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NEW DELHI, FRIDAY JANUARY 6, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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# SC gives new lease of life to 5K families in Haldwani

Apex court stays HC order for eviction from Railways' land; hearing on Feb 7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday acted as a "savior" to about 5,000 families who faced eviction in the biting cold from alleged Indian Railways' land at Haldwani and had nowhere to go.

The court cited fundamental human consideration for its reason to stay the Uttarakhand High Court order for the removal of encroachments from 29 acres claimed by the Railways in Haldwani.

Justices SK Kaul and AS Oka said 50,000 people cannot be uprooted overnight and noted that some people have titles over 60 years and also suggested workable solutions, practical ways and rehabilitations. The bench also observed it may not be correct to say to bring in paramilitary forces to dispossess these people.

The apex court issued notices to the Railways and the Uttarakhand Government seeking their responses to a batch of pleas challenging the High Court order for removal of encroachments.



Local people from Haldwani react as they celebrate the Supreme Court's order on Haldwani eviction case, in New Delhi, on Thursday PTI

According to the Eailways, there are 4,365 encroachers on the land, while the occupants are holding protests at Haldwani asserting they are its rightful owners.

Nearly 50,000 people, a majority of them Muslims, belonging to over 4,000 families reside on the disputed land. "Issue notice. In the meantime, there shall be stay of directions passed in the impugned order," said the bench, which posted the matter for further hearing on

February 7.

"We do believe that a workable arrangement is necessary to segregate people who may have no rights on the land.... Coupled with schemes of rehabilitation which may already exist while recognising the need of the railways," the bench said. "We have not stayed the proceedings and only the directions of the High Court have been stayed," the court clarified.

The court also said there shall be no further construction or development on the disput-

ed land.

Justice Kaul said since people sought to be removed have stayed there for so many years, some rehabilitation has to be found for them. "Even let us assume for the sake of arguments, it is completely Railways land, some scheme will have to be done," said the judge. The bench was hearing a series of petitions filed by the people from Haldwani, represented by noted lawyers Salman Khurshid, Prashant Bhushan and Colin Gonsalves.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Railways, said the land belongs to the Railways and 4,365 unauthorised occupants have been identified.

On this, the bench said these people have claimed they have the leases and also the properties of those, who migrated in 1947, were auctioned and, in that process, they have got the properties.

"What is troubling us is this. One, how do you deal with a scenario where people may have purchased in the auction... If the people have acquired the title, how will you do it?" the court asked the railways.

"We are trying to tell you, find out some solution. This is a human issue," the bench said, adding, "Somebody has to examine whether somebody is entitled for rehabilitation." "But there are multiple angles arising from the nature of the land, ownership of the land, the nature of rights conferred..." it acknowledged.

Bhati said it should be considered how critical the land is for development of the area and the railway station there is really the gateway to entire Uttarakhand. She said the railways cannot expand at the Kathgodam station which is just five km away from Haldwani.

# Ram temple to be ready by Jan 1, 2024, says Shah

**Cong delayed construction, but Modi Govt sped it up: HM**

PNS ■ SABROOM (TRIPURA)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday declared that the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be ready by January 1 next year.

Addressing a public rally here in poll-bound Tripura, Shah held the Congress responsible for delaying the construction of the Ram temple through a series of unending litigations and hailed the Modi Government for clearing the deck for its construction.

"Congress dragged the issue for years...from one court to another...from session court to high court, then to Supreme Court...then back to the session court," Shah said, adding, "But Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled the aspiration of the people by laying foundation for the temple after apex court settled the dispute."

Taunting Rahul Gandhi for his oft-repeated jibe that the BJP raised the slogans that "mandir wahi banayege but date nahi batayege," Shah said, "Rahul Baba, listen from Sabroom, that a mammoth Ram Mandir will be ready on January 1, 2024."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the "Bhoomi puja" for the construction of the temple on August 5, 2020. At



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha during a rally for the launch of BJP's 'Jan Vishwas Yatra', in Dharmanagar, on Thursday PTI

Sabroom in South Tripura district, Shah flagged off a BJP rath yatra, the second one during the day after Dharmanagar in North Tripura district, aimed at highlighting the State Government's achievements ahead of the Assembly elections due early this year.

The BJP is facing a serious challenge in Tripura in the run-up to the polls as a score of MLAs have quit the saffron outfit. The BJP is also wary of the rise of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA Motha) which may impact the outcome in 20 tribal-dominated seats in Tripura.

Reacting to Shah's

announcement, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury termed it as the roll-out of the "election slogan for 2024."

The Trinamool Congress which too is trying to get a foothold in Tripura as well as other North-Eastern States, said the BJP should not try to claim political mileage out of the temple's construction.

Asserting that the country was safe in the hands of Modi, the Union Home Minister said, "Ten days after the Pulwama incident in Kashmir, Indian soldiers went inside Pakistan and carried out a successful operation under Modi's leadership."

## CAPSULE

### TREMORS FELT IN DELHI AS 5.9 EARTHQUAKE HITS AF

**New Delhi:** An earthquake of 5.9 magnitude jolted Afghanistan on Thursday and strong tremors were felt in Delhi and surrounding areas. There was no immediate report of any injury to anyone or damage to any property. The earthquake hit the Hindu Kush Region of Afghanistan, 79 km south of Fayzabad, around 7.55 pm.

### CJI REUSES SELF FROM KAMRA CONTEMPT CASE

**New Delhi:** Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Thursday recused himself from hearing a batch of pleas seeking contempt action against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for his alleged scandalous tweets against the judiciary. A bench headed by the CJI took up the petitions and said, "We will place this matter before a bench to which I (CJI) am not a part of because the comments (tweets) were made on the order, which I have passed."

# Another mid-air peeing on flier: DGCA show-cause notice to AI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the aviation regulator DGCA has pulled up Air India for its inaction over a urination incident on New York-Paris flight on November 26 last year, another mid-air peeing incident has come to the fore on Paris-Delhi Air India flight 142 where a drunken man allegedly urinated on the blanket of a female passenger.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show-cause notice to Air India officials and the crew onboard the New York-Paris flight in connection with the incident saying the airline's conduct was "unprofessional" and led to "systemic failure".

The notices said why action should not be taken against Air India officials and the crew members for dereliction of duty.



The drunken man who urinated on a female passenger has been identified as Shekhar Mishra. He is yet to be arrested.

Mishra is a businessman hailing from Mumbai's Mira Road area and the efforts are on to nab him. According to the Delhi Police, Mishra is currently not present in his Mumbai's residence. "If the suspect doesn't cooperate then the police will send a look-out circular (LOC)," said the Delhi

Police officials.

The DGCA sought the details of the incident from Air India and on the basis of reply of the airline, prima facie it emerges that provisions related to handling of an unruly passenger on-board have not been complied with.

"The conduct of the concerned airline appears to be unprofessional and has led to a systemic failure. Prima facie it lacks appreciation of regulatory obligations as described in applicable Aircraft Rules 1937, Civil Aviation Requirements on 'Handling of Unruly Passengers', Cabin Safety Circular, Air India Operations Manual, Air India Safety and Emergency Procedure Manual and Air India Quick Reference Handbook and is devoid of empathy," it said.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Hunt on for 2 accomplices in Anjali hit & drag case in Delhi

Family alleges cover up, demands death for culprits, protests at Sultanpuri Police Station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a new revelation in the Anjali Singh hit and drag case, the Delhi Police on Thursday said it is now looking for two more people, suspected of having shielded the accused and seen in CCTV footage.

At the same time, the police claimed it found no connection between the victim and the five accused, who were remanded in police custody for four days by a city court. Family members and neigh-



People gather outside the Sultanpuri Police Station demanding capital punishment for men accused in Sultanpuri road accident, in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimril Pioneer

bours of the victim, meanwhile, held a protest outside the Sultanpuri Police Station demanding capital punishment

for the culprits. Addressing a Press conference, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order)

Sagar Preet Hooda said, "We have scientific evidence. They tried to cover up for the people who committed the gruesome crime."

"The two suspects are Ashutosh, the owner of the car, and Ankush, the brother of one of the accused Amit."

He said 18 teams are working on probing the case and all angles are being looked into. Hooda also sought to dismiss claims by Anjali's family that they never heard or met her "friend" Nidhi.

Hooda said around 25 to 30 calls were exchanged between Anjali and Nidhi from December 29-31.

Nidhi had fled the spot after the accident and did not inform anyone about her friend's plight.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Centre stays J'khand Govt's order to convert Jain temple into tourist hub

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving in to the protest by the Jain community over designating their main shrine Sammed Shikharji Tirth in Jharkhand as an eco tourism destination, the Central Government on Thursday ordered for stopping all similar efforts in the greater Parasnath Hills where the temple is located.

Meanwhile, the Congress party has called for withdrawal of the notification declaring the site as "eco-tourism zone" which was issued in 2019 by the then BJP Government.

Earlier in the morning, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren wrote to the Centre to seek "appropriate decisions" on its 2019 notification. Soren wrote that the State's 2021 tourism policy — it is also being opposed by the community — is for forming a management board that can better manage the shrine. Following opposition from



the community, the Centre has also instructed the State Government to take harsh action against forbidden behaviours like drinking alcohol or "defiling of locations of religious and cultural value" or ecological harm.

Jain community leaders have been expressing reservation against the notification, fearing that designating the place as a tourist destination

may "hurt its sanctity". Sammed Shikharji in Parasnath Hills in Giridih district, home to the highest peak in the State some 160 km from Ranchi, is among the holiest places of the Jains, including for both Digambaras and Shwetambaras sects, as 20 of the 24 Jain tirthankaras attained "moksha" (salvation) in this location.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Delhi shivers as mercury slumps to 3 degrees C; breather tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As entire north India reeled under bone-chilling cold and dense fog, the minimum temperature dropped to three degrees Celsius in Delhi — the lowest in January in two year. The dense fog acted as a double whammy for Delhi commuters as visibility levels came down to 50 metres around 5.30 am.

Cold wave and cold day conditions are predicted to continue for the next 24 hours, though there will be some improvement under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance that is likely to affect northwest India starting January 7, a senior IMD official said. However, he cautioned that similar intense cold wave could return after January 13 and may last for days.

In the plains, the Met office declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature dips to four degrees Celsius or when the minimum temperature is 10



People during a cold and foggy winter morning at India Gate in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimril Pioneer

degrees or below and is 4.5 notches below the normal.

According to the weather office, "very dense" fog is when visibility is between 0 and 50 metres, 51 and 200 metres is "dense", 201 and 500 metres "moderate", and 501 and 1,000 metres "shallow".

The IMD said dense to very dense fog and cold day

conditions were very likely to continue over northwest India during the next four to five days.

According to the IMD weather forecast, dense to very dense fog may occur over part of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, isolated pockets of Rajasthan, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, and north Madhya Pradesh in the next 2-3 days. A severe cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from the normal is more than 6.4 degrees.

Thankfully, so far the fog has not thrown into disarray train and flight operations. While 12 trains were delayed by one-and-a-half to six hours and two rescheduled due to the foggy weather, all flight operations were near normal.

In a fog advisory alert, the Delhi airport said low visibility procedures were in progress. "All flight operations are presently normal. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information," the advisory read. The Safdarjung observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, logged a minimum temperature of three degrees Celsius against 4.4 degrees on Wednesday and 8.5 degrees on Tuesday.

*Continued on Page 2*

# Period of parole to be excluded from sentence: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that the period of parole granted to a prisoner is to be excluded from the sentence while considering his premature release.

Upholding a Bombay High Court order, a bench of justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar said if the period is included in the sentence, then a prisoner who may be influential may get parole a number of times.

"If the submission on behalf of the prisoners that the period of parole is to be included while considering 14 years of actual imprisonment is accepted, in that case, any prisoner who may be influential may get parole for a number of times as there is no restrictions and it can be granted a number of times and if the submission on behalf of the prisoners is accepted, it may defeat the very objective of sentence."

*Continued on Page 2*



BENGAL WANTS NATIONAL FARE STATUS FOR GANGA SAGAR MELA

Mamata slams BJP for peddling false news over Vande Bharat stone-pelting

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday slammed the BJP for trying to defame Bengal by feeding fake stories to the media. Claiming that stones were pelted at the Vande Bharat Express not in Bengal but in Bihar, Banerjee said that the people of Bihar must have been unhappy over some decision of the Centre and hence they had resorted to stone-pelting.

“Some people are feeding false stories to the media in order to defame Bengal saying stones were pelted at the Vande Bharat Express ... now it has been revealed that the stones were actually pelted by some people in Bihar because they might have been upset with the Centre ... and a section of the media is trying to defame my Government and State to please the BJP ... this will not be tol-



erated ... we will bring action against them,” the Chief Minister said.Two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi

flagged off the Vande Bharat Express the Central Government’s flagship semi high speed train was pelted with stones on two successive days.

While the first incident took place at Kumarganj in Malda district the second one reportedly happened allegedly between Kishanganj in Bihar and New Jalpaiguri in Bengal triggering political mudsling-

ing. The BJP blamed the TMC for instigating the stone pelters as it was not happy with the saffron workers shouting Jai Shri Ram slogan in presence of Mamata Banerjee during the train’s inauguration at Howrah Station on December 30. However the TMC refuted the charges saying it was the BJP’s handiwork to blame TMC and defame Bengal.

Banerjee’s diatribes came after reports emanating from the neighbouring State that Bihar Police had arrested some suspected persons for pelting stones at the premium train, the seventh in its series.

In two day’s successive stone pelting incidents on January 2 and 3 the door and window panes of the C- 13 and C-3 and C-6 coaches of the Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express were damaged.

Banerjee who was presently visiting Ganga Sagar to inspect the administrative

preparations to handle the crowd of pilgrims that could cross 30 lakh this year earlier blamed the Centre for not spending a paisa for the development of the Ganga Sagar Fare.

“As there is no Kumbh Mela this year the entire crowd is likely to come here and it may go beyond 30 lakh ... we are trying our best to develop the infrastructural amenities here and expect the Centre which has not even given Batasha (sweets) worth a paisa for Ganga Sagar to accord it a status of National Fare because after Kumbha Mela this is the biggest such religious congregation in the country that requires traveling beyond massive rivers ...

We want the Centre to construct a bridge over Muri Ganga that may cost Rs 100 crore to link the Ganga Sagar Islands to the mainland,” Banerjee said.

