza retired from the sport after the Australian Open earlier this year, where she and her partner Rohan Bopanna finished runners-up in the mixed doubles event.

She has announced that the ATP Dubai Open later this month would be her swansong tournament as she's expected to join the franchise after that.

RCB NAME BEN SAWYER AS HEAD COACH FOR WPL

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Australian Ben Sawyer, currently in charge of the New Zealand women's team, has been appointed as head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore ahead of next month's Women's Premier League (WPL).

The 45-year-old Sawyer is also the current coach of Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred. He has also served as head coach of the Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) besides being assistant coach of Australia women.

"He (Sawyer) has won three World Cups with Australia. A fast-bowling expert. He has also won the BBL titles with Sydney Sixers. He has made it to the finals of The Hundred as well," RCB's Director of Cricket operations Mike Hesson said in a video posted on the team's Twitter handle.

"He has been involved in women's cricket for over 20 years, knows the women's game inside out, knows the players very well. He has been thoroughly involved in our preparations leading up to the auction as well."

Sawyer will be assisted by Maloran Rangarajan (assistant coach and head of scouting), VR Vanitha (scout and fielding coach) and RX Murali (batting coach).



Mercedes back to black for 2023 F1 season

AP ■ LONDON

Mercedes have reverted to a black livery for the new Formula One season as they bid to return to the summit of Grand Prix racing in 2023.

Lewis Hamilton and fellow driver George Russell unveiled the new car during Wednesday's launch at the Silverstone circuit in Northamptonshire, central England.

Multiple world champion Hamilton, 38, last year finished a relatively lowly sixth — his worst position at the end of a Formula One championship — as Mercedes struggled to adapt to the sport's new regulations.

But now they hope a return to black — the colours which carried British racer Hamilton to a record-equalling seventh title in 2020 — will signal a change of fortune.

Hamilton, one of the few leading people of colour in mo-

torsport, encouraged Mercedes to paint their car black for the 2020 and 2021 seasons as part of an anti-racism campaign.

Mercedes' traditional racing colour has been silver, hence the Germany-founded marque's nickname of the "Silver Arrows".

And team principal Toto Wolff said there was a performance reason behind this year's change of colours.

Hamilton saw his record of winning at least one race in every season of his career — a run extending back to his debut campaign for McLaren in 2007 — end last year when he finished a huge 214 points adrift of champion Max Verstappen and even behind Mercedes teammate Russell, who came fourth.

Hamilton, entering the final year of his current £40 million-a-season deal, will hope Mercedes have now given him a machine to challenge rival Verstappen and Red Bull.



Thiem wins 1st match of 2023

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Dominic Thiem accomplished his main objective at the Argentina Open, getting his first win of the year after an abdominal injury and struggles with his form.

Thiem, the 2020 US Open champion whose career-best ranking is No. 3, entered the tournament at No. 99 and said he feared losing his safe spot at top ATP tournaments if he continued to fall in the rankings.

The 29-year-old Austrian beat seventh-seeded Alex Molcan 7-6 (4), 6-3 in the clay-court tournament on Tuesday. Thiem will face Juan Pablo Varillas in the second round.

Thiem won at Buenos Aires in 2016 and 2018. More recently, he was eliminated in the first round of the Australian Open by Andrey Rublev.

This year's defending champion, Casper Ruud, is skipping the tournament. The top attraction is second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who will face Laslo Djere in the second round on Wednesday.

Coman scores winner as Bayern edge PSG

AP ■ PARIS

Kingsley Coman scored the only goal of the game as Bayern Munich beat Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday, with substitute Kylian Mbappe denied a late equaliser by a marginal offside call.

The unmarked Coman swept in an Alphonso Davies cross eight minutes into the second half at the Parc des Princes, just as Mbappe was preparing to enter the fray on his return from injury after PSG had appeared devoid of ideas without their top scorer.

