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BHUBANESWAR, MONDAY JANUARY 30, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹4

# Min Naba Das shot dead by ASI with service revolver

- Motive behind crime still unclear
- CM orders Crime Branch probe
- Slain Min was recently in news for donating Rs 1-cr gold Kalash to Shani temple

**AK SAHOO BHUBANESWAR** 

State Health Minister Naba Kisore Das, who was recently in news for donating a Suvarna Siddha Kalash or gold pitcher worth over Rs 1 crore to a Shani Shingnapur temple in Maharashtra, was on Sunday shot dead by an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police with service revolver at Gandhi Chhak in Brajarajnagar.

DIG of Police Deepak Kumar said the incident occurred at around 12.20 pm when Das was on his way to attend a programme. ASI Gopal Das opened fire at Das after he stepped out of his vehicle. The reason behind the firing was still unclear. ASI Gopal Das was posted at the Gandhi Chhak outpost.

Following the firing, Naba Das was rushed to Jharsuguda District Headquarters Hospital and later airlifted and admitted to the Apollo Hospital in Bhubaneswar.

A five-member team of doctors led by Dr Debashis Nayak immediately conducted a lifesaving surgery to extract the bullet stuck in Das' left chest. However, the Minister succumbed to the injuries.

"A team of doctors operated on the Minister and found that a single bullet had entered and exited the body, injuring the heart and left lung, causing internal bleeding and injury. The injuries were repaired and steps were taken to improve the pumping of the heart. He was given urgent ICU care. But despite best efforts, he could not be revived," a statement by Apollo Hospital said.

Earlier on Das' arrival at the hospital, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, many Ministers and MLAs had reached the hospital to enquire about his health conditions and console his family members.

CM Patnaik ordered a probe by the Crime Branch of Odisha Police. A CB team led by ADG Arun Bothra flew to Brajarajnagar and started an on-the-spot examination.

The ASI's family members, including his wife and son,



said the police officer was mentally sick for over eight years and undergoing treatment for bipolar disorder.

Dr Chandrasekhar Tripathy of Brahmapur, who was treating ASI Das, said, "As I recollect, Gopal came to me for the first time seven to eight years ago for treatment. He was detected having bipolar disorder. After taking regular medicines, he was fully cured. Again, he came to me around eight months ago and we found his bipolar disorder had reoccurred. I had given him medicines. I'm not sure if he was regularly taking the medicines or discontinued."

The doctor informed that a person suffering from bipolar disorder often turns violent and commits a ghastly act.

Reports from Jharsuguda said tension prevailed at the spot with BJD activists staging a dharna following the firing incident.

"It is suspected that the firing was 'pre-planned' as the Minister was allegedly shot at from a close range. We want a fair probe," a BJD activist said.

Four to five rounds of gunshots were heard on the spot. Another person, who was standing near the Minister, also sustained injury along with a police official. Brajarajnagar SDPO

Gupteswar Bhoi said ASI Das was taken into custody and interrogation was on to ascertain the motive behind the crime. Opposition Congress leaders Narasingha Mishra and Santosh Singh Saluja dubbed the attack on the Minister as complete failure of law and order in the State and demanded resignation of CM Patnaik owning moral responsibility for the incident.

# Rahul unfurls Tricolour at historic Lal Chowk

### 75 yrs after Nehru hoisted flag at Lal Chowk, Gandhi hoists Tricolour to mark yatra's end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday unfurled the Tricolour at the historic clock tower of Lal Chowk in Srinagar to mark the end of the 3,500-km-long Bharat Jodo yatra. After attending the brief ceremony at Lal Chowk Rahul posted a tweet on his timeline, saying, "By hoisting the Tricolour at Lal Chowk, the promise made to India was fulfilled today. Hate will lose, love will always win. There will be a new dawn of hopes in India.'

Rahul hoisted the Tricolour at Lal Chowk 75 years after his great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru did so for the first time here. Rahul was first scheduled to hoist the Tricolour at the Congress office in Srinagar as earlier the Congress said that hoisting the national flag at Lal Chowk is "part of the RSS' agenda". But the party changed it plan at the last minute after its leaders perhaps realised the significance of the Lal Chowk. To mark the end of the yatra,



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and supporters during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, in Srinagar on Sunday

the Congress has convened an all-party gathering that will also reflect the extent of Opposition unity Rahul has been able to achieve through the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir foot march.

Rahul was accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party leaders from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for the flag hoisting.

The security for the 10-minute event was at its peak as all roads leading to Lal Chowk had been sealed off from Saturday night and no vehicular movement was allowed. Shops, business establishments, and the weekly flea market were closed as part of the security drill for the flag unfurling by the former Congress president.

Taking a 30-minute break from the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir foot march at Sonawar, Rahul drove to the Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters on Maulana Azad Road before heading to the clock tower, locally known as 'Ghanta Ghar', to unfurl the

More than a dozen Opposition parties will attend the concluding function on Monday. While the DMK, NCP, RJD, Shiv Sena, CPI(M), CPI, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Kerala Congress, National Conference, PDP, and JMM have confirmed their participation, the Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, and the TDP will skip the function. A total of 24 parties were invited by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for the final function of the foot march led by Rahul.

## 'Padma Awards echoes in Naxal-hit areas this time'

Those who showed right way to youth were honoured, says PM in talk show

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, in his monthly radio talk 'Mann ki baat', spoke about 'Padma Awards' echoing "even in those areas which used to be Naxal affected" with the awardees recognised for showing the "right path to the misguided youth"

Addressing the people, the Prime Minister took on a range of issues including the environment, wetlands, e-waste, and the importance of millets and yoga in health, and also praised the Republic Day celebrations of this year.

Drawing the attention of listeners to the grand Republic Day parade and Padma awards,



Modi said, "This year the echoes of the Padma Awards are being heard even in those areas which used to be Naxal affected. Due to their efforts, those who show the right path to the misguided youth in Naxalite-affected areas have been honored with Padma

"For this, Ajay Kumar Mandavi, who does wood carving in Kanker, and Parshuram Komaji Khune, associated with the famous Jharipatti Rangbhoomi of Gadchiroli,

have also received this honour." This time there has been a

tribal community and people associated with tribal life among the Padma awardees.

'Tribal life is different from the hustle and bustle of the cities; its challenges are also different. Despite this, tribal societies are always ready to preserve their traditions. Efforts are also made to preserve and research aspects related to tribal communities. said Modi.

"Similarly, many great personalities who have worked on tribal languages like Toto, Ho, Kui, Kuvi and Manda have received Padma Awards. It is a good representation of the matter of pride for all of us.

# Rain fails to dampen Beating Retreat spirit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Beating the Retreat ceremony to mark the formal ending of Republic Day celebrations was a spectacular affair on Sunday despite the rain and inclement weather.

The lighted mass brass tial music by soldiers of the Armed forces dispelled the chill of the cold weather at Vijay Chowk here.

While the performers braved incessant rain to play tunes in their uniforms, the drone show was cancelled due to bad weather.

Foot-tapping music marked the beginning of the ceremony with the arrival of President Droupadi Murmu. She was welcomed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The Prime Minister was drenched as he moved around outside the sheltered area, waving at the audience after the ceremony was over. For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection was done on the facade of North Block and South Block.

As many as 29 Indian tunes were played by the music bands



Tri-services bands perform at the Beating Retreat ceremony, at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, on Sunday.

of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the State Police and the Central Armed Police Forces

Never missing a step despite the wet ground, the bands began playing the "Agniveer" followed by the enthralling tunes like "Almora", "Kedar Nath", "Sangam Dur", "Queen of Satpura", "Bhagirathi" and "Konkan

The Air Force's band played "Aprajey Arjun", "Charkha", "Vayu Shakti", "Swadeshi", while fascinating "Ekla Cholo Re", "Hum Taiyyar Hai", and "Jai Bharati" were played by the

band of the Navy.

The Army's band played
"Shankhnaad", "Sher-e-Jawan",

"Bhupal", "Agranee Bharat", "Young India", "Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja", "Drummers Call", and "Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon". The event came to a close with the ever-popular

In a magnificent sight, the contrast of the bands playing with the lights on their instruments on and then play-

tune "Sare Jahan se Accha".

ing "Aye mere watan ke logon", with the same lights switched off, cast an ethereal spell on the Vijay Chowk.

The buglers performed under the leadership of Naib Subedar Santosh Kumar Pandey, and the pipes and drums band was played under the instructions of Subedar Major Baswaraj Vagge.

## Thalaivar's unherioc act to hit small artistes' livelihood

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Hundreds of comedy and mimicry artists across the country are in for a shock as South India's superstar Rajinikanth has cracked the whip on them through a pub-

The artists eking out a living by mimicking and imitating Rajinikanth are banned from doing so, according to the public notice issued by Rajinikanth through his lawyer Subbiah Elambharathi on Saturday.

The superstar, popularly addressed as 'Style Mannan (King of Styles)', 'Thalaivar (leader)', and 'Badshah (emperor)' is one of the leading Indian personalities caricatured by mimicry artists in the country. No comedy shows would be complete without the portrayal of Rajinikanth, and there are artists specialising in mimicking and caricaturing the superstar. "Our client is an actor of



humongous reputation having acted in films across languages for decades. His charisma and nature as an actor and a human being has earned him the title "Superstar" called upon by millions of his fans worldwide. The sheer proportion of his fan base and his respect across the film industry is unmatched and indisputable. Any damage or violation to his reputation or persona would entail great loss to our client having its effect ner whatsoever without the

over many spheres," says the notice. It warns the general public that their client is the only person who has control over the commercial utilization of his personality, name, voice, image, likeness and other characteristics that are uniquely identifiable with their client and no one can utilize or misappropriate or imitate any facets of their client's personality and exploit the same commercially in any manconsent and express authorization from him. "It has come to our client's notice that various platforms and mediums and also various product manufacturers are misappropriating our client's name, voice, image, photographs and caricature image, artistic image, computer Artificial Intelligence generated images and other characteristics to create popularity amongst the public and to entice member of the public to purchase their products and to have access their platform and medium. Our client is popularly known as Superstar," the notice continues. The advocate concluded the

notice with the warning that of anyone was found infringing their client's rights, the violator would have to face civil and criminal charges in accordance with the law.

Rajinikanth's dialogue delivery and mannerisms are the most sought-after items in mimicry shows. There are many artists who caricature the superstar as chief minister and army commander much to the delight of the audience. One of the mobile phone manufacturers had named a signature phone series after a Kochadiiyaan a character portrayed by the superstar. In 2015, Rajinikanth patented the mannerism of the character he portrayed in 'Baba', a movie in which he played the lead role. Salim Kumar, who bagged the

The Pioneer.

national award for best actor, said one cannot blame the superstar for his decision to issue a notice like this. "It is his personal decision. What I understand is that some of the against the accused for embezcomedy artists have spoofed zling Rs 1.15 crore by comhim and it is bound to have hurt mitting forgery in connivance him. Mimicking should not with others. end up in spoofing anybody," Salim Kumar, who himself was a leading mimicry artist before entering the film industry told

### Rs 1.15 cr embezzled EOW arrests Odisha Gramya Bank Cashier BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Bhubaneswar on Saturday arrested Bansidhar Majhi, Cashier, Odisha Gramya Bank, Pahanga Branch, Niali in Cuttack dis-

trict, from Bhawanipatana for embezzling more than Rs 1 crore. Majhi was forwarded to the JMFC Court at Niali. The EOW arrested Majhi after a probe based on a written allegation of Jatindra Nath Sarangi, Regional Manager, Odisha Gramya Bank, Cuttack

Investigation of the case revealed that Majhi during his tenure as Cashier of Odisha



Gramya Bank, Pahanga Branch from May 24, 2021 to May 19, 2022 and as Cashier of Binishpur Branch from May 20, 2022 to May 23, 2022 misappropriated the money by not depositing the cash received from customers in their respective accounts although he used to issue the receipt counterfoils to the customers.

Further, he was illegally diverting the money from the accounts of the SHGs to his

well and was misappropriating the same. He also issued ATM cards in respect of the accounts of the bank customers without their knowledge and was using the same ATM cards for banking transactions from the said accounts thereby misappropriating the customers' money deposited with the bank, an EOW release said. The total amount misappro-

priated by Majhi comes to around Rs.1.15 crore. The accused in conspiracy with others forged the bank documents and was using those as genuine. Majhi was absconding after his suspension. Incriminating materials like ATM cards of the customers have been seized from his possession. Further investigation of the case was on, said EOW SP Dilip Tripathy.

### ne pioneer BHUBANESWAR I MONDAY I JANUARY 30, 2023

# Odisha to feature on 10 postage stamps

Odisha will feature on 10 postage stamps that will be released by the India Post this year. In a meeting of the Philatelic Advisory Committee held last year, 243 proposals for issuing commemorative postage stamps were received out of which 45 were approved. These include stamps on Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sucheta Kripalani, Dada Vaswani, Gen Thimayya, Minoo Masani

Odisha personalities and themes have been approved for ten stamps which include Akshaya Kelucharan Mohapatra, Pandit Nilakantha Das and Parbati Ghose. Besides, a stamp on the Eram Martyrs and a five-set stamps on Sambalpuri Bandha, Sambalpuri Folk Dance, Sital Sasthi Jatra, Nuakhai and Dhanu Jatra Mahostav too will be issued.

Never before had Odisha

stamps. According Kashinath Sahoo, a philatelist of the State, Odisha had always figured the least in the Mohanty, commemorative stamps.

> Anil Dhir, another eminent philatelist and an author, said postage stamps showcase the history and culture of a State and that this is a welcome move by the India Post. Odisha has a vast repertoire of personalities, places, natural heritage, flora and fauna, historical events, etc.,

which should find a place in stamp issues.

Dhir said Odisha is now the philatelic capital of the country with some best philatelists who have won awards both at the national and international levels. He reiterated that philately should be made a cocurricular subject in schools. There are ten independent stamp clubs and societies in the State founded by eminent philatelists like the late Major Mohanty, late Bijayshree Routray and Sahadev Sahoo.

# OPGC divestment a big conspiracy: Cong

Demands State Govt to scrap it BHUBANESWAR

 $T_{ ext{he Congress on Sunday}}$ alleged that the disinvestment of Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) shareholdings is a conspiracy and demanded that the State Government immediately scrap it.

The Congress said the State Government had acquired 49% shares of OPGC from AES at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore in 2020 and it was counted wholly as a State Government undertaking. But why the Government has taken a decision to sell the shareholding and floated a global tender, the party



While the Government is painting pictures of the State's industrial development, why are the shares of its own power producing organisation being Without power, industrial development is never possible. Earlier, by

selling shares of the OPGC to AES, the Government had incurred heavy losses, said Pradesh Congress Committee Media Cell chairman Ganeshwar Behera.

He said the OPGC has its own coal block of over 50,000

MT stocks, for which the OPGC won't face any difficulty in producing power in the coming 32 years. He alleged that there is a massive disinvestment proposal of

## PM praises 'Milletpreneurs' of Odisha



BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme on Sunday hailed tribal women of Sundargarh district who have emerged as entrepreneurs by cultivating millets.

Terming 'Milletpreneurs', Modi said the women have registered millets-based edibles in the market.

"You must have heard the word entrepreneur, but have you heard Milletpreneurs? Milletpreneurs of Odisha are in the limelight these days. A Self Help Group of about 1500 women of the tribal district Sundargarh is associated with the Odisha Millets Mission. Here, women are making everything from millets... to cookies, rasgulla, gulab jamun and even cakes. Due to their great demand in the market, the income of women is also increasing," the PM said.

Notably, the Odisha Millets Mission is a flagship programme of the State's Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment launched since 2017 to revive millets in farms and on plates.

# 'Upgrade Dhenkanal tourism infra'

Pradhan writes to Union Min Reddy

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Union Education Minister the sanction of a special package for the development of tourism infrastructure in Dhenkanal district.

Pradhan pointed out that after the post-Covid normalcy, time is now ripe for unleashing massive growth in the tourism sector due to the strong domestic spending and unrestricted movement of air towards increasing tourist footfalls through development of facilities and infrastructure.

This has resulted in a massive rise in footfalls from both domestic and international

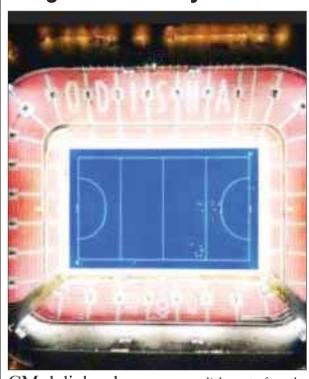
Pradhan said he wants to take this opportunity for tourism development in the with monitoring by the Prime Minister's Office.

Dhenkanal district is

enormously rich in natural scenic beauty and has several places like Kapilash Hills, Joranda, Saptasajya and Dhenkanal Palace especially that have huge potential for tourism development.

Kailash Parvat, the legendary abode of Lord Shiva, Pradhan

## Birsa Stadium world's largest facility



CM delighted over Guinness certificate

BHUBANESWAR

The Guinness World Records has certified the newly-constructed Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela as the largest fully-seated hockey stadium of the world.

5T Secretary VK Pandian took to Instagram to share the news and also posted a video of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's reaction to the feat.

"That indeed is thrilling news. I am truly delighted that the Guinness Book of Records had recognised the Birsa Munda Stadium to be the biggest hockey stadium in the world," Patnaik said. "I am amazed that it has been built in 15 months. It's truly a great accomplishment for the people of Odisha," he added. Notably, the Birsa Munda

Hockey Stadium has been constructed at an expenditure of Rs 261 crore on 15 acres of land in the premises of Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT).

A debate had earlier emerged whether it was the world's largest hockey stadium or not. Many had opined that the National Hockey Stadium in Pakistan's Lahore was the largest hockey stadium with a seating capacity of 45,000.

However, putting aside all doubts and burying all controversies, International Hockey Federation (FIH) President Tayyab Ikram had confirmed that Birsa Munda Stadium is the largest stadium for hockey in the world in terms of seating capacity.

## significant income by selling Video of minor girl being

thrashed viral 1 accused held: another

absconding SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA

A video in which two youths are beating a minor girl mercilessly and forcing her to smoke a cigarette has gone viral on social media platforms

While the girl is smoking out of fear, the other youth was shooting the incident.

Even the youths were found abusing the girl in filthy language. The incident took place in a forest near Chilika lake under Krusna Prasad police station in Puri district. As per written complaint of the girl, she is minor as well as

and arrested one Suresh Palei under Titipa GP.

accused Amiya Pradhan alias Budhi of Panaspada is still at large. It is alleged that police have not yet arrested Amiya under pressure as he is son of an influential PT teacher of a nearby college.

Police have registered a case

However, the second

Though the motive behind

### physically-challenged.

alia Mithus of Fulwari village

the incident was yet to be ascertained, from the video it is known that one of the accused was in love with the girl. But she had an affair with another person. So, the duo thrashed her to take

### Dharmendra Pradhan has traffic. He stated, "Under the historically-ignored Chandrashekhar written to Union Culture and Dekho Apna Desh vision of Dhenkanal district, which is Mahadev Temple is situated on Tourism Minister G Kishan the top of Kapilash Hill which Prime Minister Narendra classified as an Aspirational Reddy for his intervention for Modiji, your Ministry has District, for its accelerated draws lakhs of pilgrims on undertaken massive efforts Shivratri and is also known as socioeconomic development

KIIT-KISS marathon sees 1L participation



Event organised to promote

education for all BHUBANESWAR

VI ore than a lakh people from across the world participated in the KIIT and KISS Mini Marathon on Sunday. The event was special this year as it coincided with

the silver jubilee celebrations of the KIIT and was organised in 25 cities in the country, in as many nations and 35 towns in Odisha.

The main event was held in Bhubaneswar where KIIT and KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta flagged it off at 6 am in the presence of actors Rahul Bose, Sabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu along with Bhubaneswar (North) MLA Susanta Rout, DIG SIW Anirudh Singh, athletes Dutee Chand, Amiya Mallick and Anuradha Biswal and Rugby Association president Priyadarshi Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das joined the concluding function.

About 20,000 students and people from all walks of life

covered 6.5 km up to the KIIT cricket stadium from Xavier Square. The objective of the mini marathon was to create awareness about 'Education for All'.

The event witnessed impressive participation in countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Kenya, and Zimbabwe among

State to implement action

# Indian Film Fest ends; 81 movies screened

he seven-day-long 12th Indian Film Festival organised by the Film Society, Bhubaneswar, here concluded with much fanfare. Total 81 films were screened at the

The films screened were in different languages like Hindi, English, Kannada, Tamil, Kashmiri, Manipuri, etc. On the last day, Satyajit Ray's iconic Kapurush was screened. The film was followed by another classic Ghare-Baire.

The second film screened was Babu Eshwar Prasad's Hariva Nadige Maiyella Kaalu. Deeply nuanced and explorative, the film was enthusiastically received by the audience.

The Film Society secretary engaged in an interactive session with the filmmaker who was present at the venue.



official closing ceremony where Sadabahar was awarded as the Best Student Film for

The festival screened the closing film Ek Jagah Apni. A film by the Ektara Collective, it follows the journey of two individuals Laila and Roshni,

The film was followed by the as they struggle to find a place to live in.