CBI unearths 160 fake accounts during cattle smuggling probe

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was more embarrassment for the Mamata Banerjee Government even as a fresh scam tended to explode in its face with the Central Bureau of Investigation while investigating the cattle smuggling case on Thursday stumbled upon yet another scam in Suri Cooperative Bank in Birbhum district.

In the course of investigating the cattle smuggling case that has seen senior TMC leader and party strongman Anubrata Mondal going to jail, the CBI sleuths unearthed at least 160 fake accounts in the Suri branch of Cooperative Bank where a majority of the account holders are rural farmers.

The CBI officers had scanned 60 fake accounts that had accounted for more than Rs 5 crore when the reports last came in. Heavy amounts had been transacted through the accounts.

“Only one signature figures in most of these transac-



tions,”sources said. “It is unlikely that the poor farmers who are the account holders of a cooperative bank might have transacted in so many lakhs of rupees and on several occasions,” sources said adding the accounts had great chances of being linked to some big shot, perhaps some mastermind of

the cattle smuggling.

The CBI officials would not comment on reports doing the rounds that the accounts had links to cattle smuggling as also the state food department. The CBI sleuths are also trying to find out whether the accounts had any link with Mondal, sources said.

Woman dragged by truck for over 3 kms in Banda, killed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A rerun of the Delhi car dragging incident was witnessed in Banda where a woman employee of the Agricutlural University was dragged by a truck for over three kilometers before the vehicle caught fire and she was charred alive.

The accident took place on Wednesday evening and the agitated university students staged a demonstration that led to a huge traffic jam.

Reports said that Pushpa Singh (32) hailing from Gontmi Nagar in Lucknow was a junior clerk at Banda University of Agriculture and Technology. She was earlier a teacher at Don Bosco School in Lucknow. On Wednesday evening, she left the university campus on a

scooty. As soon as she came out of the university gate, a truck hit her from behind. Due to this Pushpa got trapped in the front part of the truck along with the scooty. She was dragged along with her scooty for three kilometres before both the vehicles caught fire.

The truck driver and the cleaner immediately jumped out of the vehicle and escaped while Pushpa Singh was charred alive before the police could rush to her rescue or call the fire brigade to douse the fire.

After two fire engines controlled the fire, the body trapped in the truck was searched. Instead of the body of the clerk, only a piece of flesh was found in the completely burnt truck. The truck, UP-51 AT-5473, was going to

Fatehpur after loading ballast from Kabrai. According to eyewitnesses, when the truck hit the scooty near the gate of the university, the passers-by screamed after seeing the accident. She also shouted loudly to stop truck but driver ignored the voice and increased the speed in an attempt to escape.

Sources said that Pushpa Devi had got a job in university on compassionate ground after death of her husband Ranjit Singh, who was an assistant accounts officer in university. He was suffering from cancer and he lost his life due to infection in 2020 during COVID-19 period.

There are two children in family. Meanwhile, due to accident, a huge jam was witnessed on Mawai bypass for about two hours.

Massive turnout in Rahul’s UP leg of Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BAGHPAT/PATNA

The two-day Uttar Pradesh leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra ended on Thursday with a massive turnout of “more than a lakh people” participating in the foot march led by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi.

While Rahul received applause from RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary for taking up the cause of farmers close to his heart, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge too flagged off an over 1,000 km long march, inspired by Rahul ,in Banka district of Bihar.

Congress’ ally in Bihar government, Janata Dal (U) is also scheduled to launch a yatra named ‘Samadhan Yatra’ led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

A large number of people who walked along Rahul in Shamli in Western UP were

from the farming sector who had protested for one year at Delhi border against the Centre’s controversial farm laws which had to be withdrawn by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A Congress spokesman claimed that all records seems to have been broken in UP when more than a lakh people were seen on roads and streets of Shamli for the foot march. A day earlier Rahul was welcomed over flowers’ pavement created by the farmers.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra re-entered Haryana on Thursday evening from where Rahul left for Delhi to meet his ailing mother UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

He will return on Friday morning to start the Haryana sojourn of the yatra.

The Bihar padyatra, which would cover a major part of the state, was launched close to the



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during the party’s ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’, in Shamli, on Thursday

PTI Photo

“Mandar” hills, about 250 km from the state capital, which finds a mention in Hindu mythology. Kharge, who was visiting Bihar for the first time

after getting elected to the top post of his party, slammed the BJP government at the Centre for ‘failure to provide employment to the youth’ and divert-

ing public attention with “communally charged rhetoric”. Bihar congress chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh was also present on the occasion.

Man flashes at woman in bus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a video that went viral on social media, a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus marshal claimed that a man allegedly flashed his private part to a woman passenger inside a bus. However, Delhi Police said that no action has been taken against the accused as the victim refused to take any further action regarding the incident.

An enquiry was initiated but the woman refused to give a statement or comment, police said, adding that legal action will be taken once a complaint is received. In video, the accused, identified as Zakir, is

seen crying after being confronted by marshal following the incident that allegedly took place in northwest Delhi’s Rohini. When Sandeep Chhikhara, the marshal of the bus, asks the woman about the incident in video, she is seen alleging that man flashed his private part to her.

In the clip, Zakir is heard saying that he hails from Bihar, lives in northeast Delhi’s Khajuri area and had come to Vijay Vihar to work. “I have informed police and accused will be handed over to them,” marshal then says. The police, however, said the victim refused to file a complaint in connection with the incident.

SC asks UP prisons DG to give affidavit on remission of prisoners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Uttar Pradesh’s DG of Prisons to file an affidavit in his personal capacity giving details about the steps taken so far to grant the benefit of remission to convicts in the state in pursuance of its earlier judgment.

The apex court had on September 6 last year taken note of the Uttar Pradesh policy on remission that there will be no requirement for the convict to submit an application for premature release and their cases will be considered automatically by the jail authorities.

Truck rams into bike: 2 workers die, 2 injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Two restaurant workers died and another two were hospitalized with injuries after their motorcycle was allegedly hit by a truck amid reduced visibility due to fog early on Thursday. All the four workers, aged below 25 years, were on the same motorcycle when the crash took place near the Advant building under the Expressway police station limits around 1 am, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ashutosh Dwivedi said. Two workers Bhawna (19) and Shobhit (23) have died, while the other two

Kaushalendra alias Kaushal and Sonu have been hospitalized, according to the police.The truck, which was loaded with furniture, has been impounded and its driver arrested, police said.

“An underpass is being constructed near the Advant Building. The canter truck appears to have gone out of control due to the fog and reduced visibility in the night. “The truck hit a concrete structure first and then rammed into the motorcycle on which four people were riding,” Dwivedi said. “Two people died and two have been brought to the Sharda Hospital for treatment.

‘74% fall in cases of insurgency in NE’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There has been a 74 per cent reduction in insurgency-related violence, 60 per cent reduction in attacks on security forces and 89 per cent decrease in civilian deaths in the Northeast, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference here, the Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) said about 8,000 youths, who were involved with insurgent groups, have surrendered and have joined the mainstream, welcoming a better future for themselves and their families.

Centre stays J’khand Govt’s order to convert Jain temple into tourist hub

From Page 1

Three days ago hundreds of Jains gathered at India Gate here, protesting the decision to designate the shrine as an eco tourism destination. They submitted a memorandum in this regard to President Draupadi Murmu and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Jharkhand’s Tourism Secretary in a letter, written a few days ago, had intimated the Centre that as per the notification, a board is being set up to better manage the shrine following its declaration as a tourism site. The Board will have six non-government members who are being chosen from the Jain community, the letter said, adding that the community’s opposition was to declaring Parasnath Hills, where the shrine is located, as an “eco tourism” area. The letter to the Union Environment Ministry came days after the Ministry wrote to the State asking it to “recommend necessary modifications for further needful action”.

Hunt on for 2 accomplices in Anjali hit...

From Page 1

The police said Amit did not have a driving license and after he informed Ankush about the accident, his brother convinced Deepak, who is a Gramin Seva driver, to tell police that he was behind the wheel on the fateful day.He said Ashutosh and Ankush were not in the car.

The police said Ashutosh also misled them by claiming that Deepak took the car when it was Amit, who had driven the car. Deepak also happens to be Amit and Ankush’s cousin, Hooda said.

When questioned about any link between the accused and victim, the senior officer said, “There was no connection between accused and victim and accused and eyewitnesses. This is what has been revealed so far in the investigation. The accused will be produced before the court on Thursday and we will request the court for police custody.”

The officer said that all five accused are being interrogated. Hooda said the incident occurred between 2.04 am to 2.06 am, while the body was found around 4.15 am. “Footage is emerging and we are also investigating the matter,” he added.

Another mid-air peeing on flier: DGCA show-cause notice to AI

From Page 1

According to DGCA, show cause notices have been issued to Air India’s Accountable Manager, Director in-flight Services, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

They have been given two weeks time to submit their reply to DGCA and based on that further action will be taken. Air India in its reply to DGCA said its cabin crew received a complaint from a female passenger on board AI 102 of November 26, that a male co-passenger had soiled her clothes and bags etc by relieving himself near the seat she was in. “The crew assisted the female passenger to a different seat in the same class and

provided a set of dry clothes and slippers. The female passenger initially requested that action be taken against the offender upon arrival, however subsequently rescinded her request after the two parties appeared to sort the matter out between them.

Cabin crew reported the incident to the Commander and logged it in the Voyage Report. As there was no further flare up or confrontation, and respecting the perceived wishes of the female passenger, crew elected not to summon law enforcement upon landing,” Air India said.

“The aggrieved passenger has been refunded the fare for the sector she was travelling on that flight. We have also been in regular contact with the aggrieved passenger and her family during the investigation

and reporting process,” it added. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) also directed the airline to conduct an internal probe into the matter and submit the report as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, yet another mid air peeing incident has come to the fore on Paris-Delhi Air India flight 142 where a drunken man allegedly urinated on the blanket of a female passenger. The pilot of the aircraft reported the matter to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport about it, following which the male passenger was apprehended.

The incident took place on December 6. No action was taken as male passenger gave a written apology. It is not known which class the passengers were travelling in.

Delhi shivers as minimum temp 3...

From Page 1

Delhi’s minimum temperature was lower than Dalhousie (4.9 degrees Celsius), Dharamshala (5.2 degrees), Kangra (3.2 degrees), Shimla (3.7 degrees), Dehradun (4.6 degrees), Mussoorie (4.4 degrees) and Nainital (6.2 degrees).

The weather stations at Lodhi Road, Ayanagar and Ridge in Delhi recorded minimum temperatures of 2.8 degrees Celsius, 2.2 degrees and 2.8 degrees, respectively.

The cold snap is expected to strain power grids and pose challenges to the homeless.

As people gathered around bonfires across the city, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on Wednesday advised residents’ welfare associations, institutions and other

establishments to provide electric heaters, blankets and warm clothes to security guards to prevent open burning of biomass that leads to pollution.

The Met office had on Wednesday issued an orange alert for Delhi-NCR for Thursday and Friday.

The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings -- green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action).

A cold day is when the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius below the normal and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees below the normal. A severe cold day is when the maximum is 6.5 degrees Celsius or more below the normal.

Period of parole to be excluded from sentence: SC

From Page 1

“We are of the firm view that for the purpose of considering actual imprisonment, the period of parole is to be excluded. We are in complete agreement with the view taken by the high court holding so,” the bench said.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by some convicts undergoing life imprisonment, who were released on parole under the provisions of the Goa Prisons Rules, 2006.

All the petitioners had applied for a premature release under the 2006 rules and the State Sentence Revenue Board had recommended their premature release.



# Jain threatening us: Jail officials

BJP ploy ahead of hearing in leader's bail plea in HC, says AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP minister Satyendar Jain, who is in Tihar jail in connection with a money laundering case, has been accused of threatening jail officials with dire consequences. It has been alleged that Jain gave a stern warning to jail authorities saying that he wouldn't spare anyone - be it a serving or a retired official. However, the AAP has denied these allegations saying that it's a BJP conspiracy ahead of the hearing of the Jain plea in the High Court.

The Additional Inspector General - Prisons (Tihar Jail), Superintendent of Jail No. 07 (SCJ-7), Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Law Officer complained to the Director-General (Prisons) that Jain had been 'abusing them and threatening them with dire consequences once he gets out of the prison'. Jain has



been in jail since he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last year in connection with a money laundering case. Purported videos of him getting massages and meeting visitors inside the jail had created a furore with the opposition demanding his removal from Cabinet. According to the report submitted by the Rajesh Choudhary, SCJ-7, Jaidev, Assistant Superintendent, lids submitted an Incident report dated December 8, 2022 forwarded by the Deputy Superintendent Praveen Kumar informing that on November 30, 2022 at about 07:30 PM he along with Kumar and other officer went to the cell of Jain to deliver Show Cause Notices as per rule 1272 of DPR, 2018.

"After seeing the Show Cause Notices, Jain stated that Mujhe sab pta hai ki ye sab motte ne kerwaya hai, jo Law Officer hai. Mai bahar nikalne

ke baad is Jail se CCTV footage mangunga or is SCJ-7 Rajesh Choudhary ko bahar nikalne ke baad dekh lunga or ise noukari kerna sikha dunga or SCJ-7 ke baare me bhla-bura kehne lga," stated the report. "In this regard it is also submitted that order dated November 22, 2022 the AIG Prison was assigned addition charge of SCJ-07 without any extra remuneration till further orders. Choudhary being SCJ-07 was directed, order dated November 21, 2022, to conduct an enquiry in the complaint forwarded by DCP west, against Jain," it stated. The report further claimed that in pursuance of the enquiry the AIG Prison called Jain on November 25, 2022 at about 01:36 PM in the chamber.

At that time also Jain stated that "Ye sara matter political hai, and jab bhi mai bahar nikulnga to sare Govt. Servants jinhone mere against kuch bhi kiya hai, chahe serving ya retired unko dekh lunga."

"The AIG Prison assumed that the Jain said this because of frustration but in view of the latest Incident report dated December 8, 2022, Choudhary has apprehension that Jain, being a minister, may take

adverse action against the them and other jail officials, once he comes out of the Jail," it said.

"In view of the above It is requested that UTP satyendra Jain may be transferred to some other jail at the earliest," SCJ-7 further said in his report.

Superintendent, Chaudhary marked this complaint and incident report to the AIG, Prison, who in turn, noted

on File that, "Shri Satyendra Jain has been making reference to the undersigned also at 'X' (X being the retired government servant mentioned in Chaudhary's noting), with superannuation time due in 2024. The matter may be kept on record lest Shri Jain may make adversial moves against me in future," as per the Tihar jail officials.

