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MONEY 10 AMID RISING NPAS, AGRO FIRMS COME UNDER AGENCIES RADAR

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INDIA TO FACE BLACK CAPS IN 2nd ODI TODAY 11 SPORT

Budget likely in new Parliament House

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha may get sanskritised names DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI



Concept picture of exterior of the new Sansad Bhavan under Central Vista Project

Hectic preparations are underway to unveil this year's annual Budget in the new Parliament House. Sources said the first day of the upcoming Session, which is a joint sitting of both the Houses, will be addressed by President Draupadi Murmu on January 31 followed by the presentation of the Union Budget 2023-24 on February 1 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Sources also said the bicameral legislatures commonly known as Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha or Lower House and Upper House may be rechristened with a new sanskritised nomenclature. Recently, when the ambitious Central Vista project was opened for public after redevelopment, it got a new name—Kartavyapath—in place of Rajpath. The new Parliament building does not have a Central Hall similar to the present one where joint sittings of both Houses are held. However, the Lok Sabha has enough capacity to accommodate members from both Lower and Upper Houses. "The Lok Sabha hall may

accommodate up to 1,272 seats for joint Sessions," Parliament sources said. The Parliament was scheduled to be completed by November last year but the pandemic affected some work being done by the Tata Projects. The Centre on Friday released the layout and new photos from inside the new under-construction Parliament building for which the final touches are being given. "The final decision about where the forthcoming Parliamentary Budget Session will be held — the new facili-

ty or the current one — is being done and the final call will be taken within a couple of days," Government sources said. The new Parliament building is a part of the Central Vista redevelopment. It features larger halls, a modern library, redeveloped offices and committee rooms with state-of-art facilities. The new Parliament building that has come up adjacent to the existing one has a built-up area of about 65,000 sqm, with its triangular shape ensuring optimal utilisation of space. The larger Lower House

Panel of sports stars to probe charges against WFI chief

Bhushan defiant; wrestlers stick to 'disband WFI, sack chief' stand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The India Olympic Association on Friday conceded the demand of agitating wrestlers and set up a seven-member committee of country's top sporting personalities to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Members are Mary Kom, Dola Banerjee, Alaknanda Ashok, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sahdev Yadav among others. This came after India's top wrestlers, including Tokyo Olympics medallists Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia, Rio Games bronze winner Sakshi Malik and World Championship medallists Vinesh Phogat and Deepak Punia, wrote to IOA president PT Usha seeking a probe into their charges against the WFI and its president.

Meanwhile, a defiant WFI chief said if he opened his mouth and revealed secrets, it would cause a tsunami. He said when media persons pointed out that wrestlers have claimed that if they bring everything in public domain it will cause an earthquake.

Bhushan was speaking to the media in UP. He said he won't resign because his position was not at someone's



Wrestler Bajrang Punia speaks as fellow wrestler Vinesh Phogat looks on during their ongoing protest against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday

mercy. Putting forward four demands, the wrestlers wrote to IOA to immediately appoint a committee to enquire into the complaints of sexual harassment. The wrestlers also reiterated their demand that WFI be disbanded and its president be sacked.

"A new committee should be formed to run the affairs of WFI in consultation with the wrestlers," they wrote in their fourth and last demand.

Further in their letter, the celebrated athletes pleaded, "It has taken a lot of courage for us wrestlers to come together and protest against the WFI president. We fear for our lives. If he is not sacked then the careers of all the young who joined the dharna will be over."

They ended the letter by writing that "we will not budge until the WFI president is sacked". Beijing Olympics bronze medallist boxer and now a Congress leader Vijender Singh too reached the protest site at Jantar Mantar, showing solidarity with the wrestlers.

Vinesh Phogat had on Thursday said more women wrestlers have come forward with their stories of sexual exploitation and they will file multiple FIRs against the WFI president.

They met Government officials during the day and later had a dinner meeting with Sports Minister Anurag Thakur at his residence after being called for discussion on the raging issue.

However, both the meetings remained inconclusive with the wrestlers adamant that WFI be dissolved immediately while the Government requested them to end their protest. They are scheduled to meet Thakur on Friday for a second round of discussion.

The Government has given the WFI president 72 hours (till Saturday evening) to respond to the allegations. The BJP MP and Sports Minister will address the media later in the evening. The WFI also announced that the senior open national ranking tournament, scheduled to be held in Gonda (UP) from January 21-23, will be held as planned and requested all wrestlers to come and compete.

Now social media endorsers need to disclose material gains, says Govt

PTI NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday made it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose all "material" interest such as gifts, hotel accommodation, equity, discounts and awards when endorsing any products, services or scheme, failing which strict legal action, including ban on endorsements can be taken. The disclosures should be in simple and clear language, should be of duration that is hard to miss, must be run with endorsements, including live streams and should be platform agnostic. The regulations are part of continuing efforts to curb misleading advertisements and protect consumers interests amid expanding social influencer market which is projected to be grow 20% annually to reach ₹2,800 crore by 2025. P10

AI fined ₹30L for 'peeing' incident

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India airline ₹30 lakh for the urination incident that took place on a Paris-New Delhi flight late last year. The DGCA has also suspended the licence of pilot-in-command for a period of three months for failing to discharge his duties as per Rule 141 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, and applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements, officials underlined. The DGCA also imposed a financial penalty of ₹3 lakh on Director-in-flight services of Air India for failing to discharge her duties as per applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements. The staff involved in the matter was earlier taken off roster. The enforcement actions for violation of applicable norms come nearly two months after the incident. This is also the first time that



DGCA has penalised an airline for unruly passenger behaviour onboard a flight. In response to the DGCA penalty and action, an Air India spokesperson said it is in receipt of the DGCA order and studying it. "We respectfully acknowledge the gaps in our reporting and are taking relevant steps to ensure that the same are addressed. We are also strengthening our crews' awareness of and compliance with policies on the handling of incidents involving unruly passengers," the airline said. Air India is committed to stand by the safety and wellbeing of our passengers," the airline spokesperson said.

Rozgar Mela exercises have become identity of Govt: PM

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said in a rapidly growing country more opportunities for employment and self-employment are being created and pointed out the Government has made changes in the recruitment process by making it "time-bound". Addressing a "Rozgar Mela" video conferencing, he also said his Government had effected broad changes in the recruitment process by making it more streamlined and time-bound while boosting transparency and speed. He digitally distributed 71,426 appointment letters to recruits in different government departments, and said the ongoing "Rozgar Mela" exercises have become an identity of his Government. The PM has, so far, handed over appointment letters to more than 2.17 lakh persons under the "Rozgar Mela".



Candidates pose for photos with their appointment letters received during 'Rozgar Mela', in Patna on Friday

Modi said several States where the BJP and its allies were in power have been organising employment drives. The Prime Minister said lakhs of employment opportunities have been created in the last eight years with a holistic approach to infrastructural development in the country. He gave the example of "a hundred lakh crore invest-

ment in the infrastructure and emphasised how a newly built road gives rise to employment opportunities along the path."

The PM said new markets emerge along the periphery of the new roads or railway lines and makes transportation of food grains from the farm to the field a lot easier while also giving rise to tourism.

Google to axe 12,000 workers; Pichai 'sorry'

PTI NEW YORK

Google will lay off 12,000 jobs across the globe, its CEO Sundar Pichai announced on Friday, becoming the latest tech giant after Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon to retrench staff en masse amid the global economic downturn. In an email to employees, the Indian-origin CEO said: "I have some difficult news to share. We've decided to reduce our workforce by approximately 12,000 roles." Pichai said the layoffs at Google were carried out after a "rigorous review" of its operations. The jobs being eliminated "cut across Alphabet, product areas, functions, levels and regions," he said. "Over the past two years, we've seen periods of dramatic growth. To match and fuel that growth, we hired for a different economic reality than the one we face today," Pichai said in his mail, which was posted on the company's news

blog. Earlier this week, Microsoft announced 10,000 job cuts, or nearly 5 per cent of its workforce. Amazon is also cutting 18,000 jobs and Facebook parent Meta is trimming 11,000 positions. "I'm deeply sorry for that. The fact that these changes will impact the lives of Googlers weighs heavily on me, and I take full responsibility for the decisions that led us here," he elaborated. Digital consumption soared during the years of the pandemic, prompting companies to diversify portfolios and scale up hiring. But as consumers cut back on their digital footprint as normalcy returned after the pandemic, companies have been forced to restructure and cut costs. Pichai said he was confident about the huge opportunity for the company due to "our early investments in AI" for which Google would need to make tough choices.

SC junks pleas against caste census in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a batch of pleas challenging the Bihar Government's decision to conduct a caste survey in the State. A bench of justices BR Gavai and Vikram Nath said there is no merit in the petitions and dismissed them with liberty to the petitioners to approach the High Court concerned. "So this is publicity interest litigation. How can we issue directions on how much reservation should be granted to such and such caste? How will they (State) determine how much reservation is to be granted to whom? Sorry, we can't issue such directions and can't entertain these petitions," the bench told the



counsel for the petitioners. "All the petitions are dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to seek appropriate remedies in law," the bench ordered, adding the petitioners may move the Patna High Court. One of the PILs on the issue was filed in the apex court through advocate Barun Kumar Sinha seeking quashing of the notification issued by the deputy secretary, Bihar Government, for conducting a caste survey in the State and to restrain the authorities concerned from conducting the exercise.



RAHUL IN JACKET: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Congress MP KC Venugopal and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction) MP Sanjay Raut during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Kathua district, on Friday

India pushes for devolution of powers to Tamils in SL

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

India favours devolution of power to the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka and considers the full implementation of the 13th Amendment in Sri Lanka "critical" for achieving reconciliation with the Tamil community, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday. Making this assertion in Colombo during his two-day tour of Sri Lanka, he also said "My primary purpose to visit Colombo is to express India's solidarity with Sri Lanka during these difficult moments". Jaishankar is in Sri Lanka to meet the country's top leaders to enhance bilateral ties and finalise a debt restructuring plan to help Colombo carve out a path from its economic cri-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar symbolically hands over Ashok Leyland's buses to Sri Lanka's Minister of Transport Bandula Gunawardana in in Colombo on Friday. This is part of 500 such buses that are being supplied to Sri Lanka Transport Board with Indian support

sis. Elaborating upon the sensitive issue of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka, Jaishankar

also underlined that New Delhi has always supported both the political and economic stability in the island nation.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shashi Kumar S/o Sh. Rajender Singh R/O 947A/28, Bharat Colony, Rohtak has disowned my son Nishant from my all movable-immovable property as he is out of my control. In future, if anybody deals with him, he/she will do at his/her own risk.

I, Violet W/o John Masih, House-2811/1, Sector 49-D, Chandigarh. My daughter Ishita out of my control. I disown her from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody deal with her at their own Risk.

I, Sneh Lata W/o Late Shamsheer Singh R/O 552/A Sector 46A Chandigarh declare that my son Karan Sharma @ Nanu and his wife Niharika Choudhry are out of my control. I debar them from our all movable and immovable properties. We are not responsible for dealing with Karan Sharma.

I, Mohan Lal S/o Late Ghanshyam Dass R/O Village-Ratangarh, Distt. Kurukshetra declare that I break relation with my brother Karmbir. If anybody deals with him shall do their own risk in future.

I, Teja Ram S/o Kartara Ram R/O 1/72, khaspur (266) Matheri Sekhan, Ambala declare that my Son Sunil Kumar is out of my Control. So I Disown him from my all Movable Immovable Properties.

I, Bala Rani W/o Late Vinod Kumar R/O 91, Gulab Mandi, Near P & T Colony, Ambala Cantt declare that my Son Ashvi is out of my Control. So I disown him from my all Movable Immovable Properties.

I, Rohan Lalpal S/O Ghirayu Pal & Rekha Devi W/O Rohan Lalpal R/O H.401 St. 2 Near Raju Karyana Store New Ashok Nagar Jassia Road Ludhiana Declare That My Son Inder Pal And his Wife Anchal is Out Of My Control So I Disown him From My All Movable and immovable Properties. Any Body Dealing With them Will Be Self Responsible.

I, Panna Lal S/o Shri Ram Lal R/O House No. 76, Guru Nanak Nagar, Bhamian Road, Opposite Jamalpur, Ludhiana declare that my daughter Silvia Lal is out of my control. I disown her from my all movable/immovable properties. Anybody deals with her do so at his/ her own risk/ responsibility. All concerned please note.

I, No. JC-404939-F Ex Sub Bijender Singh S/o Sh. Bale Ram R/O V.P.O. Sundana, Teh. Kalanaur, Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my son name Yaksh and his DOB 28.08.2010 are wrongly mentioned in my Army record. But my son correct & actual name is Yash and his correct DOB is 20.08.2010. vide affidavit dated 19.01.2023 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, No. 3195949-A NK Sunil S/o Sh. Ranjeet Singh R/O Vill. & P.O. Marodhi Jattan, Teh. Kalanaur, Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my daughter name Km Komal and her DOB 21.02.2007 are wrongly mentioned in my service record. But my daughter correct & actual name is Komal and her correct DOB is 21.02.2006. vide affidavit dated 20.01.2023 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, Munni spouse of Nahar Singh (name of husband) resident of VPO-Jauli tehsil Gohana Distt. Sonepat (Haryana) have changed my name from Smt. Munni (existing name of spouse as per NOK in record) to Smt. Munni Devi (proposed/accepted new name of spouse) vide affidavit dated 20-01-2023.

I, Adnya spouse of No.2807636X L/NK Wasamkar Suraj Sanjivan resident of Village-Jaysingpur, Post-Sambhajipur, Tehsil- Shirol, District- Kolhapur, State- Maharashtra Pin-416101 have changed my name from Adnya to Adnya Suraj Wasamkar Vide affidavit No. IN-PB62023659838418V dated 16 Jan 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, Naresh Devi Mother of No.4204354H Hav/CLK Rahul Sighroha resident of Village-Ritauli, Post-Ritauli, Tehsil & District Rohtak, State-Haryana, Pin-124201 have changed my name from Naresh Devi to Naresh Vide affidavit No. IN-PB63233221288260V dated 19 Jan 2023 before notary public Pathankot

I, Jyoti spouse of Army No.15502580N ALD Rakesh Roshan Unit 49 Armd Regt in my husband service record my name wrongly recorded as Jyoti instead of Kumari Jyoti Vide affidavit No. IN-PB63397173609444V dated 20 Jan 2023.

I, Sushil S/O Kunj Bihari R/O H.No. 102, New Basant Nagar, Kachha Camp, Dist Panipat Disowned My Daughter Khushboo From All My Movable Immovable Property Due To Out Of Control.

We, Surinder S/O Ramesh and Babita W/O Surinder R/O # 3257/2, Sector 38-D, Chandigarh. Our son Akash and his wife Gazzal are out of our control. We disown them from my moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals them any type in future, shall be self responsible.

I, Malkait S/O Darshan R/O Vpo. Pandori Teh-Tanda (Hoshiarpur) Punjab, declare that my wife Seema is out of my control. So I disown her from all my moveable/immovable property. I Shall not be responsible for anybody dealing with her.

I, No. JC-510832X Sub Jaswinder Singh S/O Kharak Singh Village Ransota Teh-Mukerian (Hoshiarpur) declare that in my army record the DOB of my wife Kiranjeet Kaur wrongly entered as 28-03-1977. The correct DOB is 29-04-1977.

I, No. JC 275435N Sub (GNR) Sukhdev Singh S/O Piara Singh R/O Vpo. Nathpur Teh-Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur (Punjab) declare that in my army documents my wife name is wrongly recorded as Sukhbinder Kaur and her DOB is 20-05-1977. But my wife correct name is Sukhwinder Kaur and her DOB is 20-05-1976. That Sukhbinder Kaur & Sukhwinder Kaur named same and the one lady.

I, Gomti Parmar D/o Ram Singh S/O Beant Singh now W/O Nardeep Singh Village Mehatpur Tehsil & Distt Hoshiarpur declare that after my marriage my in laws changed my name Jaspreet Kaur. In Mal Record my name wrongly written as Jaspreet Kaur but my correct name is Gomti Parmar. Gomti Parmar and Jaspreet Kaur is one and the same person.

I, Nabpreet Kaur D/o Pramjit Singh, resident of Vpo Kathu Nangal (Amritsar) declare that In my one LIC. Insurance policy no. 471523092 my name entered Jasmeen Kaur. While my real name is Nabpreet Kaur. Nabpreet kaur & Jasmeen kaur are same persons. So amended my name from Jasmeen Kaur to Nabpreet Kaur in my LIC insurance policy.

I, Meena Gupta, wife Narinder Raj Gupta, resident of Flat No. 5, Ground Floor, Koji Homes, MS, Enclave, Dhakoli (Jirakpur) Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. Mohali declared my son Rahul Gupta and daughter-in-law Priya are out of my control so I disown both from all my movable or immovable properties. Any body dealing with them on their own risk.

I, Davinder Singh S/o Late Shri Balbir Singh R/O H. No.164, Teg Colony, Patiala have changed the name of my minor daughter born on 18-03-2008 from Gurjashan Kaur to Gurjas Kaur.

I, Krishan Kumar Taneja S/o Sh. Vas Dev Taneja R/O H.No. 12/601/16, Batra Colony, Rishi Nagar, Sonipat have changed my name from Krishan Kumar Taneja to Krishan Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Vrinda Sharma D/O Vinod Kumar Sharma R/O H.No.1381 Sec-12 Huda Panipat Declare Change My Name From Vrinda To Vrinda Sharma And In Future My Name Is Vrinda Sharma.

I, Rajeev Kumar Aggarwal F/O Pranshu R/O 5409/5414, Cross Road No. 3, Punjabi Mohalla, Ambala Cantt. Have Changed my Son Name from Pranshu To Pranshu Aggarwal.

I, Ravinder Singh S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O H.No. 27, Patel Nagar, Ambala city do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that in my Son's Birth Certificate his name is mentioned as Sukrit Singh (Regn. No. 7572 Dt. 31.12.2014). Now I have changed my son's name from Sukrit Singh to Sukrit Singh Dullat. All Concerned note.

I, Smt. Pinky W/o No. 15107551P Ex GNR Rajesh Kumar R/O VPO Janauri Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Pinky to Rakesh Kumari and my date of birth from 30-11-1972 to 23-10-1965.

I, Babita Devi Lather W/o Sanjeev Kumar Lather R/O H.No. 652, Jatan Gate, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Babita Devi to Babita Devi Lather. Please note for future.

I, Sohnavir Singh S/o Mahavir Singh R/O H.No.18, 1st floor, Sector-7, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Sohnavir Singh. Please note for future.

I, Sudesh Rani W/o Kamal Kumar R/O Village Mamlai, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Sudesh Rani to Raj Rani.

I, Jai Prakash S/o Har Lal R/O VPO Damla, Near Govt. School, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Jai Prakash to Jai Pal.

I, Khemraj S/o Faqir Singh R/O 13, Block-B, Vishnu Garden, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my minor daughter's name from Ritika to Priyanshika.

I, Satnam Singh S/o Karamjit Singh R/O Vill. Bhikhowal, Teh. Batala, Distt. Gurdaspur declare that in my Passport No.R2430507 my father name wrongly written as Karamjeet Singh instead of Karamjit Singh. Please Correct it as Karamjit Singh.

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Rulia Ram R/O C-3 49/25, Saraswati Colony, Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name minor son's name from Mudit to Mudit Dahariya.

I, Harleen Kaur D/O. Daljit Singh R/O. Flat No. 104, Block-A, Sunny View Complex, Sunny Enclave, Sector 125, Kharar, SAS Nagar, Mohali (Punjab). Declare That Harleen Magon And Harleen Kaur Is One And The Same Person.

I, Shankunja Devi W/o Chhotu Lal R/O Vill Sonta Lohsimby Patiala Rajpura Punjab 140401 have changed my name to Shakuntla Devi.

I, Sarabjeet Kaur w/o Gurpreet Singh R/O H.no.249/9 Pathana Mohalla Panipat, I have changed my name from Sarabjeet Kaur to Sarabjeet Kaur. For all purpose.

I, Sunil Kumar S/o Hukam Singh R/O Flat No. 1574, Pushpac Complex, Sector 49-B, Chandigarh have changed my name from Sunil Kumar to Sunil Kumar Dahiya.