The festival concluded for the year with Ray's Agantuk. The last of the festival also saw three student films - Amma Lodge by Shivashis Pradhan, Anekantvad by Ikprabh Singh Kohli, and Aalam by Deependra Kumar.

# plan to boost farmers' income DFI report

projects a rosy picture

BHUBANESWAR While in several sectors,

doubled, the Odisha Government is on a move to boost farmers' income further with a roadmap to 2030.

Accordingly, in order to enhance farmers' income in the State, multiple strategies have been suggested by the State Committee Enhancing Farmer's Income (SCEFI).

Kumar Chadha has recently

Government. Chadha is Principal

Secretary Co-operation and Special Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The Report of Doubling

Farmers' Income (DFI) headed by Ashok Dalwai says that farmers' income in various sub sectors have more than doubled in the State. Dr Dalwai is appreciative of

registered over two and a half times increase in productivity and income. In fact, the Millet Mission SCEFI Chairman Sanjeev

submitted a Detailed Strategy Government spearheaded by Report to the State the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment.

> The SCEFI has gone into details of the production, productivity, enhancement of resources, enterprise diversification, climate smart agriculture, organic farming, marketing strategy, credit support, insurance support, use

While Odisha has gone much ahead in production and Millet Mission areas that have productivity, more is needed to achieve the national

of technology and other issues.

Take for rice production, yield per hectare is 2,475 kg, is one of the flagship where as national average is programmes of the Odisha 2,722 kg per hectare and

Punjab produces 4,034 kg per hectare.

So far as pulses are concerned, Odisha produces 544 kg per hectare, where as Gujarat produces 1,172 kg per hectare and the national average is 823 kg per hectare.

Total food grain production per hectare yield is 1,862 kg, where as India average is 2,343 kg and Punjab yields 4,527 kg per hectare.

So far as oilseed is concerned, yield of Odisha is 945 kg per hectare, where as Tamil Nadu's yield is 2,626 kg per hectare and the national average is 1,224 kg per hectare.

Total vegetables production

is 14,197 kg per hectare in

average is 18,262 kg per hectare and Uttar Pradesh's yield is 19,431 kg per hectare.

Total fruits production in Odisha is 8.31 Metric Ton per hectare, where as all India average is 15.07 MT/Ha and Andhra Pradesh yield is 23.41 MT/Ha.

Under this backdrop, the SCEFI has suggested multiple strategies, which are needed for enhancing the farmers' income and it is expected that soon the State Government will come up with the implementation of an action plan for enhancing the income to next level, said

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# BCIC launches wing to promote women entrepreneurship

### On sidelines of Expo Odisha-2023 **UBACHAK MOHANTY**

BALESWAR

The Balasore Chamber of Industries and Commerce (BCIC) has launched its women wing BCIC-WE (BCIC-women entrepreneur) to promote entrepreneurship among women during the ongoing national level industrial exhibition -cumtrade fair 'Expo Odisha-2023'.

The event which has been begun here since January 24 will continue till January 29 at the ITI field. 25 women entrepreneurs have joined the BCIC on Thursday evening

where OCSC MD and Sushruta Hospital and Trauma Care, Bhubaneswar, MDChidatmika Khatua, director, Group Bhubaneswar, Ratnamala Swain, Superintendent of Police Sagarika Nath and Chairperson, Baleswar Municipality, Sabita Sahoo

were present as guests. The speakers not only appreciated the endeavour of the BCIC to launch such a futuristic platform for women but also encouraged the women entrepreneurs.

"The objective of having a women arm of our association is to promote and encourage women entrepreneurship. We had seven members and lately, 25 more women joined our



club. Supritee Mishra and Krishna Das respectively are the convener and coconvener who would be heading the team. The wing will not only promote and propagate women entrepreneurship, it would also spread awareness among

them," president BCIC Snjay Das.

A team would be visiting different women colleges and educational institutions to disseminate information among them. They would be told about different schemes of the Central and State Governments to attract entrepreneurship. The team would also visit rural areas and would address the difficulties faced by the existing entrepreneurs, Das added.

Various sectors including service, trading and manufacturing etc. are

showcasing their products. There are around 350 stalls put up by SHGs, cottage industries, besides industrial units from the State and

Most importantly, various auto manufacturing industries are showcasing their models, especially e-bikes and vehicles. Since both the Central and State Governments are promoting electric bikes and four-wheelers with various incentives, the focus is to showcase such products, the organisers said.

This is the 18th year of the Expo which has been organized with the help of State's and Centre's MSME departments the district and

Saara, his son's caste has been

recorded as Sabar. Due to this

type of mistakes by the

officials, the father is not

recognized as ST, whereas son

injustice, on March 30, 2022,

more than 2,000 Sabar tribals

had demonstrated before the

Member, Board of Revenue at

Cuttack by taking out a huge

auto rally from Dhenkanal

town. The cases had been

recommended for hearing at

Against this serious

is recognized as ST.

### <u>INBRIEF</u>

### SIVANANDA SCHOOL CELEBRATES ANNUAL DAY

Bhubaneswar: Sivananda Centenary Boys' School at Khandagiri here celebrated its 40th Annual 🛭 Day on Saturday with Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as



chief guest and Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb and Swami Nirlipanda Saraswati of Rishikesh as guests of honour. School secretary Swami Jagannathananda Sarawati gave welcome address. Management committee member Rajiv Sekhar Sahoo briefed about the development of the school. Principal Prafulla Kumar Mahapatra read the annual report. Minister Pradhan opined, "Students should be taught in their mother tongue." The school, established in 1984, has all along been achieving 100% result. A kind of Guru Kula environment prevails here where students learn moral and intellectual education.

### BALANGIR: YOUTH INJURED AS JAVELIN PIERCES STOMACH

Balangir: A youth was hit by a javelin and sustained critical injuries after it pierced his stomach in Ainlabhata village under the Belapada police station in Balangir district on Sunday. He was identified as Raju Thanapati. It was not known how Raju got hit by the javelin. He was rushed to hospital. Notably, a few weeks back, in same Balangir, a teenage boy got critically injured when a javelin pierced through his neck during a sports meet in a high school. Later, the javelin was removed by

### R-DAY PARADE HELD AT INS CHILKA



the War Memorial followed by review of parade comprising of Naval personnel and jawans of the Defence Security Corps.

Rayagada: An eye testing



derwent testing. Five of them were found to have problems in their eyes and one had hearing problems. SAKSHAM, Odisha Paschim secretary Ramachandra Sahu said his organisation will provide all the eye care facilities to the patients. Treasurer Bijaya Kumar Mishra facilitated organising the camp with help of school teachers and village volunteers. District secre-

Keonjhar: Social worker, founding president, Keonjhar Citizen Forum Wing Commander (Retd) Er Kiran Shankar Sahu was remembered on his 1st death



anniversary at his Banpar residence here on Saturaday. His family members and well-wishers paid floral tributes to him

### A ceremonial parade was held

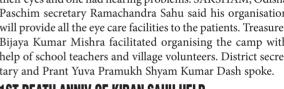
at INS Chilka to commemorate the 74th Republic Day. Cmde NP Pradeep, Naval Officer-in-Charge (Odisha) and Commanding Officer, INS Chilka laid a wreath at 🣂



He also awarded Proficiency Certificates to Sailors who have performed proficiently towards the preparation and training of the first batch of Agniveers. A Naval contingent from Chilka also participated in the State-level parade at Bhubaneswar.

### |SAKSHAM EYE CAMP HELD IN R'GADA SCHOOL

camp was organised in the Government High School campus of Munisingh village under Kolnara block. Over 60 students of the school and 12 teachers un-



### 1ST DEATH ANNIV OF KIRAN SAHU HELD



after his statute was unveiled. " Karnadhar", a book in memory of Sahu and edited by Er Ajay Kumar Sahoo, was unveiled. People from different walks of life spoke how Sahu was relentlessly fighting for development of Keonjhar.

### Tata Steel's run-a-thon in D'nal on Feb 5

In a bid to bring world class sporting experience among the people of the area, promote sports and create awareness on fitness, good health and sporting spirit in the region, the Tata Steel at Meramundali will organise a run-a-thon event on February 5.

Speaking to mediapersons, chief of corporate sector Rohit Das said around 5,000 men, women, boys and girls are expected to take part in the

Angul and Talcher region. While the first and second edition of the event was cancelled during the year 2019 and 2020 for the Covid-19, the Tata unit will organise it this year in collaboration with MGM Minerals Ltd, BRG and others. Among the participants,

event from Dhenkanal,

20 will be given a cash award of Rs 4.20 lakh, Das added. District Collector Saroj Kumar Sethy appreciated the noble effort of the Tata unit.

So, when most others are

skeptic about success of

prohibition of liquor, he has

not lost his heart and has

### 'Read more books to understand root of lit



Puspagiri Fest

The Puspagiri Literature Festival was celebrated with full zest and zeal by a leading literary organisation Silalip

Eminent poet Sahitya Akademi awardee Dr Phani Mohanty inaugurated the event where he spoke about the importance of mother tongue in his speech.

He also suggested the young writers to read more books of senior writers and ancestors to understand the root of literature.

introduced the guests.

Former bureaucrat Ratnakara Rout, who joined as chief guest, talked about the golden history of Ratnagiri

Other prominent figures of the city like Bari MLA Sunanda Das, Kamla Satpathy and Dr Bijayananda Singh graced the occasion as guest of honours. Litterateur Bidyutlata Das was awarded Silalipi Praskar-2022 for her immense contribution to

A poetry reading session was also organised where eminent poets from different corners of the State recited

### Brigadier Sarveswar Wedding day: Youth holds blood donation camp



SONEPUR

Many people go for some special arrangement or the other in order to make their marriage day a memorable one. Some opt for destination weddings at a lavish cost, while some go under sea to exchange the rings and some also jump from planes to take marriage vows in the sky. But a youth in Subarnapur district dedicated his marriage day to a social cause. He donated blood.

Navaruna Debadutta Satpathy of Birmaharajpur has been championing the cause of blood donation as a social

activist. So, when his marriage was fixed, he decided to make it memorable by organising a blood donation camp.

Speaking to The Pioneer, Navaruna said he felt he would be serving the society better through collection of blood instead of spending after marriage. "When I proposed achievement than saving somebody's life by donating blood," he added.

At the camp, Navaruna was the first to donate his blood before\ proceeding to his marriage.

# RDC's move to provide relief to Dalits hailed

Caste wrongly recorded

■ SAMBALPUR

Odisha Praja Sangharsha Samiti State president Er Debashisha Hota felicitated Northern Division RDC Er Suresh Chandra Dalei along with his court officers and staff members for their move to provide justice to hundreds of Dalit people whose caste has been wrongly recorded depriving them of all Government benefits for last 14 years. The RDC has

instituted 1,113 cases for rectification of the records pertaining to caste of hundreds of people of Angul and Dhenkanal districts. The RDC has directed the Dhenkanal Settlement Officer along with all Tehsildars of Dhenkanal and Angul districts to submit their field verification reports immediately for hearing of the cases. State Secretary Kalandi Charan Behera was present.

Here it is noteworthy that, on June 12, 2009, a letter on a proposal of rectification of all

"Sabar" had been submitted by the then Principal Secretary in ST and SC Development Department. Unfortunately, the proposal is still under consideration of the Government in the Revenue and Disaster Management Department. For the deliberate negligence, the poor "Sabar" tribals are deprived of getting any Government benefits for last 14 years.

land RORs from "Saara" to

Even if in some places, the father's caste is recorded as

the Northern Division RDC.

## Venal officials off the hook despite Collector's orders and found irregularities in the

■ SONEPUR

Despite an order issued by district Collector Aboli the Development Officer (BDO), Binka, has not taken action in a case pertaining to giving a false inquiry report to the Chief Development Officer- cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parisad, Subarnapur, on the matter of irregularities in the allotment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin).

The Collector previously recommended a draft charge against Binka ABDO Pragnya Panigrahi, PA Dwitikrushna Panda and Executive Officer of Charda gram panchayat Mitanjali Ratha in November. The Chief Development Officer cum Executive Officer, Zilla Parisad, has also given a letter to the Binka BDO to take

Athagarh road work

action against these officers and to recover the amount from the beneficiaries. But although more than two months have passed, no action has been taken against these

As per sources, Brundaban Mishra, a youth of Phulamuthi village, had filed a written complaint about irregularities in the PMAY with the Lokayukta in August 2022. The Lokayukta issued notices on November 16 to the Binika BDO and two PMAY beneficiaries named Narsingh Mishra and Hadu Charan Mishra of Phulamuthi village to submit their replies within six weeks. The next hearing of the case will be held on December 27.

It was alleged that some Government officials working in the Panchayati Raj Department are involved in the many rich and affluent persons have been allotted the PMAY housing units in 2020-21 fiscal without fulfilling the eligibility. On the contrary, scores of

PMAY scam. Sources said

poor people eligible to get houses have been deprived of their benefits. Brundaban had written several times to the Subarnapur Collector and the Vigilance Department about the PMAY irregularities in Phulamuthi village. However, officials at the block level suppressed the matter.

Later, Brundaban wrote to the RDC Northern range in Sambalpur regarding the irregularities. The RDC had directed district Collector Narvane to conduct a probe. Sonepur BDO Soumyaranjan Swain, Binika Tehsildar Mukteswar Panigrahi and DRDA APD Alok Rasmi Mishra looked into the matter

PMAY. In the report, they stated

that people named Narsingha Mishra and Hadu Charan Mishra who are not eligible had been allotted houses under the PMAY in violation of the guidelines. One of the beneficiaries has a pucca house while another draws a monthly pension of Rs 10,000. But the inquiry team has not written anything on another beneficiary named Ugrasen

Meanwhile, petitioner Brundabana has again met the RDC Northern range in Sambalpur for this irregularity in PMAY-Gramin and no action was taken by the BDO against the respective officers. When contacted, BDO Byasadeb Behera did not receive phone calls despite several attempts.

### the idea, both I and my wife's families agreed to it as there ATHAGARH cannot be a greater

Over a hundred big trees have been felled and hundreds of more trees are about to be cut very soon for the ongoing road-widening work from the Madhusudan bridge of Cuttack

to Athagarh via Dhabaleswar. Almost all the avenue trees of bara, aswastha, neem, asan, chakunda and others, most of which had been brought up of over a hundred years, are being

felled down by the tender

holder as per the guidelines of



environmentalists Athagarh civil society members are deeply concerned over the cutting of the big trees and have urged the administration and the Green Tribunal to look into the matter at the earliest.

74th Republic Day

## Vriksha Ropana, Kanya Pujana held in CUO



he 74th Republic Day was celebrated at the Central University of Odisha (CUO) at its Sunabeda campus where Vice Chancellor Prof Chakradhar Tripathi hoisted the tricolor.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Tripathy urged the audience to remember the sacrifice made by the freedom fighters in bringing independence to the nation as well as making the Constitution. He also hoped

that the National Education Policy 2020 will be helpful in building the development of the youths.

The Vice-Chancellor gave away prizes to the winners of extempore speech competition organised on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2022. In the second half,

Vriksha Ropana and Kanya Pujana functions were conducted in the campus. More than 500 participants including students from Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Sunabeda, faculty, staff and students of the varsity participated in a rally. Prof Tripathi and Buddhist Monk Rev Dr Wadingala Pannaloka from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, along with eminent dignitaries planted Bodhi (peepal tree) and Bata (banyan tree) plant in the university campus.

In the Kanya Pujana programme, Prof Tripathi offered prayers to Siddhhidatri, the 9th avatar of Goddess Durga.

## Today is Nayak's birthday At 97, he continues his anti-liquor fight

### eteran Gandhian Charan Padma Nayak is not only

leading an anti-liquor movement in Odisha but he is also the convener of a liquorfree India struggle at the age of ninety-seven. When people want to know the secret of his agility at such a ripe old age, his reply is that his mission has engrossed him to such an extent that he has forgotten his age and health. He is aggrieved that the issue which should have been solved within twenty-four hours of our freedom is sidetracked not only by the power-hungry politicians but also by social activists.

Nayak's initiation to political life was from Gandhiji's 1942 movement



DILLIP DASHSHARMA

when Britain was told to leave India to itself at the height of Second World War. Since the movement lost its momentum within a month after the imprisonment of almost all leaders, Nayak did not get an opportunity to go to prison for the nation's sake. His long sociopolitical life started after his post-graduation when he was enamoured by the achievement of the Soviet

Union like the Fabians. His best part of youth was with comrades of the Communist Party. He contested the 1957 general elections on a party symbol but lost by a small margin. Not this defeat, but the revelation of Khrushchev in the 20th Party Congress of the Soviet Communist Party about the misdeeds of Stalin was enough for him to leave the Communist Party. In 1961, he was elected from the Rajnagar constituency as

Assembly Independent candidate. His association with the Socialist Party was short-lived with the merger of that part in the Indian National Congress. By 1980, he dissociated with political parties and associated himself with



Sammilani and Navajiban Mandal of Gandhians. Thus, he came back to Gandhi, who could not imbue him in his vouth, to devote the rest of his life with a youthful mission. During his long career he

has not compromised on the basics of ethics and led a simple life. The remarkable feature of his character is his single-minded devotion to any cause he cherishes which endeared him to his associates.

devoted entirely to the cause in his ripe old age. And this attracted irrespective of their age and personal difficulties. Nayak is satisfied that the last period of his life is associated with a cause, which Gandhiji declared as the foremost programme of free India. When we say he will far surpass a century, his reply is that it depends upon mass participation and success of the anti-liquor movement. Our best tribute to him will be our wholehearted support to the cause to which he dedicated his life.

(The writer heads the Padma Charan Nayak Abhinandana Samiti. Phone: 9938537600)

# **Probe team recovers Mirage black box**

## Efforts on to retrieve all parts of SU-30 data recorder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

As the IAF has started investigations to ascertain the cause of the air mishap near Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, its teams on Sunday recovered the black box of the ill-fated Mirage-2000 and a part of the flight data recorder of the SU-30 MKI. Efforts were on to retrieve all the parts of the black box or the data recorder of the SU-30 to enable the board of inquiry to find out the reason for the accident.

The data recorder of the Mirage-2000 and the SU-30 were found in the Morena district where both planes went down. Wing Commander Hanumanth Rao Sarathi flying the Mirage was killed while the two pilots of the SU-30 managed to eject before the crash. They were now undergoing medical treatment, officials

As regards the recovery of the data recorder and collecting the wreckage of both the planes, officials said teams of IAF studied and inspected a forested area of Pahargarh where the debris of the two



Relatives and Air Force personnel during the last rites of Wing Commander Hanumanth Rao Sarathi, who was killed in plane crash in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, at Belagavi on Sunday

fighter jets fell on Saturday. The two frontline combat aircraft of the IAF crashed

during a training mission in Morena possibly due to mid-air collision when the wings of the two aircraft brushed against

each other while flying at speeds of more than 800kms.

A black box, or the flight data recorder, is an electronic recording device placed in an aircraft and helps in the investigation of flight accidents.

Pahargarh area police inspector Dharmendra Gour said the forested area where the wreckage fell has been cordoned off.

"Even police are not being allowed in the (cordoned off)

area. Officials of IAF are present there," he said. Media personnel are also not allowed in

Defence experts have said the Russian-designed Sukhoi-30MKI jet and the French Mirage-2000 possibly had a mid-air collision, but there was no official comment on the cause of the crash from the IAF.

Both the jets had taken off from the Gwalior Air Force station. The base has squadrons of both Sukhoi-30MKIs and the

Mirage 2000 jets. The crash took place at about 5.30am.

Morena Collector Ankit Asthana on Saturday said the debris of both aircraft fell in the Pahargarh area of the district and also in Rajasthan's Bharatpur, which borders Madhya Pradesh.

A high-level probe has been ordered into the accident, officials earlier said. It was the first Mirage 2000 as well as Sukhoi-30MKI that the IAF lost in a mid-air collision.

The SU-30MKI is a twinseater combat jet, while the Mirage 2000, manufactured by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, is a singleseater aircraft.

## CPI demands probe into all Adani group business deals

### **Attacks Centre for allowing monopoly** to company in the ports and airports

public-sector enterprises. The

sudden growth of Adani group

after Modi came to power is

proof of the patronage received

from the government. The investors including the average Indian investor and the public

sector units are already under

heavy loss due to alleged manipulations by the Adani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Sunday demanded a thorough probe into all deals of the Adani group. The party's national secretariat in a statement blamed Modi Government for patronage given to industrialist Gautam Adani by allowing monopoly in the ports, and airports sector and backing of LIC in share markets.

"The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India has repeatedly pointed out that the pro-corporate and pro-big business policies adopted by the RSS-BJP combine government led by Narendra Modi are resulting in the loot of national and natural assets by Adani and others. The Modi government has asked the public sector enterprises including LIC to invest

in Adani companies' shares. 'The Adani group is now having control over seaports,

group," said CPI. The CPI demanded a thorough probe into all the deals of the Adani group by competent authorities so that further loss can be averted.