## No bid to tamper with evidence: Jain

New Delhi: Jailed AAP minister Satyendar Jain, who is seeking bail in a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that he has fully cooperated in the investigation and there is no allegation of any attempt made by him to tamper with evidence.

"Five years after registration of ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) and having joined the investigation on a number of occasions, Jain was

arrested on May 30, 2022," his counsel told Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma. Seeking bail in the money laundering case, the counsel said, "There is no allegation that during this period, I (Jain) tried to tamper with the evidence or did not cooperate or tried to influence witnesses."

The lawyer contended there are no "proceeds of crime" in the case which only has a "notional basis". After hearing part arguments, the high court listed matter for further proceedings on January 17.

## Kejriwal: Aldermen nominations done unconstitutionally by ignoring Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written to Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena over the "unconstitutional" manner in which 10 aldermen were nominated to the MCD by bypassing the Delhi government, saying this was a complete departure from the settled practice.

In a related development, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has also written to the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, asking him to "desist" from taking any further action on the issue. Aldermen refers to people who are experts in their fields. However, they do not have voting rights in the mayoral election. Ten aldermen were nominated to the MCD ahead mayoral poll.

Kejriwal said that traditionally, all files pertaining to nominations under Section 3(b)(i) are routed through the Urban Development Department which is the nodal department of the Municipal Corporation.

"Such files are required and have, in the past, always been put up to the Minister-in-Charge of the Urban Development/Ministry. "It is, therefore, unfortunate that recently, in a complete departure from this settled practice, files were routed directly by the MCD - Commissioner to the Lieutenant Governor completely bypassing the Delhi government. This is contrary to law and the Constitution," read Kejriwal's letter to Saxena.

Kejriwal claimed the nomination was done "entirely bypassing the Council of Ministers of the democratically elected Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi". "It is with a considerable degree of dismay and consternation that I, as the chief minister of the Government of Delhi, am compelled to address another communication to you drawing reference to conduct which while in the past was an aberration has, today, unfortunately degenerated into an increasingly recurring practice of endemic proportions whereby no stone is being left unturned and no effort is being spared to interfere with and impede the day-to-day administration and functioning of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

"Such series of actions are blatantly unconstitutional, a



## LG nominates BJP councillor as presiding officer for Mayor poll

New Delhi: Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday nominated BJP councillor Satya Sharma as the presiding officer for the first House meeting on Friday to elect the mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Reacting to the appointment, the Aam Aadmi Party accused the BJP of being hell-bent on destroying all democratic traditions and institutions.

The first municipal House after the high-stakes civic polls on December 4 is scheduled to take place on Friday during which all newly elected councillors will take oath and the mayor and the deputy mayor will be elected. "The Lt.

Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi under section 77 of the Act is further pleased to nominate Satya Sharma, Councillor, Ward No.226 to preside over the meeting for the election of the Mayor."

She will be administered oath/affirmation as per section 32 of the Act, by Santosh Kumar Rai, District Magistrate, New Delhi. The other councillors will be administered oath (affirmation by the Presiding Officer)," read a notification.

After the oath ceremony, the newly constituted civic body will proceed to elect the Mayor, as required by section 35 of the Act. SR

colourable exercise of power, apart from constituting a fraud on the Constitution and display a worryingly scant regard for provisions of the Constitution, the law laid down by the highest court of the land as also settled convention and practice of the Government of Delhi," he said. Kejriwal also flagged "an attempt to rig the composition of the standing committee of the MCD through these nominations". In the letter, he said it appears to be an attempt "to influence the process of elections to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation by the nomination of these members".

"It is pertinent to note that these 10 members have been intentionally chosen to represent three zones out of 12 of the municipal corporation," he said. Since one member of the standing committee gets chosen from each zone, the attempt quite clearly is to ensure that the composition of the panel is skewed in favour of the persons belonging or owing allegiance

to the ruling party at the Centre and thereby subvert the will of the electorate in the recently concluded elections to the municipal corporations, Kejriwal alleged.

Noting that local bodies is a "transferred subject" over which the democratically elected government has legislative and executive decision-making authority and jurisdiction, Kejriwal said the LG is constitutionally required to act in terms of the aid and advice tendered by the council of ministers. Sisodia also wrote to MCD Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti over the "bypassing of elected state government" during the nominations of aldermen and directed him to desist from taking any further action in regard. Calling himself the competent authority in the matter who has been completely bypassed, he claimed the nomination is contrary to Article 239AA of the Constitution as well as to the interpretation made by the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

## Anjali hit & drag accused's custody extended by 4 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court on Thursday extended by four days the police custody of five men accused of causing the death of a 20-year-old woman who was hit by a car and dragged a long distance underneath the vehicle in the city.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sanya Dalal allowed the Delhi police to have the accused in their custody for four days more for interrogation instead of their prayer for a five-day remand. "Police custody allowed for four days," the judge said.

Upon being asked about the reasons for seeking extension of police remand, the investigating officer said their further custody was required as police needed to establish the nearly 13-km-long route the accused had taken to traverse in two hours on the fateful night when the victim woman had got entangled under the

vehicle after being hit.

"The long route has to be established...Starting at 7 pm, the accused travelled for around two hours," he said. The Investing Officer also said the accused Amit was driving the car but another accused Deepak was "planted" as the vehicle's driver. He informed the court that police had obtained disclosure statements of all accused.

He said all of them were subjected to "sustained interrogation" over the last three days in custody. Police have identified the petrol pump and eatery where the accused had stopped, the IO said, adding the Call Detail Records (CDRs) of the accused were also analysed.

The victim Anjali Singh (20) was killed in the early hours of the New Year after her scooter was hit by a car, which dragged her for about 12 kilometres. Her body with multiple injuries was found on the road in Kanjhawala.

## Citing shoddy probe Swati urges Centre to shift case to CBI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Thursday said she will send a suggestion to the Centre to transfer the Kanjhawla accident case to CBI, saying there several discrepancies in the police investigation so far.

The DCW had summoned the Delhi Police in connection with the accident in which Anjali Singh was killed in the early hours of New Year after her scooter was hit by a car, which dragged her for 12 kilometres.

Her body was found in outer Delhi's Kanjhawla. Five men who were allegedly in the car have been booked for culpable homicide among other sections. Anjali was accompanied by her "friend" Nidhi, who claimed to be riding pillion at the time of the incident. However, Anjali's family has claimed that they had never seen or heard of Nidhi. "Today, Delhi Police personnel appeared before the panel and



we found several question marks in the investigation. The police have not even seized Nidhi's phone till now which could have important evidence.

"They have not scanned the complete CCTV footage on the 12 kilometre stretch on which Anjali was dragged, not even the footage from the hotel till the accident site," she said.

She also questioned the fact that section 302, which pertains to murder, was not added in the FIR, adding that the police response was very poor on the night of the accident. "We have also found that statements under section 164 CrPc have not been recorded of all the witnesses.

## L-G has no intention of providing security to daughters of Delhi, says AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday alleged that the Delhi Police has planted Nidhi 'star-eyewitness' in the Kanjhawla case under the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's pressure to save the accused BJP leader.

AAP senior leader Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the attempts are being made to make the compromised 'eyewitness' a government witness in the case to save the accused.

The planted witness has been spreading lies about the deceased girl, she said that the girl was drunk at the time of the accident, while the post-mortem report revealed that the girl was not under the influence of alcohol.

"On the other hand, Anjali's mother has said that no one in the family knows Nidhi and that she could have been associated with the accused persons. The L-G has no intention of providing security to the daughters of Delhi, how many police stations has he visited in the last eight months?," he alleged.

## Swiggy delivery agent dies after car hits bike, drags him in Noida

Noida: In a case similar to 20 year old Anjali Singh's accident, a 24-year-old delivery executive who was working as a Swiggy delivery partner, was killed after a car allegedly hit his bike and dragged him for 500 metres in Noida's Sector 14. The deceased has been identified as Kaushal Yadav, a resident of Mainpuri Eatawa, Uttar Pradesh, who was on duty.

The incident took place when he was passing the sector 14 flyover in Noida around

1 am on New Year's night when his bike was struck by an unidentified car. After colliding with the two-wheeler, the car dragged the rider to Shani Temple - around 1 km from the scene of the accident - where the driver stopped the car before fleeing the scene.

According to police, Yadav's family member has lodged a complaint at Phase 1 police station saying they had called Kaushal on the night of

the incident. His phone was picked up by a cab driver, who said Kaushal has been involved in an accident and was lying on the road.

"We got information from a Delhi control room about the accident near Phase 1 area, Noida Sector 14A. The man had died on the spot. We have formed three teams to identify and nab the accused. Locals alleged the man was dragged for 500 metres. We are looking into that," police said.

## Anjali's kin, neighbours seek death penalty for culprits; hold protest



New Delhi: Family members and neighbours of the woman who was killed after being dragged by a car in outer Delhi held a protest outside the Sultanpuri police station on Thursday and demanded that the culprits be hanged. The protest also led to traffic congestion in the area. The protesters raised slogans

against the accused and demanded that all five of them be hanged to death. "It is not an accident. This was done deliberately and incident should be treated like murder," said one of protesters. They also asked police to treat the incident as murder and add Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.

## Bidhuri: Not single Rozgar Budget promise fulfilled by Govt

NEW DELHI: Lashing out at the AAP, Delhi BJP on Thursday said that the Kejriwal Government had cheated the people of the national Capital by making false promises in the 'Rozgar Budget 2022-23' not even a single promise was fulfilled by them this fiscal year.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the AAP govern-



ment claimed to provide 20 lakh employments in the city in

five years but not even 20 people were facilitated with the jobs this year.

He said that not even a single promise made in the employment budget was fulfilled by the Kejriwal Government and yet the time of presenting the new budget is around the corner. Pointing out the promises made in the Rozgar Budget by the Delhi

Government, Bidhuri said that they claimed to organize the 'Delhi Shopping Festival' from January 28 to February 26, 2023, but it is not taking place.

"Apart from this the formation of a cloud kitchen and food truck policy, and the redevelopment of Asia's largest Gandhi Nagar garment market was promised by the Kejriwal Government in the previous

budget but till the date not even a single work has been completed," LoP claimed. "The AAP Government also announced the plans for the redevelopment of five big markets of the national capital, Kamla Nagar, Lalpat Nagar, Khari Baoli, Kirti Nagar and, Sarojini Nagar, but all these plans remained only just announcements," Bidhuri said.

per the Gazetteer of Delhi. Officials have also confirmed the presence of other mammals such as striped hyena, jungle cat, golden jackal, Indian hare, Indian boar, black buck, sambar deer, spotted deer, and hog deer among others. The leopards of Asola share an area of just 32.71 sq km and probably also occupy the adjoining forest patches of bordering Faridabad district.

## 2 cubs in Asola caught on camera: Forest dept

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two leopard cubs were spotted in the Asola Bhatti Sanctuary recently in a fresh example of how bold efforts of conservationists and the forest and wildlife department can help several wildlife species recover in urban jungles. Forest department officials said the two cubs were caught on a camera trap a few days ago.

A video shared by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) on its Instagram page showed a leopard cub emerging from a burrow inside the sanctuary. Since mother felines do not travel long distances with newborns, the officials believe the sanctuary is their birthplace. An official on Wednesday said this is first time that a cub leopard has been spotted in the jungles

of Asola since leopard sightings began a few years ago. The wildlife department and the BNHS had released a study in October, confirming the presence of eight leopards in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, with enough evidence to suggest the large carnivore is making the urban forest its permanent home. The sanctuary did not record any leopard sighting for many decades after 1940, as

per the Gazetteer of Delhi. Officials have also confirmed the presence of other mammals such as striped hyena, jungle cat, golden jackal, Indian hare, Indian boar, black buck, sambar deer, spotted deer, and hog deer among others. The leopards of Asola share an area of just 32.71 sq km and probably also occupy the adjoining forest patches of bordering Faridabad district.

## Search op continues for 3rd day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

The search and rescue operation for a leopard continued for a third day on Thursday in a row at a group housing society in Greater Noida (West) where it was

spotted earlier this week. Residents of the society have curtailed their outdoor movements ever since they were alerted about big cat's movement in area and suspected its presence in basement of an under-construction residential tower on their premises.





PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Dinesh Kumar, Darshana, E-198, Dr Ambedkar Nagar Sector-5, Dakshin Puri New Delhi Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00001898530.	Plot No-31, Ground Floor, Block-5, Eros Garden, Charmwood Village, Suraj Kund Road, Faridabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 35,57,303/-	30/07/ 2022
2.	Ghanshyam Dass Gupta, Shobha Cards Pvt Ltd, Rajeshwar Kumar Gupta, 35 Civil Lines Rajpur Road Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00001919526.	T-18- 402,4th Floor, Tower- T18, La Tropicana Civil Lines, Khyber Pass, Delhi.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 43,61,817/-	09/09/ 2021
3.	Nityanand Singh, Krishan Kumar Suman, 244/90 Mandawali Unchepar Patparganj, Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00005610013.	Flat No. A-306, 3rd Floor, Nagar Nigam Sky Tower, Aligarh, Avas Vikas Colony, Sassi Gate, Pargana and Tehsil Koi, Aligarh.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 41,11,357/-	12/09/ 2022
4.	Sachin Garg, Mamta Garg, Brij Mohan 36/116 Neraj Nagar Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBNOD00005193966.	Flat No. C3/804, 8th Floor, Tower- 'C3' Plot No. 4/BS-01 & 4/BS-05, 'Grand Carnesia', Siddarth Vihar, Nh-24, Ghaziabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 29,56,700/-	30/12/ 2021
5.	Santosh Kumar Singh, Deepika Singh, Flat No. Ac Jain Society, Gavindpuram Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201013 Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBGHZ00005309512.	Flat No. 5903, 2nd Floor, Block D, Rlf 'The Park', Sector- 54, Bhiwadi, Bhiwadi Rajasthan .	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 26,72,236/-	03/09/ 2022
6.	Satish Kumar Singh, Pooja Singh, 1403 Em-2 Gardenia Glamaour, Sec-3 Vashundhra Uttar Pradesh Agra Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBGHZ00005973843.	Plot No. E 14, Block E, 4th Floor, (With Roof Right) Raj Garden City, Raj Nagar Extn, Khasra No- 1085, 1086, 1088, 1089, & 1135M, Village Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 29,62,472/-	05/09/ 2022
7.	Sharda Devi, Sandeep Kumar, A-79 Himalaya Apartments Sec 2, Rohini Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00004899286.	Flat No- 207, Third Floor, Pocket- 07, Sector- 21, Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi .	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 48,98,655/-	03/09/ 2022
8.	Veena Shetty, Hari Shetty, Flat No- 402 Tower Jally Palm D, Omaxe Palm Green Sector Mu Gr Noida. A/c No:- LBNOD00002436126.	Flat No. 7185, 18th Floor, Tower 07, Ats Allure, Plot No. P7/ts 02A, Sector 22D, Yamuna Expressway, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 40,37,134/-	06/01/ 2021
9.	Vinay Kumar, Mona, Flat No. 28 Pocket-2 Green New Apartment Sector 19 Delhi. A/c No:- LBGUR00002001797.	Flat No- 304, 3rd Floor, Tower- 1, Colony Spire Woods, Sector- 103, Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 41,84,734/-	09/09/ 2021
10.	Ajeet Kumar Singh, Ritu Singh, B 4 Gali No. First Floor West Binod Nagar Near Manglam Hospital Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00002453642.	Flat No- O- 2503, 25th Floor, Tower- O, Ajinara Le Garden, Plot No- Gh-02, Sector- 16, Greater Noida West Noida.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 26,11,957/-	31/10/ 2021
11.	Amarendra Kumar, Chandra Mukhi, 471, Paschimabad J.N.Udelhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00001104826.	Flat No- D01/044/4, First Floor, Dilshad Colony Ext- 2 Ghaziabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 5,42,449/-	31/01/ 2021
12.	Anu Mehta, Chetna Mehra, B 8 Sec 40 Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00002386242.	Flat No- 1201A, 12A Floor, (LE 13th Floor) Tower-A, Plot No- 1 Eco City Maxilis Grand Wellington, Eco City Sec- 75 Noidagautam Buddha Nagar.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 23,85,944/-	03/09/ 2022
13.	Arun Sharma, Monika Sharma, Flat No-F- 311 4th Avenue Gaur City-01 Greater Noida, West Gautam Budh Nagar Noida. A/c No:- LBNOD00004905002.	Flat No- 230180, 21st Floor, Block- U, Gaur City- 2 14th Avenue, Plot No- Gh-03, Sector- 16C, Noida.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 9,56,310/-	29/09/ 2022
14.	Ashish Srivastava, Vandana Arya, H No. 164 A 12 Krishna Colony Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBDEL00004564337.	Flat No- 404, 4th Floor, Tower-A, Solera, Sector- 107 Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,32,909/-	04/07/ 2022
15.	Ching Nei Kim Simte, Sanni Nesan, Flat No. 202, Block-13 Nurses Residential Complex, Ring Road Srinilwalpur, N.Delhi, Oppsite Pgdan College Delhi. A/c No:- LBNOD00001397510.	Flat No- N-26, 2nd Flr, South Extension- 1, Nr. Kurta Palace, New Delhi .	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,25,856/-	11/07/ 2022
16.	Daya Nand Rai, Madhubala Rai, Flat No. 204 Alakananda Appt, Block C Rampuri Ghaziabad Block C Rampuri Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBDEL00002843351.	Flat No- C 204, 2nd Floor, Alakananda, Apartment- Rampuri Colony Ghaziabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 2,91,756/-	03/09/ 2022
17.	Deshant Thakur, Madhuri, House No-C- 74/10, Phase- 2Vijay Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:- LBNOD00005244781.	Flat No- N/CA 1204, 12th Floor, Plot No- GH- 06, City Apartment Phase- II, Aditya World City, Ghaziabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 24,42,234/-	03/09/ 2022
18.	Amar Nath Thakur, Girija Devi, 12/ 31, Saket Block, Mandawali, New Delhi, Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00000940149.	Flat No- 407, Vartalok Cocity, Vasundhara Sector- 4C, Ghaziabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 3,48,140/-	07/03/ 2022
19.	Amit Kumra, Neha Arora, C 96, I St Floor, Suncity, Sector 54 Haryana Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBGUR000003312948.	Flat No- 1004, 10th Floor, Baani City Centre, Sec 63 Haryana Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 54,66,401/-	03/09/ 2022
20.	Anjana Bhardwaj, Aa Bpo Services Pvt Ltd, Aruna, Abhishek Bhardwaj, Wz- 23om Vihar Phase 2A Uttam Nagar Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00004963192.	Plot No- H-423B, Block- H 4th Floor Ansal Palam Vihar Haryana Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 81,81,631/-	28/09/ 2022
21.	Ankur Saini, Richa Rai, 01/37, Professor Colony Hanuman Garh Town, Hanuman Garh. A/c No:- LBDEL00002072999.	Flat No. 3241, 24th Floor, Sec- 109-B, Tower 3, Type-D, Ats Tourmaline, Haryana Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,20,99,204/-	08/09/ 2022
22.	Rajat Malhan, Shreya Malhan, B 51 3rd Floor Soani Nagar New Delhi Delhi. A/c No:- LBGUR00002117650.	1161 Ats Triumph, 16th FloorType B Sec-104 Haryana Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,65,33,691/-	08/09/ 2022
23.	Ram Kripal Yadava, Brij Pal Yadav, 1504 Neil Berry Apartmet Runwal Garden City Balukim, Thane West Maharashtra Thane. A/c No:- LBFDB00004305993.	Plot No-Gh-14, Flat No- 801, 8th Floor The Suraksha Vihar, Co-Operative Group Housing Society Ltd, Sector- 45 Haryana Faridabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 58,93,357/-	08/09/ 2022
24.	Vivek Kumar Jain, Hemlata Jain, K-J- 165 Gf Kavi Nagar, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBDEL00002515827.	Flat No- 801, 8th Floor Tower- C, Moti Residency Khasra No- 238, Nh- 58, Village Morta, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 28,91,143/-	04/10/ 2021
25.	Reema Singh, Prabhat Kumar, 1318/1 Gurudwara Road Jawahar Colony Haryana Faridabad. A/c No:- LBDEL00005652948.	Plot No- D6-10, Block- D Floor- 3sector- 85, Parklands Bppl Tehsil and District, Haryana Faridabad.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 51,83,075/-	26/09/ 2022
26.	Ritesh Kumar Porwal, Meena Toshniwal, 102/115 Silver Oaks Appt Dif-1 Haryana Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBNOD00002083569.	Flat No. 5251 Floor 25, Type-D, Tower 5, Ats Tourmaline, Village Babupur, Sector-109, Haryana Gurgaon.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,25,06,101/-	08/09/ 2022
27.	Roopesh Nandakumar Rangdale, Vidya R Rangdale, 1268 Sector- 15 Part-2 Haryana Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBGUR00002086832.	Flat No. 3C-518, 18th Floor, Golf View Apartment In Sushant Golf City Uttar Pradesh Lucknow.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,50,41,893/-	08/09/ 2022
28.	Sanjay Grewal, Rachna Grewal, 15 Central Drive, Dif Farms Chattarpur Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00001845654.	Appt No.-1701, Level- 17, Tower 01, The Burgundy, Unitech Golf and Country Club, Sec- 96.97 and 98 Uttar Pradesh Noida.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 2,53,42,726/-	08/09/ 2022
29.	Satinder Singh Nijhawan, Jaswant Kaur Nijhawan, Taranpreet Singh Nijhawan, M/61 Ground Floor Kirti Nagar, New Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00004764053.	Plot No. 61, Ground Floor, Block M, Village Bassai Darapur Kirti Nagar Delhi.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,13,47,198/-	07/03/ 2022
30.	Vishal Keshari, Ruby Gupta, Unit No-C- 100 Ground Floors Unity Sec-54 Opp Audi Show Room Haryana Gurgaon. A/c No:- LBGUR00002001915.	Apartment No. 419A, 19th Floor, Golf View Apartment Suhant Golf City Suktanpur Road, Sector-1 Pocket-D, Luxuria Tower No. 4, Binjore, Uttar Pradesh Lucknow.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 56,17,581/-	30/08/ 2022
31.	Pankul Rathore, Khairoon Rathore, Spaak Super Infra India Pvt Ltd, Khairoun Rathore, Gf 50, Eros Garden Block V, Charmwood Villag Haryana Faridabad. A/c No:- LBFDB00002022054.	Flat No- 01 and 02, 2nd Floor, Royal Retreat 3rd Charmwood Faridabad-122009.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 2,27,59,048/-	31/01/ 2021
32.	Pankul Rathore, M/s Spaak Super Infra India Pvt Ltd, Khairoun Rathore, Gf 50, Eros Garden Block-V, Charmwood Villag Haryana Faridabad A/c No:- LBFDB00002022053.	Flat No- 01 and 02, 2nd Floor, Royal Retreat 3rd Charmwood Faridabad-122009.	09-Dec-2022 Rs. 1,44,91,044/-	31/01/ 2021
33.	Praveen Rao, Shalini Rao, Flat No-64/2 Emelia-4 Vatika City Sohna Road Gurgaon Haryana. A/c No:- LBGUR00001924200, LBGUR00001963746.	Flat No- 0904, 9th Floor, Block-B2, Unitech South Park, Gurgaon, South Park, Sector- 70, Gurgaon, Haryana .	27-Dec-2022 Rs. 49,97,247/-, Rs.24,322/-	08-09- 2022
34.	Vivek Jain, Hemlata Jain K-J-165 Gf, Kavi Nagar Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBDEL00002473328, LBDEL00002473337.	Flat No. C/G006, Khasra No-238, Moti Residency, Village Martam, Near Nh-58, Pradesgh Ghaziabad.	27-Dec-2023 Rs. 29,27,673/-, Rs. 29,61,942/-	04-10- 2021
35.	Hari Krishan, 222- Anyay Khand- 2, Indriapuram 222, I E Sahibab Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad. A/c No:- LBGHZ00005671331, LBGHZ00005822893.	House No. AE 012 Avantika Colony, Village Mehrauli, Rajapur and Harsaoun, District and Tehsil, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad.	27-Dec-2024 Rs. 75,82,942/-, Rs.1,21,663/-	03-09- 2022
36.	Jyoti Luthra, Rajiv Luthra, H No- 31 2nd Floor, Block- Bh, Shalimar Bagh, East Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00004581605, LBDEL00004493010.	Plot No- 31, Second Floor Block-Bh, East Shalimar Bagh Delhi.	27-Dec-2025 Rs. 59,88,816/-, Rs. 1,72,99,425/-	03-09- 2022
37.	Mohammad Shakir, Reshma Shakir, 1001 Hitoof 2 Alnahda 2 Dm No, 241-458 Dubai Uae Dubai. A/c No:- LBDEL00002558495, LBDEL00002547980 .	Flat No. 8016, 1st Floor, Plot No. P-7/7ts 02A, 'Ats Allure', Building No. 08, Sec 22 D, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, District Gautam Budh Nagar Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida.	27-Dec-2026 Rs. 1,32,472/-, Rs. 63,04,235/-	29-09- 2022
38.	Vinay Kumar Goel, Smita Goel, Mars Pet Bottles Pvt Ltd, 232 Sangam Apartment West Enclave Pitampura Delhi. A/c No:- LBDEL00002558461, LBDEL00002558462, LBDEL00005357261, LBDEL00005134907, LBDEL00002558614.	Flat No. 232, Category-B, (Hig), 3rd Floor Sangam Cghs Ltd Known as Sangam Apartment, Zone- H 4 and 5 Pitampura Delhi.	27-Dec-2027 Rs. 29,31,438/-, Rs. 37,80,260/-, Rs. 24,77,108/-, Rs. 39,75,073/-, Rs. 41,61,729/-	03-09- 2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : January 06, 2023  
Place : Delhi/NCR  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

# India, France discuss ties, Ukraine

## Doval, Bonne hold 36th Strategic Dialogue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and France on Thursday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties and global issues including the Ukraine conflict during the 36th Strategic Dialogue here between National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron. The last edition of the Strategic Dialogue was held in November 2021 in Paris.



The first bilateral visit of the year on Thursday aimed to pave the way for an ambitious expansion of the Indo-French strategic partnership as it marks its 25th anniversary this year. Bonne also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. India and France

held discussions on various issues including the current global security situation in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, regional security in the context of Afghanistan and cyber security, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. The latest round of the dialogue cov-

### Germany's Scholz may visit India

New Delhi: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is likely to pay a visit to India soon while the G-20 Foreign Ministers will congregate here in March.

PNS

ered all aspects of the Indo-French strategic partnership, Defence and security cooperation, major international and regional issues, including the war in Ukraine, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the French Embassy said later.

The talks also covered issues like counter-terrorism cooperation; cyber-security, space, civil nuclear energy. On each topic, the two sides agreed to raise the level of ambition of cooperation even further with

the goal of accelerating efforts towards strategic autonomy.

During his visit, Bonne also met G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant. He stressed France's full support for India's G20 presidency and conveyed President Emmanuel Macron's message that Indo-French cooperation would be key to tackling global challenges in 2023.

In this respect, Bonne also praised the excellent cooperation with India at the United Nations Security Council over the past two years, and reiterated France's support for a permanent United Nations Security Council(UNSC) seat for India. France and India established a strategic partnership in 1998, which has since grown continuously in scope and depth, based on exceptional mutual trust, shared democratic values, and a joint vision for a multipolar, rules-based world order.

# Foreign universities to open campuses in India

## UGC unveils draft norms for establishment, operations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In what would give a big boost to the higher education sector, the Centre has opened the doors for foreign universities to set up their campuses in India with the regulator UGC on Thursday unveiling the draft norms for their establishment and operations.

The draft rules of the University Grants Commission mentioned that such foreign universities would be able to decide their admission process and fee structure and also repatriate their funds to their originating country. They will also have the autonomy to recruit faculty and staff from India and abroad as per their recruitment norms.

As per the Centre's nod, there will be two categories of foreign institutions eligible to apply for setting up their campuses in India---the universities that have secured a position within the top 500 of overall or

subject-wise global ranking or a reputed institution in its home jurisdiction.

UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar said the foreign universities with campuses in the country can only offer full-time programmes in offline mode and not online or distance learning and every time they set up their campus they will have to take permission from UGC.

The UGC announced the draft regulations for 'Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India' and the final norms will be notified by the end of the month after considering feedback from all stakeholders. While these universities will have the freedom to decide their admission criteria and fee structure, the commission has advised keeping the fees "reasonable and transparent".