I, Santosh Devi Mother of Sandeep Kumar R/O #1350-B, Sector 47B, Chandigarh have changed my Name from Santosh Devi to Patasi vide affidavit dated 19.01.2023 before Notary, Distt. Coort Chandigarh.

I, Eisha Shaw Spouse of Prakash Kumar Shaw R/O #3155-A, Sector 31-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Eisha Shaw to Eisha Menon vide affidavit Dated 19.01.2023 before Notary, Distt. Court Chandigarh.

I, Manpreet Singh S/O Late Shri Balbir Singh R/O H. No.164, Teg Colony, Patiala have changed the name of my minor daughter born on 18-03-2008 from Gurjashan Kaur to Gurjas Kaur.

I, Krishan Kumar Taneja S/o Sh. Vas Dev Taneja R/O H.No. 12/601/16, Batra Colony, Rishi Nagar, Sonipat have changed my name from Krishan Kumar Taneja to Krishan Kumar for all future purposes.

I, Vrinda Sharma D/O Vinod Kumar Sharma R/O H.No.1381 Sec-12 Huda Panipat Declare Change My Name From Vrinda To Vrinda Sharma And In Future My Name Is Vrinda Sharma.

I, Rajeev Kumar Aggarwal F/O Pranshu R/O 5409/5414, Cross Road No. 3, Punjabi Mohalla, Ambala Cantt. Have Changed my Son Name from Pranshu To Pranshu Aggarwal.

I, Ravinder Singh S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O H.No. 27, Patel Nagar, Ambala city do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that in my Son's Birth Certificate his name is mentioned as Sukrit Singh (Regn. No. 7572 Dt. 31.12.2014). Now I have changed my son's name from Sukrit Singh to Sukrit Singh Dullat. All Concerned note.

I, Smt. Pinky W/o No. 15107551P Ex GNR Rajesh Kumar R/O VPO Janauri Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur Punjab have changed my name from Pinky to Rakesh Kumari and my date of birth from 30-11-1972 to 23-10-1965.

I, Babita Devi Lather W/o Sanjeev Kumar Lather R/O H.No. 652, Jatan Gate, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Babita Devi to Babita Devi Lather. Please note for future.

I, Sohnavir Singh S/o Mahavir Singh R/O H.No.18, 1st floor, Sector-7, Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Sohnavir Singh. Please note for future.

I, Davinder Singh S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O Hno. 2712/B-12 , Near Lala Wala Pir , Manmohan Nagar, Ambala City Have Changed My Name Davinder Singh To Dapinder Singh.

I, Gulab Singh S/O Rajbir Singh R/O Village Manpura Distt. Karnal Have Changed My Name Gulab Surname Singh.

I, Uma Rawat Legally Wedded Spouse Of No Jc858420m Rank Nb/Sub Deepak Singh Presently Residing At 513 Ad , Msl Regt (Sp), C/O 56 Apo Ambala Cantt Have Changed My Name From Uma Rawat To Uma Mahara In My Husband Service Records.

I, Renu Bala W/O Ankuish Bhardwaj R/O H.No 15 Near Brahmkumari Ashram, New Kanch Ghar Ambala City Have Changed My Name From Renu Bala To Mannat Bhardwaj After Marriage.

I, Hitherto Known As Maninder Kaur W/O Kuljeet Singh Josan R/O Vpo Nizampura, District Amritsar-143501 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Maninder Kaur Josan.

I, Hitherto Known As Gurwinder Singh Son Of Kuldeep Singh Residing At Village Khera District Tarn Taran-143401 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurdavinder Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Gurmeet Daughter Of Kirpal Singh Wife Of Amandeep Singh Residing At Moga Road, Gali No.1, Namdevnagar, Kot Kapura, Faridkot-151204 Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurmeet Kaur. I Have Changed Only Me Name Not Religion.

I Hitherto Known As Swinder Kaur Wife Of Gurnam Singh Residing At 461, Vpo Wadala Kalan, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Amritsar-143202 Punjab Have changed my Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurdavinder Singh.

I, Hitherto Known As Hargun D/O Tejinder Singh Residing At H.No.65, Gali No.1, Kot Mahna Singh, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar, Punjab Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Hargun Kaur.

I, Gurmit Kaur W/O Kabal Singh R/O Vill. Leharka Po Chawinda Devi Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Gurmeet Kaur.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/O Amar Singh R/O H.No.110, Pritam Nagar, 100 Feet Road, Amritsar Have Certified That Singh Is My Surname And Kuldeep Is My Given Name.

I, Rajni Sharma W/O Adit Rana R/O 20 A, Gali Banke Bihari, Batala Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Rajni Sharma To Rajni Rana.

I, Ashish S/o Sh. Ram Avtar Goyal R/O H. No. 53, New Grain Market, Hisar (Haryana) hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ashish to Ashish Goyal for all future purposes.

I, Manju Devi Wife of No. 15484650W Rank DFR Name Vipin Kumar Mourya R/O Village Ramdinkapura, PO Sorawan, Distt. Allahabad, U.P.-221294 have changed in army record my name from Manju Devi to Manju Maurya vide affidavit dated 20-01-2023 before Session Court Hisar.

I Sarla Devi wife Shri Sudhir Sahrawat R/O H.No. 188/14, Gali no. 6, Ranjeet Colony, Badli Road, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar 124507 I state that my name is mentioned as Sarla in class 10th while my name is mentioned as Sarla Devi in all my other documents. Sarla and Sarla Devi both are my names. Now I want to register my name as Sarla Devi in all my documents. - sworn

I, Parminder Singh S/o Iqbal Singh, R/O Ahiyapur, Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Singh Parminder. All Concerned note.

I, Haripal S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O H.No. 113, Street no. 1, Golden Avenue Colony, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana I, have changed my name from Haripal to Haripal Singh.

I, No. 2693371W Rank Hav Afak Hussain S/O Abid Husain R/O Dalmua, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Have Changed my Daughter (Najiya Bano) DOB from 04.11.2003 To 15.03.2014.

I, No. 2693371W Rank Hav Afak Hussain S/O Abid Husain R/O Dalmua, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Have Changed my Wife Name from Naushina To Nausheen Akhtar.

I, Ahaan Arora S/O Amit Arora R/O House no 235, Sector - 32, Narsi Village, Part 1, Karnal declare that I have changed my name from Ahaan to Ahaan Arora for all future purpose.

I, Aakarsh Arora S/O Amit Arora R/O House no 235, Sector - 32, Narsi Village, Part 1, Karnal declare that I have changed my name from Aakarsh to Aakarsh Arora for all future purpose.

I, Satbir Singh S/o Pale Ram R/O Balaji Colony, Gali No. 03, Near Railway Crossing, Karnal Road, Kaithal, District Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Satbir to Satbir Singh. In future, I will be known by the name of Satbir Singh. All concerned please note.

I, Bhagawanti Devi spouse of no 6353068 ex sep Lilu Ram r/o House no 443/24 Arya nagar near Bhatia Kutia Teh Hansi Distt hisar have changed my name from Bhagawanti Devi to Bhagawanti Devi. My dob is 03/05/1949

I, Sohan Lal s/o Sh. Jaipal Vill. Akbarpur P.O. Hafizpur, Tehsil Jagadhri Distt. Yamunanagar (Haryana) declared that my Name is Sohan Lal. Now I have changed my surname to Lal from today onwards my first name is Sohan and the surname will be Lal in future. I shall know as Sohan Lal.

I, Pawan Rishi s/o Late Sh. Prem kumar Rishi # village Nasirpur, Opp. Nagar Khera, Hissar Road, Ambala City, Haryana declared that I have changed my name from Pawan Kumar Rishi to Pawan Rishi. All concerned Note.

I, Sunita w/o Sandeep Beniwal R/O ward number 4, Chand Colony near Mata Mandir Tehsil samalkha, District Panipat. I have changed my name Sunita to Sunita Kumari. In feature all government or non government palaces known me Sunita kumari. All concerned note please.

I, Sakshi D/o Harkesh Kumar R/O VPO Sangoli, Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. SAS Nagar (Punjab)-140501 declare that in my 10th Class Certificate No. 1585831, Reg. No. U117/08669/0117 my name wrongly mentioned as Sakshi Devi. My correct name is Sakshi.

I, Sumeet S/O Surinder Singh R/O House No.449, Ward No.6, Sangalpura Road Gurdaspur. Tehsil/Distt-Gurdaspur, Punjab. Have Changed My Name To Sumeet Singh.

I, Dev Kumar S/o Mahender, R/O House No. 241/19, Kathmandi Gohana District Sonipat declare that my name is Dev Kumar as per recorded in my other documents. My name is mentioned as Devdutt in my 10th certificate. I want to change my name as Dev Kumar in place of Devdutt in 10th class certificate.

I, Ritu Jain W/o Narinder Gupta R/O W.R-75, Basti Sheikh, Bada Bazar, Jalandhar have changed my minor son's name from Ujjwal to Ujjwal Jain.

I, Aashima D/o Narinder Gupta R/O W.R- 75, Basti Sheikh, Bada Bazar, Jalandhar have changed my name from Aashima to Aashima Jain.

I Robinjeet Kaur W/O Paramvir Singh R/O Gali No.4, Shri Guru Teg Bahadar Nagar, Tehsil & Distt Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Robinjeet Kaur To Robinjeet Is My Given Name & Kaur Is My Surname.

I, Anil S/o Shri Ran Singh R/O Village Nabipur Tehsil and Distt. Karnal have changed my name from Anil Kumar to Anil. All Concern Please Noted.

I Anjali W/o Neeraj Kumar R/O H No 214, St No 5, Gobind Nagar, Bhamian Kalan Ludhiana have changed my name from Anjali to Anju Bala.

I, Urmila Duhan D/o Sh. Raj Pal Singh R/O House No. 13A, Shree Shyam Residency, Peer Muchalla Road, P.O. Dhakoli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, have changed my name from Urmila Duhan to Urmila.

I Mira W/o Suresh Kumar R/O 129 Vikas Nagar Mouli Jagran Chandigarh, have changed my name from Mira to Manju Devi.

I Hardip Singh S/o Late Sukhwant Singh, R/O VPO. Allowal, Tehsil Khadur Sahib, District Tarn Taran I have changed my name Hardip Singh to Hardip Singh Brar.

I Gurwinder Kaur W/O Harjinder Singh R/O Railway Road Near S.P.N College Mohalla Kishanpur Mukerian, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur Declared I Known As Gurwinder Kaur Alias Gurbinder Kaur W/O Harjinder Singh.

I Bhumika Jain W/O Hitesh Jain R/O No. 20, Modern Enclave-A, Baltana, Derabassi. Have Changed My Name From Mehak Singla To Bhumika Jain.

I Ravinder Pal Singh Chugh S/o Mohinder Singh R/O #375-C opp Gurudwara Sahib Rattan Nagar Tripuri Patiala have changed my name to Ravinder Pal Singh.

I, Shinderpal Kaur wife of Jail Singh resident of village Khundar Hithar Tehsil Gurusarshay District Ferozepur (Punjab), India I am known by three names Shinderpal Kaur, Chhindo Kaur, Shinder Kaur. And all names in certificates, documents are genuine.

I, Sadhana Sachin Gulawe, Spouse Of No. 14934353y, Hav, Gulawe Sachin Rajaram Presently Posted At 25 Mech Ine Regt C/O 50 Apd Ferozepur Pin 911725 Have Changed My Name From Sadhana Devi To Sadhana Sachin Gulawe Vide Affidavit Dated 20 January 2023 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, Sadhana Sachin Gulawe, Spouse Of No. 14934353y, Hav, Gulawe Sachin Rajaram, Residing At Chanegaon, Tehsil Sangamner, District Ahemdagar, State Maharashtra Pin 413714, Declare That In My All Civil Documents My Date Of Birth Mentioned As 23-05-1984 But As Per My Husband's Service Records It Is Erroneously Mentioned As 21-08-1984.

I, Nishant, Son Of Jc-290881m, Sub, Uttam Chand, Presently Resident At Village Bataher Po Baloh, Tehsil Kottli District Mandi State Himachal Pradesh Pin 175052 Have Changed My Name From Nishant Thakur To Nishant Vide Affidavit Dated 20 January 2023 Before At Notray Ferozepur.

I, Binda Devi Yadav, Spouse Of No. 156674321, Hav, Yogendra Yadav, Of Unit 7 Inf Div Sig Regt C/O 56 Apo Resident At Village Narayanpur Tehsil Siwan District Siwan State Bihar Pin 841287 Have Changed My Name From Bindu Devi Yadav Vide Affidavit Dated 20 January 2023 Before At Executive Magistrate Ferozepur.

I, Sudershana Rani W/o Jagdish Rai R/O Ward No 13, Gurudwara Road ,Gali No 2, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Sudarshna Rani.

I Jyoti Rani W/O Balwant Rani/O Village Tharoli Post Office Jahan Khelan District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Sehajdeep To Sehajdeep Singh.

I Preeti W/O Karan Kaushal R/O H.No.415/4 Panj Rpi Bahadurpur Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Preeti To Preeti Kaushal.

I Jagpal Singh S/O Manohar Lal R/O Vpo. Lambra Kangri District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Jaspal Singh.

I Sunita Devi W/O Ashok Kumar R/O Village Jeetpur Tehsil Balachaur District S.B.S. Nagar Punjab India Have Changed My Name From Sunita Devi To Sunita.

I Vikrant S/O Bal Krishan R/O Vpo. Samundra Tehsil Garhshankar District Hoshiarpur (Punjab) Have Changed My Name From Vikrant To Vikrant Doul.

I Daljeet Singh S/O Avtar Singh R/O Vpo. Aminwala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Daljeet Singh Toor.

I Jagdeep Kaur W/O Rajdeep Singh Sidhu R/O Vpo. Rasulpur (Mallah) Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Jagdeep Singh Sidhu.

I Khushpreet Kaur Mundi W/O Amandeep Singh R/O Vpo. Gunike Distt. Patiala Have Changed My Name To Khushpreet Kaur.

I, Rakesh Kumar Pathak S/O Darshan Kumar R/O H.No. 83, Charanjitpura, Purani Sabji Mandi, Nauhrian Bazar, Jalandhar have changed my minor Daughter name from Medhavi to Medhavi Pathak.

I, Kashmir Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/O Vill. Seechewal, Po. Chak Chela, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Kashmir Singh to Kashmir Singh Pawar.

I, Baljinder Kaur W/o Seechewal, Po. Chak Chela, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Baljinder Kaur to Baljinder Kaur Pawar.

I, Sarvjeet Kaur W/o Arjun Singh R/O Army Enclave, Phase-1, Dhina, Distt. Jalandhar- 144005, Punjab have changed the spelling of my name from Sarvjeet Kaur to Sarbjit Kaur.

I, Rajni W/o Satender Singh R/O H.No. 26-A, New Deol Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Rajni To Rajni Arora.

I, Kritanjali Bhatia D/o Daljeet Singh W/o Mridul Mittal R/O H.No. S-3/57, Shree Niketan, Mission Road, Near Church, Pathankot-145001, Punjab have changed my name from Kritanjali Bhatia to Kritanjali Singh Bhatia.

I, Pooja Bhalla D/o Sudarshan Pal Kohli W/o Ajay Bhalla R/O H.No. 221, Sardar Patel Nagar, Pathankot-145001, Punjab have changed my name from Pooja Bhalla to Pooja Kohli.

I, Parshu Ram S/o Jamma Rai R/O H.No. B-25/21, Ward No. 17, Kirti Nagar, Hoshiarpur-146001, Punjab have changed my name from Parshu Ram to Samar Rai.

I, Pooja Rani D/o Gurmeet Lal W/o Paras Aggarwal R/O H.No. 42, Street No. 15, Jalandhar Cantt., Distt. Jalandhar-144005, Punjab have changed my name from Pooja Rani to Pooja Aggarwal.

I, Parveen Gupta D/o Dawarka Dass W/o Anil Kumar R/O H.No. 73/21, Berian Mohalla, Distt. Gurdaspur-143521, Punjab have changed my name from Parveen Gupta to Parveen Aggarwal.

I, Sudershana Rani W/o Jagdish Rai R/O Ward No 13, Gurudwara Road ,Gali No 2, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed My Name Sudarshna Rani.

I Jyoti Rani W/O Balwant Rani/O Village Tharoli Post Office Jahan Khelan District Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Simarpreet To Simarpreet Kaur

Traditional parties envious of me because I'm son of a common man: Punjab CM

PNS ■ ABOHAR/PATIALA

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday said that the traditional political parties are envious of him because they are not able to digest that the son of a common man is governing the state effectively.

Mann, addressing the gathering after disbursing compensation to the flood-affected residents during a function, said that the people of the state have lost their faith in the traditional political parties because of their anti-Punjab and anti-Punjab stance.

"The wise and brave people of the state had ousted these parties during 2022 assembly polls due to which they are frustrated now," said Mann adding that the leaders of these parties are now ganging up with each other to mislead the people. The Chief Minister quipped that these leaders were first welcomed with garlands but now people greet them with defeat wherever they go. "The people of the state have elected the sons and daughters of the common man as their representatives, who are performing their duties zealously. On the contrary, these traditional parties have failed in their duty miserably when they were in power," he added.

He said that these leaders

plundered the state's resources for their vested political interests. "While the state is facing challenges in form of unemployment, brain drain, corruption and others, these leaders are busy minting money illegally. These leaders built their own palaces and empires of business at the cost of the people and the state," he added.

Taking the former Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal to custodial, Mann said that in his long stint as the in-charge of the state's finances, he had always claimed that the state exchequer is empty. "After failing to perform his duty as the Finance Minister to ensure the state's well-being, Manpreet Badal has now joined the BJP. However, except reciting a few couplets in Urdu, the former Finance Minister will not do anything for the betterment of state and even for BJP," he added. The Chief Minister unequivocally said that any person who has looted even a single penny of the public will be made accountable to the people. "I will expose all such plunderers and severe action will be taken against them, as per the law. It is the government's firm commitment that a corrupt leader or officer, however affluent he may be, will be brought to book and made accountable for his sins," he added. At the same time, the Chief Minister bemoaned that



PATIALA LAGS BEHIND IN DEVELOPMENT DESPITE BEING A POWER CENTRE

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday, took a dig at veteran leader Capt Amarinder Singh, saying that despite being the power centre, Patiala lagged behind in the process of development due to vested interests and greed of the successive rulers — a statement that failed to get down well with the Maharaja of Patiala.

Mann, who was interacting with the media after reviewing the progress of development projects worth Rs 167 crore in Patiala, said that it is ironic that the 'Maharajas' in power were more concerned about their own development rather than that of the city. "Though Patiala is known as the 'City of Gardens,' due to apathy of those in power, the city lost its shine in the last few years," said Mann, bemoaning that the rulers of Punjab, who hailed from Patiala, remained callous about the development of the city.

Retorting, Capt Amarinder accused Mann of announcing "the same projects" that he had

already initiated during his tenure as the Chief Minister and Patiala MLA, and were near completion.

Mann, during his visit, stated that the work on the majority of these projects, including construction of new bus stand, roads, drain channelization, and beautification project, construction of digital library at Musafir Memorial Central state library and others have been hanging in fire since long. However, "AAP Government, which is committed to the development and progress of Patiala, has put these projects on fast track mode," he said. He said that the work on the state-of-the-art bus stand, which is being constructed to cope up with the futuristic needs, will be completed by April 1.

The Chief Minister said that 93 per cent work on this bus stand, which will have facility of lift, ramp, and stairs, has already been completed. "Once operational, 1,500 buses will ply from this bus stand and will facilitate the residents a lot. The existing bus stand will be used as a city bus stand, and the shuttle bus service to various parts of the city will be introduced," he added. Mann further said that Rs 20 crore are being spent for extending 24X7 canal water supply to the city residents, and the work for channelizing and beautification

of model town drain will be completed by March 31. "Rajindra Tank will be developed into a tourism spot for attracting the people from across the globe. Likewise, Rs 8.26 crore is being spent on digitalization of Musafir Memorial Central State library," he added.