"Party also demands exemplary punishment to all those responsible for the loot of the national and natural assets,"

## Bihar students in lurch over JEE dates clash NTA assures JEE aspirants, new date to be announced today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

¬he schedule of the Joint LEntrance Examination (JEE) Main 2023 examinations has left the Bihar students jittery as it coincided with the Class 12 mathematics exam to be conducted by the Bihar Intermediate board on February 1.

Sources in the Ministry of Education said a late evening meeting conducted on Sunday has decided to hold a discussion with the Bihar Education Department to adjust the conflicting exam dates either way.

A senior official of the National Testing Agency (NTA) has assured that Bihar students desiring to take the JEE will not face any problems and a new decision to tweak the



date and timing shall be announced positively by Monday morning.
Students taking the Bihar

Board (BSEB) exam in 2023 have took to social media to express their concerns and urged either of the organizers to adjust or reschedule the exam dates. National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts exam had to be rescheduled since a date of testing of one

the JEE for admissions towards IITs and engineering colleges across the country recently revised JEE Main 2023 exam

Interestingly the JEE 2023

dates, as of which, the JEE Main

2023 Exams will be conducted

on January 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31

and February 1.

batch of aspirants/applicants fell on January 27 earlier which had to be withdrawn because of the Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2023 was scheduled on January 27 in which lakhs of students, teachers parents and other stakeholders participated.

The Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) will conduct the mathematics exam of the class 12th board exam for 2023 on February 1, from 9.30 am to 12.45 pm While the JEE Main 2023 will take place from 9am to 12pm. Candidates who has to

mandatory take the Class 12 board exams and those who have intended to take JEE Main schedule for same day on February 1 have requested the Bihar government to amend necessary changes which is significant for their career.

## Man booked for impersonating as secretary of PMO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Ankit Kumar Singh for impersonating as Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in a case for personating a government servant.
"It has been learnt by this

office that a man Ankit Kumar Singh is moving around claiming himself to be Dinesh Rao, an IAS officer of 1997 batch of Bihar cadre and posted as a Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, and looking after Varanasi district.

His mobile number is 9454008098 and he is learnt to have contacted Prabhu Narayan Singh, District Magistrate, Agra, Uttar Pradesh seeking favours for his con-



Prima facie, it appears to be case of impersonation as PMO official as no official by the given name is posted in this office. Accordingly, CBI is requested to lodge a complaint for initiating investigation into the matter, as per law," Assistant Director, PMO, said in a complaint dated September 24, 2021. The case was registered following notifications from the Department of Personnel and Training under which the CBI functions and the Home Department of the Uttar Pradesh Government for investigating the case.
While the UP

Government accorded consent to the CBI to investigate the case under its jurisdiction across the State on August 24, 2022 and subsequently the DoPT notified the agency to probe the matter in a notification dated November 14 last year.

The suspect has been booked under Section 170 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for personating a government

### Rollout of HPV vax against cervical cancer: Govt likely to float global tender in April

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry intends **1** to roll out HPV vaccine against cervical cancer in the national immunisation programme for girls aged nine to 14 years in June for which a global tender is likely to be floated in April, official sources

Serum Institute's made-in-India HPV vaccine "CER-VAVAC" was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on January 24, in presence of the Pune-based firm's CEO Adar Poonawalla and Prakash Kumar Singh, its Director-Government and Regulatory Affairs.

"The ministry is likely to float in April a global tender for 16.02 crore doses of HPV vac-cine, which will be supplied by 2026. Apart from domestic manufacturer Serum Institute facturer Merck is also likely to participate in the tender," an official source said.

In July last year, India's drug regulator granted market authorization to Serum Institute of India's indigenous-developed HPV

It has also been cleared by government advisory panel National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation

(NTAGI) for use in the public health programme.
Prakash Kumar Singh, on the sidelines of a South Asia meet on HPV last month, had

said that the price of CER-VAVAC will be affordable compared to the international HPV vaccine available in India.

India, at present, is fully dependent on foreign manufacturers for HPV

Globally, three foreign firms manufacture HPV vaccines out of which two sell their

doses in India. Each dose of the vaccine

available in the market costs more than ₹4,000, sources said. In September 2022,

Poonawalla had said that each dose of its "CERVAVAC" vaccine would cost ₹200 to

### Put conversion matter before 5-judge Cattle runover on tracks: Rly starts fencing Mumbai-Ahmedabad route bench, urges fresh plea in SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

¬o curb incidents of cattle I runover in the busy Mumbai - Ahmedabad section, Indian Railways has initiated the work of construction cattle fencing. To begin with, the Western

Railway has initiated the work of construction of Metal Beam fencing on Mumbai - Ahmedabad section. The metal barrier fencing will cover a length of about 622 km, between Mumbai to Ahmedabad and will be undertaken at an approximate cost of ₹245.26 crore.
"All the 8 tenders have

been awarded and work is progressing in full swing. The work is expected to be com-pleted by end of May 2023. The fencing will be of guard rails made of metal .The fencing is very robust as it consists of two W-beams. A W-beam type stands for wide flanges, which are thicker, that aid in resisting bend stress," said a senior railway official.

Such fencings are used in



highways & expressways, especially at accident prone areas to provide protection to vehicles as well as pedestrians.

At the same time Western Railway appealed to the cattle owners/cattle grazers to not let their cattle come near the rail-

way land/tracks. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced that barriers or concrete bollards will be constructed along the fast moving train sections to secure the rail infrastructure and at the same time safety of passengers

In yet another initiative, Railways have already put on the service of its security personnel to man and then simultaneously create awareness along the residents of tracks.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A fresh application has been moved before the Supreme Court urging that the matters related to alleged forcible religious conversions be taken up by a larger bench of five judges as they involve the interpretation of the Constitution.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud is scheduled to hear the batch of pleas on Monday against anti-conversion laws of several states regulating religious conversion due to interfaith marriages and on matters related to alleged forcible conversions.

The fresh application is filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who is among the petitioners. He has asked the court to refer the petitions to a larger bench saying there are several questions of laws involved which require the interpretation of the

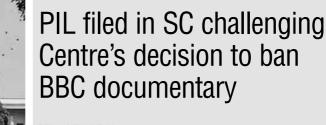
Constitution. He raised questions like whether the previous judgments of this Court interpreting Article 25(1) of the Constitution are grossly erro-



the word "propagate" would include entitlement to convert.

"Whether the word "propagate" needs to be construed in a manner which is not detrimental to fraternity, unity, dignity and national integration..., Upadhyay's fresh plea said.

It should also not lead to communal conflagration on account of religious communities trying to convert the weaker section of other religious communities and "attempting to make demographic changes as witnessed in the nine states/UTs (Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Kashmir, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh) and around 200 districts of India", the application said.



## Centre's decision to ban **BBC** documentary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

APIL has been filed in the Supreme Court against the Centre's decision to "ban" a BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots in the country, alleging it was "malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional".

The PIL filed by advocate

ML Sharma also urged the apex court to call and examine the BBC documentary - both parts I and II - and sought action against persons who were responsible and were involved directly and indirectly with the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Sharma said that in his PIL he has raised a constitutional question and the top court has to decide whether citizens have the right under Article 19 (1) (2) to see news, facts and reports on the 2002 Gujarat

He has sought direction to quash the order dated January 21, 2023 of the Ministry of the Information and Broadcasting, terming it as illegal, malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional.

His plea said whether the

central government can curtail freedom of press which is a fundamental right as guaran-teed under Article 19 (1) (2) of the Constitution.

Whether without having an Emergency declared under Article 352 of the Constitution of India by the president, Emergency provisions can be invoked by the central govern-

ment?" the PIL said.' It claimed the BBC documentary has "recorded facts" which are also "evidence" and can be used to further the cause of justice for the victims.

## Leprosy cases declining not due to non-transmission, but due to non-detection: WHO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Sunday reminded the member World nations not to be complacent in view of declining new leprosy cases, which it asserted were not due to decrease in transmission of the disease, but because of cases remaining undetected amid covid-related disruptions.

Against this backdrop, it has asked the countries to urgently address gaps in leprosy services which were affected

"Act Now. End Leprosy." is this year's theme for World Leprosy Day being observed on Sunday.

"Leprosy is 100% curable when detected early. Yet, today, in addition to covid-19 related challenges, stigma and dis-crimination-both institutionalized and informal, continue to impede prompt diagnosis and treatment and facilitate onward spread of leprosy. This has to change," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director, WHO South-East

She pointed out that over

due to Covid-19 pandemic. the past decade, strong progress was achieved in several key areas of leprosy prevention, treatment, and control globally, with new cases among children reduced by 27% between 2010 and 2019, visible deformities at time of diagnosis reduced by 23% between 2014 and 2019 and the rate of new cases among children reduced to 7.6 per million children as opposed to 9.8 in 2014.

However, in 2021, 140,000 new leprosy cases were reported, with 95 per cent of new cases coming from the 23 global priority countries. Of these,



6 per cent were diagnosed with visible deformities or grade-2 disabilities (G2D). Over 6 per cent of new cases were children under the age of 15, with 368 being diagnosed with grade-2 disabilities, she said.

Even as a 10 per cent increase in new cases was

reported in 2021 against 2020, the reported cases were still 30% lower than in 2019. Reportedly, this is not because of a decrease in transmission, but due to cases remaining undetected amid covid-related

Countries must continue

ing single dose rifampicin chemoprophylaxis, intensifying active case finding, and ensuring prompt diagnosis and treatment with multidrug therapy," added Dr Khetrapal Singh.

The global health official
also stressed on ensuring

to urgently restore leprosy ser-

vices, with a focus on expand-

increased access for persons affected by leprosy and their families to mental health care as up to 50% of those affected face psychiatric morbidities such as depression, anxiety disorders and suicide attempts.

# Air crash: Wing Commander WB Govt staffers protest Rao cremated in Belagavi

Wing Commander Hanumanth Rao Sarathi, who was killed in a plane crash between Sukhoi-30MKI and Mirage-2000 aircraft in Madhya Pradesh, was cremated with full military honours.

The two frontline combat aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed during a training mission in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district on Saturday, resulting in the death of Wing Commander Sarathi while two other pilots ejected safely.

Wrapped in tricolour, the coffin carrying the body of the pilot was brought from Morena to Belagavi for the last rites by a special IAF plane. It was then taken to Sarathi's home in

Various people, including former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and Congress MLA Laxmi Hebbalkar, paid homage to the departed soul by garlanding the body.

Later in the evening, the



day after he was killed in a plane crash in Madhya Pradesh's Morena

mortal remains were consigned to flames with full military honours. A pall of gloom descended at the residence of Wing Commander Sarathi, an instructor at Tactics and Air

Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior. The family members and relatives were inconsolable with his untimely demise. The 35-yearold pilot is survived by his wife, Development a three-year-old daughter and

officer comes from a defence background. Sarathi's father Revansiddappa Sarathi is a retired honorary captain and brother Praveen Sarathi is a serving Group Captain.

# Over non-payment of DA SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and ment to its logical end. "W

Along sit-in demonstration by the victims of recruitment scam was not enough, a joint forum of 8 lakh strong State Government employees unions too have begun a continuous dharna in support of 38 per cent hike in dearness

The government employ-ees including the retired staff have been protesting for months alleging that the Government had not paid them the revised dearness allowance after the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations were implemented by various governments. This, despite the Calcutta High directing the State to do so.

According to the joint forum leaders while they were eligible for a approved 34 per cent DA of the basic pay the government has so far given 3 per cent DA, which was not only less than the central government standards but also lesser than the DA given by the other States like Kerala, Bihar,

even Uttar Pradesh. The employees association which promptly got support from the protestors of teachers' recruitment scam said they would continue the movement, till their demands were made.

'We have called for a 2hour cease work on Wednesday ... if the Government continues to pay no heed to our demand then we will go for a bigger movement," one of their senior leaders said, even as the ruling Trinamool Congress blamed the Opposition BJP and the Left for fomenting

"It is the CPI(M) and BJP which are inciting the government workers to derive political mileage from it ... still the people will once again vote for the Trinamool Congress in the panchayat and general elections" TMC MP Shantanu Sen

Supporting the cause of the State employees, Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said, his party would raise the issue inside the Assembly and take the movement to its logical end. "We will raise this issue in the Assembly ... because this Government does not even listen to the High Court which has directed them

repeatedly to clear the DA," he said. The State government has moved the Supreme Court after the High Court order directing the government to clear the DA arrears of the employees. CPI(M) MP and senior

counsel Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said "there is no rule of law in Bengal which is proved by the way they get the audacity to defy the High Court ... this is sheer arrogance that has come with power..."
However TMC MP Sen

advised the opposition to consider the large-scale welfare works undertaken by the Chief

"Mamata Banerjee has introduced a whole range of projects from Kanyashree, Yuvashree, Sabooj Saathi, Sikshashree, Swasthya Saathi to Lakshmir Bhandar ... on the other hand the Centre is not releasing more than Rs 1 lakh crore due to the State AMU students raising religious slogans should be sent to Pak: Min



PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGHARI

The controversy over raising religious slogans in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh Muslim University is not taking its name to stop. Actually, slogans of Allah Hu Akbar were raised by a student wearing NCC uniform on Republic Day whose video became quite viral on social media.

However, action is being taken on the matter by the AMU administration. But the statement of Minister of State of Uttar Pradesh Government Raghuraj Singh has given rise to the matter again.

In fact, regarding the whole matter, Minister of State of Uttar Pradesh Government, Raghuraj Singh says that "the students raising controversial slogans should be sent to Pakistan".

Those who raise such slo-gans have no right to live in India. Not only this, Minister of State Raghuraj Singh says that a sedition case should be filed against such people".

He furiously said that send the terrorists to Pakistan, I will pay the fare. He further said that "slogans of 'Allah Hu Akbar' should be raised in the mosque, it is okay, it is not a problem, but when it is a national festival of 26 January, if such words are used under the flag on this day, then you are a terrorist".

After the statement of the Minister of State, there is panic in AMU, on the other hand, the accused student has been identified in the case of raising religious slogans. The student is studying in BA 1st year and his name is Wahiduzma.

He is a resident of West Bengal. However, the university administration has suspended the student. Along with this, a three-member inquiry committee has been constituted, which will prepare and submit the inquiry report very soon.

# Guj junior clerk recruitment exam cancelled after question paper leak

### ATS arrests 16 after leak

 $T^{
m he\ competitive\ examination\ for\ the\ recruitment\ of}$ Gujarat government's junior clerks scheduled on Sunday was postponed soon after it came to light that its question paper had been leaked, following which 16 persons were arrested, officials said.

The Gujarat Panchayat Service Selection Board (GPSSB) announced postponement of the examination early Sunday morning, hours before it was scheduled to start across 2,995 centres at 11 am. As many as 9.5 lakh candidates had applied for 1,181 posts. The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) said it arrested 16 persons in this connection and recovered the copy of the question paper from their posses-

GPSSB's in-charge chairman Sandeep Kumar later announced that the examina-100 days and a new date will be announced in the next few

Addressing a press conference, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Gujarat ATS Sunil Joshi said 16 persons have been arrested so far in this case,

Jaipur Foot maker

camp in Lebanon

begins limb fitment



including 15 from Vadodara and one from Hyderabad. Seven out of the 16 accused are part of a gang from Bihar.

"The state ATS nabbed 15 accused from a computer exam centre named Stackwise Technology in Vadodara around 1.30 am on Sunday when they had gathered there with the copy of the question

The question paper recovered from them matched with that of the original paper, prompting the government to immediately decide on post-poning the exam," he said. Working on a tip-off that a man Pradip Nayak, was going to deliver the question paper to Ketan Barot and Bhaskar Chaudhary in Vadodara city, the ATS formed a special team involving personnel from the Surat crime branch and Vadodara Special Operations

Group (SOG) and arrested 15 persons from the exam centre along with the copy of the photo and copy of the question paper, Joshi said. "When we contacted the GPSSB, it confirmed that the copies matched with that of the original question paper. It was immediately decided to postpone the examination," he said.

Further investigation revealed that Nayak was given the copy of the paper by one Jeet Nayat, who worked at K L Hitech Press in Hyderabad where the paper was printed. A team rushed to Hyderabad and arrested Nayak who was being

Barot and Chaudhary were arrested in the past in cases investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), he said. Chaudhary is a native of Bihar and lives in Vadodara, and Mohanty hails from Odisha and resides in Surat, Joshi said.

The accused from Odisha contacted Chaudhary and Barot through the gang from Bihar. Chaudhary and Barot then contacted the accused in Gujarat, and they all decided to gather at Chaudhary's exam centre in Vadodara," Joshi said.

He said that most of the accused are involved in education consultancy business. "The accused persons were booked under sections 406 and 409 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (chreating) and 120(B) (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the case will be investigated by the ATS," he said.

Further probe will reveal the extent of exchange of money and the involvement of students in this connection.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives for the Beating Retreat ceremony, at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, on Sunday

## 2,300 hectares land retrieved during anti-encroachment drive in J-K's Kishtwar

**PTI** ■ JAMMU

Over 2,300 hectares of state and 'kahcharai' land were retrieved during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on

The anti-encroachment drive is going on in full swing in all tehsils under the direct supervision of Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav, registering 75 percent progress, he said.

"The district administration has activated men and machinery on mission mode to evict the illegal occupants from the state land. Till date, around 47,552 kanals (2377.6 hectares) of state and Roshini land, out of total 64,192 kanal, have been retrieved," the official

Under kahcharai land, he said, over 384 kanals (19.2 hectares) have been retrieved, out of a total encroached 572 kanals through a series of antiencroachment drives. The



he added. Yadav has passed strict directions to Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Kishtwar, Varunjeet Singh Charak and all tehsildars to chalk out a comprehensive plan and intensify the eviction and demolition drives in collaboration with police and other concerned in the coming days so that the rest of encroached land is retrieved in stipulated time.

Meanwhile, officials said more than 35 kanals of encroached land was retrieved from illegal occupants in different parts of Kathua district on Saturday. The retrieved land included over three kanals and six marlas from former minis-

ter Prem Sagar Aziz and nine kanals and 15 marlas from District Development Council Chairman, Kathua, Col (retd) Mahan Singh from Plahi village, they said. The officials said the land freed from the encroachers also includes a high-value land worth Rs 2. 41 crore in Basohli sub-division.

The Jammu district administration has retrieved prime government land, measuring 20 kanals and five marla, from Machallian-Nagbani village in the Domana area on the outskirts of the city, they said.

Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Avny Lavasa appreciated the efforts of revenue officers and asked them to leave no stone unturned to retrieve the state land from encroachers.

## **Bad weather forces Shah to address Hry** rally over phone

**BJP** leaders will win all LS seats in State in 2024

PTI GOHANA (HARYANA)

After his visit here to attend a public rally on Sunday was cancelled due to bad weather, Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the gathering briefly over phone and exuded confidence that "lotus will bloom" on all Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2024 elec-

He also said the Manohar Lal Khattar government has reined in corruption and undertaken development in all fields during the past eight years. Addressing the 'Jan Utthan Rally', Shah appealed to the people of Haryana to vote for BJP to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister again.

he said, adding "on every Lok Sabha seat, Bharatiya Janata Party's lotus will bloom, I have full belief." BJP had in 2019 won all the 10 Lok Sabha seats from Haryana. Haryana unit of the BJP

"I could not come, but in near

future I will come to Gohana,"

had been preparing for the Gohana rally for the past few weeks and Shah was also to address a party meeting here.

Addressing the rally, Shah said the present state government has ended casteism, improved the law and order, and ensured there is no corruption in recruitment for government jobs in the state.

Shah said that the devel opment which has been undertaken in the past eight years was not witnessed in the state in decades.

He also mentioned that now educated sarpanches are taking Haryana forward.

## 10 killed in separate road accidents in UP

The Bhagwan Mahaveer 📘 Viklang Sahayata Samiti -- makers of the famous Jaipur Foot -- has started an artificial limb fitment camp in Beirut, Lebanon. The camp is sponsored by the Union Ministry of External Affairs under the 'India for Humanity' programme.

The Jaipur Foot artificial limb fitment camp was inaugurated at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital, Beirut, on India's 74th Republic Day (Thursday)," the organisation said in a

release on Sunday. Representatives from the Lebanese Armed Forces as

well as Rafik Hariri University Hospital Chairman Dr Jihad Saadeh were present on the occasion

DR Mehta, founder and chief patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, said over 10,000 people with disabilities in over 40 countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands had been rehabilitated under the 'India for Humanity' programme, launched to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2018.

The Samiti conducted four similar camps in the country between 2006 and 2008 with support from the United Nations Interim Force Foreign Affairs and Public in Lebanon. During these Health ministries and the camps, 381 limbs were fitted, according to the release.

t least six persons were Akilled and 15 injured when a speeding truck ran over bystanders in Lakhimpur Kheri

on late Saturday night, police

PNS LUCKNOW

The accident happened when the killer truck ploughed into bystanders, mostly villagers, who gathered at the roadside following a car-scooty collision near Pangi village on the Kheri-Bahraich highway.