Mbappe, and the entire stadium, thought he had equalised with eight minutes remaining when he turned in a Nuno Mendes cut-back, but the goal was ruled out because the Portuguese full-back was just ahead of the last defender at the start of the move.

Bayern finished the game with 10 men after Benjamin Pavard was sent off, but it was a frustrating ending for PSG.

The French giants looked much better in the latter stages with Mbappe on the field but also needed fine saves by Gianluigi Donnarumma to prevent a bigger deficit.

PSG must hope they can turn the tie around in the second leg in Munich on March 8.

"We are at a disadvantage but we saw that we were capable of causing them problems and now we just need to make sure all our



players are in good health and we will go there to try to qualify," Mbappe, who had another goal ruled out for a clear offside, said.

Coman, who started his career in Paris, did not celebrate his goal but it was a case of history repeating itself — he had been the matchwinner when Bayern beat the Qatar-owned club in the 2020 final in Lisbon to become European champions for the sixth time.

"It was a bit strange. I grew up at this club, in this city, I was born here, so it was difficult to celebrate but at the end we are really pleased with the victory," Coman said.

Mbappe's fitness had dominated the build-up to the game, with the France superstar initially ruled out because of a thigh injury before making a faster-than-expected return to training and being named in the squad.

He was named among the substitutes, while Warren Zaire-Emery, at 16 years and 343 days old, became the youngest player ever to start a Champions League knockout game.

But Bayern had little to be afraid of in the first half as Mbappe — scorer of seven goals in six games in the group stage — watched on, with Lionel Messi and Neymar badly missing his presence.

"It is clear that Kylian Mbappe can change any game," said Nagelsmann. "This was a very important result but it is just the first step."

Diaz fires AC Milan to win over Spurs

AP ■ MILAN

Brahim Diaz shot AC Milan to a 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday which gave the seven-time European kings control of their Champions League last-16 tie.

Diaz bundled in the only goal of the game in the seventh minute at a packed San Siro to give Milan the advantage before next month's second leg in London.

The Spaniard's strike was the first and one of very few real chances of a scrappy game which highlighted the far from sparkling form of both teams heading into match.

"I's really happy for the team, because we did great work all week," Diaz told Mediaset.

"We've been through some difficult situations but now we need to look forward... now we need to think about Serie A and then we can think about the game in London."



Milan came into their first knockout in the competition since 2014 with their season in the balance after a horrible run of results in the past month which left their Serie A title defence in tatters.

But the Italians have a decent chance of reaching the quarter-finals for the first time since 2012 after restricting injury-hit Spurs to very little on Antonio Conte's return to Milan.

ICC glitch puts India at Number 1 in Tests

India becomes No. 1 team in all formats briefly before dropping back to second

PTI ■ DUBAI

India on Wednesday briefly claimed the top spot in the ICC Test rankings to become the number one ranked side in all three formats of the game only to drop back to number two in the longest format.

India's had dislodged the Pat Cummins-led Australia, according to an ICC update in the afternoon.

Already the top T20 side, India had reached the number one spot in ODIs last month after beating New Zealand 3-0.

However, after the latest update in the evening, India have moved back to the second spot behind Australia in Test rankings.

India (115) are 11 rating points behind Australia (126)

in the Test rankings.

Among individuals, India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin jumped to the second spot in the Men's Test Bowlers Rankings following his eight-wicket show against Australia in Nagpur.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who made a successful comeback after almost five months due to a knee injury, has moved up to the 16th position, courtesy his player-of-the-match winning effort in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series-opener.

The spin duo haunted Australia in the first Test between by sharing 15 wickets between them as India won by an innings 132 runs inside three days.

Ashwin ensured India wrapped up a stunning victo-



ry before tea on the third day, as the veteran off-spinner took 5/37 in the second innings to go with 3/42 earlier in the match.

The 36-year-old is 21 rating points behind Australia captain Pat Cummins and is contention to return to the No.1 ranking for the first time since 2017.

While Ashwin stepped up in what turned out to be the last session of the Test, Jadeja did the damage on the first day with 5/47, including the prized wickets of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne.