The Chief Minister also announced that the work on all these projects will be completed in a time-bound and result-oriented manner. "Any sort of delay in the completion of these projects is totally unwarranted and undesirable. Responsibility of the officers will be fixed if the work is not completed within the stipulated time," he added. Mann's comment on the development of Patiala city evoked sharp reaction from former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who is also the scion of erstwhile royal family of Patiala. Taking to Twitter, Capt Amarinder tweeted, "How ironic! Bhagwant Mann comes to Patiala and says that I have done nothing for the city and then in the same breath goes on to announce the same projects that I had already initiated during my tenure and are near completion." Will the CM stand up and tell us which new projects has he given for the city or state? I think not!" said Capt Amarinder in related tweet.

Legal hurdles for Gurugram global city project cleared

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday cleared the way for the Gurugram global city project to come up at Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) land in Gurugram. The Court quashed the last Public Interest Litigation filed by Gram Panchayat Garauli Khurd regarding 1080 acres of HSIIDC land. This decision has paved the way for the e-auction of land parcels in the Global City project being set up on 1003 acres of HSIIDC land. Now it will be easier to execute various activities related to this project, a government statement said. The Global City to be built in Gurugram is one of the major projects of the government. Tenders for development works worth Rs 900 crore regarding Global City have already been floated. The statement said that Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

had visited the site and said the Global City will prove to be a milestone in the development of Haryana. Describing Gurugram as an icon city on the global map, Khattar said that out of the 500 world's Fortune companies, 400 have their offices here and it has now become an international city. He also said that the world's largest jungle safari will also be developed in Gurugram and Nuh districts in the Aravalli mountain range on about 10,000 acres. Notably, 1003 acres of HSIIDC land in villages Khandas, Narsinghpur, Mohamadpur Jharsa, Garauli Khurd and Garhi Harsaru in the Gurugram district is being used for the development of the mega project of Global City. The HSIIDC is the developer of the Global City project. Road, water and other arrangements will be provided by HSIIDC. The construction of the plot is to be done by only those companies that have invested in this project.

Pb exploring ways to use paddy straw as animal fodder

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To dispose of the paddy straw in a proper manner, Punjab Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua on Friday instructed the concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive plan to find ways and means to use the straw as animal fodder; and also to make the farmers aware of it.

"The State Government is making in-situ and ex-situ arrangements for paddy straw management. In the same direction, straw is being used as a substitute for animal fod-

der," said the Chief Secretary during a meeting with the officials of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Cooperation, Agriculture, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary University for Animal Sciences, Ludhiana and Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.

The Chief Secretary asked the expert representatives of the three departments and the two universities to form a committee to work in this regard by establishing contact with the progressive dairy farmers at different places.

Hry CM approves purchase of 68 acres of land costing about Rs 44 crores in HPLPC meeting

Deputy Commissioners of districts asked to speed up the execution of the proposed projects after purchasing land

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday, while chairing the meeting of the High Power Land Purchase Committee (HPLPC), accorded approval for a purchase of 68 acres of land for Tohana Bus Stand and Fatehabad New Jail and other projects costing Rs 44 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma, Energy Minister Ranjit Singh and Urban Local Bodies Minister, Kamal Gupta were present in the meeting. Besides these, landowners who have consented to give their lands for proposed government projects also attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, Khattar directed the Deputy Commissioners of these districts to speed up the execution of the proposed projects after purchasing the land. In the meeting, approval was given to purchase 45 acres of land for the new district jail in district Fatehabad and 6 acres of land for new bus stand in Tohana. Approval was accorded for the purchase of 0.89 acres of land for four laning of 2 lane ROB constructed on the Ballabhgarh Pali Dhauj Sohna Road on Mumbai-Delhi railway line. Apart from this, approval was also given to purchase 0.42



Approval was given to purchase 45 acres of land for the new district jail in district Fatehabad and 6 acres of land for new bus stand in Tohana. Approval was accorded for the purchase of 0.89 acres of land for four laning of 2 lane ROB constructed on the Ballabhgarh Pali Dhauj Sohna Road on Mumbai-Delhi railway line. Apart from this, approval was also given to purchase 0.42 acres of land for the expansion of STP constructed at Karnal.

Similarly, approval was given for the purchase of 2.60 acres of land for the construction of a road from Laliana to Chota Barola on Tangri river in Ambala district, 5 acres for the widening of the road from Datta to Lohari Ragho in Hisar district, 3.1 acres for construction of 2-lane ROB on Ladwa Saraswati road on Ambala-Saharanpur railway line. The Chief Minister also accorded approval for the purchase of 3 acres for the construction of a new road from Teori to Bajana, Kalan in Gannaur and 0.99 acres for the construction of a 2-lane ROB near Narela railway station in district Sonapat.

Interacting with the landowners, Khattar said that the development of government projects in their areas will greatly benefit them as well as the surrounding villages. This

will certainly give more impetus to the development along with generating several business and employment opportunities. Notably, the e-Bhoomi portal launched by the Chief Minister to buy land from landowners for government projects with their consent is proving to be a successful step. Now, land acquisition is not done for government projects, but the land is purchased with the consent of the land owners by offering a fixed rate. Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister DS Dhesi, Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Jail Department TVSN Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (Building and Roads) Department Ankur Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department Anurag Rastogi and others were present in the meeting.

MC Chandigarh and Smart City Limited partners with Patiala Foundation to promote road safety

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and Smart City Limited have partnered with Patiala Foundation, an NGO having UN Consultative status, to promote next-generation road safety mechanisms. The Patiala Foundation will showcase its collaborative efforts with MC and all the mechanisms of road safety, at the Economic and Social Forum of the United Nations in January 2023. MC Commissioner, Anindita Mitra said that Patiala Foundation has special consultative status conferred by the UN- ECOSOC since 2018. The NGO is actively running various projects in line with the multiple SDGs of the UN. The foundation is to participate in "The 2023 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)" to be held in January end at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Ravee Singh Ahluwalia, CEO of Patiala Foundation said it is a matter of privilege for the foundation to be able to participate at this prestigious International forum. He said they would be showcasing various projects of the NGO aligned with the SDGs at the side events and will also highlight the Non Motorised Transport Infrastructure and interventions for which they are actively working with the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh along with the various interventions on pedestrian safety. Ahluwalia said he is looking forward to learn from the experience.

BRIEFS

Minimum temperatures register slight increase in Haryana, Punjab

Chandigarh: Minimum temperatures registered a slight increase at most places in Haryana and Punjab on Friday, bringing relief from the severe cold conditions. Chandigarh recorded a minimum temperature of 10.2 degrees Celsius, according to the Met office's weather report. In Haryana, Ambala registered a low of 10 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature in Hisar settled at 9.1 degrees. Rohtak recorded a low of 11 degrees Celsius, Karnal 9.7 degrees, Sirsa 9.2 degrees and Kurukshetra 10.3 degrees. However, cold conditions prevailed in Narnaul, which recorded a low of 7.5 degrees Celsius. In Punjab, Amritsar recorded a minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius, Ludhiana 10 degrees, Patiala 8.6 degrees, Pathankot 10.5 degrees, Faridkot 9.5 degrees and Mohali 9.4 degrees. Bathinda, on the other hand, experienced a cold night, recording a low of 7 degrees Celsius.

Haryana to train regular and contractual staff on ethics in governance

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Friday said that the government is working towards formulating a training model for regular staff and contractual staff engaged through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN) in various departments. Kaushal was presiding over the 3rd Meeting of the State Training Council (STC). He directed the administrative secretaries to send the proposals at the earliest so that training modules can be designed as per the requirement for these officials. He also directed the administrative secretaries to identify the best practices followed in the prominent training institutes across the country which can be incorporated in the training modules of Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA).

Bypass roads will be constructed as per requirement in cities and towns, says Chautala

Chandigarh: Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Friday discussed the matter related to the construction of a new road from Dwarka Expressway to AIIMS Badsa, construction of link road connecting Mandkola Silani Road in Palwal district with DND, KMP and Delhi Vadodara Expressway. While presiding over the meeting of Public Works Department (Building and Roads), Chautala directed the officers to put up proposals regarding the construction of bypass roads at the earliest. He said that the network of roads is the most important component of a national multimodal transportation plan, adding that bypass roads will be constructed in the cities and towns across the state to ease traffic congestion.

Haryana Police seizes over 85,000 prohibited medicine, one held

Chandigarh: Haryana Police on Friday said it has seized a huge consignment of banned medicines including more than 10,000 capsules, 75,000 tablets, 300 bottles of syrups and 100 injections and arrested a person while he was carrying the contraband in a car in Yamunanagar. A spokesperson informed that seized prohibited medicines were being supplied in the state from Uttar Pradesh. A police team had received secret information that a suspected peddler will come from Uttar Pradesh to Haryana via Kalanaur with a huge consignment of drugs in his car. Immediately after getting the input, a team was formed that went to the Kalanaur border and started checking the vehicles at naka. Meanwhile, when a car was stopped and checked, a huge amount of medicines, fallen under the category of prohibited drugs was recovered from the vehicle. The arrested accused was identified as Amit Kumar, a resident of Barara in Ambala.

Six district IPR officers transferred in Hry Chandigarh

Chandigarh: Haryana Government on Friday issued postings and transfer orders of six District Information and Public Relations Officers with immediate effect. District Information and Public Relations Officer, Mewat (Nuh) Paru Lata has been posted as DIPRO, Fatehabad. DIPRO, Fatehabad Surender Singh has been posted as DIPRO, Bhiwani. DIPRO, Bhiwani Bijender Kumar has been posted as DIPRO, Jhajjar. DIPRO officer Pooja awaiting posting order has been posted to Mewat (Nuh). Deputy Director Devender Kumar, who is looking after the work of DIPRO, Palwal has been given additional charge of DIPRO, Nuh during the leave period of Pooja. Apart from this, Krishna Arya, IPR officer, Press Section has been posted to Haryana Raj Bhavan.

Delegation of Revenue Officers Association calls on Himachal CM

Shimla: A delegation of Himachal Pradesh Revenue Officers Association led by its President, Jai Gopal Sharma met Chief Minister, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday and apprised about their various demands. Sukhu assured that all their genuine demands will be considered sympathetically. Senior Vice President, Anil Mankotia, General Secretary, H.L. Ghezta and other office bearers and members of the association were also present on the occasion.



Dec 2021 Ludhiana Blast Probe: NIA raids in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Separate teams of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday conducted raids at two locations in Punjab in connection with the Ludhiana bomb blast case. The NIA teams raided the houses of two persons in Muktsar and Gurdaspur districts, probing the 2021 blast case on the basis of custodial interrogation of one of the most wanted terrorists Harpreet Singh, alias Happy Malaysia. As per sources, the raids continued for more than five hours. It has been learnt that the NIA teams have recovered nearly Rs 10 lakhs during the raids. Notably, on December 23, 2021, a blast rocked the Ludhiana court complex in which suspected bomber Gagandeep Singh was killed and six people injured.

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim again granted 40-day parole

Chandigarh: Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was on Friday again granted a 40-day parole, officials said. The latest parole to the Dera chief, who is serving a 20-year jail term for raping his two disciples, comes three months after he was granted a similar parole. "The parole has been granted for 40 days. It has been granted as per rules," Rohtak's Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma said. The Dera chief's last 40-day parole had ended on November 25 last year. He had gone to his Barnawa ashram in Uttar Pradesh after his release on October 14. Earlier, Haryana Jails Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala, while commenting on the Dera chief's fresh parole plea, had said the latter had filed an application seeking a 40-day parole which had been forwarded to the Rohtak divisional commissioner. During his parole period, the Dera chief is also likely to attend the birth anniversary event of former Dera chief Shah Satnam Singh on January 25, sources said. During his previous parole period in October-November, the 55-year-old Sirsa Dera chief held several online 'satsangs' at the Barnawa ashram in UP. Some of these were also attended by BJP leaders from Haryana. Prior to his October parole, the sect chief had come out of prison on a month-long parole in June. He was also granted three weeks furlough from February 7, 2022, barely two weeks before the Punjab Assembly elections. Agencies

Woman jail inmate shot inside Ambala Jail; Anil Vij re-creates crime scene

PNS ■ AMBALA / CHANDIGARH

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Friday himself recreated the crime scene in the case of a female prisoner being shot in the leg after reaching Ambala Central Jail.

Vij also instructed the investigation team to re-create the crime scene and investigate in the jail as well and said that "this case is challenging, but our police are working to solve it". The Home Minister reached Ambala Central Jail where a female prisoner was shot in the leg a day before and no one knows who hit her and from where the bullet came.

To solve the mystery, Vij inspected the crime scene along with Jail Superintendent Sanjeev Patra and Ambala SP Jashandeep Singh Randhawa and ballistic experts. He recreated the crime scene and learned from which direction the bullet came and how it hit the female prisoner's leg. The minister also inquired with the expert from which direction the bullet hit the female



prisoner. He directed the police to investigate the matter thoroughly. Apart from this, he directed all the teams to re-create the crime scene and conduct a thorough investigation in the jail as well. Talking to reporters, Vij said that the woman was shot inside the jail and it is being investigated from where the bullet came. For this, the ballistic expert team came on the spot and re-created the crime scene, to know from which direction the bullet came. After the woman recovers, she will also be

brought to the spot to see from which direction the bullet came. He was also instructed to search the entire jail because it is a very serious matter that it is not known how the bullet hit and where it came from. He said that the Superintendent of Police of Ambala is also investigating in this matter and a team has also been formed to investigate it. This is a challenging case and our police are investigating this case and solving this case. The woman inmate of the Ambala Central Jail had suf-

Police said the 37-year-old inmate was an undertrial. According to a doctor at the hospital, the inmate told them that she was in her barrack when some sharp object hit her and she fell down. She told doctors she noticed blood coming out from her foot. After this, the jail authorities sent her to the civil hospital for treatment

fered an injury in her leg from a bullet after which she was hospitalised and the doctors treating her said she was stable and out of danger. Police said the jail administration brought her to the civil hospital in Ambala City for treatment.

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Himachal targets to be 1st Green Energy State by 2025, says CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Aiming at preserving the environment of the State, the Government intends to make Himachal Pradesh as 1st Green Energy State by the end of 2025 by harnessing hydro, hydrogen and solar energy and switch on to green products which will enhance the premium and advantage in export, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Friday.

Presiding over a meeting of senior officers of Energy department, HPSEBL etc, he directed all the departments concerned including HPSEBL, HIMURJA, Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) and Department of Energy to initiate action in this direction and make policy changes, wherever required. He said that refurbishing the present system is essential and the departments should focus on harnessing green energy in the

best interest of the State. To ease the norms, Chief Minister directed the officers to make necessary amendments in the existing power policy and open all the solar projects upto 5 MW capacity for allotment. The State Government would also invest in Solar plants and will install 500 MW Solar projects during the year 2023-24, out of this, 200 MW would be installed by HPPCL for which land has been identified for 70 MW capacity and the rest of the sites will be finalized soon.

Solar projects upto 150 MW capacity would be installed by HIMURJA through private participation and priority would be given to Himachal's in awarding these projects, said the Chief Minister. The capacity of the projects will range from 250 KW to 1 MW, he added. To ensure that the State also gets some financial benefits, he directed HIMURJA to evolve a mechanism by seeking royalty of solar projects above 3 MW capacity. In case of land being given to PSUs for developing solar projects, some percentage of land equity may be charged.

'Vindicated' Nitish welcomes SC's 'no ban' on caste survey

PTI ■ PATNA
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss petitions challenging the caste survey being conducted by his Government, stating that the exercise was meant to benefit all sections of society.
Talking to reporters on the sidelines of 'Samadhan Yatra' mass outreach programme in his home district of Nalanda, the JD(U) leader expressed delight over "paksh mein faisla" (order in favour).
"I was appalled when I first learnt that a petition has been filed against the survey. I read it in a paper that the petitioner belonged to Bihar Sharif (the district headquarters of Nalanda). I felt like calling him up to know what was wrong with the survey," said Kumar.
"All political parties in the state were unanimously of the opinion that the survey be



undertaken. Moreover, it is intended to benefit all sections of the society. It is also a caste survey (jatiya ganana) and not a census (jana ganana)," said the CM.
Notably, the petition had challenged the survey claiming that it was a "census" which could be undertaken only by the Centre and not by a state government, and also expressed apprehensions that it could sharpen caste divides.
The decision to undertake the survey was taken by the state government in June last year after the Centre made it clear that it was reluctant to

include castes other than SCs and STs in the census.
Notably, the apex court refused to entertain the PIL, dubbing it as "publicity interest litigation", though it added that the petitioner could move the high court concerned.
About the quotas for EBCs in urban local bodies, which have been challenged by a separate petition slated for hearing next month, the chief minister said "in my view it is a settled issue. There were some technical issues which were sorted out as per the Patna High Court's order. Now elections are over and elected representatives are looking forward to discharging their duties".
Kumar was also asked about the 'Rozgar Mela' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi where people got jobs in various government departments, including railways, a portfolio the JD(U) leader had held under Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
"So much was achieved in the railways during my tenure,

EC removes 3 Tripura cops over inaction on political violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Election Commission (EC) on Friday ordered the removal of three police officers for not taking "appropriate action in time" after political violence broke out in Jirania sub-division of Tripura on Wednesday, soon after the poll panel announced Assembly elections in the State.
The EC ordered action against the Jirania Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Officer-in-charge of Rani Bazar Police Station, and officer-in-charge of Jirania Police Station.
Earlier in the day, the EC had ordered an inquiry into the political violence in Jirania that led to Congress Tripura in-charge Ajoy Kumar being injured. The AICC had on Thursday taken up the matter with the EC and the Commission asked the Tripura chief secretary and director general of police to explain why the situation escalated despite a sufficient number of CAPF personnel deployed in the state.
Expressing displeasure against the police over the incident, the EC said the Chief



Secretary and Director General of Police, Tripura were asked to explain as to why the situation escalated despite a sufficient number of CAPF personnel deployed in the State.
"The Commission conveyed its displeasure in no uncertain and strongest terms on the violent incident despite the Commission's strict directions during a visit to the state and thereafter. CS & DGP were directed to ensure level playing field for all political parties and to initiate strict action against partisan officers," the EC said.
"The Commission has directed CS & DGP to take stringent action against SDPO Jirania sub-division by suspending or removing him,

Ram Setu cannot be touched, BJP tells DMK regime

PTI ■ CUDDALORE (TN)
The Sethusamudram ship canal project may be implemented without causing any damage to Ram Setu, which is revered by the people, the BJP resolved in its State executive committee meet here on Friday.
Led by State unit president K Annamalai, the party meet demanded an apology from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin to the people for alleged use of language, that did not denote respect, against Governor R N Ravi.
Slamming the ruling party over the Vengaiyaval (Pudukkottai district) incident, the BJP demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for it and very stringent punishment for them.
The incident refers to mixing of human faeces in an overhead water tank in a Scheduled Caste residential neighbourhood under Vengaiyaval village in Pudukkottai district.

Cong seeks restoration of J&K statehood asap

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Barring for early restoration of 'Statehood' to Jammu & Kashmir the Congress on Friday launched a frontal attack on Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) claiming the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was passed by a 'brute majority' in the Rajya Sabha without any discussion and dialogue on August 5, 2019.
Meanwhile, after receiving a warm welcome at the gateway of J&K late Thursday evening the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, braving winter rain, Friday morning kicked-started the last leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Hatli Morh in Kathua. The yatra was delayed due to inclement weather conditions. For the first time he was seen donning a black raincoat over his white T-Shirt.
A tight security ring was thrown around Rahul as he embarked on the yatra. He was joined by the recipient of Param Vir Chakra Hony Captain (Retd) Bana Singh, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and several Congress leaders, including the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Vikar Rasool Wani and his predecessor G A Mir.
Enroute the yatra route a large number of local residents and Congress supporters,



carrying placards and garlands were seen cheering the participants of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.
After completing the 21 km long march the senior Congress leaders launched a scathing attack on the BJP while demanding early restoration of 'full statehood' along with the implementation of Article 371 of the Constitution.
Addressing a press conference senior Congress leader Jai Ram Ramesh in response to a question said the bill brought and passed in August 2019 on Jammu and Kashmir was not done in a democratic way.
"The bill was passed without discussion and dialogue and was passed by a brute majority," he said. "Jammu and Kashmir was a state. It was a full-fledged state. It turned into a Union Territory. We are against it."