The deceased were identified as Rizwan (20), Karan (14), Paras Nishad (84), Karunesh Verma (30), Virendra Verma and Jang Bahadur (17), all from Pangi Khurd village in Lakhimpur Kheri. Superintendent of Police



Ganesh Prasad Saha along with other police officials rushed to the spot and monitored the operations to rescue the vic-

According to police officials, a car going towards Bahraich on Pilibhit Basti road near Pangi Khurd village hit a scooty coming from the opposite direction at around 7:30 pm in which the scooty rider sustained injuries. After this, a crowd gathered on the spot, most of whom were residents of the village. The speeding truck coming from Bahraich ran over the crowd and fell into a ditch. The injured were rushed to the district hospital for treatment. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives, and directed officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured persons, the chief medical officer said in a tweet in Hindi. Magistrate District

Mahendra Bahadur Singh, Chief Development Officer Anil Kumar Singh and Superintendent of Police Ganesh Prasad Saha took cognisance of the accident. Identification of the injured was underway. The Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party expressed condolences and

urged the UP government to give compensation to the families of the victims.

Meanwhile, a motorcycleborne man and his son were hit by a truck while going to distribute wedding cards in Kannauj district. They died on the spot. After the accident, the driver fled with the truck. Komal, daughter of farmer Awadhesh Dubey (50) of Nathapurwa village of Tirwa Kotwali area is to be married

on February 15. Aditya Dubey (26), the family's only son working in a furniture factory in Bareilly, came home on January 28. Awadhesh Dubey had left the house to distribute the wedding card with his son Aditya on Sunday morning. A speeding

truck hit their bike on the bypass near Pal crossing in Sadar Kotwali, killing Awadhesh and Aditya on the spot. Kotwali in-charge Rajkumar Singh said that both the bodies were sent for autopsy and efforts were on to nab the truck driver. Meanwhile, Vedprakash

(50) and his wife Shakuntala Devi (48) of Bari village under Pilibhit police station Newriya, were killed in a collision between a Bolero and an unknown vehicle near Lauhangapur forest on the Khutar Puranpur state highway in Shahjahanpur at around one o'clock on Saturday night. Ved Prakash had left for Ayodhya on Saturday night with family members and relatives. His

Bolero collided with a vehicle due to fog in Lauhangapur forest. Vedprakash and Shakuntala Devi died on the spot. After this, the driver of the other vehicle fled along with the vehicle.

On getting information about the accident, the police reached the spot and sent the injured to the community health centre where the doctor pronounced Vedprakash and Shakuntala Devi dead.

Seriously injured Ram Singh, his wife Anita Devi, son Aryan, Ashok Kumar, his wife Sarita Devi, Anand Swaroop were referred to government medical college. Vedprakash's son Kamal Kumar filed a complaint against the unknown www.dailypioneer.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Easy choice**

Renaming of Mughal Gardens as Amrit Udyan is a convenient way of making a nationalist statement

enaming of Mughal Gardens at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi as Amrit Udyan has resulted in reactions from various quarters on expected lines. The new name has been given by President Draupadi Murmu as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities to mark 75 years of India's independence, Deputy Press Secretary to the President Navika Gupta told reporters on Saturday. Typically, the Bharatiya Janata Party has lauded the move, with spokesman Sambit Patra calling it a "historic decision" of the Narendra Modi government that was needed to "come out of 'slavery mentality'." Law minister Kiren Rijiju saw the rise of New India in it. The Opposition, also expectedly, slammed the renaming of Mughal Gardens. Who knows, they might



now want to rename the Eden Gardens and call it Modi Gardens, Trinamool Congress' Parliamentary party leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien told a news agency. CPI general secretary D Raja saw "the RSS' agenda... to rewrite Indian history and redefine nationhood" in the decision.

There is no doubt that the BJP Govts at the Centre and in states are in overdrive in changing the names of places, buildings, etc., in their bid to present themselves as true and staunch nationalists, to instill pride in people about the glorious past. Besides, renaming is the easiest exercise; a government need not do any real work for the benefit of the people to rename a town or garden. Sometimes, renaming is

also done to score political points and needle the Opposition. For instance, the names Gandhi and Nehru have been removed from several government schemes and places. It should, however, not be forgotten that the BJP, though the most active player of the game of symbolism, is not the only one. The Congress actually began the game. In 1995, the Congress government, at the behest of its MP Mani Shankar Aiyar, changed the name of the iconic Connaught Place (CP) to Rajiv Chowk and Connaught Circus to Indira Chowk. In 2004, in his capacity as petroleum minister, Aiyar got a plaque on RSS ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in the Cellular Jail premises in Andaman and Nicobar Islands removed. For Aiyar, as for the BJP, such decisions are ideological and political rather than rational. But then reason is increasingly playing a smaller role in politics; concomitantly, irrationality is growing by the day. When the BJP is in power, it removes the names of Gandhi and Nehru from schemes and places; when the Congress comes to office, it humbles Hindutva heroes. Such puerility cannot be allowed to continue. It is time political leaders across party lines considered the possibility of a comprehensive policy. The objective should be to make nomenclature apolitical and sensible. It is not good for the nation if a name changing exercise is criticised as being biased against Muslims, but this is exactly what has been happening. The Govt must ensure that it doesn't face such accusations in the future.



Spectators watch the "Van Gogh 360" digital immersive experience exhibition in Mumbai

## **Prioritise healthcare**

The Finance Minister would do well to increase the budget allocation for the public health

It is unfortunate that even after seven decades of independence fatalities due to diseases in the country are high and infant mortality rate is a cause of concern. Many people suffer from life threatening diseases such as TB, Cancer, heart ailments but are unable to get the treatment due to high cost of treatment. People suffer from disabilities such as blindness which seriously impact their life. The reason they do not have access to affordable healthcare. The government health infrastructure falls way short of the desirable levels. The gaps in public health are filled by private hospitals and doctors; that are way too expensive and do not have a footprint in far-off areas especially tribal areas and remote villages. Public health is a state subject and so primarily the state's responsibility. There is a strong case to

shift it to a concurrent list of the Constitution which would allow the center to directly address health issues. As many states struggle with funds, public health takes the beating. Public health is directly correlated to national productivity and hence it is a good investment to make for the health of the nation too. India ranks lower than many countries, like, Brazil, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand when it comes to life expectancy at birth.

The reason is not difficult to fathom. In 2019, India's government health expenditure per capita (in purchasing power parity, or PPP, terms) was \$69 as against \$154 in the Philippines, \$175 in Indonesia, \$492 in China, \$524 in Thailand, and \$610 in Brazil. That greater investments in health will positively

impact India's GDP by increasing productivity over the long term. It was also acknowledged in the National Health Policy 2017, which suggested increasing public health spending. The finance minister has a shot in the present budget to increase the budget outlay for health. If the Union Budget 2023-24 can lower this gap by stepping up the budget outlay it would be a great service to the people. Budgetary allocations in the financial year 2020-21 were only 1.8 percent, well short of the expenditure on health of the stipulated target of 2.5 percent of the GDP by 2025 as suggested by NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. He had also advised the Developmental Finance Institution (DFI) dedicated to healthcare investments to channel the funds for health in a better way. But a decent allocation in the budget for health can be a good start.

# Indian aviation is becoming chaotic



The civil aviation authorities should focus on providing better facilities at the airports, not on bragging about the scale of their operations

he Indian aviation industry is now a farce. The recent disgraceful alleged incident involving an 'unruly" passenger on Air India, an airline leaving behind a busload of passengers and flying off, the systematic chaos at Delhi International Airport (DIAL), and the frequent and unreported incidents at other airports all raise one question. What direction is the industry taking? What exactly does a passenger receive from these airports in exchange for paying the passenger terminal fee? How do airlines handle their obligations? What is being done to make travel safer and less stressful? Airports and airlines in India clearly do not provide the level of service that is expected of them. The stress of the journey begins and continues as a result of how airports handle ground situations. Who needs the lofty titles

and laurels of being the world's "busiest" or "best" airport? Passengers would prefer a more "efficient" airport! The "busiest" airport benefits only the operator and not the customer.

Consider our opulent airports, which appear to have heralded, albeit in reverse, a revolution. Despite the grandiose nature of many modern airports, inefficiency seems to be widespread. Aviation was created to change the way people travel by allowing them to travel long distances in a fraction of the time it would take by other means. Airports appear to put a dent in this theory.

They waste most of the passengers' valuable time and energy. Even for domestic travel, airlines and airports have set a reporting time of 2-3 hours. It is an unacceptable step back. Isn't it strange that in that amount of time, one can land on a foreign shore? The scales established by airlines and airport operators are only self-serving, without putting the customer at the center.

Ironically and equally fascinating are now technology has neadache, but the lack of air advanced to the point where it circulation exacerbates the can detect if one's heart valves situation. In the dead of win-

need to be repaired, while airport x-ray machines still can't see through the bags and force us to go through the rather antiquated process of removing articles from cabin baggage as well as our jackets, belts, boots, and socks. Such mindless checks are an insult to any civilized process. It is a form of public humiliation that we have all come to accept as necessary.

Are we saying that the deployed man and machine are so skeptical of each other that they want to double-check that the passenger isn't a criminal on a mission? It calls into question both men's and machines' capabilities. Handlers at x-ray machines are unfamiliar with the objects or electronics that must be handled properly. Many of us have seen the

airport's general atmosphere deteriorate in recent years. The serpentine lines and cramped quarters give you a



WHO NEEDS THE

LOFTY TITLES AND LAURELS OF **BEING THE** WORLD'S "BUSIEST" OR "BEST" AIRPORT? **PASSENGERS** WOULD PREFER A MORE "EFFICIENT" AIRPORT! ter in Delhi, one can easily sweat in one's jacket while navigating the lines. What advantages does this have for passengers?

Practical solutions, such as displaying the estimated time it will take to clear passengers or the crowd size inside the check-in and security areas, can be beneficial. Passengers' stress levels will be reduced if they are cleared in the order in which the airline or destination departs in real-time.

The passenger is entirely on his own until the end of the boarding. Rather, it should be the responsibility of the airline and airport operators to own the customer once he is inside the airport and make his journey safe, secure, and hassle-free in exchange for the cost of the ticket and taxes he has paid. That's the bare minimum any service provider is expected to do.

be made to suffer because he or she is flying a specific air-line and bunched like sar-expressed are personal)

dines with other airlines that have peak capacity at that hour? Essentially, why should every airline passenger pass through the same rabbit hole? These are systems designed for a different era with the sole purpose of saving money. It is time to review the procedures that create friction and stress and eliminate

We don't want silent airports; we want upbeat airports. airports that are conscious of customer needs and that are practical. We want airports that deliver speed, efficiency, and care from the moment the passenger enters the terminal until they depart.

Alas, the airport operators and airlines are not catering to these issues. Negligence and air rage are direct and indirect results of the broken, negligent, and hands-off attitude of the airport, airlines, and stakeholders.

(The writer is a communi-Why should a passenger cations specialist based in New Deini, a travel writer, and expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **PENDING VACANCIES IN THE JUDICIARY**

Sir — The noted former Supreme court Judge R F Nariman has made a very valid observation that the government could not keep pending the postings of new Judges as recommended by the Collegium for an indefinite period in view of crores of pending cases hanging indifferent courts at different levels.

The law minister should answer whether he is not concerned with the real problem of pendency of cases and if so whether he wants to cling to the same old reasoning that they are not responsible for this pendency as they have inherited them from earlier governments. As suggested by Mr. Nariman too, the government at least should tentatively form a committee of say 5 judges or so from different states who should be advised to give their opinions regarding new judges' postings say within around a month or so and the government should clear such names subject to having no 'objectionable comments' on the suggested names. Both the central government and the law minister seem to have no scant concern about delivering speedy justice to the innocents' litigations in the courts whatsoever which is the most atrocious attitude of the central government. **Katuru Durga Prasad Rao** | *Hyderabad* 

### **TROUBLE FOR ADANI**

Sir — The shares of several companies owned by billionaire Gautam Adani collapsed due to heavy losses on Friday (January 27) after a report by a US investment firm accused the Adani Group of being involved in committing "brazen" corporate fraud. The report raised questions over the financial stability of Adani Group in the coming days and concerns are now raised over the savings of millions of Indians in big financial institutions like the State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

The Congress party demanded that a thorough probe should be launched into Hindenburg Research's allegations adding that it may have exposed the financial system of the country to systemic risks

### **Iconic Telugu Actress Jamuna**

unabashedly artistic.



he death of a Legendary actor of the yesterday years of the Telugu film industry's golden era - Jamuna -marks an end of an era of those great actors. She acted with other legendary actors of the era such as N T Rama Rao, Akkinnein Nageswara Rao, Savitry and S V Ranga Rao and others.

Her claim to fame came with the release of Missamma(1955) Telugu-language romantic comedy film directed by L. V. Prasad, arguably Missamma is one of the greatest movies of all times in the history of Tollywood, in which NT Rama Rao, with his indomitable nuances and

Adani Group made by strategic state entities like LIC, SBI and other public sector banks".

'These institutions have liberally financed the Adani Group even as their private sector counterparts have chosen to avoid investing because of concerns over corporate governance and indebtedness. As much as 8 percent of LIC's equity assets under management, amounting to a gigantic sum of 74,000 crores, is in Adani companies and comprise its secondlargest holding. If proven correct it will "destroy lives of crores of Indians who park lifelong savings in LIC & SBI." With this US investment firms have exposed the

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### STOP THE FREE USE OF ARMS

Sir — The police are the body to ensure citizen safety and security, not doing brutality to the citizens by taking the law into their hands. It is a tragic reality for American police right now. The protest "through the liberal investments in the of #Blacklifematters seems to be the ever-

style, have his stamp of authentic life in, with this film Jamuna metamorphosed into an

While she predominantly acted in Telugu films, she was a multilingual actress who had acted in about 200 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi. She was the most glamorous actress of her era, playing a wide variety of roles such as Satyabhama, wife of Lord Krishna, in "Sri Krishna Tulabharam" and Kaikeyi, wife of King Dasaratha in "Sampoorna Ramayanam.

Jamuna also acted in a few Hindi films including Sunil Dutt-starrer box office hit film "Milan (1967)", her superb performance in this film won her the Film fare award. Jamunaa also had an inning in politics and was a Member of Parliament in the 9th Lok Sabha from Raiahmundry (AP). She has left behind an indelible mark in the heart of her fans with several memorable films Gundamma Kanth, Missamma, and many more. RIP Jamuna

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangaluru

green protest in American history. Every single year, global outrage has been created to churn the seriousness of Black people's rights issues. Unfortunately, this year too, Tyre Nichols was beaten to death in Memphis city by American police officers. This reminded the story of George Floyd who had been murdered by Minneapolis Police by choking his neck. This is ridiculous for any developed country to do such barbaric and racist acts

with the minorities they have. The arms too are frequently misused by Americans also. In fact, their kids too had been shot in their classroom due to racist mentality towards those, they share their class. This kind of misuse of arms and police brutality only left citizens angry. America must change laws of stringent freedom, and there is an urgent need to change the free use of arms, by making the lives of citizens happier.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

Thousands of people - men, women children, elderly, and every section of society - stood on the roads and welcomed the Yatra and Gandh



Congress general secretary — Jairam Ramesh



— Colin Kahl

**Under Secretary of Defense for** Policy, USA

For all those who have high hopes, please note that Pathaan might be a film, but the country will still roar with Jai Shri Ram



— Kangana Ranaut Najam Sethi has the



need to be a good administrator, and you need to be a good communicator and build a good repo with other boards. People can disagree for all I care. Former Pakistan cricketer

- Wasim Akram We are taking legal action against the husbands forcing minor girls to become a mother. would suggest

women become



Himanta Biswa Sarma

mothers before 30 Assam chief minister facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

### **FIRST COLUMN EXAM ANXIETY IS BIG ISSUE FOR STUDENTS**

A sound mental health depends upon multiple factors



DR JYOTI KAPOOR

nxiety is one of the major mental health issues that students face just before their board and competitive examinations. Anxiety stems I from the unrealistic expectations of family members and parents. In India, success is often measured in terms of outstanding grades.

A student often goes through anxiety, stress and in extreme cases depression. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his bestselling book 'Exam Warriors' talked about examinations and has outlined a refreshing approach, urging everyone to celebrate the tests like a festival with enthusiasm. Mental health experts across India have opined that every year before and after examination sessions, they have been getting a lot of youngsters suffering from anxiety and stress. Most of them have been victims of burnout due to long preparation hours and uncertainty about the future. They need counselling and medicines to deal with stress post their examinations.

The stress becomes all the more over-powering when the student appears for competitive exams, which are highly competitive, rigorous, and target-oriented. A recent study showed that among those preparing for medical entrance exams, 72.2 per cent experienced high levels of stress interfering with their day-to-day functioning.



The most common complaints of such students are poor concentration level and lack of focus. Fear of failure keeps it going. In most of the cases, students hardly consult a mental health expert or talk about their issues with peers/parents. No recreation, continuous study for most of the day, parental pressure and fear of failure aggravate their condition. Such preparations are time-consuming and tedious, and students frequently sacrifice other aspects of their lives to focus on one test. One should not forget the fact that our brain needs to break. It cannot function 24/7. The scenario becomes worse when results for competitive exams or board exams are not according to their expectations.

A sound mental health depends upon multiple factors and the most important one is emotional support. If somebody has that, it ensures a healthy growth of mind, body and soul. Many students stay away from their parents (in a different city to prepare for exams) or if at all they are staying with their parents, they hardly interact with them due to their busy schedule. At times, dealing with such a stressed environment with no emotional support, students start to feel lonely. They get addicted to unhealthy practices, including excessive alcohol consumption, gambling, overeating, participating compulsively in sex, shopping or internet browsing, smoking and substance abuse.

Unfortunately, our education system doesn't prepare us for failure. Nobody tells us that if plan A fails then what would be plan B. That's the reason when a student experiences failure, they feel that it's the end of the world for them. They get exposed to enormous stress both physically and mentally. In many cases, a student might not want to appear for a competitive course and he/she is just doing it because of certain family and societal pressure. These young children have known their entire lives that this one exam will determine how long they live. They have no time for extracurricular activities, socialising, or sports, which prevents their personalities from developing.

The coping mechanism is incumbent upon creating a schedule that enhances the performance of body and mind, while refreshing with short breaks. Consuming wholesome foods and at least eight hours of sound sleep each night also help. Long study sessions reduce the amount of time available for exercise and the body becomes lethargic, and the mind begins to react negatively, which calls for taking time out for physical activity. Discovering a calming exercise is also important. Speaking to loved ones frequently for emotional support also helps along with staying away from unrealistic expectations.

(The author is Founder and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)

# Some modest Budget expectations from FM



The tax slabs can be suitably adjusted for inflation to alleviate the economic hardships of the common man

n a few days' time, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be presenting her fifth budget, the last full budget before the 2024 elections. Despite pressure for increasing populist expenditure, one hopes that she will stick to the pragmatism that marked her earlier budgets and focus instead on consolidating the fiscal path further.

Given the present state of the economy with seven per cent growth looking achievable, revenues showing healthy growth, the GST stabilising at around Rs 1.5 lakh crore a month and the continuing bull run in the stock markets, the factors are favourable for the government for projecting a fiscal deficit target less than the last year's budget estimate of 6.4 per cent.

However, there are some aberrations in our taxation structure which must be corrected. These were flagged after the last year's budget and it is time the government acts. Chief among these is the complex structure of our capital gains taxation that is arbitrary, ad-hoc and distorts the market, and this must be rationalised for efficient allocation of resources.

There is not only a multiplicity of rates and holding periods for different types of investments, but some have benefits for inflation indexation which others do not have. Capital gains tax is levied on profits made on capital investments on real estate, gold, stocks, mutual funds, and various other financial and non-financial assets. It can be either a long-term capital gains tax (LTCG) or short-term capital gains tax (STCG) depending on the holding period of the investments.

Unlike income tax, for the LTCG, the tax rate does not change in a progressive manner. Thus, the same rate of tax applies for all capital gains whether in lakh or crore rupees. There is also a separate set of exemptions that apply to LTCG, and they come with arbitrary conditions. For example, one can get exemption for buying a house after selling another, provided the new house is bought within two years or constructed within three years of the sale. On LTCG on stocks and equity mutual funds, there is an exemption limit of Rs 1 lakh.

On others, the benefit of indexation is available.

The last time the government tinkered with the capital gains tax regime was in the Budget for FY19, when the LTCG was reintroduced on listed shares. The surge in capital market transactions combined with the booming stock market since then has led to healthy growth in collections, and these can be further streamlined and increased by rationalising and simplifying the structure of capital gains taxation.

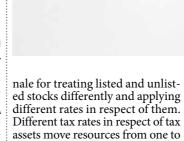
There should be one uniform rate for LTCG and all LTCGs should be given the benefits of indexation. There is no ratio-



**OVER 100** MILLION DEMAT ACCOUNT WERE OPENED IN INDIA **DURING THE PANDEMIC** YEARS (MARCH 2020 TO DEC 2022), HUGELY **EXPANDING THE** BASE OF RETAIL **INVESTORS IN** THE STOCK MARKET WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE

> **ADDITIONAL** RISKS TO **GENERATE**

(The author is a former Director General at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India)



another, and the same happens with different holding periods. Real estate sector is the biggest absorber of black money, which is why its prices are way above its intrinsic value. If we want to cleanse the system, special incentives for investing in real estate or holding onto it must be removed and the sector must be brought under the GST regime.