Jadeja then took 2/34 in the second Australian innings. Australia were bowled out for just 91.

Among other Indian bowlers, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who too has been

out of action since September last due to a lower back stress fracture, is placed fifth.

In the Test batting chart, India captain Rohit Sharma has been rewarded for his match-defining ton in Nagpur. He gained two spots to be at number eight.

Rohit came to the crease after Australia were all out for 177 in their first innings, then made the wicket look all-but tame with an assured 120 that set the tone for the rest of the match.

Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, who will be out of action for an indefinite period following his horrific car accident, is the other Indian batter in top-10. He is placed seventh.

In contrast Australian openers David Warner and

Usman Khawaja have paid the price for being dismissed cheaply twice.

Warner has fallen six places to 20th after his scores of 1 and 10, while Khawaja has dropped two spots to 10th after only making 1 and 5 in the first Test.

Australian duo of Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith occupy the top two position with Pakistan captain Babar Azam in the third spot.

India all-rounder Axar Patel has leaped six places to seventh in Test all-rounder rankings after coming to the crease at a tense 240 for 7. He hit a patient 84 for his highest score in the format.

The second Test between India and Australia will be played in New Delhi from Friday.



Starc hopeful of playing second Test

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An optimistic Mitchell Starc on Wednesday said he was hopeful of returning to the Australian playing XI for the second Test against India, starting here on Friday.

The pace ace missed the series opener, which Australia lost by an innings and 132 runs inside three days, due to a tendon damage to his left middle finger. He arrived in India on Saturday.

"There's a few boxes to tick but it's on track ... I'd like to be a little further down the road (in the recovery)," Starc told reporters.

"But it's progressing – not as fast as I would have liked, but it's as planned in terms of the medical stuff. I'll do everything I can to be fully available for selection. Then it's a discussion for the rest of the group involved," he added.

Australia have been laid low by injuries to key players including Starc and all-rounder Cameron Green, who is also recovering from a finger injury. The duo trained on Wednesday, bowling on a centre-wicket strip, while Green also batted for over an hour.

A call on their selection will be taken on Thursday.

"I probably had different expectations coming out of the splint than what is the reality but pushing it today, we'll see how it goes when I wake up tomorrow," Starc said.

"It'll come down to how it reacts by the end of the day, how the medical staff see it, how the selectors and Pat and 'Ronnie' (coach Andrew McDonald) feel about it as well."

The left-arm pacer said his finger is still not at full strength.

"Still lacking a bit of strength having been in a splint for six weeks. There's still a fair bit of restriction there, it's progressing each day," said Starc.

Starc had injured his finger in December while fielding against South Africa. He has had his finger in a splint for weeks.

He said batting would be uncomfortable, adding that he will field with a protective cap.

"I don't think (batting will be an issue) so it's going to be uncomfortable but I don't think it's an issue," he said.

"I think I'll still field with a cap on (the finger), that's what I did in Melbourne (after he initially broke the finger). I don't field myself in slip anyway."

Talking about the surface at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here, he said, "Having a look the last couple of days it looks like it's prepared pretty similar (to Nagpur). It looks pretty dry.

Virat spends extra hours against spinners on roughed up track

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A gleaming jet black Porsche Arrived at the Ferozshah Kotla stadium at least half an hour before the arrival of the Indian team bus.

Out came Virat Kohli and walked into the dressing room. Within minutes he was out, padded up and headed for the nets.

He wanted additional batting time and arrived early for a session. He began with customary throw-downs and some knocking off net bowlers.

Once a young fellow, bowling military medium, was pulled disdainfully off his backfoot, he asked for spinners.

"Spinners ko bulao," he said and moved to the other net, where he worked on tackling of the spinners.

Kohli looked at the rough created on that practice strip and then used his boots to create more abrasion.



Batting coach Vikram Rathour, in fact, pointed at particular areas where he could make indents and let the ball talk.