Ayurvedic therapies, principles, lifestyle can keep many diseases at bay: Canadian Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Michael A Tibollo, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions of Ontario province in Canada, during his recent visit here was all praise for the India's traditional medicine Ayurveda which, he felt, can help ease the burden of hospitals in his home country as ayurvedic therapies, principles and lifestyle can keep many diseases at bay.
He made these observations during his visit to the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Sarita Vihar in the national capital recently.
Impressed with the facilities at the AIIA, an autonomous body under the Union Ayush



Ministry, Tibollo said, "The institute helped me to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the importance of East and West medicines and saw here the two can work together for the betterment of mankind.
"In Canada, we are much focussed on quick results. Many times, we forget about prevention, education and doing things that lead us to a better lifestyle. Many doctors over here shared their time with me today.

Teacher kidnaps Class VII student, rapes her in house

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
In a sensational incident, a teacher kidnapped a girl student studying in Class 7 and raped her. The incident took place in Aligarh.
According to Superintendent of Police (Rural) Palash Bansal, the age of the minor girl student is 13-14 years. When the girl did not return home after school, the family first searched here and there for a long time.
When they failed to trace her out, they lodged a 'missing' report with the local police.
The police became active as soon as the complaint was received from the victim's family. According to Palash Bansal, three police teams were deployed to search the girl. With the help of surveillance, the police reached the house of the accused teacher, recovered the student and arrested the accused. The girl was sent for medical examination and legal action was being taken by presenting the accused in the court.

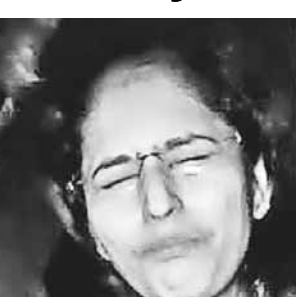
Nadda to flag off 9-day 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' in Karnataka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the party President J P Nadda have been regularly visiting the southern state.
To streamline the campaign strategy in Karnataka Modi had a meeting with former state CM and Lingayat strongman B S Yediyurappa on the sidelines of the BJP National Executive meeting on January 16.
BJP which would go alone to the poll has also been cultivating Vokkalga community in the southern Karnataka apart from Lingayat who are dominant in the Northern side of the state.
Nadda will flag off the nine-day state-wide Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra from Vijayapura on Saturday, the party said.
Last, year, the first BJP's campaign 'Yatra' in the state was covered by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Yediyurappa.
With Assembly elections due in the state in about four months, the BJP has intensified its poll campaign by launching the nine-day public outreach programme from Vijayapura.
The campaign is being launched two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Yadgir and Kalaburagi where he kicked started irrigation, drinking water and high-way projects and distribution of Hakku Patras (land title deeds) to the nomadic tribe Lambanis.
Nadda will reach Kalaburagi by a special flight on Saturday morning and reach the Gnana Yogashrama at Vijayapura and offer tributes to Sri Siddheshwara Mahaswamiji, who passed away recently, the state BJP media cell in-charge Karunakara Khasle said.
The BJP president will then proceed to Nagathana Assembly constituency to flag off the Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra, which will go on till January 29.



Lifeguard confesses to killing med student, search on for body

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
The Mumbai Police on Friday joined the Indian Navy to look for the body of a missing third-year MBBS student, after a lifeguard reportedly confessed to the investigators that he had killed the girl and dumped her body into the Arabian Sea.
Twenty-two-year-old Swadichcha Sane had gone missing in the last week of November 2021. She was last seen with Mittu Sukhdhe Singh, a lifeguard at the Bandra Bandstand on the evening of November 29, 2021.
Mittu Singh — who was arrested along with his associate Jabbar Ansari on January 13 in connection with the MBBS student missing case — has confessed to the police that he had killed Swadichcha in the early hours of November 30, 2021 and thrown her body into the sea near Bandra Bandstand.
Mittu Singh, a resident of Gandesh Nagar at Bandra, and Jabbar Ansari have been booked under sections 302



(murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
Following the reported confession by Singh that he had dumped Swadichcha's body, the Mumbai crime branch and Navy divers began search operations on Friday morning. The operation went on for better part of the day. They will resume the operation on Saturday.
Singh, who is in the Mumbai police custody till Saturday, had reportedly given some leads to the investigators in the case, during a narco-analysis test conducted on him a few months ago.
The investigators have recovered a selfie he took with Swadichcha. Among other things, Singh — who is the prime accused in the case — had told the police that he had befriended Swadichcha at the Bandra bandstand and moved closely with her, before killing her and dumping her body in the sea. The motive behind the murder has not been established yet.

Akhilesh to tour all LS seats in UP ahead of 2024 polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
In order to mobilise the party cadre ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav will soon commence a tour of all 80 Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh spread in 75 districts. The tour is expected to commence after the budget session of UP assembly in February.
"Protecting our turf during 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be a daunting task as the Bharatiya Janata Party, after its second consecutive victory in 2022 UP assembly elections, is far more resurgent and more organised than it was in previous Lok Sabha elections in 2019 and 2014," said a SP leader.
Moreover, he added, in the last Lok Sabha election held in 2019, the SP had contested only 37 seats and the rest were contested by its then allies Bahujan Samaj party and Rashtriya Lok Dal, but this time the SP will contest at least 70 seats.
"After the rise of Narendra Modi in 2014, the BJP has restricted the role of the regional parties in national politics to fringe level. Though the BJP leads an alliance -- National Democratic Alliance -- it has little significance as the BJP has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha. Besides protecting our turf, regaining the lost glory in national politics is yet another challenge before the SP and similar outfits in other states," a SP leader said.
SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said the party chief would tour all the districts of UP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections to "hold dialogue with public and party workers".
Chaudhary said when Akhilesh Yadav recently visited several jails in various districts to meet the party leaders who have been lodged there; he also held meetings with local party leaders and workers besides interacting with the people.
"For the 2024 polls, Akhilesh Yadav will have to focus on larger swathes of UP as the party does not have an alliance with any big party like the BSP this time. He will have to make extra efforts to reach out to voters of all sections, including non-Yadav Other Backward Classes and Dalits. The challenge is bigger for Akhilesh Yadav because the SP does not have any other prominent face to reach out to non-Yadav voters," said a party leader.
Sources in the SP said before embarking on his state-wide tour, Akhilesh Yadav was expected to constitute the party's national executive committee as well as UP's state executive committee. The functionaries and members of these committees would be entrusted with the responsibilities to execute the party's election plan on the ground, they added.
The sources said Akhilesh Yadav himself was likely to contest the Lok Sabha election from Kannauj if his wife Dimple Yadav re-contests from Mainpuri seat that she recently won in the bypoll caused by death of sitting MP and party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav.
In the 2019 polls, the SP had managed to win just five seats, with key members of the Yadav family losing the election. Dimple had then lost from Kannauj seat, Akhilesh's cousin Dharmendra Yadav lost Budaun while his other cousin Akshay Yadav, son of senior party leader Ram Gopal Yadav, faced defeat in Firozabad.
Subsequently, BSP supremo Mayawati broke up the alliance with Akhilesh. Her party had fared better than the SP in the polls, winning 10 of 38 seats it contested.



Opp leader urges anti-BJP forces to join CPI(M)-Cong rally in Tripura

PTI ■ AGARTALA
Opposition CPI(M) leader in Tripura Manik Sarkar on Friday appealed to all anti-BJP parties to join a rally that would be taken out by the leaders and workers of the two parties.
Addressing a public meeting in poll-bound Tripura's Hrishyamukh Assembly constituency, he alleged that "democracy has been destroyed in the State under the BJP rule, with opposition parties failing to carry out regular activities, and people living in fear".
The leader of opposition in Tripura Assembly claimed that at least 25 CPI(M) functionaries were killed during the 59-month-long BJP-IPFT rule.
"Hrishyamukh representative Badal Chowdhury, party legislator Sudhan Das and former minister Ratan Bhowmik had also come under attack of BJP-harboured goons," Sarkar said.
"Despite FIR registrations, mentioning names of all potential accused, not a single criminal has been apprehended by the police yet. This is why we say that a jungle raj has been instituted in Tripura, where the police, too, can't act independently," he stated.
The former CM claimed that "minorities were the worst sufferers" in the BJP regime.
"They were not allowed to freely perform rituals, like the



People create a 'rangoli' at the inauguration of 'Millets and Organics - International Trade Fair 2023', in Bengaluru on Friday. (PTI Photo)

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Taking on Govt

The Supreme Court has put up its communication with the Government on its website

The Supreme Court seems to have decided to take on the Government over the issue of the appointment of judges. Putting up its communication with the Centre in the public domain, the collegium judges, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, have made it clear that they are not going to take the almost daily badgering from the Centre lying down. Making the communication public was a big decision for them; the top judges reportedly deliberated for four days before taking this unprecedented step. Till the time of writing these lines, there has been no response from the Government to the SC's communication. This is not a desirable situation; the judiciary and the executive should act in harmony, not in conflict. Owing to differences in perspectives and lines of thinking, there can be occasion



friction; this happens elsewhere as well. In the United States, for instance, the differences become pronounced over important matters like gun control and abortion. The tensions, however, cannot be allowed to linger on for longer periods; but, unfortunately, that is what is happening. In 2015, the apex court struck down the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC), the alternative judges' appointment mechanism. Since then, the Government has been smarting under that ruling. In the last few months, its unease over the collegium system has been articulated by many a personage — from Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Lok Sabha

Speak Om Birla. Worse, the articulation has sometimes bordered on abrasiveness.

While the executive has been ham-handed, the judiciary has not been very prompt in resolving the issue. Months ago, CJI Chandrachud had said that the collegium system would be reconsidered; not much seems to have happened since then, even as Government functionaries have been becoming impatient and sometimes intemperate. Posting letters signed by top judges on the SC website also has the potential to further flare up the matter. The apex court judges have reasons to disagree with the Centre's refusal to elevate the three candidates to the Delhi, Bombay, and Madras High Courts. Saurabh Kirpal was denied judgeship because of his sexual orientation and the foreign nationality of his partner; this smacks of a socially reactionary attitude. Similarly, the rejection of Somasekar Sundaresan and R John Sathyan, because one of them was critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the other of the Citizenship Amendment Act, doesn't seem proper. The Supreme Court has correctly trashed the Government's objections, but one wonders if this needed to be done publicly. Besides, as we said earlier, a bit of urgency on the part of the top court over the collegium would go a long way in smoothing its relationship with the Government. Two organs of the State bickering with each other all the time is not a good advertisement for either India or democracy.

PICTALK



Aircrafts of the Indian Armed Forces fly-past during rehearsals for the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi -PTI

PM's advice

Prime Minister Modi has asked the BJP cadre to refrain from making comments on irrelevant issues

“Too little too late.” That is how the prime minister's advice to the BJP cadre can be summed up. In the recently held national executive meeting of the BJP, Prime Minister, Modi advised the BJP cadres not to comment on the ‘irrelevant issues’ such as movies as it puts the party's development agenda on the back burner. The advice fell short of a stern warning and down played the movies as an ‘irrelevant issue.’ Maintaining silence on issues that are raging tantamount to endorsing them. The Prime Minister's advice comes after the Shah Rukh Khan starrer ‘Pathan’ was attacked for an orange bikini. But this time the tirade against the film did not work and the so-called moral policemen were on the backfoot as many videos of the actors who are now BJP leaders appeared on social media which had equally or more provocative scenes and the lady lead wore orange. How could it be that the PM did not know about what was happening in the country for so many years and that campaign after campaign was run on social media and on public platforms to boycott Hindi cinema for its content? The right-wingers maintain that Bollywood is skewed against Hindu ideals and shows films that challenge Hindu tenets. They seem to be working in tandem to disrupt the release of the films and stifle the film industry by making it incur losses on every film. Sadly, their campaigns have been successful.



In fact, it is not just the ground worker who are galvanized, various high-ranking leaders of the BJP have been part and parcel of the ‘choke Bollywood’ campaign. Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra had last month objected to actor Deepika Padukone's attire in the ‘Besharam Rang’ song in the Hindi film ‘Pathan’. The minister had earlier also raised objections over certain content in some other movies on pretext of defending Indian culture and traditions. Mishra had warned if certain scenes were not “corrected”, the govt would consider what to do about its screening. On the same lines, BJP MLA from Maharashtra Ram Kadam had also threatened the filmmakers with dire consequences. If there is obscenity in the shot or the storyline is objectionable, there is a censor board to take care of that. But once the film has been cleared by it then it is nobody's business to disrupt the screening by vandalizing cinema halls. Nobody should be allowed to indulge in hooliganism and threaten the livelihood of thousands of people. If you don't like the film, don't watch it. Simple.

While the executive has been ham-handed, the judiciary has not been very prompt in resolving the issue. Months ago, CJI Chandrachud had said that the collegium system would be reconsidered; not much seems to have happened since then, even as Government functionaries have been becoming impatient and sometimes intemperate. Posting letters signed by top judges on the SC website also has the potential to further flare up the matter. The apex court judges have reasons to disagree with the Centre's refusal to elevate the three candidates to the Delhi, Bombay, and Madras High Courts. Saurabh Kirpal was denied judgeship because of his sexual orientation and the foreign nationality of his partner; this smacks of a socially reactionary attitude. Similarly, the rejection of Somasekar Sundaresan and R John Sathyan, because one of them was critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the other of the Citizenship Amendment Act, doesn't seem proper. The Supreme Court has correctly trashed the Government's objections, but one wonders if this needed to be done publicly. Besides, as we said earlier, a bit of urgency on the part of the top court over the collegium would go a long way in smoothing its relationship with the Government. Two organs of the State bickering with each other all the time is not a good advertisement for either India or democracy.

Waging a proxy war on Constitution

A pattern is emerging wherein people manning high constitutional posts attack the constitution itself. Is it spontaneous or by design?



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

It is now becoming fashionable to question the basic premise of our democratic constitutional institutions and even the constitution itself. The sad part is it is being questioned by the people who have taken the oath to uphold the Constitution. There have been many instances when the Governors have questioned the established norms of the democratic life and enraged the democratically elected government of the state they are the ceremonial head of.

The latest Challenger on the block is the Vice President who though a lawyer himself by profession now wants the basic structure being changed by overturning the Kesavananda Bharati judgment which had unequivocally established the norms of the political discourse in the country way back in the year 1973. The Supreme Court judgment by a 13-member bench had said that though the parliament was supreme it was not above the constitution from where it derived its authority and it had the power to amend the Constitution but did not have the authority to change its basic structure. It was a landmark judgment that has kept the sanctity of the constitution intact for so many years. This was the power of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment that even during the Emergency the all-powerful Indira Gandhi could not change it to curb fundamental rights or constitutional guarantees of upholding democratic values.

It is sad that it comes from a legal luminary like Mr Dhankhar and in the times when the government is projecting the country as the “mother of democracies” in its presidency of G20. Having said that, there is more to it than meets the eye. It is not just an emotional outburst or a personal opinion. It has a pattern to it. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has always been ill at ease with the Constitution and for that matter with the Supreme Court and would like to have its wings clipped. Muzzling its concerns from the people upholding constitutional posts gives its case weight and attention. And it is no secret that Jagdip



Dhankhar has had strong RSS support. When Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's name came up, the RSS pushed Jagdeep Dhankhar and had its way. A strong link with senior RSS leaders enabled Jagdeep Dhankhar to sail through. His RSS friends, Indresh Kumar and Kamlesh Singh were instrumental in lobbying for his nomination.

The office of the vice president is not the only one which is being used for pushing an agenda to subvert the judiciary and constitution itself; many Governors are doing it with missionary zeal. The ones heading the opposition governments are doing it with élan.

To begin with, Jagdip Dhankhar's tenure as West Bengal governor was marked by his somewhat queer conduct. West Bengal Governor Dhankhar summoned the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police on a regular basis and when they did not turn up he took the matter to Twitter and tagged the Chief Minister. Dhankhar also had a run-in with Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee on the premises of the State Assembly. He withheld assent to the Howrah Municipal Corporation



LET US FACE IT, THE CEREMONIOUS OFFICES (OF GOVERNORS, ETC.) ARE MANNED BY PEOPLE WHOSE POLITICAL CAREER IS ALL BUT OVER AND IT IS THEIR REHABILITATION OF SORTS

(Amendment) Bill 2021, delaying polls to the civic body. And he had company in other states.

Kerala Governor, Arif Mohammad Khan is at loggerheads with the Kerala government to the point where he is almost on the verge of breaching his constitutional mandate. He thinks that he has the power to dismiss the ministers. Every school child knows that Governors are supposed to act on the ‘advice’ of the council of ministers, headed by the chief minister. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, the Governor of Maharashtra didn't think twice to hurt the Marathi sentiment with his foul-mouthed tirade at Shivaji Maharaj and embarrassing the erstwhile Shiv Sena govt headed by Uddhav Thackeray. Koshiyari stalled the election of the Speaker since the post fell vacant in February 2021. The Governor's view that the State Assembly cannot decide its own rules was taking his mandate a bit too far. He had refused to accept the recommendation of the Council of Ministers on the nomination of 12 members to the Legislative Council until the matter reached the High Court.

The conduct of the Tamil Nadu Governor is no less

absurd. Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has not acted upon the TN Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, adopted by the Assembly in September 2021. But most intriguing is his decision to unilaterally change the name of the state. Not to forget the Delhi LG Vinai Saxena who would like to take all decisions that ought to be taken by the chief minister. The SC judge YS Chandrachud quipped that if the central government is to take all decisions, why have an elected government in the state?

Let us face it, the ceremonial offices (of governors, etc.) are manned by people whose political career is all but over and it is their rehabilitation of sorts. They are appointed for being in the good books of the powers that be. So allegiance to their political bosses comes naturally to them. But at the same time, they ought to realise they must hold the sanctity of the institution they man. After all, their first and foremost allegiance should be to the country they belong to.

(The writer is a columnist and a documentary filmmaker. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHOCKING INCIDENT

Sir — Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Chairperson Swati Maliwal, was dragged by the car for 10-15 meters, at around 3.11 am opposite AIIMS gate 2, after her hand got stuck in the car's window as the driver, Harish Chandra (47), suddenly pulled up glass window while she was reprimanding him as he asked her to sit in his car. On being refused, he drove past her only to come back a second time and ask her again to board the vehicle. This time, Maliwal said, she approached the vehicle from the driver's side window to reprimand the man but he quickly rolled up the glass pane, trapping her hand in it, and then drove on for 10-15 meters.

It's proved why the Delhi police under Home Minister Amit Shah built up Delhi as the rape capital of India. Under Shah's nose on New Year's Day, was not a car allegedly driven for about 13 km, dragging the 20-year-old Anjali Singh through the Delhi streets and killing her? And now the DCW chairperson, who went for a reality check about women's safety at night under the Delhi police, but got the taste of reality.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

PERMISSIBLE PUNISHMENT

Sir — The Karnataka High Court has struck down a special court order that awarded punishment below the minimum level under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act. It is a well-settled principle of law that punishment below the minimum level or above the maximum level is not permissible. Keeping this in mind the High Court has increased the jail term from 5 years to 7 years for an accused under PoCSO Act. The very rationale behind fixing minimum or maximum punishment must be understood. Any punishment should be either minimum or maximum or for any period in between the minimum and maximum level based on the quantum of crime committed by the accused. Punishment below the minimum or above the maximum level is in gross violation of that prescribed in law. The sanctity of laws is pro-

PM with a human touch



When sporting hijab is being prohibited, discouraged or frowned upon by India and many non-Islamic countries around the world, New Zealand has proved itself as a bright exception in this regard under the leadership of Jacinda Ardern who ensured the promotion of a dress associated with people who are settlers in that country! Not to forget that when innocent Muslims were massacred in a Christchurch Mosque in early 2019; Ardern not only sported a hijab, despite being a Christian, to show solidarity with the community; she also termed the Muslims as ‘THEY ARE US’!

Apart from her impeccable secularism, Ardern led from the front while tackling the deadly pandemic ensuring minimum loss of precious human lives. Again, what a contrast to many

nations around the world whose leaders remained concentrated on pursuing their personal and political agendas when the virus was at its deadly worst resulting in deaths exceeding several lakhs! And last but not least. Just like an ‘ordinary’ citizen, the New Zealand PM walks in with her partner in a Wellington Cafe during the initial phase of the unlock process. But due to physical distancing measures in place, the cafe was ‘full’ and the PM was refused admission! Most sportingly Jacinda accepted it and moved on!