"The new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 had envisioned that top universities in the world will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of

India," Kumar said.

The initial approval will be for 10 years and will be renewed in the ninth year subject to the meeting of certain conditions, he added and clarified that these institutions shall not offer any such study programme which jeopardize the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India. "The regulatory framework allowing the entry of higher-ranked foreign varities will provide an international dimension to higher education, enable Indian students to obtain foreign qualifications at affordable cost, and make India an attractive global study destination," the UGC chairman said.

On matters related to funds and funding, he said that the cross-border movement of funds will be according to the Foreign Exchange Management Act. "Cross-border movement of funds and maintenance of Foreign Currency Accounts, mode of payments, remittance, repatriation, and sale of proceeds, if any, shall be as per FEMA, 1999. An audit report shall be submitted annually to the commission certifying that the operations of the FHEIs in India are in compliance with the Act and related rules," he said.

## BJP hurting sentiments of Jains: Cong

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday came out strongly against the BJP Government's "attempts to transform" holy places of Jainism in Gujarat and Jharkhand as tourist destinations to fill State coffers. The Grand Old Party accused the saffron party of hurting the sentiments of Jains.

Referring to recent protests by the Jain community across the country, Congress Media Department Chairman Pawan Khera said when his party is giving a clarion call for uniting India, the BJP's actions were spreading hatred. He said the Jains who have contributed "immensely to the economic progress" of India and inspired Mahatma Gandhi on non-violence and satyagraha, have been "betrayed" by the BJP, forcing them to come out on the streets. He alleged that the BJP wants to make Sammed Shikharji, Palitana's Shatrunjaya hills and Mount Girnar as a medium to fill the State coffers.

# 124 global travellers test Covid positive



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Union Health Ministry made it mandatory for foreign arrivals to undergo RT-PCR tests upon their arrival in the country, a total of 124 international passengers have been found to be Covid-19 positive, as per the Union Health Ministry data.

Of the 124 positive samples, genome sequencing results of 40 were received in which the XBB variant, including XBB.1, was found in 14 samples. The data shows that the other XBB variants are

XBB.2, XBB.3, XBB.4, XBB.5.

The BF 7.4.1 variant has been found in one sample so far, as per the data. The other variants found in the country include BA.5, BQ 1.1 and BQ1.122, BQ 1. 1.5, CH1.1, CH.1.1.1, BE7.4.1 and BB3.A. So far, 11 types of variants have been found in India. A total of 19,227 international passengers have been screened across all ports in the country from December 24, 2022 to January 3 this year.

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday asked the public not to panic about Covid-19, but be alert and follow the directives issued by the Government from time to time. He further said, "Covid-19 variants will keep coming but the important thing is which variant will react and people should only believe information shared by Government sources to avoid any kind of panic in the country."

# PM to open 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on Jan 9

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) on January nine in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915 and the tradition of celebrating PBD started in 2003. It marks the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the



development of the motherland. The Divas is organized once every two years and the theme of the 17th PBD beginning January 8 and ending January ten is "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal."

# Def Min on two-day visit to Andamans

## Singh to review preparedness of forces as China flexes muscles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Given the strategic importance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the backdrop of China's increasing maritime presence in the Indian Ocean region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh embarked on a two-day visit starting Thursday to the islands and reviewed the operational readiness of the armed forces. It is his first visit to the region as the Defence Minister.

Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh briefed Rajnath about the geo-strategic potential of the

Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the role they can play towards enhancing India's influence and support to military operations in the area. The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the first tri-Service command comprising Army, Navy and IAF, defence ministry officials said here.

The CINCAN briefed Singh about the achievements, future plan and challenges of the command. He highlighted the significant role played by the Andaman and Nicobar Command(ANC) in carrying forward Government's Act East Policy and in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region by building 'Bridges of Friendship' with the country's maritime neighbours.

Rajnath also visited the ANC Joint Operations Centre which is the nerve centre for integrated planning for surveillance, conduct of operations and logistic support.

### Prez for more women in military engineering

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that significant push is being given to women empowerment in the Defence forces whether in combat roles or medical services and called for more women officers in the Military Engineer Services (MES). Addressing MES officer trainees, who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, she said as young officers in the field of construction, they have the prime duty to care for the environment also. "We must move towards increased use of renewable energy for sustainable development," Murmu said.

PNS

### Mysterious death of 3 Russians

# Won't like to link them, says MEA's Bagchi

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ BHUBANESWAR/ PARADIP

With the death of three Russians under mysterious circumstances within a span of last fortnight in Odisha including a lawmaker reportedly a critic of President Vladimir Putin, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Thursday said India is a large country where a lot of foreigners visit and a necessary probe is being carried out in the deaths of two Russians in Odisha. "We are now aware of the death of a Russian sailor in international waters off the coast of Odisha. His body has been brought to Paradip Port for formalities. I wouldn't like to link all three cases together," he said.

This response came after the body of Russian marine engineer Milyakov Sergey (51) was found inside a cargo ship anchored in the sea near Paradip port on January 3. It was the third such incident involving Russians with the first incident on December 22 and the second on December 24 in a hotel in Rayagada town of Odisha. The second incident involved Russian lawmaker Pavel Antov (65) while the first person was identified as Vladimir Bidanov. Antov had fallen to death from the third floor of the hotel while his associate Bidanov was found dead in his room.

Meanwhile, the Marine Police Station in Paradip along with the Jagatsinghpur district administration on Wednesday conducted post-mortem exam-

ination of Milyakov.

"The autopsy has been completed, viscera collected and sent for forensic examination. The body will be handed over to a proper agency as per the protocol," said Kujang tahsildar Pritiparna Mishra, who was present as a magistrate during the autopsy.

However, one of the doctors involved in the autopsy claimed there was an injury mark on the left side of Sergey's forehead. "It could be due to a fall. The details can be ascertained from the forensic report," the doctor explained, adding that the injury mark may not necessarily point to foul play.

In the Rayagada deaths, the CID continued to interrogate the hotel staffers, while the seized items will be sent for forensic examination.

"As there has been no evidence or clue pointing at foul play in the twin deaths, the investigating agency is contemplating to recreate the circumstances that led to the death of Antov," an official said, adding the CID specifically plans to conduct a dummy simulation exercise of falling from the rooftop under similar circumstances.

Referring to the agency's plan, the official said an object with weight and height similar to that of Antov will be made. Experts will try to ascertain the nature of the incident and injury marks on Antov's body, and cross-check with the autopsy report. "This exercise is expected to help the probe team reach at a definite conclusion," the official said.





“ आज आज़ादी के अमृतकाल में देश विकसित भारत के लक्ष्य को लेकर विकास के रास्ते पर तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है। विकास की यह यात्रा बहुआयामी है। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



**Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana**  
will Launch (through video conferencing)

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## Unwavering Commitment



**167**  
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worth  
**Rs.1882**  
crore

## Inauguration

## Laying of Foundation Stone

**Cost**  
**Rs.791**  
**crore**  
**Projects**  
**113**

**Cost**  
**Rs.1091**  
**crore**  
**Projects**  
**54**

**Date:** January 6, 2023

**Venue:** Vill. Bhagwanpur, Distt. Gurugram

**सुशासन ही आधार, डबल इंजन हरियाणा सरकार**



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# Reprieve

## SC has paused the eviction of people from land in Haldwani and sought some workable solution

The Supreme Court order checking an eviction drive on railway land in Uttarakhand's Haldwani is a big relief for the people concerned. The apex court rightly said, "There cannot be uprooting of 50,000 people overnight... It's a human issue; some workable solution needs to be found." It would indeed have been very harsh for those people to be made homeless suddenly. The court has also barred any construction in the area and asked the Railways and the Uttarakhand Government to respond. Both will respond; ideally, the response should pertain to not just the instant case of encroachments but all Railway and state Government lands that have been illegally occupied. In fact, the Central Government should come up with some kind of mechanism to (i) get all such land evacuated and (ii) ensure that no future encroachments are made in the future. That would be the "workable solution" that the SC favours. Is it possible? Yes, it is, but the current state of affairs is not conducive for that; the situation in the Haldwani locality and various reactions to it inform us why. The 2-km strip of land near the Haldwani railway station has houses, schools (including four government schools), water tanks, mosques, temples, shops, etc. All these came up over decades. The colony came on the radar in 2013 in an illegal sand mining case in a river near the area. The matter reached the High Court which ordered eviction, even suggesting that paramilitary force be used for the purpose. The SC didn't find that correct.

Typically, the issue has got embroiled in politicking. Activists and Congress leaders are blaming the BJP Government in the state for eviction because most residents in the area are Muslim. "Uttarakhand is a spiritual state," senior Congress leader and former chief minister Harish Rawat said. "If 50,000 people including children, pregnant women, old men and women are forced to vacate their homes and come out on roads, then it would be a very sad sight." Now that the apex court has paused the eviction, what does he, or his party, have to offer for a workable solution? Such are the perils of a polity in which sentiments rule the roost and from which reason has been exiled. Statesmen, they say, think of the next generation, politicians of the next election—and Indian politicians of the next day's Twitter trends. Encroachment is a huge problem, resulting in environmental degradation (as in the Haldwani case), urban decay, corruption, and waste of national resources. Worse, it is not just illegal occupation of government and public land that makes the countryside, towns, and cities ugly; there is also the issue of 'plotting'—that is, unauthorised conversion of land (mostly agricultural land) into habitations. The so-called unauthorised colonies. The need of the hour is a comprehensive policy, involving major political parties and other stakeholders. Our political leaders have to lead such an endeavour, but they are busy fighting each other.



# Curb online gaming

## The Govt must put in place mechanism to check online gambling sites posing as gaming portals

Online gaming has emerged as one of the fastest growing categories on the internet which is drawing huge crowds with the lure of big prizes. But not all gaming sites are the same. Some are out and out gambling sites masquerading as online portals. The result is many innocent users, mostly teenagers, are indulging in gambling without even realizing it and losing hefty sums of money. At the same time online gaming is one vertical which has a lot of promise for Indian startups and is likely to see exponential rise in the near future. India's gaming market, which has crossed 507 million active gamers, is definitely one of the biggest in the world. The sheer size of the vertical is mind boggling as it has reached \$2.6 billion as per the figures given by Interactive Media Venture Capital Fund Lumikai in its latest report. The domestic gaming industry is expected to almost quadruple to \$8.6 billion by 2027. To protect users from the harmful effects of gambling, the Indian government is now taking steps to make sure "online games" conform to Indian laws. How effective they would be known when they are implemented.

Recently, all matters pertaining to online gaming were allocated to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The government has also proposed new amendments, which include reasonable restrictions to 'host, display, upload, publish, transmit or share' an online game not in conformity with Indian law, including any law on "gambling or betting". This means the ministry is directly taking on the online gambling portals which have mushroomed and lure people with their catchy ads. The amended rules once in place will be applicable to all online gaming matters. As part of the process, MeitY has shared the draft amendments made to the Information Technology Rules, 2021. The government proposal of a "Self-Regulatory Body" (SRO) to keep a tab on the gaming sites is a welcome step. Online gaming sites will need to display a SRO registration mark on all online games. Indeed, the government has a duty to protect young people from falling into the trap of online gambling sites. This is a good start and maybe later on a regulatory body could oversee the activities of online gaming and gambling sites. It is of course important to make a distinction between gaming and gambling but the lines are hazy and it would take careful probe to weed out the bad ones.

# Pak's metastasizing Insurgents

## The internal conflicts in Pakistan are getting more pronounced with time with Baloch and Pashtuns vying for their identity and power

The internal conflicts in Pakistan are getting more pronounced with time with Baloch and Pashtuns vying for their identity and power

British colonists had deployed a formula to deal with the restive swathes that constitute modern Pakistan i.e., 'Rule the Punjabis, intimidate the Sindhis, buy the Pashtun, and honour the Baloch'. It is an instructive insight that occasionally plays out, as Syed Ahmad Khan's 'two-nation theory' gets routinely punctured with regional insurgencies that refuse to accept the amalgamation of ethnicities into Pakistan, just on co-religiosity. The creation of Bangladesh in 1971 was the most definitive rebuttal to nationhood based on a singular religion. The historical and lingering 'Pashtunistan' movement or the Baluch separatist movement are direct byproducts of the shaky bind of the 'two-nation theory' that seeks to rationalise the foundational idea of Pakistan.

While Mortimer Durand's cartographical flourish to fix the limits of the *British Raj* and the Emirate of Afghanistan as part of 'Great Game' was largely ignored by local *Pashtuns* on both sides of the *Durand Line* – even the latter-day creation of the State of Pakistan was met with resistance by the *Khudai Khidmatgar* movement. Reasonable leniency of movement across borders, retention of local laws, and integration of *Pashtuns* into Pakistani governance (especially into the 'establishment' or the Pakistani Armed Forces) ensured a gradual waning of sentiment, till Pakistan soured relations with Afghanistan and murmurs of 'Pashtunistan' resurfaced. The willful creation of the Afghan *Mujaheddins* in the '80s and support to amoral warlords like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and later to the creation of its Frankensteinian monster i.e., Taliban – Pakistan has inadvertently reignited and weaponised the Pashtunistan sentiments with its metastasized, *Tehrik-i-Taliban* (TTP), on the rebound.

Whereas formal insurgency in the equally lawless Baluchistan harks back to the stormy signing of the *Instrument of Accession* by the *Sardar of Kalat* in 1948. The continued economic marginalisation, forcible control, human right violations, and lack of rela-



tive participation in the affairs of Pakistan has led to recurring waves of violent insurgent movements. Even Pakistan's economy-sustaining \$50 billion punt i.e., the *China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor* (CPEC) with its nerve centre in the Gwadar port of Baluchistan is perceived to be anathema and discriminatory towards local *Baluch* interests. Fronted by the *Balochistan Liberation Army* (BLA) and a few other militant groups based on tribal affiliations, attacks on the Pakistan Armed Forces and its assets have been relentless, in recent times. While support for *Pashtun* groups from Afghanistan can be expected based on parochial sentiments across both sides of the *Durand Line* – Afghanistan has also been known to support and offer bases to *Baluch* insurgent groups as a payback to Pakistani machinations in Afghanistan. With the takeover of Afghanistan by the *Taliban* in 2021, it was expected that the Pakistan-beholden *Taliban* would rein in the Pakistan-centric insurgent groups, but the escalating tensions between the *Taliban* and Pakistan itself have led to a very different dynamic. The fact that *Baluch* majority areas, as well as *Pashtun* dominated



FORMAL INSURGENCY IN THE EQUALLY LAWLESS BALOCHISTAN HARKS BACK TO THE STORMY SIGNING OF THE INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION BY THE SARDAR OF KALAT IN 1948

areas, are simultaneously 'live' in attacking the Pakistani State, with eerily similar tactics and impact – Islamabad senses to doomsday scenario of the otherwise oblivious-of-each-other *Pashtuns* and *Baluch* insurgents joining hands. Pakistan's yet another flawed experiment of good and bad terrorists' could implode within, when its own creation of so-called 'good terrorists' i.e., *Taliban* (and its ideological offspring *Tehrik-i-Taliban*) joins hands against the 'bad terrorists' of the BLA. Therefore, even the audacious 'Strategic Depth' in Afghanistan, as sought and nurtured by the Pakistani 'establishment' is boomeranging, badly. In a stunning reversal of narrative, the Pakistani Foreign Office was seen beseeching the Afghan Taliban on "all issues including border management, upgrading the security of diplomats, and curbing terrorism".