The idea was to counter the natural variation off the surface where you land the ball on the rough and it can turn either side.

India A regular Saurabh Kumar, the talented left-arm spinner from UP, did ask a few probing questions.

There was one delivery where Kohli went on the back-foot. The ball didn't bounce after pitching. It was a kind of "shooter" that didn't rise. Kohli had a wry smile and looked at the surface. There were two off spinners, net bowlers Pulkit Narang and Hrithik Shokeen who tossed up and at times mixed it up with flatter trajectory.

On the day, he regularly came down the track to cover the rough while driving Shokeen and Narang during that session. He wasn't very smooth to begin

with as some of the shots weren't off the meat of the blade.

Kohli's struggles against spinners has been real and Feroz Shah Kotla track will be another slow turner like Nagpur if not slower. He was caught down the leg side when he tried to manoeuvre off-spinner Todd Murphy in the Nagpur Test.

There was a covering of grass but anyone who has watched how the Kotla pitch behaves will tell you that it is more about maintaining the firm bind of the surface.

But there would be some moisture underneath the surface during the morning session which will help the bowlers. But Kotla is a kind of track where both, run-making and wicket-taking is an arduous job.

Kohli's desperation to spend an extra hour at the nets and prepare himself to put his best foot forward is absolutely necessary as run-scoring is going to be a struggle.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shikhar Dhawan finds himself out of the Indian team less than three months after captaining the ODI side but the 37-year-old opener has not yet given up on a strong desire to play the World Cup at home later this year.

One of the finest openers India have produced in the 50-over format, Dhawan was dropped from the side following a lean run which included the three games in Bangladesh in December.

The southpaw had led the side in New Zealand in November when Rohit Sharma and K L Rahul were rested.

Shubman Gill came into the team at Dhawan's expense and the young opener has not looked back ever since, amassing four hundreds, including a double hundred in his last seven innings.

"They (ups and downs) are part of life. With time, with experience you learn how to handle them with ease.

I did my best, if someone's doing better than that, it's fine: Dhawan

I find lot of strength in them. I did my best. If somebody is doing better than my best, that is fine.

"That is why that person is there and I am not there. I am very happy and content wherever I am. I make sure my process goes on strong. Of course there is always a chance of me coming back to the side.

"If it comes it is good, if it doesn't come that is also good. I have achieved a lot and I am happy with that. Whatever has to come will come. I don't get desperate about it," said Dhawan, who has played 34 Tests, 167 ODIs and 68 T20s.

With his last Test coming in 2018 and T20 International in 2021, Dhawan had become a one-format player until his exclusion from the



ODI set up.

His immediate focus is on the upcoming IPL in which he will be captaining Punjab Kings for the first time.

Dhawan has returned from a 10-day training stint at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. In another week's time, he will be in Mohali for a pre-IPL camp with Punjab Kings.

"My IPL preparation is going on well. I was in Bangalore for 10 days. The focus was on fitness. With the IPL coming up, I will join the camp in Mohali from February 24 and then we regroup again later on and get going.

"I am in a very good state of mind and looking forward to leading from the front," he said.



'100 Tests isn't just about skills but ability to face ups & downs too'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Himself an epitome of resilience and longevity, India's head coach Rahul Dravid was all praise for senior batter Cheteshwar Pujara, who is set to complete a coveted milestone of 100 Tests during the second game against Australia, starting Friday.

Pujara, who has spent 13 years in international cricket, with 7000 plus runs and 19 hundreds under his belt, is the 13th Indian cricketer to achieve the feat.

"It is a big achievement for any player. Yes, you need talent but you need lot of other things. It's a reflection of your longevity and many other things. Your fitness, your resilience, ability to handle success and failure," Dravid, who has second highest number of Test caps for India (164), said on Wednesday.

When a player is around for a decade and a half at the highest level, he faces a lot of questions on and off the field and Dravid feels that the man from Rajkot has han-

dled them with aplomb.