So just like she moved on from the restaurant with utmost graciousness by respecting the laws of the land, the noble lady has now moved on from the highest chair of the land most voluntarily to remain accountable to the nation as she ‘being human’ has ‘no more in the tank’! What an honest humble confession, unlike the self-declared ‘superhuman’ leaders of many ‘mighty’ democracies who instigate their blind admirers to launch a physical attack on Government edifices on getting defeated in polls or shamelessly clinging to their Chairs by hook or crook despite drastic failure in all sectors of governance and call names of their critics who dare to show them the mirror!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

tected only when laws are not misinterpreted or not violated.

On the same analogy, the competent authorities in government departments cannot punish employees reducing the pay to below the minimum level. Improper application of laws creates many unwanted litigations in the courts of law.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

COLLEGIUM'S RECOMMENDATION

Sir — The Supreme Court Collegium has reiterated its November 11, 2021 recommendation for appointing senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, an openly gay person, as a judge of the Delhi High Court, rejecting the Centre's contention that though homosexuality stands decriminalized in India, same-sex marriage is still bereft of recognition. The three-member

Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and also comprising Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph said the proposal for appointment of Kirpal as a judge of the high court has been pending for over five years.

Kirpal is the son of the former Chief Justice of India BN Kirpal. The Collegium's statement lauded Kirpal for being open about his sexual orientation, saying it “goes to his credit” that he has not been surreptitious about it. Kirpal possesses “competence, integrity, and intellect” and his appointment will add value to the Delhi High Court and provide inclusion and diversity.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

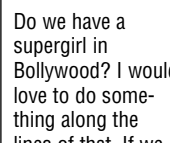
I keep saying. I want nothing for myself. I only have one dream - to see opposition leaders unite and forge ahead. That will benefit the country.



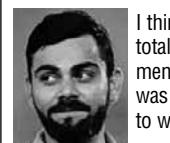
Bihar CM — Nitish Kumar



I believe that the grounds for my listing are based on heresy and disinformation by the Indian government. I never met Osama Bin Laden, or Ayman Al-Zawahiri. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative — Abdul Rehman Makki



Do we have a supergirl in Bollywood? I would love to do something along the lines of that. If we can have superheroes, why can't we have supergirls? Actor — Anushka Ranjan



I think he (Gill) was totally in his element today Today it was just a privilege to watch him bat. Indian cricketer — Virat Kohli



Vijay Merchant once said about retiring: Go when people ask why is he going instead of why isn't he going. Kiwi PM, Jacinda Ardern has just said she is quitting following Merchant's maxim. Indian politics needs more like her. Congress leader — Jairam Ramesh

FIRST COLUMN
CRYPTO-CURRENCIES SHOULD BE BANNED

There should be no two opinions about banning them



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has predicted that the next financial crisis will happen because of private crypto-currencies. Speaking at the Business Standard BFSI Insight Summit, he claimed that those private crypto-currencies have no "underlying" value and pose risks for macroeconomic and financial stability.

"Crypto-currency has certain huge inherent risks for our macroeconomic and financial stability, and we have been pointing it out. After looking at the latest episode of FTX. I don't think we need to say anymore," the RBI governor said.

He further said that, unlike any other asset, or any other product, "our main concern about the crypto currencies is that it does not have any underlying whatsoever". He reiterated that crypto currencies should be prohibited because if it is allowed to grow then, "mark my words, the next financial crisis will come from private crypto-currencies".



Even the earlier verdict from the Supreme Court, allowing transactions in private crypto currencies, is on account of absence of any definite stand of the government on the issue involved. In April 2018, the Reserve Bank of India enforced curbs for crypto trading in India. Crypto-currency exchanges scored a victory after the Supreme Court endorsed their stand against curbs put in place by the RBI that effectively outlawed virtual currencies in India. The verdict came on petitions by Internet and Mobile Association of India and others challenging the RBI circular that said the entities regulated by the RBI were prohibited by "providing any service in relation to virtual currencies, including those of transfer or receipt of money in accounts relating to purchase or sale of virtual currencies".

While deciding the case, the Supreme Court said the following: "When the consistent stand of the RBI is that they have not banned virtual currencies and when the Government of India is unable to take a call despite several panels coming with several proposals, including two draft Bills, both of which advocated exactly opposite positions, it is not possible for us to hold that the impugned measure is proportionate."

On an earlier occasion, the RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said that banning crypto-currencies is the most advisable choice for India as they are akin to Ponzi schemes and "may even be worse".

However, a written reply provided by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to a query in the Lok Sabha shows that the government is not serious about prohibiting crypto currencies. She replied that "RBI is of the view that crypto currencies should be prohibited. Crypto currencies are by definition borderless and require international collaboration to prevent regulatory arbitrage. Therefore, any legislation for regulation or for banning can be effective only after significant international collaboration on evaluation of the risks and benefits and evolution of common taxonomy and standards."

But her stance that crypto-currencies can be banned only with international collaboration is not convincing. There is a possibility that the crypto currencies may be used for all sorts of anti-national and terrorist activities. There is no need to wait for any international collaboration to ban crypto currencies within our country. As rightly said by the Deputy Governor, it is like a Ponzi scheme and it should have been banned a long time back. At least now it should be banned, better late than never.

She wanted to bring crypto trade within the ambit of taxation. Taxation may make the crypto trade costly. According to a KuCoin report, despite the local government's stance on digital assets and the levying of a 30 per cent tax on income received from digital assets, the Indian crypto currency market is expected to reach \$241 million by 2030. When the RBI governor is emphatic in his view that crypto currency is going to be the instrument for next financial crisis, the policy makers must act quickly to ensure that our economy is insulated from such a crisis.

(The author is a retired banker)

BJP shows trust is won by hard work

Politics is not the means to grab power for the BJP but to serve people, for which it has toiled for decades



SUMET BHASIN

The national executive meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) affirmed that politics for the party is a means for service to the people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concluding speech in the meeting laid the roadmap for the party to further deepen ties with the people through selfless service. The spirit that guided the BJP to work for the people, who were in distress following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, remains at the centre-stage of the core thinking of the party leadership.

Politics is not the means to grab power for the BJP. The party will choose to walk the long path in the service of the people. The BJP has toiled for decades. The party has a core ideology, which united the cadre and the workers. The ideology is that India's national interest is supreme. Nation First, thus, is not just a slogan, but 'Dharma' of the BJP. This has been reiterated in the national executive meeting of the BJP.

Opposition can take a closer look and learn several lessons from the functioning of the BJP. First is that there is no short cut in politics. The BJP has never taken the shortest route in achieving its political goals. The BJP will prefer to take the long route than compromise with the national interests. This is the foremost lesson that Opposition parties can learn from the BJP. Congress in particular is in a dire need to take lessons from the functioning of the BJP.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is leading the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. No one knows what the aims are of the yatra, for there is no vision. Congress has never engaged in politics of agitation. This has been because Congress has always been used to being in power and its leaders never thought of being with the people. In contrast, the BJP has spearheaded several agitations, and fought against Emergency when Congress threatened democracy.

Even during the yatra, Rahul Gandhi has sought to showcase that he could attract the well-known faces. But he could not avoid irony and contradictions. He held an interaction with the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Raghuram Rajan. All that Rajan advocated for the wellbeing of the economy has already been done by the Modi government in the last eight years. Yet, Rahul Gandhi delighted in his company, as if an unheard of economic prescriptions were emerging out of their 'enlightened' conversations. The people were rightly ridiculed, as the show lacked the substance.

Yatra without a vision is bogus. In contrast, PM Modi has been leading the country with a clear vision, which has been well brought before the people on several occasions, which enjoy the popular support as reflected in the mandates of 2014 and 2019



THE CONGRESS AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES SHOULD COUNT THE NUMBER OF BJP PRESIDENTS SINCE 1980 AND COMPARE WITH THEIR HEADS OF PARTIES IN THE SAME PERIOD. IN CONGRESS, NON-GANDHIS HAVE HELD THE POSITION OF THE PARTY PRESIDENT BARELY FOR A FEW YEARS

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)

Lok Sabha elections and several Assembly polls.

Even in the national executive meeting of the BJP, PM Modi laid down the roadmap for the next 400 days, which included the task to the BJP workers to form a close bond with the people living in the border areas. The Modi government is already implementing the 'Parvatmala' scheme to mainstream the development works in 13 Himalayan states, which have borders with neighbouring countries. By asking the BJP workers to forge close bonds with the people living in the border areas, PM Modi has again accorded 'Nation First' spirit to the party workers.

Also, PM Modi called for the BJP workers to help the government achieve saturation of the schemes run by the Central and the state governments. Besides, PM Modi also reiterated to the BJP workers to reach out to the weaker sections of the society and help them climb the social ladders with economic empowerment.

The message of PM Modi and the style of functioning of the government under his leadership is that of participative governance. When the Modi government launches schemes such as 'Pradhan Mantri Aadarsh Sansad Gram Yojna', the effort is to take forward the participative governance model, which involves the elected representatives, the people and the officials who execute the works.

It may be noted that the BJP narrowly lost the elections for the Municipal Corporation of

Delhi despite 15 years of anti-incumbency, because the people have forged close bonds with the party. The BJP by sticking to the participative governance model has shown that democracy can actually deliver when the people take part in the decision making as well as in the implementation of the works. This is sharply in contrast to the Opposition parties who still practice from the comforts of the drawing rooms with armchair experts.

The political resolution adopted in the national executive of the BJP is also an outright condemnation of the 'stone-pelting' politics of the Opposition parties, which levelled all sorts of unsubstantiated allegations against the Modi government in the last eight years. But the allegations were found to have been bogus and mischievous even by the judiciary, while they were trashed by the people's courts on several occasions. The Opposition parties need to indulge in soul searching with honest study of the political resolution adopted by the BJP's national executive, which is a document of the monumental failure of the Opposition parties in discharging their duties as mandated by the people.

The BJP national executive also extended the tenure of the party chief JP Nadda. The Congress and other Opposition parties should count the number of BJP presidents since 1980 and compare with their heads of parties in the same period. In Congress, non-Gandhis have held

the position of the party president barely for a few years. But the BJP has shown that democracy truly delivers when it's practiced within the party, as is the case in the election of the party president. A party worker can truly aspire to become the president of the BJP.

But the Congress never tires of launching, relaunching a leader who has repeatedly failed. Congress still has a 30-year-old election strategy. The party has become a poor sibling of the wizard of freebies, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in taking the shortcut to grab power.

Former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who was the trusted aide of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, has been on record to say that reviving the Old Pension Scheme will jeopardize the prospects of the next generations, while committing to policy bankruptcy. But Congress has no shame in promising in elections that the party will bring the OPS. It can numb sensible people that Congress had carried forward the decision of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government to introduce the New Pension Scheme.

The BJP has come to power by toiling hard with the people for decades. The party was at the forefront in the agitation for the liberation of Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits, cow slaughter, Ram Jannabhoomi, triple talaq. The Opposition parties need to learn a lot from the BJP.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

A CAR DRIVER... MOLESTED ME. IF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION IS NOT SAFE IN DELHI, THEN IMAGINE THE SITUATION.
— CHAIRPERSON OF DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
SWATI MALIWAL



WE HAVE TAKEN A WRITTEN COMPLAINT FROM HER. THE ACCUSED HAS BEEN APPREHENDED.
— DELHI COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (SOUTH)
CHANDAN CHOWDHARY

China is expanding PLA despite a failing economy

The next great war may come out of some damned foolish thing in the South China Sea or the East China Sea

Alliances are as old as civilisation. Older, actually: almost every hunter-gatherer band that anthropologists have studied, from the New Guinea highlanders to the Yanomamo in the Amazon, made alliances with other groups to try to protect themselves.

But they often also ended up fighting people they had no quarrel with. 'The enemy of my enemy is my friend' is the usual logic that the alliances are built on, but people tend to overlook the fact that alliances also mean that 'the enemy of my ally is my enemy too'.

Right now, the various regional alliances that already exist seem to be consolidating into a single all-embracing alliance system. It was that



GWYNNE DYER

kind of system that made the First World War happen, and we probably don't want to see that happen again.

Only three years ago there was only one big alliance in the world: the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), founded in 1949, victorious in the Cold War, and more recently an alliance in search of a new role. Almost everybody in Europe and North America belonged to it.

Apart from that, the United States had bilateral alliances or alliance-like arrangements with a number of countries in the Middle East (Israel), East Asia (Japan, South Korea and perhaps Taiwan) and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand).

Three of the world's biggest countries, China,

India and Russia, had no military alliances worth talking about. Unless you think that the China-North Korea, India-Bhutan and Russia-Armenia alliances count.

It was, in other words, a loosely-coupled world: something could go really bad in one part of the planet, and countries in other regions would not necessarily be dragged into it.

The shift began with rising concern in the Asia-Pacific countries and the United States about the irresistible rise of president-for-life Xi Jinping to supreme power in China. The response to that was the Quad, formally the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: the US, India, Australia and Japan. Founded in 2017, it began

as just a talking shop, but after bitter clashes between Indian and Chinese troops on the Himalayan frontier in 2020, India came fully on board, participating in the first joint naval exercises with the other three Quad members in 2020.

Then came AUKUS, an alliance uniting the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, with the initial task of arranging for Australia to get a fleet of nuclear-powered attack submarines. It was transparently designed to challenge China's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea.

This pretty well completed the architecture for an 'Indo-Pacific NATO' whose members would account for about a third of the world's GDP. The original NATO members account for about

45 per cent of global GDP (although the US and the UK are being double-counted in this reckoning).

While China's more belligerent style under Xi certainly accounts for the speed at which a counter-balancing alliance took shape in the region, the equal and opposite reaction to this enterprise was the announcement of a "no limits" partnership by Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in early 2022.

All this happened before Russia invaded Ukraine again in February of last year (having done it once already in 2014).

You can see how everybody was reacting in large part to moves by the other 'side', and why Xi backed off quickly from his 'no limits'

partnership with Russia once he realised how obsessed Putin was with his Ukraine legacy project.

Nevertheless, the game is now afoot, and it will be hard to stop. Germany announced that it was doubling its defence budget last February; Japan said it would do the same last month. China is rapidly expanding its armed forces despite a failing economy, and Russia's growing derangement is hard to ignore.

All the planners and the analysts insist that they have it under control. We shouldn't worry that we are living through a high-speed replay of the creation of the entangling alliances that dragged everybody into the First World War. This is a different time. My problem is that I can't

see what is so different about this time. Outside the specific and well-contained war in Ukraine, there are no great issues of principle at stake, and none of the great powers is planning to destroy or subjugate any of the others. (Ukraine is not a great power, so that doesn't count.)

Count Otto von Bismarck, first Chancellor of the newly united German Empire, remarked in 1878 that "One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans." As it did, in 1914, once all the alliances were in place.

The next great war may come out of some damned foolish thing in the South China Sea. Or the East China Sea, for that matter.

Russia claims progress in eastern Ukraine; Kyiv craves tanks

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

Russia claimed on Friday to have captured a village in its intense, months-long push toward the eastern Ukraine city of Bakhmut, as military analysts cautioned that tanks that may be sent by Kyiv's Western allies wouldn't be a magic wand in the almost 11-month war.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov told a regular media briefing that the village of Klishchiivka, nine kilometers (five miles) south of Bakhmut, had been "liberated."

The claim couldn't be independently verified, and Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment on the claim.

Taking Klishchiivka would be only a minor breakthrough, but the Kremlin is hungry for good news from the battlefield after months of setbacks. Bakhmut, on the other hand, would be a bigger prize. It could allow Russia to disrupt Ukrainian supply lines in the east and threaten other Ukrainian-held cities in the surrounding region.

The war has been largely static during the winter months, according to military analysts, except for some hot spots like Bakhmut and nearby Soledar.

The Kremlin's forces have kept up their long-distance shelling of Ukrainian targets, hitting key infrastructure and civilian areas, while probing Ukrainian defenses in the east.

The Ukrainian presidential



office said Friday that at least five civilians were killed over the previous 24 hours, while six others were wounded, as Russian forces shelled seven regions in the country's south and east.

Ukrainian troops repelled Russian attacks near a number of settlements in the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Ukrainian General Staff said in a report.

John Lough, an Associate Fellow in the Russia and Eurasia program at the Chatham House think tank in London, said that the Ukraine battlefield situation is "inconclusive," with a renewed Russian push expected in the spring. The war is "quite delicately poised," he told The Associated Press.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has pleaded

with Western allies to send tanks that would help punch through Russian lines, and Western countries were discussing that possibility at a meeting in Germany on Friday. The United Kingdom said last week that it would provide Challenger 2 tanks.

Marina Miron, of the Defense Studies Department at King's College London, said that tanks are useful, but lots of factors need to be

taken into account.

Those factors include how many tanks will be sent, what condition they are in, how Ukrainian crews will be trained, when the tanks will be delivered and how the Ukrainians keep them supplied.

Sending tanks is "more of a political gesture" than something that will change the complexion of the war, Miron told the AP.

CIA director visits Kyiv, meets with Zelenskyy

AP ■ WASHINGTON

CIA Director William Burns visited Kyiv last week to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a US official has said, in the latest example of high-level contacts between the US and Ukraine.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday to discuss the director's classified schedule, declined to disclose what Burns and Zelenskyy discussed. Burns also met with Ukrainian intelligence officials. The CIA director has briefed Zelenskyy repeatedly before and since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine last February, passing on US intelligence findings about Moscow's war plans and intentions.

The war launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin is soon to enter its second year having resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and with no clear resolution on the horizon. Washington is about to send another USD 2.5 billion in aid to Ukraine, including for the first time Stryker armoured vehicles.

Burns' meeting with Zelenskyy was first reported by The Washington Post.

The CIA director told PBS NewsHour last month that agency



analysts predicted "a reduced tempo and fighting between the two militaries as winter sets in."

"I don't underestimate for a moment the burdens, the challenges, that this war poses for Ukrainians first and foremost, but for all of us who support Ukraine," said Burns, a former US ambassador to Moscow. "But strategically, I think, in many ways, you know, Putin's war has thus far been a failure for Russia."



Coast Guard monitoring Russian spy ship on patrol off Hawaii

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A Russian spy ship has been patrolling off the coast of Hawaii but so far has remained in international waters, the Pentagon said.

While the appearance of a Russian surveillance ship along the US coastline is not unusual, this one has attracted more attention because of heightened tensions between the US and Russia over Moscow's invasion

of Ukraine and veiled threats to employ nuclear weapons.

The Vishnya-class Kareliya surveillance ship has been monitored by the US Coast Guard sailing near Hawaii over the last several weeks.

"I can't speak to why the Russians are sailing the ship right now, it's kind of precarious timing," said Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh on Thursday. She said the Coast Guard is still monitoring the ship, which has been operating in international waters.

"We haven't seen any unsafe or unprofessional behaviour and we expect that the Russians will operate within the region in accordance with international law," Singh said. In a video posted to Twitter by the Coast Guard, the ship appears to be either being towed by another ship or in a resupply mode.

US Indo-Pacific Command is monitoring the Russian vessels operating in international waters in the Western Pacific," the Pentagon said in a statement. "As Russia operates within the region, it is expected to do so in accordance with international law."

Defence leaders meet amid dissent over tanks for Ukraine

AP ■ RAMSTEIN AIR BASE

Defence leaders gathered at Ramstein Air Base in Germany heard an impassioned plea for more aid Friday from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as they struggled to resolve ongoing dissent over who will provide battle tanks and other military aid to his embattled country.

"This is a crucial moment. Russia is regrouping, recruiting and trying to re-equip," U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin warned as the meeting opened.

Zelenskyy, speaking live via video link, told the gathering that "terror does not allow for discussion." He said "the war started by Russia does not allow delays."

Calling it a decisive moment for Ukraine and a "decisive decade for the world," Austin said the group's presence in Germany signalled their unity and commitment to continue supporting Ukraine.

"We need to keep up our momentum and our resolve. We need to dig even deeper," Austin told the gathering of as many as 50 defense leaders who were attending in person and by video.

Austin and U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were expected to discuss the latest massive package of aid the U.S. is sending, which totals \$2.5 billion and includes Stryker



armored vehicles for the first time.

But broader hesitation over sending tanks to Ukraine has roiled the coalition.