Over 100 million demat accounts were opened in India during the pandemic years (March 2020 to Dec 2022), hugely expanding the base of retail investors in the stock market who are willing to take additional risks to generate wealth. Given an estimated 10fold increase in our direct tax collections from the increased stock market activity and the future potential for further increases, rationalisation of the capital gains structure is urgently called for. The threshold limit for LTCG also needs to be raised substantially from the present limit of Rs 1 lakh to encourage more retail participation in equity investing.

This can only increase the direct tax collections further. Even if all these changes cannot be introduced in this budget, the FM

specific roadmap. Secondly, there is also an

urgent need to rationalise the centrally sponsored schemes to increase the allocative efficiency in the budget. But there are many schemes which have inherent populist biases and are economically inefficient; they consume scarce resources that have an opportunity cost.
These schemes also tend to

Budget 2023

proliferate. There is an urgent need to take a hard look at some of these schemes and rationalise them, not through bundling together under some umbrella schemes as the government had done in the past, but through convergence and merger, and substantial reduction of redundancies.

The previous finance commissions have all red-flagged this issue and the latest, the 15th Finance Commission has said, "We have noted the proliferation of centrally sponsored schemes and central sector schemes and the tendency to continue with them without an evaluation of their outcomes. It is our expectation that the Union Government will utilise the year 2020-21 to complete the review of such schemes and thereafter prune and rationalise the list to focus on certain key sectors and interventions with nation-wide externalities. The objective in our view should be to ensure that there is must make her intent of rational- a minimum level of expenditure ising the structure of capital gains on certain desired sectors to taxation absolutely clear with a improve human development and

infrastructure. This will also reduce pressure on the revenue account of the Union to enable higher capital expenditure within the available fiscal space." Government is yet to review and rationalise these schemes which will release lot of taxpayer funds for capital purposes and curtail

unproductive expenditure.

Lastly, the dual system of income tax assessment that was introduced in the FY20 budget under section 115BAC of the Income Tax Act is making no sense. For one thing, it is again too complex with six rates — 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 per cent - without exemptions, as against three in the pre- existing tax regime with exemptions. With or without exemptions, there should be only a single tax regime. The alternate tax regime has failed to enthuse people, and if the FM is serious about it, she should simplify it to the extent that a taxpayer can prepare and file her tax return under the new regime without the help

of chartered accountants. The alternative is to raise the existing exemptions suitably keeping in mind the fact that high inflation which has become the new permanent normal now will not slow anytime soon, especially with the Russia-Ukraine War showing no sign of ending.

The tax slabs can be suitably adjusted for inflation to alleviate the economic hardships of the common man.

SWAMI PRASAD MAURYA IS CONTINUOUSLY ATTACKING 'HINDU DHARMA', 'HINDU AASTHA' AND RAMCHARITMANAS. — BJP LEADER

SIDHARTH NATH SINGH





IF MAHANTS ARE TALKING ABOUT BEHEADING ME AND CHOPPING OFF MY TONGUE, ARE THEY NOT **TERRORISTS AND BUTCHERS?** 

— SAMAJWADI PARTY LEADER **SWAMI PRASAD MAURYA** 

# Focus on rural consumption to revive the economy

Rural consumption is facing headwinds in the wake of double-digit price increases and dim prospects of income

**⊣**he Indian rural population is spread across 6.3 lakh villages and constitutes 64 per cent of the total population. However, it contributes only 37 per cent of overall consumption of Fast Moving Consumer goods (FMCG). Historically, rural consumption has been growing at 3-5 per cent points higher than urban, driven by increasing disposable income and growth of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector on the back of successful rollout of government policies towards higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP), fertilizer subsidies, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

Scheme (MGNREGS).



ROUNAK BAHETI

(Anand Ramanathan is Partner, Deloitte India; Rounak Baheti is Director, Deloitte India; and Soumya Bose is Manager, Deloitte India)

SOUMYA BOSE

Rural consumption is currently facing headwinds in the wake of double-digit price increases and lower visibility of future income among rural households. However, in the long term, rural markets possess immense growth potential, and the upcoming budget is expected to provide adequate focus on job generation, capability development and infrastructure related initiatives which can have a multiplier effect towards driving growth in rural consumption.

The Indian agriculture sector is still dependent on the timely arrival of monsoon, as a result there is a need to protect farmers from vagaries of weather conditions. The Government needs to focus on enhancing benefits and coverage of crop insurance schemes

and focus on increasing coverage under micro-irrigation (like drip, sprinklers, etc.) which has proved more efficient than traditional tech-

India is one of the countries with significant post-harvest losses. There are 8,000 cold storages having 35 million metric tons capacity across India, but 59 per cent of this capacity is concentrated in only four states - Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

In addition to encouraging private sector to develop such facilities through foreign direct investment (FDI) and tax incentives, the Government can also incentivize Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) to develop low capacity warehouses and micro cold storages for reducing wastages of small farmers. An average agricultural household in India has 60 per cent of their annual income in debt. The Government can increase outlay towards initiatives/schemes aimed at financial inclusion and generate greater awareness on existing schemes which extends credit guarantees to MSMEs/FPO/SHGs for working capital financing and term lending with interest subven-

Additional outlay under NABARD Fund can be committed towards providing credits to processing units even outside designated food parks for modernization/ upgradation. According to the NSS, the annual income of a farm

whereas average debt was Rs 74,100 from July, 2018 to June, 2019. With increasing internet and smartphone penetration in rural markets, the Government can focus on improving access to information for farmers through online trainings, advisory services on agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and other allied sectors.

Expediting 5G rollout, with network availability, will also help speed up implementation and adoption of Agritech in generating more opportunities and employment in Rural India. Market linkages can facilitate better price realizations for farmers. The Government can look at accelerating adoption and integration of National Agriculture

Agri-markets across the country through policy levers like synchronization of quality standards in agricultural produces, standardization of sorting/grading systems and systematic and accelerated registration of farmers, traders, and other ecosystem players in the portal.

Rural reach has been a challenge with higher cost of logistics driven by less-than truckloads. Government impetus in fast-tracking National Logistics Policy implementation, coupled with integrated information platforms, will reduce inefficiencies in movement of goods, increasing access and opportunities for rural India.

Micro-clusters through setting up rural entrepreneurhousehold was Rs 1.23 lakh, Market (eNAM) with the ship hubs in districts under

'One District One Product' initiative is an excellent opportunity to promote the rural economy. Interventions include support through training, better exposure to markets and setting up of facilities for value addition. This can promote entrepreneurship opportunities for rural youth. In addition, the

Government can also consider providing a separate allocation to create a dedicated Venture Capital (VC) fund for new age startups focused on servicing the rural economy. With global recession looming in the horizon, the upcoming Budget presents the Government a timely opportunity to unlock the levers for harnessing the growth and employment potential of the rural economy.

# Ukraine: Talks underway for missiles, planes

Ukraine and its Western allies are engaged in "fasttrack" talks on the possibility of equipping the invaded country with long-range missiles and military aircraft, a top Ukrainian presidential aide

said on Saturday.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said Ukraine's supporters in the West "understand how the war is developing" and the need to supply planes capable of providing cover for the armoured fighting vehicles that the United States and Germany pledged at the beginning of the

However, in remarks to online video channel Freedom, Podolyak said that some of Ukraine's Western partners maintain a "conservative" attitude to arms deliveries, "due to fear of changes in the international architecture".

Russia and North Korea have accused the West of prolonging and taking a direct role in the war by sending Kyiv increasingly sophisticated weapons.
"We need to work with

this. We must show (our partners) the real picture of this

naming specific countries.

'We must speak reasonably and tell them, for example, This and this will reduce fatalities, this will reduce the burden on infrastructure. This will reduce security threats to the European continent, this will keep the war localized.'

And we are doing it."

The US and Germany agreed on Wednesday to share advanced tanks with Ukraine along with the Bradley and Marder vehicles promised earlier, a decision that led to criticism not only from the Kremlin but from the prime minister of NATO and European Union member

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban asserted Friday that Western countries providing weapons and money to assist Ukraine in its war with Russia have "drifted" into becoming active participants in

Orban has refused to send weapons to neighbouring Ukraine and sought to block EU funds earmarked for military aid.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said it would summon Hungary's ambassador to complain about Orban's

spokesperson, Oleg Nikolenko, said Orban told reporters that Ukraine was "a no-man's land" and compared it to Afghanistan.

"Such statements are completely unacceptable. Budapest continues on its course to deliberately destroy Ukrainian-Hungarian relations," Nikolenko said in a Facebook

President Joe Biden's announcement that the US would send 31 M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine reversed months of arguments by Washington that they were too difficult for Ukrainian troops to operate and maintain.

The US decision persuaded German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who had expressed concern about a unilateral action drawing Russia's wrath, to agree to send 14 Leopard 2 tanks from Germany's stocks and to allow European countries with tanks to send some

Western weapons have proven essential to Ukraine's defence while stoking everhigher tensions with Moscow.

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Saturday that Ukrainian forces used USmade HIMARS rockets to

Ukrainian town of Novoaidar, killing 14 people.

Novoaidar is located in Luhansk province, which is almost entirely under the control of Russian forces or Russian-backed separatists. The Russian Defence Ministry alleged the hospital was deliberately targeted. Its claim of a strike in Novoaidar could not be immediately verified.

"A deliberate missile attack on a known operating civilian medical institution is an unconditional grave war crime of the Kyiv regime," the ministry said, according to Russian news agencies.

Amid the news of the Western pledges of heavy tanks, Russia bombarded Úkraine with missiles, exploding drones and artillery shells this week. The attacks continued on Saturday, when Russian missiles struck the city of Kostyantynivka in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province.

The missiles fell in a residential area, killing three civilians, wounding 14 and damaging four high-rise apartment buildings, a hotel and garages, Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

"Kostvantvnivka is a city relatively far from the front line, but still, it constantly suffers

who remains in the city exposes themselves to mortal danger," Kyrylenko said. "The Russians target civilians because they are not able to fight the Ukrainian army."

In a separate Telegram post earlier on Saturday, Kyrylenko reported that Russian attacks in the province killed four civilians in all and wounded seven others in 24 hours.

Russian rockets hit a residential area the Donestsk town of Chasiv Yar on Friday night, killing of two people and wounding five more, the governor said. Photos attached to Kyrylenko's post showed a three-story school building on

Donetsk province, where the territory is roughly split between Russian and Ukrainian control, has become the battle epicenter of the war as Moscow tries to jump-start a monthslong, grinding offensive to capture the city of

strategically located for the defense of Bakhmut, and has come under intensified Russian shelling. Capturing Bakhmut would allow Russian troops to disrupt Ukrainian supply lines and potentially

Chasiv Yar lies on a hill

pave the way for them to threaten Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, the largest remaining Ukrainian-held cities in the country's east.

Russian forces continued round attacks around Sakhmut and Avdiivka, another Donetsk city to the south, while Ukrainian troops were on the offensive in southern and northeast Ukraine, the Ukrainian military said in a

Saturday morning update.
The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said that Russian troops defending themselves" near Lyman in Luhansk and Kharkiv provinces north of Donetsk, as well in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces in the south.

The fighting has largely been deadlocked over the past months, with winter conditions slowing down ground operations and neither side reporting significant progress. In the same update, the

military reported that Russian forces launched 10 missile

Friends remember

to help civilians

while they were evacuating people from a front-line

and Briton Parry, 28, went missing earlier this month

while heading to the town of region, where heavy fighting

memories of Bagshaw and read

out tributes from his family.

friend of Bagshaw's, spoke

go to Soledar, they can't do it.

Because if he understood that

someone needs help, they need

to do this help for these peo-

afterwards of his bravery.

Volunteers spoke of their

Nikolletta Stoyanova, a

"Even if no one wanted to

Ukrainian town.

was taking place.

volunteer killed trying

strikes, 26 air strikes and 81 shelling attacks on Ukrainian territory between Friday and Saturday mornings. The shelling killed two civilians in Kherson, another province

that is partly Russian-occupied. Podolyak, the presidential adviser, said Ukraine needs supplies of Western long-range missiles "to drastically curtail the key tool of the Russian army" by destroying the warehouses where it stores cannon artillery used on the

## Russians gone from Ukraine village, fear and hardship remain

**AP** ■ KALYNIVSKE

When night falls in Tatiana Trofimenko's village in southern Ukraine, she pours sunflower oil that aid groups gave her into a jar and seals it with a wick-fitted lid. A flick of a match, and the make-do candle is lit.

"This is our electricity," Trofimenko, 68, says.

It has been over 11 weeks since Ukrainian forces wrested back her village, Kalynivske, in Kherson province, from Russian occupation. But liberation has not diminished the hardship for residents, both those returning home and the ones who never left.

In the peak of winter, the remote area not far from an active front line has no power or water. The sounds of war are

Russian forces withdrew from the western side of the Dnieper River, which bisects the province, but remain in control of the eastern side. A near constant barrage of fire from only a few kilometers away, and the danger of leftover mines leaving many Ukrainians rendered normalcy an elusive dream and cast a pall over their military's strategic victory.

Still, residents have slowly trickled back to Kalynivske, preferring to live without basic services, dependent on humanitarian aid and under the constant threat of bombardment than as displaced people elsewhere in their country.

Staying is an act of defiance

attacks intended to make the area unlivable, they say.

"This territory is liberated. feel it," Trofimenko says. "Before, there were no people on the streets. They were empty. Some people evacuated, some people hid in their hous-

"When you go out on the street now, you see happy people walking around," she says.

The Associated Press followed a United Nations humanitarian aid convoy into the village on Saturday, when blankets, solar lamps, jerrycans, bed linens and warm clothes were delivered to the local warehouse of a distribution

Russian forces captured Kherson province in the early days of the war. The majority of the nearly 1,000 residents in Kalynivske remained in their homes throughout the occupation. Most were too fragile or ill to leave, others did not have the means to escape.

lies on the sofa in a dark room, plates piled up beside him.

cancer is so painful it is hard for and tarp-covered tents during destroyed the back of his house, neighbours rushed to his rescue and patched it up with tarps. They still come by every day, to make sure he is fed and

"Visit again, soon," is all he can muster to say to them. Oleksandra Hryhoryna, 75,

moved in with a neighbour when the missiles devastated her small house near the village against the relentless Russian centre. Her frail figure steps

over the spent shells and shrap-nel that cover her front yard. She struggles up the pile of bricks, what remains of the stairs, leading to her front

She came to the aid distribution centre pulling her bicycle and left with a bag full of tinned food, her main source of sustenance these days.

But it's the lack of electricy that is the major problem, Hryhoryna explains. "We are using handmade candles with oil and survive that way," she

The main road that leads to her home is littered with the remnants of the war, an eerie museum of what was and what everyone here hopes will never return. Destroyed Russian tanks rust away in the fields. Cylindrical anti-tank missiles gleam, embedded in grassy patches. Occasionally, there is the tail end of a cluster munition lodged into the earth.

means to escape. Bright red signs embla-Gennadiy Shaposhnikov zoned with a skull warn passersby not to get too close.

The Russians left empty The 83-year old's advanced ammunition boxes, trenches some kilometers away, men's underwear hangs on the bare branches. And with the Russians waging ongoing attacks to win back the lost ground in Kherson, it is sometimes hard for terrorized residents to feel as if the occupying forces ever left.

"I'm very afraid," says Trofimenko. "Even sometimes I'm screaming. I'm very, very scared. And I'm worried about

us getting shelled again and for (the fighting) to start again. This is the most terrible thing that exists. The deprivation suffered in

the village is mirrored all over Kherson, from the provincial capital of the same name to the constellation of villages divided by tracts of farmland that surround it. Ukrainian troops reclaimed the territory west of the Dnieper River in November after a major counteroffensive led to a Russian troop withgreatest Ukrainian victories of the 11-month war.

The UN ramped up assistance, supporting 133,000 individuals in Kherson with cash assistance, and 150,000 with food. Many villagers in Kalynivske say the food aid is the only reason they have something to eat.

"One of the biggest challenges is that the people who are there are the most vulnerable. It's mainly the elderly, many who have a certain kind of disability, people who could not leave the area, and are really reliant on aid organisations and local authorities who are working around the clock," says Saviano Abreu, a spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The shelling is constant. Defence Ukraine's Ministry reports near daily age around the village for fireincidents of shelling in Kherson including rocket, artillery and mortar attacks. Most fall closer to the river banks nearer to the front line, but, that doesn't mean those living further away feel any safer. On Friday, a missile fell in the village of

Kalynivske, killing one person. Kherson managed to resume most of the essential services, but the problem is the hostilities keep creating chal-

lenges to ensure they are sustained," Abreu says. "Since December, it's getting worse and worse. The number of attacks and hostilities there is only increasing. Without electricity, there is

no means to pump piped drinking water. Many line up to fetch well water, but a lot is needed to perform daily functions, residents complain. To keep warm, many for-

wood. This is also not without Before we could easily get

wood from the forest, but now there are mines everywhere, says Oleksandr Zheihin, 47. Everyone in Kalynivske

knows the story of Nina Zvarech. The woman went looking for firewood in the for-Kochubeivka, north of est and was killed when she stepped on a mine.

Her body lay there for over a month, her relatives too afraid to go and find her.

UN Security Council does not reflect today's

**AP** ■ KYIV ple," Stoyanova said.

Bagshaw's father, Phil, told  $F^{
m riends}$  and volunteers gathered in Kyiv's St Sophia's reporters in New Zealand that his son wanted to do some-Cathedral on Sunday to say thing to help. goodbye to volunteer Andrew 'He was a very intelligent man, and a very independent thinker," he said. Bagshaw who was killed with his colleague Christopher Parry

"And he thought a long time about the situation in Ukraine, and he believed it to Bagshaw, 48, a New Zealand-British joint national, be immoral. He felt the only

thing he could do of a constructive nature was to go there and help people." Ukrainian police said on contact with Bagshaw and

Their bodies were later

Perry after they headed for

recovered.

In a statement released earlier this week, Parry's famly said he had been "drawn to Úkraine in March in its darkest hour." It added that he'd "helped those most in need, saving over 400 lives plus many abandoned animals.

## Turkey issues travel warning to Europe following protests

**AP** ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey issued a travel warn-▲ ing late on Saturday for its citizens living in or planning on going to European countries, citing Islamophobia and anti-Turkish demonstrations.

The warning comes after last weekend's protests in Sweden where an anti-Islam activist burned the Quran and pro-Kurdish groups protested against Turkey.

The Turkish foreign ministry urged its citizens to take precautions and stay away from demonstration areas. It also said they should go to local authorities if they face xenophobic or racist attacks.

Turkey strongly condemned far-right activist Rasmus Paludan's burning of the Quran in Stockholm, which he repeated in Copenhagen Friday. Ankara also summoned the Dutch ambassador after another far-right activist tore pages of the Quran in the

The Turkish government also said there was an increase in anti-Turkish protests by groups with links to terror groups" - a reference to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decades-long insurgency



against Turkey

Pro-Kurdish groups have been demonstrating in Sweden, waving the flags of the PKK and its affiliates. The protests are a response to Sweden and Finland's promise to prevent the PKK's activities in their countries in order to gain Turkey's approval for their NATO bids.

Following the protests, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Sweden not to expect support for its membership bid for the military alliance. Turkey also indefinitely postponed a key meeting in Brussels that would have discussed Sweden and Finland's

NATO membership. Earlier Saturday, before Turkey had issued its travel

warning, the Nordic countries separately issued updated travel guidelines for Turkey. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden urged their citizens visiting Turkey to avoid large gatherings and to exercise cau-

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said in a message on its website that Sweden's embassy in Ankara remains closed to the public and visitors to the country's consulate general in Istanbul are "requested to exercise vigilance.

We want to make Swedes in Turkey aware that further manifestations may occur," the Swedish ministry said, referring to counter-protests that erupted in Turkey after last weekend's events in Stockholm.

### realities, paralysed: UNGA president on Sunday on a three-day visit at the invitation of External

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council ■ does not reflect today's realities, is paralysed and unable to discharge its basic function of maintaining international peace and security when one of its permanent members has attacked its neighbour, UN General Assembly President Csaba Korosi has said.

Russia, a veto-wielding permanent member of the UN, attacked Ukraine in February 2022. Russia has vetoed UNSĆ resolutions on Ukraine while it has voted against a resolution in the UN General Assembly which calls on countries not to recognise the four regions of Ukraine that Russia has claimed.

Korosi, a Hungarian diplomat currently serving as President of the 77th United Nations General Assembly, said that there is a push from a growing number of member nations to reform the powerful UN organ.

"The Security Council which has been created back then" and given the primary responsibility of maintaining "international peace and security and preventing wars now is paralysed," he told PTI ahead of his visit to India.

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. It is his first bilateral visit to any country since he assumed his role as President of the UN General Assembly in September 2022.