Baluchistan's capital city of Quetta (with 70% *Pashtun* populace) exemplifies the contiguity of the *Baluch* and *Pashtun* sensibilities with only the *Pashtun-Baluch War* (1757) as the leitmotif of any historical bad blood, else their mutual tensions have only been political (contesting the fair ethnic representation in

the State Assemblies of Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province, respectively) and not societal, as such. Co-sectarian (Sunni supremacist) organisations like *Lashkar-e-Jhangvi* and *Jundullah* operating in Quetta are natural bridges to find common ideological ground with the likes of *Tehrik-i-Pakistan*. In the religiously charged tinderbox of Pakistan – there is a coalescing of 'like-minded' forces (even if differing in ultimate objectives) to take on the Pakistani 'establishment'. The conflation of the clergy via Maulana Hidayatur Rehman of the ongoing '*Haq Do Tehreek*' movement which has brought Gwadar to a standstill, is yet another manifestation of the situation going out of hand. The efficacy of the Pakistani 'establishments' blunt tactics via Operation *Radd-ul-Fasaad* (since 2017) against the *Pashtun* and *Baluch* insurgents is highly questionable, and local support for insurgent movements is only gaining traction. The *Durand Line* along *Baluch* and *Pashtun* areas is more troublesome for Pakistan now than the LOC.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STOP MISINFORMATION

Sir — One lie can tarnish 1000 truths. A lie goes around the world many times before the truth gets ready. Disinformation is repeated often in black and white -the print or internet makes people believe it must be true. Father of action is a decision. And incorrect decisions based on disinformation lead to wrong actions and wrong results. It is well known that freedom without discipline is like a country without defence. There must be a strong regulatory mechanism to control information.

TS Karthik | Chennai

### IMPROVE GOVT SCHOOLS

Sir — Government Schools are in such a pathetic condition even 75 years after independence, is like a joke in India. By this, we as a nation, are fooling the poor students i.e. children belonging to poorer sections, i.e. we are fooling ourselves.

Let us transform the government schools on a war footing with full equipment, excellent infrastructure, and all the needed educational paraphernalia (labs, toilets, good classrooms, benches, chairs, library, books, toilets, etc.). Then we are strengthening our educational system and the foundation of the poor students too, without playing jokes with their careers, lives, and their future. Also arrange for free extra tuition too in the evenings, within the schools for doubts clarification and homework help. Let teachers giving extra tuition be paid extra incentives (or extra money as encouragement).

Better reduce the syllabus and accommodate sports and hobbies classes too. Let projects be small and be done as teams, within the school itself, with guidance from the teachers. Regular training for all teachers (not only on the latest developments, science, and technology but also on happy development ... will go a long way in strengthening the pillars of the nation. Happy teacher lamp will light many students-lamps with happy education, knowledge, and life skills. The first priority of the new year should be to provide

## Indian Science Congress



is witnessing massive churning in emerging trends like A.I, quantum mechanics, energy, data sciences, new vaccines, and surveillance for newer diseases that are likely to have a massive impact on development. India cannot remain oblivious to this changing scenario and its spending on research and development must increase from a meager 0.7 % of GDP, which is less than half of the global average of 1.8 %.

Modi strongly pitched to inculcate scientific temper and research and development must be brought from laboratory to everyday life. It is a well-known fact that 17 or 18 % of the human population resides in India. So, in order to unlock its massive but untapped demographic dividend it is high time the policymakers put the money where the mouth is. India R&D should focus on leveraging low-cost accessible technology to meet the technological and development needs of its population.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

vide excellent infrastructure and all the needed educational paraphernalia to all the government schools of India.

PV Rao Sreelekha | Secunderabad

### GOVERN BY THE CONSTITUTION

Sir — Can we call India a free country governed by the constitution where there is discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, and religion? Our founder of the constitution had never thought in his wildest dream that even after more than seventy years of implementation of the constitution such discrimination would exist. Recently cases of discrimination have been reported from Tamil Nadu where the Harijans are served tea in paper cups while upper-caste customers get their quota of the beverage in exclusive glass tumblers. The two-tumbler system has been in vogue in the State for more than sixty years and no one dares to speak on this topic. Also, Harijans are not allowed to sit on chairs and benches inside tea shops in village and town squares. The first Harijan to become

the head of the department of the famous Government Rajaji General Hospital, Madurai, was humiliated by his peers and subordinates because of his "lower" caste.

Though the district collector has ordered the police to register a case under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, records prove that it is a futile act. It is expected that the central government should intervene in the matter when the state government is proving a silent spectator whereas all political parties from the state show them the champion of s/c and s/t. The state has been run by the state political parties since 1967, after the collapse of the Congress government. There is still no scope for national political parties to come to power in the state as these parties are totally marginalized and the country still has such incidents in the future also.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

Priyanka ji had given slogan 'beti hoon, lad sakti hoon'. But, when crimes against women take place in Rajasthan, she is nowhere to be seen.

Union Information Minister — Anurag Thakur

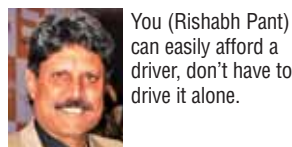


The agency recently met with Chinese officials to underline the importance of sharing more details about Covid-19 issues including, even as the pandemic continues to recede..

WHO Director-General — Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

We select only good scripts, that too, after doing a lot of research and surveys. The research could relate to genres that people want to watch, the kind of stories they want to see on screen.

Filmmaker — Vijay Kiragandur



You (Rishabh Pant) can easily afford a driver, don't have to drive it alone.

Former cricketer — Kapil Dev

Shocked that the BJP's politics of deceit has dragged down even the Home Ministry. Not only does this report reek of lies but it also discredits a crucial portfolio once headed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

PDF president — Mehbooba Mufti



FIRST COLUMN

SHARP MESSAGING IS LIKELY FROM BUDGET

Global challenges may have a bearing on the Budget



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The upcoming Budget to be presented on February 1 could be one of the most challenging for Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Budget has to balance out the recessionary trends seen in other geographies, particularly the developed ones, manage the fiscal situation domestically, keep the domestic consumption hydrated, while keeping inflation within reasonable limits.

These challenges have been laid out in the run up to the budget's digital document preparation and she has heard it from various stakeholders as part of the multiple consultations.

The industry wants more disposable income to be put in the hands of the middle class, which is yet to recover from the impact of the Covid-led organised sector slowdown. The rising prices of food and fuel primarily impacted due to the Russia-Ukraine War. It is an added burden on the middle class, which is also a large and organised voter base. There have been demands to decrease the current highest tax rate slab from 30 and increase the limit from current Rs 10 lakh. It makes sense since the current rates and threshold limits do not reflect the average rise in costs of living annually for the average middle class.



In the past, Sitharaman has steered clear of making any significant changes in the IT structure for the salaried, but this tool can be used in the upcoming budget to keep the morale high.

The other long pending demand from the industry and investors is changing the capital gains tax regime. Several Finance Ministry officials and tax experts acknowledge the complex processes involved while filing tax returns, when it comes to definitions of capital gains. Capital gains tax rates fluctuate based on the type of assets and the period for which it has been kept. This creates a speculative market for almost all asset categories including gold, financial products, land, or buildings, etc. A simpler capital gains tax regime with simpler tax rates could again put more money into the hands of the consumer.

This apart, the Government in the upcoming budget is most likely to continue the path of strict fiscal discipline, which to its credit, has been tackled well so far, despite several challenges from pandemic year lockdowns and slowdowns. The emphasis would be in controlling the fiscal deficit to a healthy manageable 6.4 per cent of the GDP (gross domestic product).

Also, one of the factors which kept the wheels of the Indian economy moving and buoyant during and after pandemic years was the rural sector demand. One of the key drivers of this demand has been the rural employment guarantee scheme which again puts money into the hands of the rural consumer. This leads to more shampoo, shoes, soaps, etc., being sold in rural markets and increases jobs or those working in factories. This happens even if the region faces inclement weather which impacts agricultural activities.

The Government is most likely to continue with the rural employment guarantee schemes but would focus more on asset creation in the villages in the form of roads, permanent structures, etc., which serve a meaningful purpose in local communities. It will be a tough Budget for the Finance Minister, but she has now got nearly five years' experience, so expect some sharp messaging coming out from her Budget speech.

*(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)*

# Meaning of China's strategy in Tawang



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI



NIKHIL SHARMA

It is high time that India developed the offensive capabilities of cyber warfare and asserted 'digital sovereignty'

The Tawang conflict has ignited discussions on Chinese objectives and future war scenarios. On the surface, there seems to be many causes for triggering the Tawang conflict. The Chinese side was vociferous in its opposition to the 'Yudh Abhyas' exercise of the Indian and the US militaries along the Indo-China borders in Uttarakhand. Further, the Indian Air Force was to conduct exercises in the Eastern sector, and the Tawang transgression served as a deterrent warning for India against any display of aerial superiority and build-up along the contested region.

Although the development points towards the larger Chinese pattern of 'Salami Slicing', at the sub-surface level, China had different objectives to achieve from this clash. At the domestic level of China, the move could be seen as a tactic by the Xi Jinping Government to divert attention from the Tiananmen like protests being faced by the Communist Government against the unpopular covid related restrictions.

The building up of nationalistic rhetoric to divert attention from critical domestic issues is evident in Chinese transgressions, as was the case with the Galwan incident, where China was facing the backlash as the originator of the virus and its poor management.


At the regional level, the Tawang transgression is objectively different from the Galwan clash. Galwan was more strategic and operational, as indicated by the larger military build-up along the Depsang plains and the Chinese occupation of the finger ridges. On the contrary, if noticed, in the Tawang sector clashes, the Chinese forces withdrew immediately post the Corps commander-level talks, indicating that the development was largely tactical.

It was a diversionary tactic with an ulterior hidden objective. The aim of the PLA in Tawang was not occupation but rather a display of strength apart from an assessment of the Indian readiness in differing climatic conditions.

Through the clash Beijing also wanted to acclimatise its soldiers for high altitudinal warfare. In modern history, the PLA remains untested in large-scale military operations, which means it lacks the planning as well as operational tactics in a prolonged conflict in the mountains. The military has not experienced combat in decades nor fought with its current suite of capabilities and organisational structures. From this perspective, China got a 'hands-on experience' for a possible clash. Thus, China might not push its soldiers in open and contact warfare where heavy casualties are a direct consequence.

China may opt for offsetting India's operational readiness through hybrid warfare. In such a case, it will play the role of a 'shadow boxer' in collusion with Pakistan.

First, it might incite internal strife within India through the malicious use of



PUSH BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP DUAL-USE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE COUNTRY PROVIDES AN IMPETUS TO MILITARY RESPONSIVENESS AND TROOP BUILD-UP. ALSO, THE PLANNED FRONTIER HIGHWAY IS A STEP AHEAD IN THE DIRECTION TO MILITARILY COUNTER CHINA

*(Nishtha Kaushiki is Associate Professor in Central University of Punjab, Bathinda; Nikhil Sharma is a research scholar at the same University)*



Artificial Intelligence (AI) and disinformation campaigns. If that doesn't work, it might choose a second option- operationally encouraging Pakistan to launch terror strikes in the Valley while launching cyber warfare with possible 'Salami Slicing' tactics while India is distracted. Rawalpindi's desperation to tighten its grip over the nation after the ending of the ceasefire with TTP might motivate it to launch fresh terror strikes in the Valley. China might just assist Pakistan in this with the twin objectives of 'rescuing' its CPEC Project as well as testing India's diplomatic outreach.

The next question that comes to mind is, what tools can China use against India? Recent developments under China's Total Information warfare must be looked out for. Beijing can potentially use its advanced information technology and communications systems to gain operational advantage even before a conflict breaks out.

China has developed a hypersonic missile with a non-nuclear warhead capable of travelling at speeds of 4,600 mph. The warhead can potentially develop an electromagnetic impulse which would be capable of disrupting the power grid and electrical systems of the adversary within a 5-8 km radius. Such advanced technological weaponry has the potential to stop India from launching counter-offensive operations against Pakistan's terror attacks.

Disruption of power and communication systems can cause mayhem just before initiating hostilities in the form of clashes in either of the sectors. The timing of the AIIMS cyberattack, which was in sync with the Tawang clash. It highlighted the strategy of China to involve

in "two-front wars" at both the territorial borders and the digital contours.

The AIIMS cyberattack, along with numerous others, has highlighted the vulnerability of the Critical National Infrastructure at the civilian and military levels. India needs to be cautious, especially in the case of military infrastructure, hospitals, and other data centres. There can be a case of sensitive data theft, such as the medical data of high-profile patients and the military's top brass could be breached for differing uses.

The example of Iranian hackers publishing the personal photos and medical records of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency Chief David Barnea sets an important precedent.

Thus, the Indian government must prepare for conventional and non-conventional attacks. After the recent developments on the LAC, the Indian government has announced the deployment of Pralay tactical missiles with a range of 150-500 km along the LAC. These missiles are well suited for low-level escalations as they provide an effective deterrent. It also has the punishing capability to hit the military build-up on the Sino-Pak side without violating international humanitarian law while achieving the purpose of 'self-defence'.

The step is indeed much appreciable. Further, the push by the Government to develop dual-use infrastructure in the country provides an impetus to military responsiveness and troop build-up in targeted areas in the case of conflicts. Also, the planned frontier highway is a step ahead in the direction to militarily counter China.