Germany faces mounting pressure to supply Leopard 2 tanks to Kyiv, or at least clear the way for other countries, such as Poland, to deliver the German-made Leopards from their own stocks.

The U.S. has also declined, at least so far, to provide M1 Abrams tanks, citing the extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehicle.

The U.S. Believes it would be more productive to send Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian

troops would only have to get trained on that one, versus needing far more training on the more difficult Abrams.

The United Kingdom announced last week that it would send Challenger 2 tanks, describing it as a natural progression of military aid to Ukraine.

At a Pentagon briefing Thursday, spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said the Leopard and Challenger aren't comparable to the Abrams tanks because the Abrams is much harder to maintain and wouldn't be a good fit.

"It's more of a sustainment issue. I mean, this is a tank that requires jet fuel, whereas the Leopard and the Challenger,

it's a different engine." The Leopard and Challenger are "a little bit easier to maintain," Singh said.

"They can maneuver across large portions of territory before they need to refuel. The maintenance and the high cost that it would take to maintain an Abrams — it just doesn't make sense to provide that to the Ukrainians at this moment."

The package of aid being sent by the U.S. includes eight Avenger air defense systems, 350 Humvees, 53 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, more than 100,000 rounds of artillery ammunition and rockets, and missiles for the High Mobility

Artillery Rocket System.

It was announced Thursday by the Pentagon.

Germany's new defense minister, Boris Pistorius, who took office just an hour before he met with Austin on Thursday, is among those attending the Ramstein meeting. Referring to the tanks, he told ARD television he was "pretty sure we will get a decision on this in the coming days, but I can't yet tell you today how it will look."

During brief comments before the meeting began, Austin said, "we'll renew our united commitment to support Ukraine's self-defense for the long haul," but didn't mention any specific new equipment.

Nearly 11 months into the Russian invasion, Zelenskyy has expressed frustration about not obtaining enough weaponry from the Western allies.

Speaking by video link on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday, the Ukrainian leader offered a veiled critique of major supporters such as Germany and the U.S. That has hesitated about sending tanks.

Bemoaning a "lack of specific weaponry," Zelenskyy said, through an interpreter, "There are times where we shouldn't hesitate or we shouldn't compare when someone says, I will give tanks if someone else will also share his tanks."

Russia's FSB opens espionage case against American

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's Federal Security Service said it has initiated an espionage case against a US citizen, but did not name the person or specify whether they were in custody.

In a brief statement on Thursday, the FSB service said the American is "suspected of collecting intelligence information on biological topics directed against the security of the Russian Federation."

"We are aware of these unconfirmed reports of an investigation regarding a US citizen in Russia," State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said.

"Generally, the Russian Federation does not abide by its obligations to provide timely notification of the detention of US citizens in Russia," Patel said. "Russian authorities also don't regularly inform the embassy of the trials, sentencing or movement of US citizens. We're looking into this matter and will continue to monitor it."

The charge carries a potential prison term of 10-20 years.

Paul Whelan, a Michigan corporate security executive, has been jailed in Russia for four years on espionage charges that his family and the United States government have said are baseless.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that I, RAMRATI SARAWAT alias RAMRATI DEVI W/O SHRI KRISHAN R/O-H.NO.735/18, SHASTRI NAGAR, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001, I am the legal owner of LIG FLAT NO. 13, 3rd FLOOR, P.K.T-3, B.L.K.-F3, SEC-34, ROHINI, DELHI, FILE NO./V33/8699/2015/DDA14 /RO which is allotted by the DDA. My Original Allotment-cum-Demand Letter of the above said DDA Flat has been lost. An FIR/NCR to this effect has lodged in P. S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No.66565/2023, Dated-20-01-2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9871873738 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any person claiming any right, interest, or having any objections with respect to this property can also personally inform/contact me.

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

- 1) MAH_BOLPIKUP
REG.NO.DL1AE7316-YOM-2020
- 2) MAHINDRA_AND_MAHINDRA_CB_BOLERO PLUS GOODS
REG.NO.DL1LAB9182-YOM-2019
- 3) MAH_BOLPLUSGD
REG.NO.DL1LAB9150-YOM-2019
- 4) SWRJ_MAZDA SM_SARTAJ
REG.NO.U14KT6275-YOM-2021
- 5) TATAMOTORS_TATA1512
REG.NO.DL1GE0467-YOM-2022
- 6) TATAMOTORS_TATAACE
REG.NO.DL1LAG7726-YOM-2022
- 7) EICHR_VECV_EICHER1114
REG.NO.UP37T3742-YOM-2016
- 8) ASHOK_LEY_AL1615
REG.NO.HR58C8926-YOM-2022
- 9) TATAMOTORS_TATAACE
ENG.NO.275CNG17BXXS13892
YOM 2022

UNDER HYPOTHECAE WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: ABHINAV SIR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO.779988481 EMAIL-abhinav.lal@kotak.com

KEY CORP LIMITED						
CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547						
Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208001						
Email: keycorppltd@gmail.com; Phone: 0512-3013416, 3010422, 2305416						
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022 (Rs. in Lakhs)						
Sl. No	Particulars	Current Quarter ended	Corresponding Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Previous Corresponding Nine Months ended	Previous year ended
1.	Total income from operations (net)	4.45	9.86	23.35	34.95	1788.21
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	(11.16)	(5.97)	(40.28)	(12.82)	1718.56
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	(11.16)	(5.97)	(40.28)	(12.82)	1718.56
4.	Equity Share Capital	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
5.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4273.17
6.	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs10/- each)					
	Basic :	(0.19)	(0.10)	(0.67)	(0.21)	28.64
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)					
	Basic :	(0.19)	(0.10)	(0.67)	(0.21)	28.64
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites of BSE and also on company's website at www.keycorppltd.com. 2. Above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of directors of the company at its meeting held on 20.01.2023. The Statutory Auditor of the company has carried out a limited review of accounts of the company for the 3rd quarter ended 31st December, 2022.

By Order of the Board
(G.D. Maheshwari)
Director
DIN 00235209

Place: Kanpur
Date: 20.01.2023

FBI chief says he's 'deeply concerned' by China's AI programme

AP ■ WASHINGTON

FBI Director Christopher Wray said that he was "deeply concerned" about the Chinese government's artificial intelligence programme, asserting that it was "not constrained by the rule of law". Speaking during a panel session at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday, Wray said Beijing's AI ambitions were "built on top of massive troves of intellectual property and sensitive data that they've stolen over the years."

He said that left unchecked, China could use artificial intelligence advancements to further its hacking operations, intellectual property theft and repression of dissidents inside the country and beyond.

"That's something we're deeply concerned about, and I think everyone here should be deeply concerned about," he said.

More broadly, he said, "AI is a classic example of a technology where I have the same reaction every time. I think, Wow, We can do that?"

Such concerns, he said, have been voiced by US officials. In October 2021, for instance, US counterintelligence officials issued warnings about China's ambitions in AI as part of a renewed effort to inform business executives, academics and local and state government officials about the risks of accepting Chinese investment or expertise in key industries.

Germany pressed on tanks for Ukraine; Kyiv airs frustration

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany faced mounting pressure to supply battle tanks to Kyiv and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy aired frustration about not obtaining enough weaponry as Western allies conferred on how best to support Ukraine nearly 11 months into Russia's invasion.

"Since the UK announced last week that it will send Challenger 2 tanks, Berlin has faced increasing calls to supply Leopard 2 tanks or at least clear the way for others, such as Poland, to deliver German-made Leopards from their own stock."

Germany's new defence minister, Boris Pistorius, Thursday left open whether that will happen and under what conditions hours after meeting US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on his first day in office.

"He told ARD television he was 'pretty sure we will get a decision on this in the coming days, but I can't yet tell you today how it will look'."

Austin will host a regular coordination meeting of Ukraine's Western allies at the United States' Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Friday.

"Speaking by video link to a meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, Zelenskyy offered a veiled critique of major supporters such as



Germany and the US that have nonetheless hesitated about sending tanks. 'He bemoaned a "lack of specific weaponry". Speaking through an interpreter, he said: "There are times where we shouldn't hesitate or we shouldn't compare when someone says, I will give tanks if someone else will also share his tanks."

"Ukraine's foreign and defence ministers said that the promised British tanks, while welcome, are 'not sufficient to achieve operational goals'." "We guarantee that we will use these weapons responsibly and exclusively for the purposes of protecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine within internationally recognised borders," Dmytro Kuleba and Oleksii Reznikov said in a statement.

Florida judge fines Trump, lawyer for 'frivolous' lawsuit

AP ■ NEW YORK

Florida Judge sanctioned former President Donald Trump and one of his attorneys Thursday, ordering them to pay nearly USD 1 million for filing what he said was a bogus lawsuit against Trump's 2016 rival Hillary Clinton and others.

In a blistering filing, US District Judge Donald M Middlebrooks accused Trump of a "pattern of abuse of the courts" for filing frivolous lawsuits for political purposes, which he said "undermines the rule of law" and "amounts to obstruction of justice."

"Here, we are confronted with a lawsuit that should never have been filed, which was completely frivolous, both factually and legally, and which was brought in bad faith for an improper purpose," he wrote. "Citing Trump's recent legal



action against the Pulitzer Prize board, New York Attorney General Letitia James, big tech companies and CNN, he described Trump as "a prolific and sophisticated litigant" who uses the courts "to seek revenge on political adversaries."

"He is the mastermind of strategic abuse of the judicial process," he wrote.

"The ruling required Trump and his attorney, Alina

Habba, to pay nearly USD 938,000 to the defendants in the case.

A spokesman for Trump and Habba did not immediately respond to requests for comment late on Thursday.

"Middlebrooks in September dismissed the suit Trump had filed against Clinton, former top FBI officials and the Democratic Party, rejecting the former president's claims that they and others conspired to sink his winning presidential campaign by alleging ties to Russia.

"The lawsuit had named as defendants Clinton and some of her top advisers, as well as former FBI Director James Comey and other FBI officials involved in the investigation into whether Trump's 2016 presidential campaign had coordinated with Russia to sway the outcome of the election.

Nawaz blames Gen Bajwa, Faiz for Pak current turmoil

PTI ■ LONDON/ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif has blamed the ex-Army chief and ex-ISI head for the current turmoil in the country by rigging the 2018 general elections and installing Imran Khan-led government.

"The former prime minister held ex-Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence Lt Gen Faiz Hamid responsible for spinning Pakistan around for their personal wishes and whims, the Geo News reported.

"Talking to the media on Thursday in London after meeting with a delegation of senior PML-N leaders from Pakistan, Sharif recalled his 2016 Gujranwala speech at the PML-N public gathering where he directly accused the ex-military men of rigging elections to make way for installing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in 2018.

"At the time, Sharif blamed the military top brass for



installing PTI's Khan as the prime minister in violation of the Constitution, removing his government, muzzling the media, pressurising the judiciary, and victimising opposition politicians, the report said.

"When asked if he held Gen Bajwa and Gen Hamid responsible for the state of the country, he said: "The reality is before everyone. Now no name or face is hidden. Pakistan was used for personal gain. It was a cruel joke played on the nation."

"Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz and Gen (ret'd) Bajwa were responsible for making it all about their personalities, wishes, and desires," the 73-year-old Sharif said.

"He said that the people of Pakistan are well aware of the "faces and characters of the two retired generals who are believed to be behind implementing the Tabdeeli project originally envisioned by former intelligence chiefs General (ret'd) Shuja Pasha, General (ret'd) Zaheer-ul-Islam and their colleagues."

Xi inspects combat readiness of troops at India-China border in eastern Ladakh

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has held a video conversation with the soldiers stationed along the India-China border in eastern Ladakh and inspected their combat readiness, official media here reported on Friday.

"Xi addressed the troops from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) headquarters here on the border defence situation in Khunjerab under the Xinjiang Military Command.

"Xi, who is also general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China and the commander-in-chief of the PLA, in his remarks to the troops, referred to how "in recent years, the area has been constantly changing" and how it had impacted the Army, according to the video shown in the official media.

"During the call, he "inspected their combat readiness", the report said.

"One of the soldiers replied that they were now carrying out "dynamic" and "24-hour" monitoring of the border.



"Xi asked about their condition and whether they were able to "receive fresh vegetables" in the inhospitable terrain.

"The official media reported Xi had asked the border troops "about their border patrol and management work" and "hailed the soldiers as models of border defence and encouraged them to persist in their efforts and make new contributions."

"Eastern Ladakh is the region where a standoff erupted on May 5, 2020 between India and China following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.



Western envoys visit Kosovo, Serbia to defuse tensions

AP ■ PRISTINA

Western envoys on Friday were visiting Kosovo and Serbia as part of their ongoing efforts to defuse and possibly reach a reconciliation agreement between the two.

"Envoys from the United States and the European Union were joined by those of France, Germany and Italy to meet with Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti. Later in the day they move to Belgrade to meet with President Aleksandar Vucic to discuss the next steps in the normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia. 'It is not clear whether there is any new proposal or what steps might be taken.

"Last month the Western powers mediated a solution to

an increasingly alarming situation in northern Kosovo where Serbs erected barricades on the main roads in protest at the arrest of a former police officer.

"The situation in the north remains volatile as there are only a few dozen police officers of the European Union rule of law mission, known as EULEX, taking care of the area's security after all ethnic Serb representatives resigned from their posts in November.

"Tensions have been high in Kosovo since 2008, when it proclaimed independence from Serbia. Belgrade, supported by its allies Russia and China, has refused to recognize Kosovo's statehood, which is accepted by the U.S. And much of the West.

Trio of suicide drones strike US base in Syria, wounding 2

AP ■ BEIRUT

Three suicide drones attacked a US base in eastern Syria on Friday, wounding two Syrian opposition fighters, the US military said. No Americans were hurt in the attack. 'It was not clear who was behind the drone attack, but Iran-backed fighters in the region have carried out such operations in the past. Sleeper cells of the Islamic State group are also active in the area.

"Two of the drones were shot down and the third struck the compound at al-Tanf base where the borders of Syria, Iraq and Jordan meet, the US military said.

"The military said the drone that struck the building wounded two members of the Syrian Free Army, who received medical treatment.

"The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the attack was likely carried out by Iran-backed fighters who are deployed in different parts of war-torn Syria. "Attacks of this kind are unacceptable — they place our troops and our partners at risk and jeopardize the fight against ISIS," Joe Buccino said.

Indiana police kill shooter in Walmart, 1 person wounded

AP ■ EVANSVILLE

Agunman fired shots at a police officer as he weaved through the aisles of an Indiana Walmart before being killed by law enforcement, authorities said.

"At least one person in the store was wounded Thursday night by the shooter, who was not immediately identified, Evansville Police Department Sgt. Anna Gray told WFIE-TV. The victim was transported to a hospital and the severity of their injuries was not immediately known. No officers were injured, Gray said.

"The victim appeared to be a Walmart employee, as a company statement said, "The entire Walmart family is shocked by the senseless violence that occurred at our Evansville store, and our hearts are with our associate at this time," the broadcaster reported.

"As we learn more, we'll do everything we can to support our associates as they cope with this tragedy."

"The Associated Press sent an email seeking comment from Walmart.



"Evansville police and Vanderburgh County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of an active shooter in the store at around 10 pm, Gray said.

"When officers went in, they were trying to locate the suspect and he was all over the store. He would shoot at officers and move. So it wasn't contained to just one area inside," she said.

Poland PM: Foreign divers near key port posed no threat

AP ■ WARSAW

Poland's prime minister and a senior security official say that foreign divers rescued from near a key port where they had no authorisation to be posed no threat to vital infrastructure or public safety.

"Premier Mateusz Morawiecki made the statement late on Thursday after receiving a report on the incident near an oil port in the Gulf of Gdansk which had raised security concerns given the high tensions with Russia over energy deliveries.

"The divers had Spanish identity documents.

"Based on what the (security) services know, I can say that the incident cannot be seen



as an attempted attack on the country's critical infrastructure," Morawiecki said during a meeting with young people at his office. "A high official for national security, Stanislaw Zaryn, also said that the actions of the "Spanish citizens who were rescued on the Baltic Sea posed no threat to Poland's security or to the security of critical infrastructure" and that the divers "committed no crime on Poland's territory."

Church of England apologises for treatment of LGBTIQ+ people

AP ■ LONDON

The Church of England formally apologised Friday for its treatment of LGBTIQ people even as it said that same-sex couples still will not be allowed to marry in its churches.

"The apology from the church's bishops came in a report following five years of debate on the church's position on sexuality. The report will be delivered to the church's national assembly, the General Synod, which is meeting in London next month.

"We want to apologise for the ways in which the Church of England has treated LGBTIQ+ people — both those who worship in our churches and those who do not," the bishops said.

More bodies found in Tibet avalanche, death toll rises to 20

AP ■ BEIJING

More bodies were found on Friday following an avalanche that buried vehicles outside a highway tunnel in Tibet, raising the death toll to 20 with eight people still missing. Images from the scene at the exit of the tunnel connecting the city of Nyingchi in Tibet's southwest with an outlying county showed about half a dozen backhoes digging through deep snow. Reports said around 1,000 rescuers had joined the effort.

"Tons of snow and ice collapsed onto the mouth of the tunnel on Tuesday evening, trapping drivers in their vehicles.

Japan to lower Covid to flu status, further easing rules

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday announced plans to downgrade the legal status of Covid-19 to the equivalent of seasonal influenza in the spring, a move that would further relax mask wearing and other preventive measures as the country seeks to return to normalcy. 'Kishida said he has instructed experts and government officials to discuss the details on lowering Covid-19's status.

"A change would also remove self-isolation rules and other anti-virus requirements and allow Covid-19 patients to seek treatment at any hospital instead of only specialized facilities.



"In order to return to our ordinary daily life in Japan while pursuing measures to adapt to living with the coronavirus, we will study concrete measures to gradually move on to a next step," Kishida said.

"In Japan, Covid-19 is currently categorized as a Class 2 disease, along with SARS and tuberculosis, and is subject to restricting movements of patients and their close contacts.

TTP militants attack checkpoint at Pak-Afghan Highway; two policemen killed

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Heavily-armed militants from the Pakistani Taliban attacked a security checkpoint at the Pakistan-Afghanistan Highway in northwest Pakistan's restive tribal district on Thursday and killed two policemen, authorities said.

"The attack at the Takhta Beg check post was carried out with hand grenades and heavy weapons. Khyber district police officer Muhammad Imran said "In retaliatory fire by the police, one of the attackers who was a suicide bomber was gunned down inside the checkpoint, which he had entered while heavily firing on the police.

"The exchange of fire between the attackers and police continued for half an hour.

"Two police officials Yunas Afridi and Manzoor Afridi were killed in the attack while the condition of one constable has been stated to be critical.

"Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group spokesman Muhammad Khurasani has claimed responsibility for the attack. "TTP, commonly known as the Pakistani Taliban, is an umbrella organisation of various Islamist armed militant groups operating along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

"Formed in 2007, the group shares a common ideology with the Afghan Taliban and assisted them in the 2001-2021 war.

Hindu temple in Texas raided; valuables stolen

PTI ■ HOUSTON

A Hindu temple in the US state of Texas has been raided by burglars who stole some of the valuables from the premises, leaving the Indian community in a state of shock, according to a media report.

"The incident took place at Shri Omkarnath Temple in the Brazos Valley, Texas on January 11, KBTX-TV reported on Friday.

"There was a sense of invasion, that sense of loss of privacy when something like this happened to us," Srinivasa



"There was a break-in. They broke in through the side window and what was immediately apparent was missing is our donation box and a safe in which we keep our valuables," Sunkari said. "The priest and his family who live in an apartment right behind the temple, they are safe," he said. "A video captured by security cameras inside the temple shows a person ignoring the shrine and going straight to the donation box. The suspect then used the temple's cart to wheel it out the door.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Public at large that my clients (i) Mrs. Sunita Vermani W/o Late Shri Mohinder Kumar Vermani R/o E-96, Greater Kailash Part-1, New Delhi 110048 and (ii) Late Shri Mohinder Kumar Vermani S/o Late Shri Madan Lal Vermani, both have jointly booked the below units in SuperTech, situated at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Unfortunately, my client Sh. Mohinder Kumar Vermani (Co-applicant in below mentioned properties) passed away on date 19/12/2020, and, my client Mrs. Sunita Vermani has requested to M/s SuperTech Limited to transfer the funds of these properties which are mentioned below into the property bearing no. SUPERTECH SUPERNOVA (referred as "New Property") which is booked by Mrs. Sunita Vermani against the payment of new property.