"The Security Council cannot discharge its basic function for a very simple reason. One of the permanent members of the Security Council attacked its neighbour. The Security Council should be the body to take action against the aggression. But because of the veto power, the Security Council cannot act," he said, in a reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Korosi said this was a "very serious lesson learnt" for the future when talking about how to improve functioning of global organisations. He said that the issue of

UNSC reform is both "burning" and "compelling" since the composition of the Security Council reflects "the outcome of the Second World War". India has been at the fore-

front of the years-long efforts to reform the Security Council, saying it rightly deserved a place as a permanent member in the United Nations.

Currently, the UNSC has

five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the UK and the US. Only a permanent member has the power to veto any substantive resolution.

In the 77-year-old history of the UN, the composition of the Security Council has been altered only once - in 1963 when the General Assembly decided to expand the Council from 11 to 15 members, with the addition of four non-permanent seats."Since then, the world has changed. The geopolitical relations in the world altered, the economic responsibilities in the world in some countries, including in India, including some other very strongly developing countries, actually changed," Korosi said.

"So, the composition of the Security Council does not reflect today's realities," he said adding that not to mention "a whole continent with 50 plus countries, Africa," is not in the Council) in terms of permanent members.

In response to a question on whether he has hope for any forward movement in the longpending UNSC reform, Korosi replied in the affirmative.

"Yes, I do have hope," he said, noting that reform of the United Nations entails several areas and Security Council is "a very important" part of it.



Korosi stressed the reason for hope of the UNSC reforms is that the issue has been on the agenda for decades and negotiations have been going on for several years.

"But this particular issue, the urgency and concrete steps to be achieved in the reform of Security Council" has been mentioned and urged for by over 70 leaders of the world during the high-level UN General Assembly session last September.

"More than one-third of the UN membership directly addressed this question. So, there's very clearly a push (from) the membership. I do have hopes," he said.

Korosi has previously noted that during the high-level week in September 2022, onethird of world leaders underscored the urgent need to

reform the Council - more than double the number in 2021. Korosi has appointed

Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Michal Mlynar and Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait Tareq M A M Albanai as co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on UNSC reform. He said he has asked them

to do their best to try and convince the UN membership that it is their responsibility and a membership-driven process to achieve UNSC reforms. "But if they really want to

achieve results, they may think in little bit different terms, in terms of whether or not they could make compromises, negotiations. If they don't do that, the chances will be very small. But I do have hopes," he

# **Sri Lanka police investigates** threats on election commission

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police have launched an investigation into alleged telephone threats received by the members of the independent elections commission, an official said on Sunday.

Police spokesman Nihal Thalduwa said court orders to analyse telephone records had been obtained.

On 19 January, two members S.B. Divaratne and K.P. Pathirana had lodged complaints over telephonic threats to resign. Later M.M. Mohamed, another member, had received similar threats.

Charles had reportedly offered her resignation from the mem-The opposition charged

Fourth member P.S.M.

that it was the government which was keen to postpone

the local election scheduled for March 9.

The opposition pointed to statements made by ruling SLPP members that the current economic collapse environment was not the best to hold an election when the entire focus must be to restore the economy derailed by the shortage of foreign reserves in the

The opposition claims that resignation of election commission members would lead to the postponement of the

However, the chair of the Commission SG Punchihewa said the election could only be postponed by a court order or an act of parliament.

The ruling SLPP controls a larger majority of the 340 local councils having won them in



bungling in the economy which led to the worst economic crisis ever, the opposition said the ruling party faced the prospect of being routed and therefore wanted to postpone the elec-

Sri Lanka is yet to clinch the anticipated bail out from the IMF as negotiations for

debt restructuring had slowed down the process since Many reforms such as tax

hikes and utility tariff raises are being opposed by the trade unions further complicating the electoral prospects for the ruling party at the March 9

## Trump says beating of Nichols 'never should have happened'

Former president Donald Trump on Saturday said the footage of the brutal beating of Tyre Nichols by five Memphis police officers is "horrible" and that the attack "never should have happened".

"I thought it was terrible. He was in such trouble. He was just being pummelled. Now that should never have happened," Trump said in an interview with The Associated Press on Saturday, a day after authorities released footage of the attack on the 29-year-old Black man after a traffic stop. Nichols died three days later.

The comments were notable for Trump, who is running for the White House again and has a history of encouraging rough treatment of people in police custody.

He was president during the racial justice protests that

2020 following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. At the time, he signed an executive order encouraging better police practices but was criticised for failing to acknowledge systemic racial bias.

Trump ultimately centred his 2020 reelection bid around a "law and order" message that emphasized support for law enforcement.

The newly released violent video in Memphis shows police holding down and beating Nichols for three minutes with their fists, boots and batons. The footage shows police screaming profanities at him while Nichols screams for his mother. Trump said Nichols calling out for his mother was "a very sad moment".

'That was really the point that got me the most, to be honest with you," he said.



motorist Rodney King. Trump did not address the video in his campaign speeches in New Hampshire

Trump said Memphis Police were taking a "strong step" by disbanding the police unit involved in the attack, which was created to target violent offenders in areas beset by

Look, the tape was perhaps not totally conclusive but, to me, it was pretty conclusive and it was vicious and violent and hard to believe - over a

## Israeli police seal off home of Jerusalem synagogue attacker

**AP** ■ JERUSALEM

 $\mathbf{I}$ sraeli police on Sunday sealed up the east Jerusalem home of a Palestinian attacker who killed seven people and wounded three outside a synagogue, one of several punitive measures approved by Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet overnight.

The move came following a deadly weekend in which seven people were killed and five others wounded in two separate shootings in Jerusalem, in one of the bloodiest months in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem in several years.

The measures threatened to further raise tensions and cast a cloud over a visit next week by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The weekend shootings followed a deadly Israeli raid in the West Bank on Thursday that killed nine Palestinians, most of them militants.

In response, Palestinian killed in a shootout with offimilitants in the Gaza Strip fired a barrage of rockets into Israel, triggering a series of Israeli airstrikes in response. In all, 32 Palestinians have been

killed in fighting this month. Addressing the Cabinet Sunday morning, Netanyahu said that "we sealed the home of the terrorist who carried out the horrendous attack in Jerusalem, and his home will be demolished".

"We are not seeking an escalation, but we are prepared for any scenario. Our answer to terrorism is a heavy hand and a strong, swift and precise response," he said. The police on Sunday released footage of Israeli army

the front door shut as part of the operation in response to Friday night's deadly shooting.
Police said the attacker,

identified as a 21-year-old

east Jerusalem resident, was

engineers welding metal plates

over the windows and welding

cers after fleeing the scene in the predominantly ultra-Orthodox east Jerusalem settlement of Neve Yaakov.

On Saturday, a 13-year-old Palestinian boy opened fire elsewhere in east Jerusalem, wounding two Israeli men, paramedics said. The attacker was shot and hospitalised.

Funerals for the victims in Friday's shooting, the deadliest attack on Israelis since 2008, were scheduled to take place

Netanyahu's Cabinet also said it plans a series of other punitive measures, including cancelling social security benefits for the families of attackers, and would take steps to strengthen the settlements" this week as part of the government's response to the weekend's attacks.

Netanyahu said that strengthening settlements in the occupied West Bank was aimed at "sending a message to



the terrorists that seek to uproot us from our land that

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. It has built dozens of settlements, now home to more than 500,000 Jewish settlers, in the decades since.

Most of the international community considers the settlements an obstacle to peace with the Palestinians, who seek the West Bank as the heartland of a future inde-

In Cairo, Blinken opened his Mideast tour on Sunday and was to speak with students at the American University in the city before holding talks with Egyptian officials on Monday.

He was then scheduled to travel to Israel for the most critical leg of the visit for talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

## 17 students dead, 13 injured as boat capsizes in northwest Pakistan

or South Carolina, the first

stops of his 2024 presidential

Police Department officers,

who are also Black, have been

fired and charged with murder

and other crimes. The legal

team for Nichols' family has

likened it to the infamous 1991

police beating of Los Angeles

The five former Memphis

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

t least 17 stu-Adents of a religious seminary died on Sunday when their boat capsized in a lake northwest Pakistan, according to officials.

The students, aged between and 14 seven years, of Madrassa Mirbash Khel were on an excursion trip when their boat capsized in the Tanda Dam lake in Kohat district of

Pakhtunkhwa Khyber province, officials said. The rescue workers have recovered 17 bodies, they

Deputy Commissioner

Kohat Furqan Ashraf said the boat was carrying 30 people and most of them were chil-

The Pakistan Army's rescue teams have also reached the site of the incident where

rescue operations are being carried out.

Caretaker Chief Minister KPK Azam Khan directed the local administration to provide emergency relief to

### 2 Palestinians killed by Israeli security personnel in West Bank

**AP** ■ JERUSALEM

wounds from Israeli security personnel in separate incidents, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as Israeli forces sealed off the home of an east Jerusalem man who killed seven people outside a synagogue on Friday.

They were the latest Palestinian casualties in one of the bloodiest months in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem in recent years, and followed two Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis in Jerusalem. The escalating violence threatened to further raise tensions and cast a cloud over a visit next week by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The ministry said an 18vear-old Palestinian man who was shot by a security guard next to the West Bank settlement of Kedumim died

armed with a pistol outside the settlement and shot him.

The ministry also confirmed the death of a 24year-old Palestinian man who was wounded in an Israeli army raid in Jenin on Thursday that killed nine other Palestinians. There was no immediate claim of his affiliation with a militant

Éarlier on Sunday, Israeli police sealed up the east Jerusalem home of a Palestinian attacker who killed seven people and wounded three outside a synagogue, one of several punitive measures approved by Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet overnight.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Israel said Saturday that one of the seven people was a Ukrainian national.

nday. Israeli media reported that The Israeli military said Irina Korlova, a healthcare Two Palestinian men died that a settlement security worker, was killed along with

> The weekend shootings followed a deadly Israeli raid in the West Bank on Thursday that killed 10 Palestinians, most of them militants. In response, Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a barrage of rockets into Israel, triggering a series of Israeli airstrikes in response. In all, 34 Palestinians have been killed in fighting this month.

> Addressing the Cabinet Sunday morning, Netanyahu said that "we sealed the home of the terrorist who carried out the horrendous attack in Ierusalem, and his home will be demolished.'

"We are not seeking an escalation, but we are pre-pared for any scenario. Our answer to terrorism is a heavy hand and a strong, swift and precise response," he said.

### Peru's protest 'deactivators' run toward tear gas to stop it

**AP** ■ LIMA (PERU)

protesters demanding the resignation of Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, most run away.

A few, though, run toward the gas canisters as quickly as possible — to neutralize them. These are the "deactiva-

tors." Donning gas masks, safety goggles and thick gloves, these volunteers grab the hot canisters and toss them inside large plastic bottles filled with a mixture of water, baking soda and vinegar.

The deactivators made their debut in Peru street protests in 2020, inspired by protesters in Hong Kong who in 2019 unveiled new strategies to counteract the eye-stinging, breath-stealing effects of tear gas. With protesters in Lima facing a nearly daily fusillade of tear gas, more people have joined the ranks of deactivators

trying to shield them and keep the demonstrations going.

Peruvians have been December, when former President Pedro Castillo was impeached after a failed attempt to dissolve Congress. His vice president, Boluarte, immediately took over - and has faced strong opposition ever since.

Fifty-eight people have died in connection with the unrest, including one police officer. Forty-six of the deaths occurred during direct clashes between protesters and

The protests have exposed deep divisions in the country between the urban elites and the rural poor. Demonstrations were first largely concentrated in the south, a long-neglected region of Peru that felt a particular kinship to Castillo's humble background as a rural teacher from the Andean high-

## UK PM sacks Tory party chief over tax penalty row

PTI ■ LONDON

 $B^{\mathsf{ritish}\,\mathsf{Prime}\,\mathsf{Minister}\,\mathsf{Rishi}}_{\mathsf{Sunak}\,\,\mathsf{on}\,\,\mathsf{Sunday}\,\,\mathsf{sacked}}$ one of his Cabinet ministers and Conservative Party chairman, Nadhim Zahawi, after he was found to have been in serious breach of the Ministerial

Zahawi, who was a minister without portfolio as the chief of the governing Tory party, had faced fierce pressure in recent days to quit over questions about his finances after it emerged that he had agreed a penalty settlement with His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) department.

Sunak had ordered an independent investigation into the Iraqi-born former Chancellor's tax affairs amid growing Opposition demands for him to sack Zahawi. His independent ethics adviser, Sir Laurie Magnus, submitted his assessment on whether the HMRC settlement amounted to a breach of the ministerial

"When I became Prime Minister last year, I pledged that the government I lead would have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level," writes Sunak in his letter to Zahawi, released by Downing Street.

"Following the completion of the independent adviser's investigation - the findings of which he has shared with us both - it is clear that there has been a serious breach of the Ministerial Code. As a result, I have informed you of my decision to remove you from your position in His Majesty's

He added that Zahawi should be "extremely proud" of his "wide-ranging achievements in government over the last five years", particularly crediting his "successful oversight of the COVID-19 vaccine procurement and deployment

programme". In the correspondence to Sunak, also released by Downing Street, Magnus said his overall judgement was that "Mr Zahawi's conduct as a minister has fallen below the high standards that, as Prime Minister, you rightly expect from those who serve in your government". Earlier this week, Zahawi said he welcomed the investigation and looked forward to "explaining the facts of this issue" to Magnus - the UK Prime Minister's Independent Adviser on Ministers

### government," he said. Interests.. DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA E- mail: sspkathua@jkpolice.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 01922-234010 **Hue And Cry Notice**

Rule No. 712/191

SHO P/S Hiranagar has intimated that the accused namely Manohar Lal S/O Bishan Dass R/O Village Gurah Sarkari Hiranagar District Kathua is evading his arrest in Case FIR No. 149/2022 U/S 447/307/147/148 IPC. 4/25 Arms Act of P/S Hiranagar, since the commission of crime

During the investigation of said case, best efforts are made by concerned I/O to locate/arrest said accused person which has yielded no

result and accused person is still at large. As such, description roll/photograph of wanted accused is being circulated with the appeal that anybody having information about his

whereabouts may inform us on below given Phone Numbers/E-mail ID. The identity of the informer will be kept secret and he will also be rewarded suitably. Anybody found providing shelter to the accused person or concealing his presence will also be booked.

DESCRIPTION ROLL Name Manohar Lal

Parentage Bishan Dass Village Gurah Sarkari Hiranaga Address District Kathua Hiranagai Tehsil

05 Feet 09 Inches

1. DPO Kathua- 01922-234010 (Phone/Fax) dpokathua@jkpolice.gov.in ( Mail ID)

3. PCR Kathua- 01922-234311(Phone/Fax

Kathua

52/54 years

Wheatish

Sr. Superintendent of Police Kathua.

Smt. Anita Arora (registered owner of Flat by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 28.01.2015) and said Smt. Anita Arora died 17.10.2020, her husband Mr. Subhasl Arora died on 01.07.2021 and her son Mr Chandan Arora (unmarried) died oi 25.04.2022 and now except Mrs. Heen Aggarwal (being 1st class legeal heirs of Late Smt. Anita Arora) there are no other legal heirs remains of Late Smt. Anita Arora, Late Shri Subhash Arora, Late Shr Chander Arora. and my clients mortgaging the same to LIC HFL, anybody including Bank, Financia Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 7 days to the undersigned with documentary evidenc In the event of no response to this notice

Karnail Singh, Advocate K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. DevenderNautiyal and Gayatr Devi intends to purchase Freehold DDA Flat No. 275-A, Ground Floor, Pocket-J&K Dilshad Garden, New Delhi from Mrs Heena Aggarwal who is daughter of Late aired on Iranian state TV in October included purported confessions by alleged memthan our client shall presume that title of the

said property is unencumbered and clear

Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363

declined to comment on the

District Age Height

DIP/J-14784/22

**PHOTOGRAPH** 

N/A

4. SHO P/S Hiranagar- 01922274222

nuclear deal with world powers collapsed. Meanwhile, tensions also remain high with neighbouring Azerbaijan after a gunman attacked that coun-

heightened regional and international tensions engulfing the Islamic Republic. The Iranian Defence Ministry offered no information on who it suspected carried out the attack, which came as a refinery fire separately broke out in the country's

northwest and a 5.9 magnitude

earthquake struck nearby,

 $B_{\text{geted an Iranian defence}}^{\text{omb-carrying drones tar-}}$ 

factory in the central city of

Isfahan overnight, authorities

said early Sunday, causing some

damage at the plant amid

**AP** ■ DUBAI

killing three people. However, Tehran has been targeted in suspected Israeli drone strikes amid a shadow war with its Mideast rival as its

Details on the Isfahan attack, which happened around

try's embassy in Tehran, killing

its security chief and wounding

11:30 pm Saturday, remained scarce. A Defense Ministry statement described three drones being launched at the facility, with two of them successfully shot down. A third apparently made it through to strike the building, causing "minor damage" to its roof and wounding no one, the ministry said. Iranian state television's English-language arm, Press TV, aired mobile phone video apparently showing the moment that drone struck along the busy Imam Khomeini Expressway that heads northwest out of Isfahan, one of several ways for drivers to go to the holy city of Qom and Tehran, Iran's capital. A

small crowd stood gathered,

drawn by anti-aircraft fire,

watching as an explosion and

"Oh my God! That was a drone, wasn't it?" the man filming shouts. "Yeah, it was a Those there fled after the

sparks struck a dark building.

Iran says drone attack targets defense facility in Isfahan

That footage of the strike, as well as footage of the aftermath analysed by The Associated Press, corresponded to a site on Minoo Street in

northwestern Isfahan that's near a shopping centre that includes a carpet and an electronics store. Iranian defence and nuclear sites increasingly find

themselves surrounded by commercial properties and residential neighbourhoods as the country's cities sprawl ever outward. Some locations as well remain incredibly opaque about what they produce, with only a sign bearing a Defense Ministry or paramilitary Revolutionary Guard logo. The Defense Ministry only

Tehran, is home to both a large air base built for its fleet of American-made F-14 fighter jets and its Nuclear Fuel Research and Production Center. The attack comes after Iran's Intelligence Ministry in July claimed to have broken up

a plot to target sensitive sites

around Isfahan. A segment

called the site a "workshop,"

without elaborating on what it

made, Isfahan, some 350 kilo-

metres (215 miles) south of

bers of Komala, a Kurdish opposition party that is exiled from Iran and now lives in Iraq, that they planned to target a military aerospace facility in Isfahan after being trained by Israel's Mossad intelligence ser-Activists say Iranian state

TV has aired hundreds of coerced confessions over the last decade. Israeli officials

# **NSE** world's largest derivatives exchange for 4th straight year

⊣he National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has again emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022, in terms of the number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA).

This is the fourth consecutive year when the exchange earned the top spot, the NSE said in a statement on Sunday.

In addition, the exchange was ranked third in the equity segment by the number of trades (electronic order book) in 2022, an advancement from in the fourth position, as per statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges

The calendar year witnessed the benchmark equity index - the Nifty 50 touching lifetime high of 18,887.60. Further, significant strengthening in liquidity was seen in sev-



ing equity, equity derivatives and currency derivatives.

ne pioneer

In the equity segment, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) daily-average turnover stood at Rs 470 crore in CY 2022, an increase of 51 per cent year-onyear (Y-o-Y).

Sovereign Gold Bond's daily average turnover in the crore last month

crore in ĆY 2022, a jump of 59

per cent YoY. Government securities which have been made available in the equity segment of NSE, are also seeing significant growth, although on a lower base, with volumes touching a daily average turnover of Rs 3

ranked 3rd in equity segment and largest exchange in derivatives is a culmination of the collaborative effort of all the stakeholders," Sriram Krishnan, Business

Development, NSE noted.

NSE said it is expected to soon begin the Social Stock Exchange as a segment subject to regulatory approvals.

This would enable 'Social Enterprises', particularly nonprofit organisations to showcase their work to a wider audience and mobilise funds through the issuance of instruments, such as Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bonds and bring efficiency and transparency to the overall ecosystem.

On the derivatives side, NSE said it is working on new products in currency, an interest rate segment and the commodity derivatives segment, and will soon announce the launch. This is subject to regulatory approvals.

## Indian electronics manufacturing to cross ₹1.28 lakh crore next fiscal: MoS IT

 $E^{\rm lectronics\ manufacturing}_{\rm in\ the\ country\ is\ expected}$ to cross Rs 1.28 lakh crore in the next financial year, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar has said.

The minister, in an interview with PTI, said the government is now going to broaden and widen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem with a new production-linked incentive scheme for hearable-wearable, IT hardware and component makers.

"Electronics manufacturing as a whole, we see next year that we will at least do Rs 1.28 lakh crore. I have already said that we will see mobile phone production reaching Rs 1 lakh crore in 2023-24," Chandrasekhar said.

There has been a focus on mobile phones because it is the fastest-growing segment in electronics across the world, he



facturing is a function of scale. First, you need to hit the scale. The component industry is the one which does value addition. Components will not come if the scale of manufacturing is not there. The next stage of our PLI is to get components PLI, hearable-wearable PLI and the IT server PLI," the minister said.