A lot needs to be done too. There is a need to establish a National Intelligence Reserve Corps

on the lines of the US, which can be called upon in times of emergency when extra support is required for shorter periods. It can comprise highly technical individuals from the private sector, academia or civil society. Second, a possible establishment of a strategic technological group within the NSCS that focuses exclusively on developing new and disruptive technologies while reforming the existing ones apart from synchronising them between various stakeholders, such as the police and the armed forces. These measures will also encourage inter-agency cooperation and civil-military fusion and give a technological edge to the defensive offensive capabilities.

Further, it is high time that India developed the offensive capabilities of cyber warfare and coined the concept of 'digital sovereignty'. Simultaneously, the development of quantum communication satellites and systems for the armed forces, which ensures the non-hackability of communication and the strategic network, would be a force multiplier in the deterrent capabilities. This technology is really useful in providing secure channels of communication to the military in cases of conflict. Such technologies will truly keep 'Buddha Smiling'.

Tactically, developing and implementing multiple offset strategies that exploit the inherent weakness of Pakistan and China at their domestic level to limit their operational cohesiveness could be another step. Finally, at the diplomatic level, India should assertively push forward the reforming of the existing multilateral structures that is able to withstand the asymmetric power dynamics of the global order apart from the double standards of the foreign and security policies.

THE ENTRY RESTRICTIONS BY SOME COUNTRIES TARGETING CHINA LACK SCIENTIFIC BASIS, AND SOME EXCESSIVE PRACTICES ARE EVEN MORE UNACCEPTABLE. — CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

MAO NING



THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR RETALIATION BY BEIJING FOR "TAKING MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR CITIZENS" WITH RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVELERS FROM CHINA. — WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE



# How climate change causes 'geoengineering' scam

If the scamsters manage to get enough attention, they could delay the consensus for a critical extra year or two



GWYNNE DYER

It was the moral equivalent of a fart in a hurricane. The 'hurricane' was the explosion of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines in 1991, which boosted 17 million tons of sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere.

The sulfur dioxide didn't hurt anything, because there are no living things in the stratosphere. Moreover, it stayed up there long enough, reflecting some incoming sunlight, to lower the average global temperature by half a degree Celsius for about a year.

This was the time when 'global warming' was first being recognised as a serious threat to human welfare. Scientists, aware of this phenomenon, speculated that

putting sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere might serve as an 'emergency brake' if the warming ever gets out of control. But there was no emergency, so they just filed the idea under 'contingencies'.

Fast forward three decades, and last week Luke Iseman, the cofounder and CEO of fly-by-night startup 'Make Sunsets', revealed that he pumped a few grams of sulfur dioxide into a weather balloon at a secret launch site in Mexico's Baja California. He then freed the balloon to rise into the stratosphere, where it presumably ruptured and released the SO2.

That was the fart. A quite deliberate fart, intended to get everybody's attention. And Iseman's company is already offering to sell \$10 "cooling

credits" for releasing one gram of sulfur dioxide particles in the stratosphere – enough, he says, to offset the warming effect of one ton of carbon dioxide for one year.

We are currently putting about 44 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, so counter-acting one year's warming at the price Iseman plans to charge would bring in \$440 billion. That's about one hundred times the amount that real scientists calculate it would cost to cancel one year's warming, so it gives him a decent profit margin.

Is this guy for real? Not entirely. He was previously a director of hardware at Y Combinator, so he is a player of sorts, and he will undoubtedly cash the cheques that people

send him. But about his company, 'Make Sunsets', he says that "We joke/not joke that this is partly a company and partly a cult."

The balloon launches (there were actually two of them) were pure provocation without a scintilla of science. The payloads were so small as to be meaningless, there was no instrumentation to observe the 'experiments' anyway, and Iseman doesn't even know the altitude that the balloons actually burst at.

But he was looking for a reaction, and he got one. The scientists who are really investigating 'climate engineering' techniques unanimously condemned his rogue behaviour. Harvard University's David Keith blogged that "commercial development cannot pro-

duce the level of transparency and trust the world needs to make sensible decisions about deployment."

Even Kelly Wanser, the secretive director of climate research funder SilverLining, bestirred herself to email that "From a business perspective, reflective cooling effects and risks cannot currently be quantified in any meaningful way." She added that Iseman is "offering 'junk credit' that is unlikely to have value to climate credit."

And of course the many people who fear geoengineering and distrust even the real scientists who work in the field rejoiced at the gift Iseman has given them. He's exactly the kind of reckless and egotistical monster that they imagine they are fighting, and he has

given them years' worth of ammunition for anti-geoengineering propaganda.

Why is Iseman really doing this? To save humanity, he probably tells himself. If you have been nurtured in the self-regarding Silicon Valley swamp for long enough, you can actually believe that the fate of the human race is in your hands—and that there's no crime in turning a buck or two while you're saving it.

But his actions are doing real damage. We are probably going to need an emergency brake on the warming as soon as the mid-2030s, if the real-world consequences of breaching the 'never-more-than +1.5 degrees Celsius' limit are as grave as they are starting to seem.

That means we have per-

haps a dozen years to do all the research that will tell us how to safely deploy 'stratospheric aerosol injection' of sulfur dioxide (or some alternative reflecting particle), and to develop the equipment that would actually do it.

It is a highly controversial topic, largely because there is a huge amount of disinformation about it and a lot of opposition that is really ideological rather than science-based. It's going to take a lot of time to reach a global consensus that holding the temperature down temporarily with geoengineering techniques is the least bad option.

If Iseman can get enough attention, he could delay the consensus for a critical extra year or two. Am I helping him by writing this? I hope not.



# Faithful mourn Benedict XVI at funeral presided over by Pope

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis joined tens of thousands of faithful in bidding farewell to Benedict XVI at a rare requiem Mass Thursday for a dead pope presided over by a living one, ending an unprecedented decade for the Catholic Church that was sparked by the German theologian's decision to retire.

Bells tolled and the crowd applauded as pallbearers carried Benedict's cypress coffin out of the fog-shrouded St. Peter's Basilica and placed it before the altar in the square outside. Wearing the crimson vestments typical of papal funerals, Francis opened the service with a prayer and closed it by solemnly blessing the simple casket — decorated only with the former pope's coat of arms.

In between, Francis made only fleeting reference to Benedict in his homily, offering a

meditation on Christ instead of a eulogy of his predecessor's legacy before the casket was sealed and entombed in the basilica grotto.

Heads of state and royalty, clergy from around the world and thousands of regular people flocked to the subdued ceremony, despite Benedict's request for simplicity and official efforts to keep the first funeral for a pope emeritus in modern times low-key.

Many mourners hailed from Benedict's native Bavaria and donned traditional dress, including boiled wool coats to guard against the morning chill.

"We came to pay homage to Benedict and wanted to be here today to say goodbye," said Raymond Mainar, who traveled from a small village east of Munich for the funeral. "He was a very good pope."

Ignoring exhortations for decorum at the end, some in the



crowd held banners or shouted "Santo Subito!" — "Sainthood Now!" — echoing the spontaneous chants that erupted during St. John Paul II's 2005 funeral.

The former Joseph Ratzin-

ger, who died Dec. 31 at age 95, is considered one of the 20th century's greatest theologians and spent his lifetime upholding church doctrine. But he will go down in history for a singular, revolutionary act that changed

the future of the papacy: He retired, the first pope in six centuries to do so.

Francis has praised Benedict's courage in stepping aside, saying it "opened the door" for other popes to do the same.

Some 50,000 people attended Thursday's Mass, according to the Vatican, after around 200,000 paid their respects during three days of public viewing.

Only Italy and Germany were invited to send official delegations, but other leaders took the Vatican up on its offer and came in their "private capacity." They included several heads of state, at least four prime ministers and two delegations of royal representatives. In addition, a host of patriarchs joined 125 cardinals in the seats to the side of the altar, and the Russian Orthodox Church sent its foreign envoy.

Among those attending was Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen, who was given special court permission to attend the funeral. Zen was detained in May on suspicion of colluding with foreign forces under China's national security law after he fell afoul of authorities

over his participation in a now-silenced democracy movement. His passport was revoked when he was detained.

Benedict's close confidants were also in attendance, and the former pope's longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, bent down and kissed a book of the Gospels that was left open on the coffin before the ceremony began.

Matteo Colonna, a 20-year-old seminarian from Teramo, Italy, said he came in part because of the historic nature of the funeral — but also because it had personal resonance for him.

"The first spark of my vocation started under the pontificate of Benedict, but then it became even stronger under Pope Francis," Colonna said, while sitting in prayer in St. Peter's Square at dawn. "I see a continuity between these two popes and the fact that today Francis

is celebrating the funeral in Benedict's memory is an historical event."

But the service was also significant for what it lacked: the feeling of uncertainty that would normally accompany the passing of a pope before a new one is elected. Instead, with Francis in place, Benedict's death marked the end of a decade in which a reigning pope lived alongside a retired one.

"Benedict has been the bridge between John Paul and Francis," said Alessandra Aprea, a 56-year-old from Meta di Sorrento near Naples. "We could not have Francis without him."

Early Thursday the Vatican released the official history of Benedict's life, a short document in Latin that was placed in a metal cylinder in his coffin before it was sealed, along with the coins and medallions minted during his papacy and his pallium stoles.

# Russian church head calls for Ukraine truce, finds no takers

AP ■ KYIV

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church called on Thursday for a 36-hour Christmas cease-fire in Ukraine at the end of this week, but his appeal looked unlikely to bring any breakthrough in halting the war that began last February with Russia's invasion.

Moscow Patriarch Kirill suggested a truce from noon Friday through midnight Saturday, local time. The Russian Orthodox Church, which uses the ancient Julian calendar, celebrates Christmas on January 7.

That is 13 days later than in the Gregorian calendar.

The proposal got short shrift from Kyiv officials, with Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak dismissing it as "a cynical trap and an element of propaganda."

Kirill has previously justified Russia's war in Ukraine as part of a "metaphysical struggle" to prevent a liberal ideological encroachment from the West.

Moscow officials made no immediate comment on Kirill's



overture.

However, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone with Turkey's president Thursday and the Kremlin said afterward that Putin "reaffirmed Russia's openness to a serious dialogue" with Ukrainian authorities.

But that professed readiness came with the usual strings attached: that "Kyiv authorities fulfill the well-known and repeatedly stated demands and recognize new territorial reali-

ties," the Kremlin said in a reference to Moscow's demand that Ukraine recognize Crimea as part of Russia and acknowledge other illegal territorial gains.

Previous attempts at brokering peace talks have fallen at that hurdle, as Ukraine demands that at the very least Russia withdraws from occupied areas.

Elsewhere, the head of NATO said he detected no change in Moscow's stance on Ukraine, insisting that the

Kremlin "wants a Europe where they can control a neighboring country."

"We have no indications that President Putin has changed his plans, his goals for Ukraine," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in a speech in Oslo.

Confronted with the Kremlin's ambitions, Ukraine's Western allies have renewed a vow to keep supporting the country for as long as it takes to defeat Russia.

In the latest pledge of military help, the French Defence Ministry said on Thursday it plans talks soon with its Ukrainian counterpart on the delivery of armoured combat vehicles.

France's presidency says it will be the first time this type of Western-made wheeled tank destroyer is sent to the Ukrainian military.

Also, US President Joe Biden said Bradley Fighting Vehicles, a medium armoured combat vehicle that can serve as a troop carrier, could be sent to Ukraine.

The fighting in Ukraine has increasingly become a war of attrition in recent weeks, as winter sets in.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential office, said Thursday that at least five civilians were killed and eight wounded across the country by Russian shelling over the previous 24 hours.

The ongoing intense battle for Bakhmut has left 60 per cent of the city in ruins, Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said in televised remarks on Thursday.

He said that the Ukrainian defenders were still holding the Russians back, but the Kremlin's forces have pummeled the city with relentless shelling.

Bakhmut is a city in the eastern Donbas, an expansive industrial region bordering Russia.

Taking Bakhmut would not only offer Putin a major battlefield gain after months of setbacks, it would also rupture Ukraine's supply lines and open a route for Russian forces to press on toward key Ukrainian strongholds in Donetsk.

# Biden weighs sending Bradley Fighting Vehicles to Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden said Wednesday that the US is considering sending Bradley Fighting Vehicles to help Ukraine combat Russia's ongoing invasion.

Biden was asked during an exchange with reporters while travelling in Kentucky whether providing the tracked armoured fighting vehicle to Ukraine was on the table. He responded "yes," without offering further comment.

With Russia's war on Ukraine now in its 11th month, Kyiv has been pressing the US for tanks, longer-range missiles, armour and air defense systems. Intense fighting has continued in eastern Ukraine despite the onset of winter.

The Bradley is a medium armoured combat vehicle that can serve as a troop carrier. It has tracks rather than wheels, but the vehicle is lighter and more agile than a tank. It can carry about 10 personnel, or be configured instead to carry additional ammunition or communications equipment.

Bradleys are still used by the US Army, although the military has been looking for a replacement for years.

The Pentagon has already provided Ukraine with more than 2,000 combat vehicles, including 477 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles and more than 1,200 Humvees.

Biden announced last month that the U.S. would for the first time send Ukraine a Patriot missile battery, the most advanced surface-to-air missile system the West has provided to help repel Russian aerial attacks.

The U.S. Congress last month approved near-



ly \$44.9 billion in military and economic aid for a war that has no end in sight.

The same day Biden acknowledged that he was weighing sending Bradleys to Ukraine, France announced it would send French-made AMX-10 RC light tanks to Ukraine — the first tanks to be supplied by a Western European country. That announcement followed a phone call between French President Emmanuel Macron and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The French presidency didn't say how many tanks would be delivered and when. The NATO member has given Ukraine anti-tank and air defense missiles and rocket launchers.

Zelenskyy, who visited Washington last month, has made clear to the U.S. And Western allies that Ukraine needs more sophisticated weaponry.