DESCRIPTION	PROJECT	BOOKING NOS.
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02163
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02164
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02165
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02166
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02168
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02169
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02170
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02171
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02172
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02173
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02174
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02175
Mrs. Sunita Vermani & Mr. Mohinder Kumar Vermani	E-SQUARE	C029ES02216

If anybody has any objection or interest over the said properties, shall inform the undersigned in writing with supporting proofs within a period of 15 days, from the date of publication of this notice failing, which any such claim, objection or interest raised by any person shall not be considered.

Regards,
JATIN SHARMA, ADVOCATE
CHAMBER NO. 239, 2ND FLOOR, LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK,
SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(e-Tendering Mode Only)

Online tenders in two part bidding system are hereby invited on behalf of HPSEB Ltd. for "Providing Tungsten Carbide hard coating by HP-HVOF coating method on runner buckets from inside of 'W' portion of bucket (inclusive of major repair and surface finishing by means of grinding and grit blasting before the Tungsten Carbide coating) of the existing Coated Forged Fabricated Pelton runner (with coating) having 21 buckets including stress relieving, balancing and testing of runner as per relevant standards after HP-HVOF Coating for the 3x40 MW Bhaba HEP" from a manufacturer or reputed service provider having expertise and machinery to repair, rebuild or replace existing hydropower components who regularly manufactures/repairs the equipment of the type specified and has adequate technical knowledge and experience in respect of all items covered under the Scope of Services in Tender Specification No. **HPSEB/CEG/WP-122/2022-23-02** as per the following:

•Date and Time of online publication:	24.01.2023(10.00 AM)
•Start date and time of online bid submission:	24.01.2023 (4:00 PM)
•Last date and time of online bid submission:	Up to 07.02.2023 (3.00 PM)
•Date of opening of Techno-commercial bid (Part-1):	09.02.2023 (11.00 Hrs.)
• Cost of Tender Document:	Rs.1180/-

Bidders would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. However, for submission of bids, the bidders are required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEB, may obtain the same from the website <http://www.hpntenders.gov.in>. DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CA can use the same in this tender.

(Yashwant Singh Thakur)
Chief Engineer (Generation),
HPSEB Ltd., Sunder Nagar.

Save Energy for Benefit of self and Nation

PERFECTPAC LIMITED
Regd. Office: 910, Chiranjiv Tower-43, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
Phone No.: 011-26441015-18, Website: www.perfectpac.com
Email: complianceofficer@perfectpac.com, CIN No.: L72100DL1972PLC005971

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 (₹ In lakhs except EPS)

PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	
	31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.03.2022	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
Total Revenue from operations	2,151.24	2,455.61	2,336.13	7,135.32	6,331.50	8,849.73
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Exceptional items and Tax)	41.15	101.35	15.40	182.91	80.44	158.95
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	41.15	101.35	15.40	182.91	80.44	158.95
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional items	31.08	62.16	2.20	130.03	50.88	103.01
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	31.08	62.16	2.20	130.03	50.88	108.54
Equity Share Capital	133.26	133.26	133.26	133.26	133.26	133.26
Earnings Per Share of ₹2/- each						
1. Basic (₹)	1.14	2.28	0.08	4.77	1.87	3.78
2. Diluted (₹)	1.14	2.28	0.08	4.77	1.87	3.78

NOTES:

- The above unaudited financial results were, subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company, reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on January 20, 2023.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2022, filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the unaudited financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2022 is available under the investor section of Company's website at www.perfectpac.com and on the website of the Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com.
- The shareholders of the Company at its Annual General Meeting held on September 15, 2022 approved the sub-division/split of face value of the Equity Shares of the Company from ₹10/- (Rupees Ten only) each to ₹2/- (Rupees Two only) each. Accordingly, the holder(s) of the Equity Shares of the Company have received "5" Equity Shares of face value of ₹2/- each in lieu of "1" Equity Share of face value of ₹10/- each and accordingly the number of equity shares in the paid up equity Capital of the Company has been changed from October 21, 2022 onwards.

For Perfectpac Limited
Sanjay Rajgarhia
Managing Director

Place : New Delhi
Date : 20.01.2023

Govt makes disclosure of material interest mandatory for social media influencers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday made it mandatory for social media influencers to disclose all "material" interest such as gifts, hotel accommodation, equity, discounts and awards when endorsing any products, services or scheme, failing which strict legal action, including ban on endorsements can be taken.

The disclosures should be in simple and clear language, should be of duration that is hard to miss, must be run with endorsements, including live streams and should be platform agnostic.

The regulations are part of continuing efforts to curb misleading advertisements as well protect the interests of consumers amid the expanding social influencer market which is projected to be grow 20 per cent annually to reach Rs 2,800 crore by 2025.

The new guidelines named

'Endorsement Know Hows -- for celebrities, influencers and virtual media influencers (Avatar or computer generated character) on social media platforms' has been issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In case of violation, the penalty prescribed for misleading advertisement under the Consumer Protection Act 2019 will be applicable.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) can impose penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers. For subsequent offences, penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh can be imposed. The CCPA can prohibit endorser of a misleading ad from making any endorsement for up to 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend up to 3 years.

Launching these guidelines at a press conference, Consumer Affairs Secretary

Rohit Kumar Singh said the guidelines have been issued under the ambit of the CCPA that provides framework for the protection of consumers against unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.

He hoped that the guidelines would act as a deterrent for social media influencers. "It's a very important subject. The size of social influencer market in India in 2022 was of the order of Rs 1,275 crore and by 2025, it is likely to rise to Rs 2,800 crore with a compound annual growth rate of about 19-20 per cent. The social media influencer of substance, which means those having good number of followers, are in excess of 1 lakh in the country," Singh said.

The secretary said the social media influencing is here to stay and will only grow exponentially and therefore the need to regulate misleading ad on social media. "The today's guidelines are



aimed at social media influencers which have material connection with the brand they want to promote on various social media platforms. This is an obligation for them to behave responsibly as far as the disclosure is concerned to the consumers.

"One of the biggest paradigm of the consumer law is the consumers right to know and this falls in that purview. Consumers should know if something is thrown at

him/her from digital media, the person or the entity which is sponsoring it have they taken money or any form of connection they have with the brand," Singh said.

In case of non-compliance, Singh said there are provisions under the law for people to approach the authority to seek legal action against people who are defaulting. The authority has the wherewithal to investigate and it can also take up case suo moto.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day on global economic slowdown concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the second day in a row on Friday due to a decline in index major Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, and Infosys amid concerns over global economic slowdown.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 236.66 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 60,621.77 with 20 of its constituents ending in red. During the day, it fell 273.18 points or 0.44 per cent to 60,585.25.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 80.20 points or 0.44 per cent to end at 18,027.65 as 36 of its stocks closed with losses.

"Shaking off the weak lead from Wall Street, domestic indices attempted to trade higher due to economic optimism that stemmed from China's reopening. However, concerns over the global economic slowdown eventually caught up and dragged markets lower," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit



Financial Services. Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Global Financial Services said that the equity market continued to trade lower in sync with developments abroad, mainly the US markets.

"While the probability of the Fed hiking rates further to slay the demon of inflation is quite high, the consequences of the rate action over a period of time translating itself into an economic slowdown is occupying the minds of the investors," Thomas said.

From the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 3.84 per cent amid

concerns over increase in royalty and central services arrangement fee to its parent Unilever group.

Reliance Industries declined by 1.15 per cent ahead of its financial results while Infosys closed lower by 1.03 per cent.

Among others, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti and Bharti Airtel also dropped.

Power Grid was the biggest gainer, rising by 1.2 per cent. HDFC Bank, HDFC, ITC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

Crypto lending platform Genesis files for bankruptcy

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Popular cryptocurrency broker Genesis has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy following the meltdown of the FTX exchange, media reports said.

According to bankruptcy documents, the company listed over 1,00,000 creditors in a "mega" bankruptcy filing, with aggregate liabilities ranging from \$1.2 billion to \$11 billion, reports CNBC.

Genesis is part of the US-based venture capital firm Digital Currency Group (DCG), which also owns cryptocurrency asset manager Greyscale and crypto-focused news outlet CoinDesk.

"We look forward to advancing our dialogue with DCG and our creditors' advisors as we seek to implement a path to maximise value and provide the best opportunity for our business to emerge well-positioned for the future," Genesis interim CEO Derar Islam was quoted as saying.

Genesis filed for bank-



ruptcy protection just days after the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) sued Genesis and its one-time partner, Gemini, for offering and selling securities without registering, according to the report.

The crypto platform listed a \$765.9 million loan payable from Gemini in the bankruptcy filing.

Another significant claim included a \$78 million loan payable from Donut, a high-yield, decentralised platform, and a VanEck fund, with a \$53.1 million loan payable, the

report said. Cameron Winklevoss, co-founder of Gemini, first responded to the news on Twitter, writing that Silbert and DCG "continue to refuse to offer creditors a fair deal".

"We have been preparing to take direct legal action against Barry, DCG, and others. Sunlight is the best disinfectant," he added.

A series of bad bets made last year crippled Genesis, leading it to halt withdrawals on November 16 after providing loans to crypto hedge funds and over-the-counter firms.

Amid rising NPAs, agro firms come under agencies radar

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

In last few years, agencies such as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and others have exposed how a number of businessmen who deal in agro products allegedly committed fraud by not repaying bank loans and getting their accounts declared a non-performing asset (NPA).

Many of them even fled abroad after committing the fraud.

With the rising number of such cases, now the entire rice and food industry is under the scanner of the central agencies. Some of them, which are under the agencies' radar, are Lal Mahal, Rei Agro, Best Foods, Amira Foods, Dunar Foods, Bush Foods, Shakti Bhog Foods and Sukhbir Agro.

Amira foods have been accused of a bank loan fraud of Rs 1,200 crore, Shakti Bhog is accused of Rs 3,269 crore fraud, Bush Foods of Rs 750 crore, Dunar foods (NSEL Scam) of Rs 5,600 crore, and Rei Agro



have been accused of committing a bank loan fraud of Rs 3,871.71 crore.

Similarly, Anoop Gupta, director of KRBL, which sells India Gate Basmati rice, was named in a Rs 3,600 crore money laundering case linked to AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal. According to reports, the loans to these companies were provided between 2005 and 2014, and now questions are being also raised on the period during which these loans were sanctioned.

Agencies are trying to figure out if there is a nexus of businessmen running agro businesses. Many of the firms

have been declared bankrupt, and their loan accounts are declared NPA after the court proceedings and investigations.

As per reports, these agro firms were profitable till 2015 but all of a sudden, they went bankrupt after defaulting a few bank installments. It is said that the entire loan amount was laundered through different modes which was used in buying real estate abroad.

Reports say that around five lakh firms were shut down after demonitisation. The directors and owners of these firms failed to furnish required documents before the authorities concerned.

EV makers expect extension of FAME II, duty cuts in Budget 2023-24

FIANS ■ CHENNAI

Extension of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India - II) (FAME II) subsidy scheme, rationalisation of GST are some of the budget wishes of the electric vehicle makers, said CARE Ratings as per its survey.

According to the survey, the electric vehicle makers want the FAME II subsidy scheme to be extended beyond March 2024 and also bring the commercial vehicles under it.

After the momentum witnessed in electric vehicle adoption in 2022, it will be critical for the government to continue to support the adoption so that it will go over the tipping point and the momentum doesn't die out, said Anirudh Ravi Narayanan, CEO, Bharat New Energy Company that rolls out electric two wheelers.

"First, a continuation of the FAME II subsidy or introduction of a FAME III subsidy will



greatly benefit the adoption. If this subsidy were to be abruptly discontinued in 2024, it will create a demand shock in the market," Narayanan added.

He also said there is a perception that FAME II subsidy has become risky to pass-on to customers since subsidies are being withheld, updates are being announced with a short time fuse, and there are potentially interest groups affecting the industry.

Unless the government addresses these points, FAME may end-up getting viewed by vehicle makers as a "bonus" if it comes, and so there may not be an end-customer benefit, Narayanan said.

Forex reserves zoom by USD 10.417 bn to USD 572 bn



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves zoomed by USD 10.417 billion to USD 572 billion as on January 13, making it one of the biggest weekly jumps in the kitty in recent times.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

EPFO adds 16.26 L net subscribers in Nov 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO added 16.26 lakh subscribers on a net basis in November 2022, which is 16.5 per cent higher compared to a year ago, the labour ministry said on Friday.

The provisional payroll data of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released on Friday by the ministry highlighted that the EPFO has added 16.26 lakh net members in the month of November 2022.

The data indicate a 25.67 per cent increase in net additions compared to the previous month in October 2022, a labour ministry statement said. Of the total 16.26 lakh members added during the month, around 8.99 lakh new members came under the ambit of EPFO for the first time thus, showing that new members joining EPFO has increased by 1.71 lakh, from 7.28 lakh in October 2022.

Among the new members, the highest enrolment is registered in the age-group of 18-21 years with 2.77 lakh mem-

bers, followed by age-group of 22-25 years with 2.32 lakh members.

The age group of 18-25 years constitutes 56.60 per cent of the total of new members during the month. This shows that first-time job seekers are largely joining the organised sector workforce of the country.

The data also highlighted that approximately 11.21 lakh members re-joined EPFO membership.

These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, extending their social security protection. The labour ministry also released Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI Scheme) provisional payroll data for November 2022 on Friday. Data showed that 18.86 lakh new employees have been added in November 2022. A year-on-year comparison of payroll data reflects an increase of 5.24 lakhs in net membership in November 2022 as



compared to the corresponding month in 2021.

As per data, around 21,953 new establishments have been registered in the month of November 2022 under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation ensuring social security coverage to their employees.

Of the total 18.86 lakh employees added during the month, the age group having higher registration was of 18-25 years with 8.78 lakh employees. Gender-wise analysis of ESIS payroll data indicates that the enrolment of net female members has been 3.51 lakh in November 2022.

The data shows that a total of 63 transgender employees

have also got registered under ESI Scheme in the month of November.

Gender-wise analysis of EPFO payroll data indicates that enrollment of net female members has been 3.19 lakh in November 2022.

As compared to previous month net female member addition has increased by around 0.56 lakh from 2.63 lakh in October 2022.

Year-on-year comparison of enrolment data shows a growth of 7.90 per cent in net membership of females in the organised workforce, in November 2022 compared with the net female membership during the previous year in November 2021.

Sebi amends rules; intermediaries requires prior approval for change in control

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has amended rules which require vault managers and custodians to seek the watchdog's prior approval in case of change in control.

The changes have been made to streamline the process of providing approval to the proposed change in control of the entities.

In a notification, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that the vault managers and Custodians will have to obtain prior approval of the Board in case of change in control in such a manner as specified by the regulator.

To give this effect, Sebi has amended rules governing custodian and vault managers and the new rule has become effective from January 17.

Vault manager is regulated as a Sebi intermediary for providing vaulting services meant for gold deposited to create electronic gold receipts (EGRs).



The obligations of the vault manager include accepting deposits, storage and safe-keeping of gold, creation as well as withdrawal of EGR, grievance redressal and periodic reconciliation of physical gold with the records of depository. Custodian means any person who carries on the business of providing custodial services.

In November 2022, the markets regulator had put in place a revised framework for seeking its prior approval for changes in control of stock brokers, depository participants and other market intermedi-

aries. The framework was applicable for stock broker/clearing member, depository participant, investment adviser, research analyst or research entity, registrar to an issue and share transfer agent and KYC (Know Your Client) Registration Agencies (KRAs).

Under this, an intermediary is required to apply online for Sebi's prior approval and along with the application, the entity concerned has to submit various details, including the current and proposed shareholding pattern of the applicant.

Govt may announce PLI scheme for more sectors in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is likely to extend fiscal incentives for the production of toys, bicycles and leather and footwear in the forthcoming budget as it looks to expand production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to cover more high-employment potential sectors, sources said.

The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high-efficiency solar

PV modules, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel.

The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufacturing, and it is yielding solid results, sources said.

A proposal to extend PLI scheme benefits to different sectors such as toys and leather is at advanced stages of finalisation and there is a likelihood that it may figure in the Budget, they added.

One of the sources said there are some savings from this Rs 2 lakh crore which could be considered for other

sectors.

The Budget for 2023-24 is scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

The PLI scheme is aimed at making Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attracting investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensuring efficiencies; creating economies of scale; enhancing exports and making India an integral part of the global supply chain.

As of September 2022, the PLI scheme for LSEM (Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing) has attracted

investment of Rs 4,784 crore, and led to a total production of Rs 2,03,952 crore, including exports of Rs 80,769 crore, according to a government statement.

The PLI for LSEM has attracted leading global players, including Foxconn, Samsung, Pegatron, Rising Star and Wistron while leading domestic companies, including Lava, Micromax, Optemus, United Telexlinks Neolyncs and Padget Electronics, have also participated in this scheme.

Under the scheme, all 14 sectors have received significant participation from the

private sector.

According to a statement of the commerce and industry ministry issued on December 16 last year, 650 applications have been approved under 13 schemes so far and more than 100 MSMEs are among the PLI beneficiaries in sectors such as bulk drugs, medical devices, telecom, white goods and food processing.

The scheme was specifically designed to boost domestic manufacturing in sunrise and strategic sectors, curb cheaper imports and reduce import bills, improve the cost competitiveness of domesti-

cally manufactured goods, and enhance domestic capacity and exports. Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY India, suggested that disbursements should be made in a time-bound manner and the value addition details being asked for in a few PLI schemes, such as auto, solar module manufacturing and advanced chemistry cell should be made limited to self-declaration or certifications up to Tier 1 component manufacturers.

While some of the PLI schemes such as mobile phones, white goods, food, telecom, auto and auto-com-



ponents, etc have seen an upswing in investments, making the government realise its objective of self-reliant Bharat in mid to long run, the data for investments made in other PLI

schemes is not readily available for the industry to get a clear insight on the creation of value chain in many other sectors where the PLI schemes have been rolled out," he said.

Swiatek leads charge into Aus Open last 16

AP ■ MELBOURNE

World number one Iga Swiatek led the charge of women seeds into the last 16 of the Australian Open on Friday. The Americans Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula were also big winners, ensuring that normal order was resumed on day five at Melbourne Park following the shocks of a day earlier. World number two Ons Jabeur was the biggest casualty in the women's draw on Thursday, while the men's field has lost its top two seeds in Rafael Nadal and Casper Ruud. Hot favourite Swiatek, a three-time major winner but chasing a first Australian Open title, swatted aside qualifier Cristina Bucsa of Spain 6-0, 6-1.

The Pole faces Elena Rybakina next after the Wimbledon champion defeated last year's Melbourne runner-up Danielle Collins in three sets. "For sure she's very strong physically and mentally," Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina said, eyeing up the Swiatek challenge. "I will have to take all my chances. I think Iga is a great player." The 18-year-old Gauff stepped up her bid for a maiden major title with a similarly emphatic 6-3, 6-2 victory over fellow American Bernarda Pera. The talented teenager faces the 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia in the last 16. Third seed Pegula, who is also chasing a first Grand Slam crown,



also made light work of Marta Kostyuk with a 6-0, 6-2 victory. The 28-year-old next faces what should be a sterner test in Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic, the 20th seed and 2021 French Open champion. **TSITSIPAS ROLLS ON** Back on court, third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas kept his unbeaten streak this year intact to set up a last-16 clash with Italian Jannik Sinner. The 24-year-old Tsitsipas, who is yet to drop a set, clinched his seventh straight win of 2023 by beating Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena. Tsitsipas -- who won all four games at the United Cup leading into the Grand Slam -- is the high-

seed left on the men's side. His next assignment, for a place in the last eight, is a showdown with 15th-seeded Sinner, who stormed back to crush Hungary's Marton Fucsovics 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0. Tsitsipas is refusing to get carried away as he chases a first major title. "There are no presents," he warned. "You should be going after it, you should be creating those opportunities and aiming big within yourself, sometimes surpass your own abilities." Felix Auger-Aliassime, the Canadian sixth seed, beat Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina in four sets. Hot favourite Novak Djokovic, the record nine-time Australian Open champion, plays 27th seed Grigor Dimitrov on Saturday.