The government will do 100 per cent hand-holding of "Value addition in manu- component players to boost the

Electronics components makers body ELCINA has requested the government to allocate USD 10 billion (about Rs 80,000 crore) for 8 years to boost the manufacturing of electronic components and key modules other than semicon-

It has sought a four-year extension to the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and

Semiconductors (SPECS), with an increased outlay of Rs 16,000 crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24.

According to ELCINA, the upgraded PLI will facilitate investments of around Rs 64,000 crore with a targeted output of USD 24 billion (about Rs 1.95 lakh crore) for all components other than semicon-

The industry body has also sought reinstatement of income tax relief for the investment made in research and development. It has also asked for a PLI scheme with a focus on domestic electronics manufacturing vices companies.

India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) has requested the government to convert the PLI scheme into a design-led manufacturing scheme and impose an import duty of 10 per cent on any imported electronics equipment and assembled printed circuit board (PCB) to boost local manufacturing.

## In a first, IOC begins export of aviation gas

In a first, national oil marketer Indian Oil Corporation has started exports of aviation gasoline, the fuel that fires unmanned aerial vehicles and small planes -- turning a chapter in the nation's fuel history from being a net importer to an

The first consignment of 80 barrels of aviation gas (AV gas), each consisting of 16 kilolitres, was shipped from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) to Papua New Guinea over the weekend. This is the first-ever instance of India exporting this fuel, produced at IOC's Vadodara refinery, marking its entry into an estimated UŠD 2.7-billion global market, the company said in a state-

Aviation gasoline powers unmanned aerial vehicles and piston-engine aircraft used by flying schools. It is a higher-octane aviation fuel meeting

the product specifications with superior performance, and quality standards and is cheaper compared to imported grades. The fuel that fires the engines of large commercial jets is called aviation turbine

"The indigenous production of the gas named AV gas 100 LL will not only help save foreign exchange but will also make training in domestic flying schools economical for budding pilots," IOC chair-man SM Vaidya was quoted as saying in the company state-

The development also has military implications as it can reduce the operating costs of UAVs that are increasingly being deployed by the defence forces as force multipliers.

There is a high demand for fuel in South America, Asia Pacific, West Asia, Africa and Europe. IndianOil aims to tap into this market after addressing the domestic demand, he

IOC is the sole domestic will benefit them.

manufacturer of the fuel, having begun production last September at its Vadodara facility, which has an annual capacity of 5,000 tonne. Till then the country was shipping in fuel from European refiners.

According to Vaidya, the global AV gas market is projected to grow at 5 per cent CAGR (compounded annual growth rate), while the country's aviation traffic is also likely to grow at 7 per cent CAGR. With superior performance, quality standards and competitive prices, IndianOil is aiming to secure a significant market share.

The principal grade of AV gas is designed for use in piston engine aircraft, mainly used by flying institutes and defence forces for training pilots. The gas has been tested and certified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. There are over 35 flying schools in the country and the product

## G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting to begin today

The first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting will start on Monday, where participants will discuss ways to enhance stability and cohesion of the global financial architecture and how to make it fit to address the global challenges of the 21st century.

The meeting will also focus on exploring ways to provide maximum support to poor and vulnerable countries, Anu P Mathai, economic advisor, department of Economic Affairs, told the media here on Sunday. Around 100 delegates from the G20 countries, invitee countries and international organisations will be participating in the two-day meeting.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar and Minister of Food



Processing Industries Pashupati

Discussions during the meeting will be jointly steered by the ministry of finance and the Reserve Bank of India along with France and Korea who are the co-chairs of the International Financial Architecture Working Group.

The meeting will discuss ways to enhance the stability and cohesion of the international financial architecture and how to make it fit for addressing the global challenges of the 21st century," she On the sidelines of the

meeting on Monday, a G20 side event titled 'Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs): Opportunities and Challenges' will also be held.

The event is aimed at sharing countries' experiences and developing a deeper understanding of the macro prudential implications of CBDCs, she said. India assumed the G20 presidency for one year on December 1, 2022. The G20, or Group of 20, is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Čanada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

### **Cyber security Hackathon 4.0** organised jointly by APTS, APIS, **VIT-AP University**

AMARAVATI / GUNTUR / VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh

Technology Services Ltd (APTS) in partnership with AP Innovation Society (APIS) & VIT-AP University organised Cyber Security Hackathon 4.0 to select a pool of talented final year students, graduates and postgraduates and professionals interested in cyber securit. The internship is designed to provide exposure to a variety of security tasks, including vulnerability assessment and penetration testing on various networks, web and mobile applications using various commercial and open source tools. Total 128 students were selected from 623 applications frothe finale which was

held on Jan 25 at VIT-AP

University Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence.

### Demand for non-tech jobs grew during December 2022: Report ■ MUMBAI

mid reports on layoffs by Amultinational technology companies, a report has revealed that there has been an increase in demand for talents in non-tech sectors in India, including healthcare, food services, construction and education in December 2022.

Global job site Indeed's monthly jobs insights showed that healthcare allied fields such as dental and nursing have the highest job postings on its platform at 30.8 per cent in December 2022

This was followed by food services (8.8 per cent), construction (8.3 per cent), architecture (7.2 per cent), education (7.1 per cent), therapy 6.3 per cent, and marketing (6.1), among others, the report added. The report noted that the relative resurgence of business normalcy in a post pandemic world has brought buoy ancy back in sectors like construction and civil engineering.

Even sectors like marketing, which was one of the earliest to see layoffs during the pandemic, has picked up steam, it said, adding that last year, brands have realised the need for marketing for enhanced customer experience as well as business and sales leading to the increase in demand. The report is based on job postings data on Indeed platform from December 2021 till December 2022.

The report further revealed that Bengaluru tops the list of cities in job postings, occupying 16.5 per cent of the total share.Bengaluru is closely followed by Mumbai at 8.23 per cent, Pune at 6.33 per cent and Chennai at 6.1 per cent, it stated.Tier II cities like Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Kochi, Jaipur and Mohali contribute around 6.9 per cent, showcasing the rising demand for talent in smaller cities.

### **Govt should hike assistance** under PM-KISAN, give tax sops for agritech startups: Industry

PTI NEW DELHI

The government should in ■ this year's Budget enhance cash assistance given to farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme from the current Rs 6,000 per year for purchase of crop inputs, provide tax incentives to agritech startups and cut import duties on agrochemicals, according to industry experts.

There is also need to announce some incentives to farmers as well as agrictech startups for faster adoption of technologies, like artificial intelligence, precision farming and drones, in Indian agriculture sector, they added.

Edible oil industry body SEA has demanded that a national mission should be launched to increase oilseeds production and reduce imports of cooking oils.

"There is urgent need to launch the 'National Mission on Edible Oils' with adequate



financial support to boost the oilseeds production," Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) President Ajav Jhunjhunwala said. Currently, India is importing about 140 lakh tonnes of edible oils annually. The mission needs to be implemented with an outlay of Rs 25,000 crore annually for the next five years to sizably reduce our dependence on imported edible oils to 30-40 per cent of consumption by 2026 from the current level of 65 per cent,

Agrochemical firm Dhanuka Group Chairman R G Agarwal said farmers should be given more amount under the PM-KISAN programme so that they can buy adequate quantity of crop inputs like

seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. Under the PM-KISAN, the Centre pays Rs 6,000 per year in three equal instalments. The scheme, launched in February 2019, was made applicable from December 2018.

Agarwal also demanded some incentives for promoting R&D activities and extension services in the farm sector.

K C Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta India, said the input cost in the farm sector has risen.

"An enhanced outlay for PM-KISAN will also ensure farmers get more liquidity to buy inputs," he added. Deepak Bhardwaj, co-founder and director of agri-drone maker IoTechWorld Avigation, said the government should set aside some fund from the Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for the purchase of drones.

# in Lebanon gas exploration

ebanon, two international Loil giants and state-owned oil and gas companyQatar Energy signed an agreement Sunday that the Qatari firm will join a consortium that will search for gas in the Mediterranean Sea off Lebanon's coast.

The deal inked in Beirut brings Qatar into Lebanon's gas exploration market three months after Lebanon and Israel signed a US-mediated maritime border agreement ending a years-long dispute. Qatar Energy is replacing a Russian company that withdrew from the Lebanese mar-

ket in September. In 2017, Lebanon approved licenses for an international consortium including France's TotalEnergies, Italy's ENI and Russia's Novatek to move forward with offshore oil and gas development for two of 10 blocks in the Mediterranean. The borders of one of the two blocks were disputed by neigh-



Qatar replaces Russian company

boring Israel until a maritime border deal was reached last vear. The companies did not find viable amounts of oil or gas in block No. 4 north of Beirut, and drilling in block No. 9 in the south has been repeatedly postponed because of the dispute with Israel.

Lebanon and Israel have been formally at war since Israel's creation in 1948.

The agreement was signed Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, Qatar's Energy Minister; his Lebanese counterpart Walid Fayad; Claudio Descalzi, the CEO of Italy's state-run ener-

gy company, ENI, and TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanné. The signing ceremony was attended by Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati. "Our concentration will be

on block number nine," al-Kaabi said, adding that this could be a first step for Qatar Energy to play a bigger role in future explorations.

Back in 2017, Total and ENI each got 40% stakes in the blocs while Novatek got 20%. Under the deal signed Sunday, Qatar Energy will take the 20% stake of Novatek in addi-

Total leaving the Arab company with a stake of 30%. Total and ENI will have 35% stakes

Lebanese media reported that exploration in block No. 9 could begin before the end of November. "We are committed to execute this first well as soon as possible," TotalEnergies' Pouyanné said. The company said two months ago it would soon launch exploration activities in search of gas off

Lebanon's coast. Cash-strapped Lebanon hopes that future gas discoveries will help the small Mideast nation pull itself out of the worst economic and financial crisis in the country's modern

Since the crisis erupted in October 2019, the Lebanese pound has lost more than 90% of its value. Tens of thousands have become jobless and three quarters of the population of 6 million, including 1 million Syrian refugees, now lives in

## S to start receiving H1B visa applications from March 1

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

he highly anticipated H1B visa I filing season for fiscal 2023-24 will officially begin on March 1 when the US immigration agency will start accepting applications for skilled foreign workers visas, the most sought-after by Indian IT profession-

The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of

employees each year from countries like India and China. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, it will accept applications between March 1 and March 17 petitions for H-1B visas that allow them

to work and live in the US for up to six years in specialised fields such as technology, engineering, and medi-

After six years, it opens up pathways to permanent residency or Green Card.

"If we receive enough registrations by March 17, we will randomly select registrations and send selection notifications via users' mvUSCIS online accounts. If we do not receive enough registrations, all registrations that were properly submitted in the initial registration period will be selected," the USCIS said.

"We intend to notify account holders by March 31," a media release said. The USCIS said it would release additional information in the coming weeks.

The H1B visa allocations are

capped at 85,000 visas per year, with 20,000 of those set aside for workers holding advanced degrees from US institutions.

The remaining 65,000 visas are awarded through a lottery system, making the competition for H1B The high demand for H1B visas

has led to calls for reforms to the pro-

gramme, with many advocating for

an increase in the number of visas available and a simplification of the application process.

Proponents argue that the H-1B ogramme is crucial for maintaining the United States' position as a global leader in technology and innovation, while also supporting the

Go First to get Rs 210 crore under govt's credit line guarantee scheme: CEOMumbai, Jan 29 (PTI) Wadia group-owned Go First expects to receive Rs 210 crore under the government's credit line guarantee scheme next month as the budget airline seeks to boost its financial position and expand operations.

The airline, which received Rs 210 crore from the promoters last month, aims to have 53 operational aircraft in its fleet by the start of April this year, its CEO Kaushik Khona

The airline currently has 37 aircraft in operation.

Apart from the coronavirus pandemic headwinds and intense competition, the no-frills airline is grappling with the Pratt & Whitney engine issues that have forced it to ground many planes due to a short-

Under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), which has come as a relief for many pandemic-hit sectors, Go First has so far availed Rs 600 crore.

With promoters' infusing Rs 210 crore, the airline will be able to get an equal amount under the ECLGS next month, Khona said. In an interview, Khona said the

engine issues are "gradually" getting resolved, and 20 new engines from Pratt & Whitney are expected to come by April.

Twenty engines can help Go First operationalise 10 aircraft. One plane has two engines.

According to him, seven new Airbus A320 neo planes will be inducted by April first week. Of this, the airline inducted one such plane last week.

Of the remaining six, two will come in February, three in March and one in April, he added.

# KING OF MELBOURNE

## Djokovic wins his record-extending 10th Australian Open title to equal Nadal's 22 Slam titles

n emotional Novak Djokovic called it "the biggest victory in my life" after sweeping past Stefanos Tsitsipas to win a 10th Australian Open title and equal Rafael Nadal's 22 Grand Slam crowns on Sunday.

The Serb will return to world number one as he overcame a hamstring injury and off-court drama to defeat the Greek third seed 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5) on Rod Laver Arena.

The 35-year-old climbed to his player's box afterwards to embrace his mother and broke down in uncontrollable tears, collapsing to the ground sobbing. His father Srdjan was again miss-

ing after he sparked controversy by posing with a fan carrying a Russian flag featuring Vladimir Putin's face following his son's quarter-final win. The emphatic victory over

Tsitsipas capped a remarkable return for Djokovic to Melbourne Park, having missed last year's tournament when he was deported over his Covid vaccination stance.

"I have to say this has been one of the most challenging tournaments I've ever played considering the circumstances, not playing last year, coming back this year," he said, wearing a jacket with 22 emblazoned

on it.
"I want to thank all the people that made me feel welcome, comfortable, to be in Melbourne.

"I try to pinch myself and really live through these moments, it's a long journey," added Djokovic, who was more emotional than usual.

"Only my team and family know what we have been through in the last four or five weeks and this is why I'd probably say this is the biggest victory in my life considering the circum-

### 'NOT GOING ANYWHERE'

There had been an air of inevitability about Djokovic triumphing once more.

After his three-year ban from lead-up Adelaide International before reinforcing his status as an all-time

His dominant win drew him level

great in Melbourne.



with Nadal on a record 22 Slams, two clear of now-retired Roger Federer.

The Spanish great made a second-round exit with a hip injury, one of a series of shocks which upended the men's and women's draws during the first major of the year.

"I guess we always find the Agame on the Slams," Djokovic said of equalling his old rival Nadal. "This is what I feel both Nadal and myself probably still fight for.

"It is still what motivates us the most, winning the biggest titles in our sport and trying to keep up with the young guns.

Tennis is in good hands," he Australia was lifted, he won the added. "But we're still not going any-

Nadal and Djokovic have won 16 of the last 19 Slams. The 36-year-old Spaniard though

## Tsitsipas 'couldn't be more excited'

**AP** MELBOURNE

Ctefanos Tsitsipas said he was Dexcited about the future and took confidence from his exploits at the Australian Open, despite losing Sunday's final to Novak Djokovic.

"There are definitely things that I can improve and get better at, given the circumstances today. But I don't think there's any reason for me to be affected by today's loss," said the 24-year-old.

"It is a step forward. I'm looking forward to scoring more points during this season, making bigger results, fighting for bigger tro-

"I very much enjoy the way I play, my attitude on the court, my mental stability, my concentration

'There's still a little bit more to add to the whole structure of my game. I couldn't be more excited to be heading towards that path."

Tsitsipas, who has talked about a new-found maturity this year, will move up to world number three when the new rankings come out on Monday.

While he lost to 10-time Australian champion Djokovic, he showed resolve throughout the tournament when he was tested.

Against Jannik Sinner in round four he kept calm and dug deep to win a brutal five-setter, and quickly regrouped when Karen Khachanov took their semi-final to a fourth set.

But in the Serbian 22-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic he admitted he met his match.

"There's nothing that I could have extracted more for today. I did everything possible," he said.

### Krejcikova-Siniakova defend AO women's doubles title

**AP** MELBOURNE

Czech top seeds Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova successfully defended their Australian Open women's doubles crown on Sunday to extend their dominant Grand Slam streak. The pair outgunned Japan's 10th-seeded Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara 6-4, 6-3 to post their 24th straight win at a major after triumphing last year at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

"A big thanks to my partner

happy we did it again, it was a nice journey. Thank you for playing with me.' It was their seventh Slam title

Barbora," said Siniakova. "I'm so

to make them only the fifth women's team in the Open-era to claim so many. Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver hold the record with 20.

They broke Shibahara's opening service game to immediately put the Japanese pair on the back foot and never let up, repeating the feat in the second set to cruise home in 1hr 29mins.

is set to slide down the rankings when they are released on Monday, in contrast to Djokovic.

The Serb will dethrone Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz and return to the top for the first time since June. Tsitsipas will climb one place to three.

### **TSITSIPAS 'STEP FORWARD'**

Both men were back on a court that helped them rise to stardom.

Djokovic won his first Grand Slam in 2008 on Rod Laver Arena while Tsitsipas burst on the scene in 2019 when he stunned defending champion Federer in the last 16.

Moving freely with only minimal strapping on his troublesome left hamstring, Djokovic opened with a comfortable hold after being greeted by huge cheers.

He worked two break points on

Tsitsipas's opening serve, to no avail, but kept probing and the Greek handed him a break for 3-1 with a careless double fault. Tsitsipas, 24, in only his second

Grand Slam final to Djokovic's 33rd, appeared nervous, losing the first set. But he battled back into con-

tention in a much closer second set as his confidence grew, earning his first break point -- and set point -- when Djokovic blasted a backhand

But the Serb clung on to keep the set on serve and it went to a tiebreak, where his greater experience roared to the fore. Against the odds, Tsitsipas broke

for the first time on Djokovic's opening serve in set three, only to relinquish the advantage immediately after a gripping rally.

# **Germany win Men's Hockey WC title**

**PTI** BHUBANESWAR

Germany ended Belgium's dominance in global hockey in the last stunning comeback from two-goal deficit to beat the defending champions in penalty shootout to win the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup for a third time here on Sunday.

The two sides were locked 3-3 at the end of regulation time of the thrilling final before Germany eventually won 5-4 in sudden death in front of a packed Kalinga Stadium.

Niklas Wellen (29th), Gonzalo Peillat (41st) and captain Mats Grambusch (48th) scored for Germany in the regulation time while Florent van Aubel Florent (10th), Tanguy Cosyns (11th) and Tom Boon (59th) found the target for Belgium.

This was the third time in the tournament that Germany had won after trailing 0-2 and their mental strength and never-say-die attitude came to the fore again as they denied the Belgians to defend their title.

The earlier two matches were against England in the quarterfinals and Australia in the semifinals. Germany joined Australia and

Netherlands to have clinched the World Cup title three times. Their earlier triumphs had come in 2002 and 2006. Only Pakistan have won the event four times.

A day before the summit clash, head coach Andre Henning had said

that Germany have given massive



focus on their defence but a twominute Belgium blitzkrieg left them in

Van Aubel gave Belgium the lead in the 10th minute. The ball got a deflection and went up inside the German 'D'. Aubel leapt in the air and graphed it down into the Cormon gool. smashed it down into the German goal.

## Netherlands beat Australia 3-1 to clinch Bronze

**PTI** BHUBANESWAR

aptain Thierry Brinkman struck twice as Netherlands dished out a superb show of attacking hockey to beat world No.1 Australia 3-1 and clinch the bronze medal in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here on

Brinkman struck in the 35th and 40th minutes while penalty corner expert Jip Janssen scored the other goal for Netherlands in the 33rd minute.

Australia's lone goal came from their penalty corner expert Jeremy Hayward in the 13th minute.

The bronze meant that

Even before the packed crowd barely settled down after the first goal, Cosyns made it 2-0 as he got down on his knees and tapped in a

Netherlands finished on the podium for the fourth time in succession and they are also equal with Australia on the maximum number of medals

won in the showpiece event. Both Netherlands and Australia have now won 10 medals each in the

15 editions of the World Cup. The Dutch finished third in 2010 and runners-up in 2014 and 2018. They have won the title in 1973, 1990 and 1998.

For three-time champions Australia, this was the first time they are returning home without a medal after they finished fourth in the 1998 edition. They had won a bronze in the last edition here.

Antoine Kina cross from the left.

Germany took a referral for a back stick but the video umpire ruled against them.



## AC Milan's title defence in tatters

A C Milan's season went even further off the rails on Sunday after a humiliating 5-2 home defeat at the hands of Sassuolo left them at risk of dropping out of the Champions League places.

Everything that could go wrong for troubled Milan did at a gloriously sunny San Siro, with two goals ruled out for offside and a shocking defensive display condemning the champions to a second straight heavy loss after being hammered 4-0 at Lazio on

Stefano Pioli's side dropped down to fourth and will find themselves a whopping 15 points off the Scudetto pace if league leaders Napoli beat fierce rivals Roma in Sunday's late

Milan's title defence lays in tatters and they will also drop out of Serie A's top four if either Roma or Lazio, who host Fiorentina later in the day, avoid

defeat. Domenico Berardi was the star man for Sassuolo, who are 16th after winning for the first time since late October, the Italian having a hand in Gregoire Defrel and Davide Frattesi's goals which put his team two

ahead after just 20 minutes. Olivier Giroud, who had a fine early finish disallowed, then headed Milan back into the game but Berardi reestablished Sassuolo's two-goal lead with a

header of his own from a 30th-

minute corner. Pioli brought on Rafael Leao at half-time after leaving his star attacker out of the starting lineup but Milan were three goals down seconds after the restart, Armand Lauriente smashing home a penalty after being brought down by Davide Calabria.