"When you play 100 games, it's not possible that you haven't seen ups and downs. You need to clear obstacles and bear the pain when you are down and play different kinds of bowling, various questions are asked on and off the field.

"To play 100 Tests, you need minimum 10 years and he has played for 13-14 years. It is a tribute to his skill which is there but so many other things are also there," the coach said.

Often it is said that rather than the outside world's perception, it is more important to know what the dressing room feels about a person.

"He is a very popular player. We are all so happy that he has got this opportunity to play 100 Tests and he will do well in future also not just this game.

"In the last 10 years,

Cheteshwar Pujara has played some very important knocks for the country which has won us matches and series. We are happy to celebrate this moment with him," the coach added.

Winning Ranji will be perfect tribute to Pujara for his 100th Test: Unadkat

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Saurashtra captain Jaydev Unadkat on Wednesday said winning the Ranji Trophy title will be a "perfect tribute" for his state's cricket icon Cheteshwar Pujara on his upcoming 100th Test appearance.

Senior India batter Pujara, who made his Test debut in 2010, is set to play his milestone 100th Test against Australia in the second match of the Border-Gavaskar series in Delhi from Friday.

"I was there when he made his Test debut, I was a part of the team as well. I don't see a lot of difference in his attitude and ethics. There can't be a better way to give him a tribute (than winning Ranji title)," Unadkat said on the eve of their Ranji Trophy final against Bengal beginning here on Thursday.

He said the Saurashtra trio of himself, Pujara and Ravindra Jadeja were keenly following the Ranji team while being at the national camp.

"Even during our quarters and semis, we were following it keenly together. They wished the team all the luck. Hopefully we will make them proud with the cricket we play."

Unadkat had inspired

Senior India batter Pujara, who made his Test debut in 2010, is set to play his milestone 100th Test against Australia in the second match of the Border-Gavaskar series in Delhi from Friday.

Saurashtra to the Ranji title three years back, winning against Bengal in Rajkot. This season, they have stamped their authority in white ball cricket as well, clinching the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day championships.

"Yes, we won the Vijay Hazare this year, but I feel this (Ranji title) would be a great tribute to him (Pujara), a player who has not only made Saurashtra but the nation proud. It will be the best tribute to give it to him," said the



31-year-old pacer. "The inspiration that he has provided not just for Saurashtra, but millions of Indian fans... To stick to the basics, to be doing what he has been doing for the last 13 years is incredible."

Saurashtra have been one of the most-improved sides in

domestic cricket, making four finals in 10 seasons. Unadkat became the first bowler in the history of the tournament to take 67 wickets in their 2020 triumph.

The magic mantra of his side has been to back the teammates, Unadkat said.

"We only had three-four debutants in the last three-four years. Even if they had a lean patch we backed them, we had the belief. Credit goes to the guys. After I took up the captaincy in 2017-18 we had no fear of failure."

"This team is very close to

my heart. When you start playing, you always dream of playing Ranji Trophy. That was my dream to play for Saurashtra. To play for the nation comes secondary, first you have to establish yourself as a Ranji Trophy player. That dream still lives strong."

Unadkat said he still feels jittery and excited every time he goes out to play for Saurashtra.

"The fact that I'm able to build a team that everyone recognises as a formidable force in the domestic circuit, itself is a matter of pride.

"Any final that I play with this bunch of players is going to be special. We have been playing together for a decade now, we have a great bonding. I look forward to it every season."

Unadkat, who was part of the India Test side for the ongoing home series against Australia, made a special request to be 'released' for the Ranji final.

"I was keen to get game time and the team management were equally keen. (Head coach) Rahul (Dravid) bhai wanted me to go out there and play, it was a mutual decision."

Was it a difficult choice to prefer playing for state to country?

"Playing a Ranji final in itself is a dream. I would rate both of them equal. Obviously playing for the nation everyone looks forward to. Hopefully, I will win the trophy and go back to the (national) team," Unadkat said.