Axelsen, Yamaguchi enter India Open badminton semifinal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time world champions Viktor Axelsen and Akane Yamaguchi stayed in contention for second successive titles after progressing to the semifinals of the men's singles and women's singles competitions, respectively, at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open here on Friday. Axelsen, the reigning Olympic champion, advanced to the final four after his opponent Rasmus Gemke suffered a leg injury midway through the opening game and had to be taken off the court in a wheelchair. World No. 1 Yamaguchi, however, had to toil hard to get across three-time world champion and Rio gold medallist Carolina Marin of Spain 21-17, 14-21, 21-19 in the day's first match at the IG stadium here. World No. 2 Gemke had knocked out defending champion and home favourite Lakshya Sen on Thursday but his winning run came to an abrupt end after he seemed to have lost his footing and fell awkwardly to his right while attempting a return. He was then lagging 8-16 against Axelsen. The 26-year-old from Denmark lay motionless even as compatriot Axelsen rushed to him. He was taken off the

court in a wheelchair. "I am gutted. This is not the way I would have wanted to win. He is a good friend and I wish him a speedy recovery," Axelsen told reporters. Axelsen will now face either fourth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia or fifth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. In other results, Olympic bronze medallist Anthony Sinisuka Ginting survived a scare from China's Liu Shi Feng before prevailing 21-11, 17-21, 21-18 in another quarter-final clash. Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn then dispatched 2021 world champion Loh Kean Yew 21-12, 21-17 to set up a clash with Ginting. In women's singles, Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei pulled out due to an illness, handing a walkover to Thailand's Supanida Katethong, who had defeated India's PV Sindhu in the opening round. The India Open runners-up will face Yamaguchi next. China's He Bing Jiao beat USA's Beiwen Zhang 21-13, 21-19 and will face Korea's second seed An Se Young in the semifinals. Second seed An Se Young got the better of Thailand's eighth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-14, 21-14 in another quarterfinal clash.

Australia maul South Africa 9-2, top Pool A

PTI ■ ROURKELA

Star forward Blake Govers scored four times, including from a penalty stroke, as title contenders Australia thrashed South Africa 9-2 to top Pool A and directly qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's World Cup here on Friday. Australia will face the winner of the crossover match between Malaysia and Spain in the quarterfinal match on January 24 in Bhubaneswar. Govers struck in the fourth, 15th, 19th and 20th minutes as the rampaging Australians led 7-1 at half time. His first and fourth strikes were field goals while the second one was from a penalty corner and the third from the penalty spot. Tom Craig (10th), Jake Harvie (22nd), Daniel Beale (28th), Jeremy Hayward (32nd) and Tim Brand (47th) were the other Australian goal getters at the Birsu Munda Stadium. Ntuli Nqobile (8th) and Kok Tevin (58th) were the scorers -- both field goals -- for South Africa. The Kookaburras slowed down a bit in the third and fourth quarters, just scoring a goal each. The fourth quarter saw both sides scoring a goal each. Five of the Australian goals were field efforts while three were from the penalty corners. Australia earned eight PCs as against five of the South Africans. In another Pool A match, Argentina and France scored a goal each in the final minute to play out a 5-5 draw in a dramatic contest. Argentina finished second in the pool with five points from three matches -- one win and two draws -- while France ended at third with four points -- one win, one draw and one loss. Argentina will play the third place team in Pool B in their crossover match on January 22 while France will take on the second place team in Pool B the next day.

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola took aim at Manchester City's players and fans for a lack of hunger to retain the Premier League despite coming from 2-0 down to beat Tottenham 4-2 on Thursday. City's title hopes were hanging by a thread as they trailed to two goals in three minutes from Dejan Kulusevski and Emerson Royal before half-time at the Etihad. The champions roared back in the second period as three goals in 12 minutes from Julian Alvarez, Erling Haaland and Riyad Mahrez turned the game around. Mahrez then sealed the win in the final minute to move City to within five points of Arsenal, who have a game in hand. But that did not stop Guardiola launching an astonishing attack on what he sees as

Guardiola criticises Manchester City's lack of hunger for more



complacency after winning four Premier League titles in the past five seasons. "We gave them the first goal and then the second goal is ridiculous," said Guardiola. "There's nothing from the stomach, from the guts and we were lucky but if we don't change we will drop points." Guardiola also called on more from the City support after his side were booed off at the break. "They booed because we were losing," added Guardiola. "Maybe it's the same with our team, maybe we are so comfortable with winning four Premier Leagues in five years."

Murray's epic 4 am finish defended by AO boss

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australian Open chief Craig Tiley insisted on Friday there was "no need" to alter scheduling at the tournament despite stinging criticism after the second latest match finish at a Grand Slam. Veteran Andy Murray battled through a five-set epic against home hope Thanasi Kokkinakis which ended at 4:05 am on Friday to reach the third round, calling the early hours conclusion "a bit of a farce". "I don't know who it's beneficial for. A match like that, we come here after the match, and that's what the discussion is," the 35-year-old Briton said after the five hours and 45 minutes spectacle, the longest of his career. "Rather than it being, like, 'epic Murray-Kokkinakis match', it ends in a bit of a farce." Incredibly, Murray was spotted back at Melbourne Park less than eight hours after the match, with Kokkinakis taking to Instagram to be pay tribute. "You're a warrior Andy Murray and a honour to share the court with you," he said. The latest finish in the Open era was also at the Australian Open, in 2008 when Lleyton Hewitt outlasted Marcos Baghdatis in a third-round clash that ended at 4:34 am. Tennis great Martina



Navratilova said "no other sport does this". "It is essential we create better rules in tennis regarding the weather (light and wind) and starting times or cutoff times for matches," she tweeted. "Murray and Kokkinakis will finish around 4am. Crazy - no other sport does this." Murray's brother Jamie, a doubles specialist who is also playing at Melbourne Park, joined the chorus of criticism, saying it was time to move to just one match in night sessions at Grand Slams. "This is the best outcome for

ALL singles players," he tweeted. "We can't continue to have players compete into the wee hours of the morning. Rubbish for everyone involved - players/fans/event staff etc." But Tiley said it was part and parcel of the opening Grand Slam of the year -- whose scheduling this year has been disrupted by intense heat and rain -- and it did not happen often. "You would expect from 7pm to 12pm (the evening session) in that five-hour window, you would get two matches," he told broadcaster Channel Nine. "We also have to protect the matches. If you just put one match at night and there's an injury, you don't have anything for fans or broadcasters. "At this point there is no need to alter the schedule," he added. "We always look at it when we do the debrief like we do every year, we've had long matches before, at this point we've got to fit the matches into the 14 days so you don't have many options." In front of a raucous but weary Margaret Court Arena in Melbourne, Murray finally prevailed 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 7-5. While he praised the fans who remained till the bitter end, he raised concerns about the ball kids.



Cristiano scores twice in Saudi reunion with Messi

AP ■ RIYADH

challenged for a high ball. Ronaldo, still rubbing the red mark on his face and grimacing, fired past Navas to make it 1-1 on 34 minutes. Five minutes later, PSG's Juan Bernat was given a straight red card for a foul on Salem Al-Dawsari -- Saudi Arabia's match-winner in their famous group-stage World Cup victory over Argentina. PSG were soon back in front thanks to Marquinhos's delicate finish before Neymar missed his spot-kick, shooting tamely after a trademark stutter run-up. Minutes later, Ronaldo hit his second equaliser deep into first-half injury time, heading against the post and then burying the rebound to make it 2-2 at half-time. Mbappe put PSG back in front shortly after the break, turning his marker inside-out and laying on an easy finish for Sergio Ramos, before Hyun-soo Jang found a third equaliser for the hosts. But Mbappe thumped home a penalty and Hugo Ekitike scored to make it 5-3 before Brazilian striker Talisca grabbed the Riyadh team's fourth goal at the death.

Madrid stun Villarreal with Spanish Cup comeback

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid produced a stunning comeback from two goals down to beat Villarreal 3-2 on Thursday and book their place in the Spanish Cup quarter-finals. Elsewhere Barcelona romped to a 5-0 win at third-tier Ceuta with Robert Lewandowski scoring twice. Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid side will hope the victory is a turning point after struggling in 2023. They were soundly beaten by rivals Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final last Sunday. Los Blancos seemed poised to suffer cup elimination on Thursday, after Etienne Capoue and Samuel Chukwueze struck in the first half for the hosts. However goals by Vinicius Junior, Eder Militao and Dani Ceballos after the break turned the last-16 clash on its head and



sent Madrid, who last won the trophy in 2014, through. It was another classic comeback for the ages from a team famed for producing them. "After a very bad first half, the second was different -- we pushed, took risks, had courage," Ancelotti told Teledeporte. "I told them they had to wake up, we had lost a lot of battles, we weren't risking much in the press, they were looking for counters but it was a risk we had to take. "The team was not well positioned, they were too open, and lacked strength in the duels." "The team knew how to stay alive in the game and luckily we could turn it around," match-winner Ceballos told Teledeporte. "We want to dominate matches and lately we have not been capable of doing it, we've

had a lot of games in a row, many players coming back from the World Cup, and now we will improve." **HELICOPTER CRUISE** Barcelona lifted the Spanish Super Cup in Riyadh with a convincing triumph over Madrid, and after initially struggling to break down Ceuta's defence, eventually cruised to victory. Lewandowski bagged a brace, while Raphinha, Ansu Fati and Franck Kessie also netted for Barcelona, who have won the Spanish Cup a record 31 times. "We would like to be able to play at home (in the next round)," said Xavi. "All the teams are from La Liga, they are strong. "We'll see what the draw gives us. We're in the last eight, we are happy, we're in a good dynamic -- this is the path."

MEN IN BLUE AIM TO SEAL SERIES



Indian team fined 60% of match fees for slow over rate

PTI ■ RAIPUR

The Indian team has been fined 60% of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the first ODI in Hyderabad.

Javagal Srinath of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be three overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration for Wednesday's series opener.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20% of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement.

after the hiding the bowlers got from Michael Bracewell, who put the Indian attack to sword on Wednesday.

India brought Shardul Thakur into the team at the expense of the super quick Umran Malik considering his batting abilities. But the management needs to decide quickly if it wants a bowler who can bat or a specialist who can rattle the opposition with extra pace and get wickets in the middle overs.

Siraj has developed into an all phase bowler but others need to step up. Mohammad Shami was brilliant with the new ball but was taken to the cleaners by Bracewell. Hardik too was expensive.

In the spin department, Washington Sundar had a game

to forget while Kuldeep Yadav continued his impressive run. The team also has the option playing Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep together but it has stuck to one wrist spinner and one finger spinner policy.

New Zealand's never-say-die spirit came to the fore in the series opener and they would take a lot of heart from that. It won't be a regular occurrence that a number seven in Bracewell and number eight in Mitchell Santner will bring back the team from a hopeless situation.

Finn Allen played some bold strokes but could not make it big. And in the absence of Kane Williamson, New Zealand need someone to anchor the innings.

The pace trio of Henry Shiple, Lockie Ferguson and Blair Tackner will be looking for more accuracy after being mercilessly attacked by Gill. It remains to be seen if Ish Sodhi regains full fitness for the must-win game for his team.

SQUADS

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan (wk), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, KS Bharat (wk), Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik.

New Zealand: Tom Latham (captain), Finn Allen, Doug Bracewell, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Henry Shiple, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tackner.

Getting more opportunities to bat has helped my power game: Santner

PTI ■ RAIPUR

New Zealand left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner feels getting more opportunities to bat over the past 12 months has led to an improvement in his power game and helped him chip in with useful knocks.

Santner smashed his third ODI fifty on Wednesday while supporting a rampaging Michael Bracewell in a whirlwind 162-run stand for the seventh wicket against India, taking New Zealand very close to the finishing line in Hyderabad.

Batting at number eight, his game plan is simple – to hit sixes from ball one – and that was amply clear in the way he batted in the centre nets of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Stadium here on Friday.

Like the rest of the New Zealand batters, he mostly faced the spinners and tried to hit most balls out of the park.

"Being an all-rounder you need to chip in both the departments. In the last year or so, getting more opportunities to bat has helped. It can be quite challenging at times if you are at the bottom and you have three or four overs left," he said ahead of the second ODI.

"The nature of batting at 7 and 8 is that you have to go hard from ball one and hit. You train for your role and that is what I do in the nets and try to hit some sixes. When you have more time to bat like the other night you get into your innings a bit more.

"Sometimes you will come with 15 overs left and sometimes with two overs left. You have to be able to do both."

Santner also gave a fitness update on leg-spinner Ish Sodhi who had a bowl in the nets. With Santner, Sodhi and off-spinner Bracewell in the squad, New Zealand have all bases "covered".



PTI ■ RAIPUR

India will be expecting more runs from the middle order and discipline in the death overs as they look for a series sealing win against New Zealand in the second ODI here on Saturday.

With the city hosting its first-ever international game, a sell out crowd of 60,000 plus

is expected to cheer the home team.

After being down and out at 131 for six, New Zealand were allowed to score another 206 runs in the chase of 350 and that should worry India.

The visitors looked like getting a remarkable comeback from behind but the individual brilliance of Mohammed Siraj stopped them.

With the bat, Shubman Gill, who scored a scintillating double century, had single-handedly taken India to a competitive total with the others falling by the wayside. Virat Kohli's individual effort had stood out in the previous game against Sri Lanka.

Hardik Pandya, who has not been at his belligerent best of late, will be expected to give final flourish to the innings.

Accommodated in the middle-order following his double hundred performance in Bangladesh, Ishan Kishan would be itching to make the most of the opportunity after an off-day in Hyderabad.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has looked good and got starts but has not been able to convert, and Saturday could his day.

However, bigger concerns lie in the bowling department



Debutant Amanjot & Deepti help Women in Blue beat SA

PTI ■ EAST LONDON

Debutant Amanjot Kaur came up with a matured knock of unbeaten 41 off 30 balls as India fought back from a wobbly situation to post a 27-run win over South Africa in their Women's T20I Tri-Series opener here.

Opting to bowl on a dry and slow Buffalo Park strip, the hosts sent back half of the Indian side inside 12 overs with just 69 runs on the board.

From thereon, Deepti Sharma (33 from 23 balls) took control of the proceedings with the 23-year-old Amanjot playing the perfect second fiddle in their match-turning 76-run partnership off just 50 balls to prop India to a challenging 147 for 6 on Thursday night.

In reply, the Indian spinners exploited the conditions well with senior off-spinner Deepti leading the show with figures of 3/30 to restrict South Africa to 120 for 9.

Want Pant sitting beside me in dugout every day of week in IPL: Ponting

PTI ■ DUBAI

Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting wants "cultural leader" Rishabh Pant in the dugout every day of the week in the forthcoming IPL.

Ruled out of the IPL after surviving a horrific car accident in the last week of December, India wicketkeeper and DC skipper Pant is currently recovering after undergoing a series of surgeries in Mumbai.

"You can't replace those guys, simple as that. They don't grow on trees, players like that. We've got to look at – and we already are – a replacement to come into the squad, a wicketkeeper-batsman.

If he's actually not physically fit enough to play, we'd still love to have him around," Ponting said on the ICC Review.

"He's the sort of cultural leader around the group, being the captain, and that attitude and infectious smile and laugh he



has is what we all love so much about him.

"If he's actually able to travel and be around the team, then I want him sitting beside me in the dugout every day of the week.

"I'll certainly be making sure, come the middle of March when we get together in Delhi and start our camps and stuff, if he's able to be there, then I want him around the whole time."

India are set to play Australia in a much-anticipated upcoming

four-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, with the two teams also currently on track to meet again in the ICC World Test Championship final in June.

Ponting believes Pant will be a huge loss for India against Australia.

"I think he's ranked in the top six-seven Test batsmen in the world, isn't he?" Ponting asked (Pant is currently seventh in the ICC men's Test batting rankings).

Vaibhav, Divij power Delhi to maiden win of season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vaibhav Rawal scored a fine century before pacer Divij Mehra's five-for dismantled Mumbai as Delhi notched a memorable eight-wicket win in a Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Friday.

It was Delhi's first outright win over heavyweights Mumbai since the 1979-80 Ranji Trophy final, when Bishan Singh Bedi's side got the better of Sunil Gavaskar's team by 240 runs.

Bowling out Mumbai for 293 in the first innings, Delhi took a 76-run lead owing to Vaibhav Rawal's 114 and skipper Himmat Singh's 85.

The 20-year-old Mehra, playing only his second first-class game, then gave a master-class in seam bowling at the Arun Jaitley Stadium as he ran through the much-vaunted Mumbai top-order.

His scalps included Prithvi Shaw, Musheer Khan, Armaan Jaffer, first innings centurion Sarfaraz Khan, and Mohit Avasthi as he paved the way for Delhi's maiden win of the season.

Resuming at 168/9 on the final day, Mumbai's Tanush

Kotian (50 not out) managed to get his half-century before spinner Hrithik Shokeen snared the last wicket with Mumbai managing to score 170 in their second essay.

With less than 100 runs required for the win, Delhi, who have so far endured a tumultuous season and are out of the quarterfinal contention, looked eager to bag the victory.

Opener Anuj Rawat (14) slammed two boundaries and a six in his four-ball innings. Vaibhav Sharma (36) and Hrithik Shokeen (36 not out) then put up a 69-run stand, hitting nine fours and two sixes between them.

With Sharma getting out in the 16th over, former skipper and IPL specialist Nitish Rana, who was added to the squad on the eve of the match, walked to the middle and sent the very first delivery he faced for a six, to seal Delhi's win. The loss has affected the Ajinkya Rahane-led Mumbai's chances for a quarter-final spot. In the other matches in the group, spinner Lalith Mohan, who had a five-for in the first innings, grabbed a six-wicket haul (6/58) in the second essay as Andhra beat Saurashtra



by 150 runs, while Tamil Nadu claimed and innings an 70-run win over Assam.

BENGAL STORM INTO OF ROHTAK: Bengal pacer Akash Deep returned with a career-best 10-wicket match haul as Bengal stormed into quarterfinals with a thumping innings and 50-run victory over Haryana in their Group A match.

Resuming the final day on a precarious 177/7 following on, Haryana managed to last only 10 overs and folded for 206 with Akash wrapping up the issue, dismissing Ajit Chahal and Amit Rana en route to a second successive five-wicket haul (5/51).

Akash's 5/61 in the first innings had brought the home team's downfall for a paltry 153

as he returned with his maiden 10-wicket match haul (10/112).

Mukesh Kumar (3/62) and Ishan Porel (2/42) also impressed as the Bengal pace trio unleashed their fury on a challenging Lahli track.

Bengal posted a massive 419 in their first innings, thanks to Anustup Majumdar's gritty 145.

The victory helped the Manoj Tiwary-led side remain on top of Group A with 32 points from six games having won four and drawn two to sail into the quarters with a match in hand.

They next face Odisha at the Eden Gardens from Tuesday.

CHANDIGARH PICKS UP 3 POINTS

Chandigarh secured three points by virtue of fist innings lead from a drawn Group D game against Railways after a truncated final day.

Resuming the fourth day trailing the opponents by 99 runs, Railways made 71 for 1 in 17 overs.

Opener Shivam Chaudhary remained not out on 33 while Pratham Singh was unbeaten on 26 when play ended.

Another match in the group

between Jammu & Kashmir and Tripura in Jammu ended with the first innings remaining unfinished.

KARNATAKA-KERALA DRAW

Thiruvananthapuram: Karnataka gained three points after its Group C match against Kerala petered out to a draw on the fourth and final day.

The visiting team extended its lead to 143 runs adding 75 more runs to its overnight 410 for 6. Karnataka's total of 485 for 9 declared was built on a superb double ton by India Test discard Mayank Agarwal (208, 360 balls, 17 fours, five sixes).

The Kerala batters made 96 for 4 in 51 overs to deny Karnataka any opening as the game ended in a draw. Karnataka picked up three points.

Meanwhile in Jodhpur, Rajasthan trounced Chhattisgarh by 167 runs and Goa registered an impressive innings win over Services in New Delhi.

In Pudukcherry, Jharkhand eased to a 10-wicket win over the host team, knocking off the target of 70 in the 27th over.

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