And an awful afternoon turned into a nightmare when Matheus Henrique drilled in the fifth with 11 minutes remaining, leaving Divock Origi to curl home a beautiful but entirely irrelevant consolation goal for

the hosts. Later Paul Pogba could make his first Juventus appearance since returning from Manchester United last summer after being named among the substitutes for their clash with

surprise package Monza. France midfielder Pogba injured the meniscus in his right knee in July and missed out on the World Cup.

He initially elected not to go under the knife in a bid to make

the Qatar tournament but despite later changing his mind he didn't recover in time to play for Les Bleus.

Juventus sit 11th in Serie A after being docked 15 points for illicit transfer activity and will be overtaken by promoted Monza should the Turin giants lose to the club owned by Silvio Berlusconi as they did in

# Bayern held at home to Frankfurt

 $B^{\mathrm{ayern}}$  Munich saw their Blead in the Bundesliga cut to just one point on Saturday after Randal Kolo Muani's equaliser held the German champions to a 1-1 draw with Eintracht Frankfurt.

The result was Bayern's third consecutive 1-1 draw, with the Bavarians still looking for their first win of 2023. Union Berlin's 2-0 derby

win over city rivals Hertha ear-lier on Saturday meant Bayern's three-point cushion on top of the table had been erased by kick-off.
"We had three or four big

chances that we might have actually made the most of before Christmas," Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann told

Bayern lacked fluency early in a testy opening half, which saw both centre-back Matthijs



Sommer pick up yellow cards.

With 34 minutes gone, former Man City forward Leroy Sane settled his team's nerves by hammering a cross from veteran forward Thomas

hand of Frankfurt 'keeper Kevin Trapp.

After the goal, Bayern rekindled their early season form and produced their best spell of the match, with France

defender Dayot Upamecano going close to doubling their lead just three minutes later. Bayern continued to push

for a second goal after the break but Frankfurt, who had only lost once in their previous 11 games in all competitions dating back to early October, looked dangerous on the break

Eintracht coach Oliver Glasner brought on Japan international Daichi Kamada just past the hour and the change had an almost immediate impact, Kamada exchanging passes with Kolo Muani before the latter struck the ball past Sommer and into the net.
"We have a great group and if I can help the team, then I'm

Muani, who now has seven goals and 10 assists in the league this term. "It was an intense game for us. We came here to get a point and we did it."

very satisfied," said Kolo



## 21-13 in the 44-minute final

Badminton world number three and home hero Jonatan Christie secured his first Indonesia Masters title on Sunday, as South Korean star An Se-young roared back to win her second women's championship in Jakarta.

Christie calmly dispatched unseeded compatriot Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 21-15,

in front of a roaring hometown crowd. It was an impressive victory for Christie, who last won

a major singles title at the 2018 Asian Ğames. In the women's singles final, world number two An

21, 21-18, 21-13.

made a stunning comeback to beat Spain's three-time world champion Carolina Marin 18-

# ndia win U-19 Women's T20 WC title

ndia on Sunday won their maiden ICC title in women's cricket as a bunch of sprightly and talented teenagers lifted the inaugural U-19 World Cup with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over England.

The Shafali Verma-led India U-19 squad managed to do what their seniors could not do by clearing the final hurdle

in a global event.
India first bundled out
England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy.

"It is just a proud moment, its our first world cup," said Trisha with stumps in hand after the memorable win. The win on Sunday also

reaffirms India's dominance at the U-19 level with the boys winning the world title in the Caribbean last year. India's bowling attack, led

by pacer Titas Sadhu and supported by leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, set up the comprehensive win on Sunday as they blew England away with a clinical display at Senwes Park.

While Sadhu showed that Indian women pace bowling is in safe hands following the retirement of Jhulan Goswami with impressive figures of 4-0-6-2, Chopra too continued her dream run as she snapped



Archana Devi also scalped for 17, while Mannat Kashyap (1/13), Shafali(1/16) and Sonam Yadav (1/3) accounted for one wicket each as England were all at sea

after being asked to take first

Following a pep talk from India's Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, India came out with a specif

ic plan and executed it perfectly as England's innings never really took off after being reduced to 16 for three in four

Chasing 69, Shafali started

with a boundary off Hannah Baker before launching Sophia Smale for a maximum. But Baker came back to get rid of the India skipper, who was caught by Alexa Stonehouse in

Her opening and team's best batter in the tournament, Shweta Sehrawat, also was back in the hut after giving a simple catch to Baker off Grace Scrivens in the fourth over.

Soumya Tiwari (24 not out) and Gongadi Trisha (24) then dug their heels in with a 46-run partnership.

With four runs needed, Trisha was cleaned up by Stonehouse, as Tiwari knocked off the winning runs.
Besides Shafali, Richa

Ghosh was the other international cricketer in the U-19

Earlier, Sadhu bowled 20 dot balls in her quota of four overs. She struck in the fourth ball of the innings with a superb caught and bowled effort to get rid of Liberty Heap

Spinner Archana then cleaned up Niamh Fiona Holland (10), while Gongadi Trisha pulled off a sensational catch to get rid of Grace Scrivens (4) to hand Archana her second wicket.

Sadhu could have added another wicket to her name but senior pro Richa dropped a regulation catch of Ryana Macdonald Gay, who had edged an away going ball.

The Bengal pacer, however, didn't have to wait longer as she went through the gates of Seren Smale (3) next.

Macdonald Gay played a

### **BCCI** announces ₹5 crore reward for victorious squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Sunday announced a whopping cash reward of Rs 5 crore for the entire India squad following its title winning performance at the inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup.

India recorded a dominating seven-wicket win over England in the final in South Africa.

The Shafali Verma-led India U-19 squad managed to do what their seniors could not do by clearing the final hurdle in a global event.

"Women's Cricket in India is on the upswing and

couple of hits to the fence to ease the pressure but in-form leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra then got into the act, trapping Charis Pavely (2) infront of wicket as England lost half their side for 39 in 10 overs.

Left-arm spinner Kashyap also kept things tight at the other end as Chopra removed Macdonald Gay with Archana taking a superb one-handed catch with a full dive at extra cover. India's fielding was

exemplary in the big game. With England at 46 for 6 in

the World Cup triumph has taken the stature of women's cricket several notches higher. I am delighted to announce INR 5 crore for the entire team and support staff as prize money. This is surely a path-breaking year," Shah

The secretary also invited the entire unit to Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

tweeted after India's triumph.

@TheShafaliVerma and her victorious team to join us at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad and witness the third T20I on 1st February. This humongous achievement surely calls for a celebration," he added.

12 overs, skipper Shafali brought herself in but Alexa Stonehouse hit her for a rare

Soumya was then in action as her direct hit found Josephine Groves short by a big margin, leaving England at 53

Shafali and Richa then combined to pile further mis-ery on England with the latter producing a stumping effort. Kashyap then removed Stonehouse with Sonam taking a dolly at cover.

has been excellent and has fol-

lowed all the plans from the

staff," Shafali said.
"Not just her, Archana,

Soumya and I can't really take

the names but they all have

the team, Richa Ghosh said the

triumph will give a boost to the

senior team to go for the title in next month's T20 World

Cup, also in South Africa.

"It is a superb feeling. I have been waiting for this since U-

19 days for so many years. All

the players have a good positive

energy, I really enjoyed with them and we will take the

momentum in the senior world

cup," she said.
"We are looking forward to

The other senior player in

been incredible."

# Indian spinners limit NZ to 99/8

PTI LUCKNOW

India's spinners impressed on a rank turner to limit a self-destructing New Zealand to 99 for eight, their lowest total against the hosts, in the second T20 here on Sunday.

With the pitch offering sharp turn, Hardik Pandya decided to employ spinners from both ends in the powerplay after opening the bowling himself.

Wrist spinners Kuldeep Chahal (1/17) and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/4), playing in a T20 together after a while, extracted a lot out of the Lucknow surface while finger spinner Washington Sundar (1/17) produced another tidy spell.

Chahal was left licking his lips after the first ball of his opening spell. It was a ripper that pitched on leg stump of Finn Allen's bat. The opener perished two balls later trying to reverse sweep with the ball thudding into his back leg before crashing the stumps. The in-form Devon

Conway too fell to the reverse sweep as the ball kissed his gloves on way to wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan.

New Zealand were soon reduced to 35 for three in seventh over when the dangerous Glenn Phillips missed a straight ball from Deepak Hooda in his attempt to reverse sweep the part time off-spin-Darvl Mitchell got a beau-

ty from Kuldeep that came

Steinitz,

n the erstwhile Soviet Union,

**▲** four prestigious Chess awards

were conferred every year for

excellence in different parts of

Chess. The best attack award was

named after the greatest attack-

ing player of all time, Dr.

Alexander Alekhine. The best

defence award was called the

'Lasker award' in memory of Dr.

Emanuel Lasker, who possessed

extraordinary skills in defence.

The best endgame award was

named after 'Chess Playing

Machine' Jose Raul Capablanca,

who had little difficulty in con-

verting 'theoretically drawn'

endgames in wins. And the

best strategy award went to none other than legendary

A Chess game played between two strong players,

who have correctly grasped the

important principles of Chess,

usually takes a slower pace than

a game between two amateurs.

Since direct skirmishes are like-

ly to fail early in the game, nowa-

days the strong players choose

to slowly mobilize all their

forces, thereby building up the

position in a true warfare style,

before launching an attack. This

concept was first thought of in

Wilhelm Steinitz.

BY PRAVIN THIPSAY



KULDEEP CHAHAL

(1/17) AND

YUZVENDRA

CHAHAL (1/4).

PLAYING IN A T20

TOGETHER AFTER A

WHILE, EXTRACTED

A LOT OUT OF THE

LUCKNOW SURFACE

Austrian Empire and later

moved to Vienna, the capital

to study mathematics. Around

1860, he became the strongest

Chess player in the world and

decided to move to England in

1862 to compete with the

strong players there. Steinitz

had a brilliant record of match-

es and tournaments for more

than three decades; he became famous as ' The Austrian

Morphy' in the 1860s for his

brilliant attacking play. Though

Steinitz solicited for slower

attacking methods, he never

disagreed with Morphy's way of

King side attack. Steinitz's

match against Zukertort in

1886, in which the Chess Clock

was used for the first time in

history, is considered to be the

first official match for the

World Chess Crown, Steinitz

became an American (USA)

citizen in 1988. In 1894, he lost

his world Chess throne to Dr

Emanuel Lasker of Germany.

However, Steinitz continued

to play brilliantly for a couple

of years more after which his

health deteriorated. Steinitz

es and passed away on 12th

For our new series "Learn

succumbed to various illness-

August 1900 at New York.

the Bohemia state of the from the Champions", I have

back in sharply to shatter the

New Zealand bat deep but none of the batters were able to apply themselves on a testing

Pacer Arshdeep Singh, who has been guilty of bowling too many no balls lately and Shivam Mavi, were only used in the death overs. Arshdeep did well to take

wickets in his two tough overs and conceded only eight runs. Skipper Hardik ended with figures of one for 25 in four overs.

William:

the 1870s by a player, who,

after mastering the attacking and

defensive skills of Paul Morphy,

felt a need to look for something

more concrete and complex

than a direct violent attack from

move one. He came out with a

new revolutionary concept with

his words "In the beginning of

the game ignore the search for

combinations, abstain from vio-

lent moves, aim for small advan-

tages, accumulate them, and

only after having attained these

ends, search for the combination

with all the power of intellect,

because then (after strengthen-

ing the position by accumulat-

ing the small advantages) the

combination must exist, howev-

er deeply hidden". Though a

controversial thought then, the

player was able to justify this strategy by defeating the best of the contemporary players. This type of play is called strategic

play. The Soviet Union's 'best

strategy award' is named after

the player mentioned above,

Wilhelm Steinitz of Austria, the

first official World Chess

1836 – August 12, 1900) was

born at Prague (now the capi-

tal of the Czech Republic) in

Wilhelm Steinitz (May 14,

Champion.

WRIST SPINNERS 'GIVE THEM SPACE' Senior India off-spinner R

Ashwin has urged fans to be patient with star batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as far as winning an ICC trophy is concerned, saying it took even "the great" Sachin Tendulkar six attempts to win a World India, who last won a

World Cup in 2011, has not tasted success in ICC tournaments since their triumph in the 2013 Champions Trophy. Backing his former and

A strategist par excellence

chosen a game played by Steinitz

while he was on his decline and

vet had not lost any knowledge

or skills he had accumulated in

four decades. This game has

been annotated by almost all

world champions and Chess

writers. Here is an example of

how deeply had he grasped the

essence of Chess. Let us see what

Grandmaster Tartakover has to

say about the game. "The feature

of the following game is how

White fastened on a small weak-

ness in the enemy's camp and

how, by skilful maneuvering, he

prevented him from castling.

Never relaxing his grip, he

wound up the game with one of

the most beautiful and aesthet-

ically satisfying combinations ever devised on the chessboard".

4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+

by Greco the Calabrese in 1619,

by which White offers to give up

course here is 7...Nxe4; though

Black must not hope to hold the gain of the pawn." Tartakover

a pawn for the attack."

7.Nc3

Tartakover.

and Reti.

8.exd5

7...d5?!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5

"A move already advocated

"The usual and better

current India skipper, Ashwin said on his YouTube channel, "It's easy to say you haven't won this and so on.
"After the 1983 World

Cup, the great Sachin Tendulkar played the 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, and 2007 World Cups. He finally won the World Cup in 2011. He had to wait for six World Cups to finally win one.

"Just because another stalwart MS Dhoni came and won a World Cup as soon as he took charge, doesn't mean it'll happen to everyone, right?"

The team's failure to win an ICC tournament for nearly a decade has attracted criticism and the most recent reverse was the crushing defeat to England in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Australia last November.

Ashwin asked the fans to Kohli. "These players (Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli), didn't play in 2007. Rohit Sharma missed out on the 2011 World Cup. Only Kohli played in 2011, 2015, 2019 and now he will play his fourth World Cup in 2023. 'He hasn't won an ICC tournament' they say. He has won it in 2011, he has won the 2013 Champions Trophy.

"Rohit Sharma ĥas also won the 2013 Champions Trophy. So, we can give them space guys. They are playing bilaterals, IPL, and so many other matches. When it comes to ICC tournaments, you need those crucial moments to go your way," he said.

"White has come out of the

"After this move which, to

appearances, is perfectly

sound, Black loses his chance of

castling. He should, at all costs,

have played 9...Bxc3, and then

completed his development.

10.bxc3 0-0 11.Re1, was neces-

12...Bxg5 is even worse. For

example, 13.Re1+! Be7 14.Nxe7

Nxe7 15.Qa4+ Qd7 16.Qb4 etc.

13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Re1

"After this orgy of exchanges, Black finds himself

unable to castle. With his next

moves he tries to get his king

into safety by 'artificial castling,'

but it takes too much time". -

exchanges, as by this move

White obtains command of the

board, prevents Black from

castling, and initiates a most

15.Qe2 Qd7

powerful attack on the King."

"The point of all the

better." --- Reti.

12.Nxd5 Qxd5

Tartakover.

Dr. Tarrasch.]

14...f6

preliminary skirmish with a

pawn in the centre. Even though

it is isolated, this pawn will prove

a tower of strength". Tartakover.

8...Nxd5 9.0-0 Be6?!

# 'WC win shows kind of depth India possess'

**PTI** ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

India has been waiting for this moment for a long time, said chief coach Nooshin Al Khadeer on Sunday after the U-19 women's cricket team lifted its maiden ICC trophy, adding that the T20 world cup triumph underlines the country's enormous depth of talent.

The Indian women's team on Sunday lifted its first-ever ICC trophy with a seven-wicket win over England in the U-19 T20 World Cup final.

"It is a fabulous feeling.
This is the feeling we have been

waiting for very long. This is the first time we won the cup and it has come with the U-19 kids. Just shows the kind of depth we have and what is said after the match.

India had lost to Australia by seven wickets in the Super Six stage, their only defeat in the tournament.

The most special thing is the belief. I knew they had a bad game against Australia, but the way they have gathered and played there after, we kept it very simple and we thought we would just play proper and simple cricket and we would

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING

**ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION,** 

**PADAMPUR** 

Phone No-(0668)-223418(Off) e-mail-eemipad@yahoo.co.in

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Reference No- SE-MID-PDP-08 / 2022-23 No- 202/MID//Date-24.01.2023

Bid documents consisting of Work. Estimated cost. Cost of

tender paper, EMD. time of completion, Class of Contractor, the

:- Improvement / Repair /

:- 18 (Elghteen) Nos.

Construction of Civil works.

:- Varies from Rs 0.63 lakh to Rs.

From Dt-30.01.2023 at. 10.00 AM

to Dt-09.02.2023 up to 5.00 PM.

:- Dt-20.01.2023 at-11.00 a.m in the

O/o S.E.M.I.Division,Padampur.

:- O/o-Superintending Engineer,

At- Padampur, Po- Raj Bora

Sambar, dist- Bargarh, Pin-768036,(Odisha)

M.I.Division, Padampur.

:- Dt-09.02.2023 up to 5.00 PM.

:- Dt-10.02.2023 at 10.00 AM.

50.64 lakh Only (Approx)

:- 01 (one) to OG(Six) Calendar

"From the National anthem

goosebumps. I personally realise and understand how special this is for us," she said. "To live it from the young girls it's commendable. We have been waiting very long for a cup. We have a good future back in India. God has been kind and I'm keeping it simple."

and till the time we won we had

India skipper Shafali Verma credited the support

staff for all the support.

"The way all the girls are performing and backing each other, so happy. Incredible feeling. Thanks to the staff the year. ing. Thanks to the staff, the way they have been backing us everyday and telling us that we are here for the cup and because of them we are here," presentation ceremony.

"The players have been backing me a lot. Thanks to BCCI for giving me this beautiful team and really happy for winning the cup.

While Shafali had a modest outing with the bat, fellow opener Shweta Sehrawat emerged as the highest run-getter with 297 runs at an average of 99.

"She (Shweta Sehrawat)

that World Cup also, if we can win 2 World Cups, it will be superb."

Player of the Match Titas Sadhu, who returned with superb figures of 2 for 6 in her four overs, said "It's really surreal. Have been looking forward to this day for a long time.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 47/ET/SBP/ ENGG/2022-23, Dated : 23.01.2023 (1) e-Tender No. 42-eT-DENC-SBP-22 (1) 9-1910 PWORK STRENGTHENING
OF 9 NOS. OF MAJOR BRIDGES
(BRIDGE NO. 314 DN, 319 DN, 322 DN,
329 DN, 331 DN, 347 DN, 353 DN, 363 DN
& 406 DN) IN DUNGRIPALI-DEOGAN ROAD SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the Work:

₹ 2,92,52,418.18, <u>EMD :</u> ₹ 2,96,300/-(2) e-Tender No. 43-eT-DENC-SBP-22

NAME OF WORK HIRING OF 01 (ONE) PICK-UP VAN (5 SEATER) OF LOADING CAPACITY 1 TON APPROX. (TATA-207 DI OR MAHINDRA BOLERO CAMPER OR EQUIVALENT/HIGHER CAPACITY OR EQUIVALENT INIGHER CAPACITY
FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE OF BOTH
SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER
(WORKS)/BARGARH AND SENIOR
SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS)/
BALANGIR IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION
FOR A PERIOD OF 03 (THREE) YEARS.
ADDITION OF 05 OF the Work

Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 14,22,464.19, <u>EMD :</u> ₹ 28,500/-(3) e-Tender No. 23-eT-DENS-SBP-22

NAME OF WORK! HIRING OF 01 (ONE)
NO. PICK-UP VAN (5 SEATER) OF
LOADING CAPACITY 1 TON APPROX.
FOR SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS)/MUNIGUDA IN SAMBALPUR

Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹14,22,464.19, EMD: ₹28,500/-Cost of Tender Document : NIL (for Tender No.1) & ₹2,360/- (for each Tender No. 2 & 3).

Completion Period for the Work: 12 (Twelve) Months (for Tender No.1) & 36 (Thirty Six) Months (for Tender No. 2 & 3).

Tender Closing Date and Time: (for all Tenders) 15.02.2023 at 1500 Hrs. No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All

invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: http://www.ireps.gov.in Mote: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate

such manual offers shall be considered

Sd/- Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Padampur

set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https:// tendersodisha.gov.

No of Works

Narre of the warks

Estimated cost

sary, though White stands much . Period of completion 10.Bg5! Be7 11.Bxd5 Bxd5

Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal

Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal

Date of opening of Bid Date of lottery scheduled to be held (If required)

Name and address of the 0IT

10.Further details can be seer

from the e-Procurement

OIPR: 32492/11/0001/2223

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