"I assure you that Ukrainian soldiers can perfectly operate American tanks and planes for themselves," Zelenskyy said during an address to American lawmakers during the visit.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Father Late Sh. Anil Bhatia S/o Late Sh. Gurcharan Lal Bhatia R/o C-47, Sector-20, Noida, U.P. 201301 booked a flat No: A2-1318, in project called Supertech Eco Village-1 situated at Plot No- 08, Sec-1, Greater Noida-201303. After his death on 09.04.2019, I requested to M/s Supertech Limited to transfer this flat in the name of Ms. Pranjal Bhatia D/o Late Sh. Anil Bhatia R/o C-47, Sector-20, Noida, U.P.-201301. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact to M/s Supertech Limited office at Plot No C-2, Sector 96, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201303 within 15 days of the Published notice Ms. Pranjal Bhatia  
**Regards,  
DIWAKAR JHA (ADVOCATE)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform general public that Smt. Vandana Arora W/o Mr. Hemant Kumar is the owner of 1st floor without roof rights on property bearing no. 1235, admeasuring 107 Sq. Yds. Situated at Thir-I, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 11.02.2011, Doc No. 3495. Above said owner has misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 28.04.2008 executed by Mr. Vivek Sehgal in favour of Mrs. Jatinder Kaur in respect of built up ½ undivided share of 1st floor without roof rights on property bearing no. 1235, admeasuring 107 Sq. Yds. Situated at Thir-I, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi (as doc no. 9853, vol no. 15853, pages 76-83, SRO-4). Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of PNB Housing Finance Ltd., having its office at 8th Floor, DCM Building, 16 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi -110001. Above said owners are availing loan on above said property from PNB Housing Finance Ltd. by mortgaging the said property. In case anyone has any objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Chawani, Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vistas North, Unit no. 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Nehru Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

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To be known to all that L.Sunil Kumar Nagpal S/o Sh. Inder Pal Nagpal R/o Flat No.9-Copp Press Colony,Maya Puri, New Delhi, 1 Am Attorney of DDA UG Flat No.9-C, 2nd Floor, Near Govt.Press Colony at Mayapuri,Delhi Vide DDA File No.F92 (114)/85/UG/RPS has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold The original documents DDA N.O.C. for electric and water connection of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station, New Delhi vide ICR No.14413/2023 Date-05.01.2023. 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.9810018427 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (UG) H or Director D Block,Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

# Between battles, Ukraine's soldiers have place to recover

AP ■ KHARKIV

Sitting on comfy armchairs in a low-lit room smelling of lavender and pine trees, the men take deep breaths as they close their eyes and listen to meditation music. But this is not a spa. Uniformed Ukrainian soldiers are taking a break at this rehabilitation center in the Kharkiv region to restore their bodies and minds before going back to the front line.

The relentless 10-month war has prompted a local commander to transform a Soviet-era sanatorium into a recovery center for servicemen to treat both mental and physical ailments. "This rehabilitation is helping soldiers, at least for a week, to put themselves together," said Oleksander



Vasylykovskiy, a lieutenant colonel in the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Vasylykovskiy remembers how soldiers suffered silently after returning home from fighting Russia in Ukraine's Donbas in 2014. Suicide rates among veterans increased in the following years, with many untreated cases of post-traumatic stress disorder.

He hopes a center like this

can raise awareness of the need for mental health care and prevent suicides in the future.

Here, soldiers are offered a variety of treatments: aquatic therapy in a hot pool to heal muscle aches; red light therapy to improve heart and blood circulation, a salt room for better breathing; and for those having nightmares, electrosleep therapy - a Soviet-era low-frequency electrotherapy that is said to

relax the nervous system and induce sleep.

Psychologists are also available, not just for the soldiers but also for their families dealing with the traumas of war.

The servicemen also undergo medical checks, explained Vasylykovskiy. "It's the most important thing because a person develops several illnesses from the stress of fighting." In addition to the psychological scars of war, soldiers also come here to treat meningitis, contusions, amputations, lung and nerve inflammations, sleeping disorders, skin diseases, and cardiovascular illnesses, among others.

"If someone has trauma and cannot walk, my department will put them back on their feet," said Artem a physi-

cal therapist working at the center who cannot reveal his last name for security reasons.

More than 2,000 soldiers have been treated here since the center opened in June. It receives support from international partners in Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Poland, the U.S. And Spain.

The cost of one day of rehabilitation for one soldier is around 20 euros, according to Vasylykovskiy. But more funding is still needed, he said, "because (the war) is not over."

Viktor, whose last name cannot be published for security reasons, worked as a miner before joining the army. He took part in the military operation that pushed Russian occupying forces out of the Kharkiv.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Name of Work and its location  
Approx cost of the works in  
Address of the office  
Bid Security  
Date & time of submission of tender  
Opening of tender  
Website & notice board  
**53/23**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General public that (1) Mr. Amit Tyagi S/O Mr. Mange Ram (2) Mr. Sajjan Kumar S/O Mr. Aman Singh (3) Mr. Nitin Tyagi S/O Mahipal Tyagi are the owner of the property of A Residential House No. 84, Kharsa No. 244, area measuring 100 sq. yards, i.e. 63.61 sq. meter Situated Govind Puri Colony Village Daeen Pargana Daeen, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, vide registered sale deed dated 03.11.2022 registration No. 7614. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Narsari have approached Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd to take a Loan. If anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.  
**Mrs. Prasoona Lata, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm)**  
Unit No. 7, Basement, Plot No C-78 Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301  
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com  
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

# Russia's hypersonic missile-armed ship to patrol global seas

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday sent a frigate armed with the country's latest Zircon hypersonic missile on a trans-ocean cruise in a show of force as tensions with the West escalate over the war in Ukraine.

Russia touts that the Zircon missile can evade any Western air defenses by flying at an astounding 7,000 miles per hour (11,265 km/h).

Here is a glance at the ship and its weapons.

## THE PRIDE OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY

Commissioned by the navy in 2018 following long trials, the Admiral Gorshkov is the first ship in the new series of frigates which were designed to replace the aging Soviet-built destroyers as a key strike component of the Russian navy. Armed with an array of missiles, the ship is 130-meters (427-feet) long and has a crew of about 200.

In 2019, it circled the world oceans on a 35,000-nautical mile journey.



## INTENSIVE TESTS

The Admiral Gorshkov has served as the main testbed for the latest Russian hypersonic missile, Zircon.

In recent years, the Zircon has undergone a series of tests, including being launched at various practice targets. The military declared the tests successful and Zircon officially entered service last fall.

Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines and could be used against both enemy ships and ground targets. It is one of several hypersonic missiles that Russia has developed.

## THE NEW WEAPON

Putin has hailed Zircon as a potent weapon capable of penetrating any existing anti-missile defenses by flying nine

# Ukrainian tycoon denies embezzlement in French hearing



AP ■ CHAMBERY (FRANCE)

A Ukrainian billionaire and a former legislator suspected of embezzling more than USD 100 million appeared in a French court on Thursday, calling the case against him politically driven and declaring he wants to return to Ukraine to fight Russians who invaded his country.

Mining magnate Kostiantyn Zhevago, 48, was arrested in the ski resort of Courchevel in the French Alps last week based on an international warrant issued by Ukraine.

"It's really a political thing. I have always fought corrupt

people in Ukraine," Zhevago told a court hearing on Thursday in the Alpine city of Chambery. His wife and daughter were also present.

Ukrainian authorities submitted 244 pages of documents supporting their request for Zhevago's extradition, and the court adjourned until January 19 to study them.

Zhevago said he had nothing to do with the embezzlement he is accused of, and vigorously objected to extradition.

"I want to return to Ukraine, but not to go to prison — to fight against the (Russian) aggressors," he said in his closing appeal.

Zhevago was the principal beneficiary of Ukraine's now-defunct Finance and Credit Bank and the former chief executive of mining company Ferrexpo, among the world's top exporters of iron ore pellets and listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Its operating base is in central Ukraine.



# Beds run out at Beijing hospital as Covid brings more sick

AP ■ BEIJING

Patients, most of them elderly, are lying on stretchers in hallways and taking oxygen while sitting in wheelchairs as COVID-19 surges in China's capital Beijing. The Chuiyangliu hospital in the city's east was packed with newly arrived patients on Thursday. By mid-morning beds had run out, even as ambulances continued to bring those in need.

Hard-pressed nurses and doctors rushed to take information and triage the most urgent cases.

The surge in severely ill people needing hospital care follows China abandonment of its most severe pandemic restrictions last month after nearly three years of lockdowns, travels bans and school closures that weighed heavily on the economy and prompted street protests not seen since the late 1980s.

It also comes as the the European Union on Wednesday "strongly encouraged" its member states to impose pre-departure COVID-19 testing of passengers from China.

Over the past week, EU nations have reacted with a variety of restrictions toward travelers from China, disregarding an earlier commitment to act in unity.

Italy where the pandemic first exacted a heavy toll in



Europe in early 2020 was the first EU member to require coronavirus tests for airline passengers coming from China, but France and Spain quickly followed with their own measures.

That followed the imposition by the US of a requirement that all passengers from China show a negative test result obtained in the previous 48 hours before departure.

China has warned of "countermeasures" if such policies were to be imposed across the bloc.

Still, World Health Organisation head Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus said Wednesday he was concerned about the lack of outbreak data from the Chinese government.

At a daily briefing on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing has consistently "shared information and data with the international community in an open and transparent manner."

"At present, China's COVID-19 situation is under control," Mao said. "Also, we hope that the WHO secretariat will take a science-based, objective and impartial position to play a positive role in address-

ing the pandemic globally."

The terse language between China and the WHO contrasts sharply with what critics in the US Congress and elsewhere called an overly friendly relationship between the two as the UN organisation sought to probe the origins of the pandemic.

While the first cases were reported in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, China has claimed the virus originated in the US or Europe and has been accused of withholding data that could help narrow the search for the cause.

In dealing with the latest

outbreak, China has sought to get more of its elderly population vaccinated, but those efforts have been hampered by past scandals involving fake medications and previous warnings about adverse reactions to the vaccines among older people.

China's domestically developed vaccines are also considered less effective than the mRNA jabs used elsewhere.

Meanwhile, local authorities in some areas are appealing to the public to avoid traveling during this month's Lunar New Year holiday, as the last formal restrictions on movement are lifted.

"We recommend that everyone not return to their hometowns unless necessary during the peak of the outbreak," the government of Shaoyang county in Hunan province in central China said in a notice dated Thursday.

"Avoid visiting relatives and traveling between regions. Minimize travel."

Similar appeals were issued by Shouxian county in Anhui province southeast of Beijing and the cities of Qingyang in Gansu province in the northwest and Weifang in Shandong on the east coast.

The Weifang government notice said residents should celebrate the holiday with video and phone gatherings.

"Avoid visiting relatives and friends to protect yourself and others," it said.

# McCarthy rejected for House Speaker with GOP in disarray

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Republicans flailed through a second day of multiple balloting Wednesday, unable to elect their leader Kevin McCarthy as House speaker or come up with a new strategy to end the political chaos that has tarnished the start of their new majority.

For a fourth, fifth and sixth time, Republicans tried to vote McCarthy into the top job as the House plunged deeper into disarray. But the votes were producing almost the same outcome, 20 conservative holdouts still refusing to support him, and leaving him far short of the 218 typically needed to win the gavel.

In fact, McCarthy saw his tally slip to 201, as one fellow Republican switched to vote simply present.

Seeing no quick way out of the political standoff, Republicans voted abruptly late Wednesday to adjourn as they desperately searched for an endgame to the chaos of their own making. They were due back at 8 pm.

"Well, it's Groundhog Day," said Rep. Kat Cammack, R-Fla., in nominating McCarthy on the sixth ballot.

She said, "To all Americans watching right now, We hear you. And we will get through this no matter how messy."

But the right-flank conservatives, led by the Freedom Caucus and aligned with Donald Trump, appeared emboldened by the standoff though Trump publicly backed McCarthy.



"This is actually an invigorating day for America," said Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., who was nominated three times by his conservative colleagues as an alternative. "There's a lot of members in the chamber who want to have serious conversations about how we can bring this all to a close and elect a speaker."

McCarthy, the California Republican, vowed to keep fighting despite the gruelling spectacle, unlike any in modern times, that threw the new majority into tumult a day earlier. Animated private discussions broke out on the chamber floor between McCarthy supporters and detractors searching for an endgame.

The House gavelled in at noon, but no other work could be done swearing in new members, forming committees, tackling legislation, investigating the Biden administration until the speaker was elected.

"I still have the most votes,"

McCarthy said at the start of the session. "At the end of the day, we'll be able to get there."

But the dynamic proved no different from Day One, as Democrats re-upped their leader, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, for speaker, and Donalds offered his challenge to McCarthy in another history making moment. Both Jeffries and Donalds are Black.

"This country needs leadership," said Rep. Chip Roy, the Texas Republican noting the first time in history two Black Americans were nominated for the high office, and lawmakers from both parties rose to applaud.

It was the first time in 100 years that a nominee for House speaker could not take the gavel on the first vote, but McCarthy appeared undeterred. Instead, he vowed to fight to the finish.

The disorganized start to the new Congress pointed to difficulties ahead with Republicans now in control of the House.

# Nepal PM intensifies talks with other parties ahead of trust vote

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has intensified negotiations with other parties to secure the required majority votes ahead of a vote of confidence in Parliament next week.

The Prachanda-led coalition government requires at least 138 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives to survive the vote of confidence. Prachanda claims that he has the support of 169 lawmakers.

Prachanda on Wednesday held a meeting with former premier and CPN (Unified Socialist) Chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal to seek his support. The Madhav Nepal-led party has 10 seats in the House of Representatives (HoR).

During the meeting held at the Maoist Centre's Parliamentary Party office in Singha Durbar, Prachanda proposed to work together in the new government, MyRepublica news-

paper reported on Thursday.

The Prime Minister requested the CPN (Unified Socialist) leader to cast votes in his favour during the confidence motion, the newspaper reported, citing Dahal's Personal Secretary Ramesh Malla.

However, Madhav Nepal did not give any words to the Prime Minister about his party's support to the new government.

The CPN (Unified Socialist) leader earlier on Wednesday said his party is not in a hurry to join the Prachanda-led coalition government.

He said that his party will take the decision on January 10 after looking at the policies and programmes of the government and the activities of the political parties that are part of the government.

Prachanda was appointed as the new prime minister with the support of 169 parliamentarians including UML, Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Rastriya



Prajatantra Party (RPP), Janta Samajwadi Party (JSP), Janamat Party, Nagarik Unmukti Party and three independent lawmakers.

According to the existing constitutional provision in Nepal, a prime minister appointed under Article 76(2) needs to secure a vote of confidence from the parliament within 30 days of the appointment.

As of Wednesday, there was no certainty whether the RPP

and JSP would support Dahal during the trust vote in parliament on January 10. While JSP has said that it will join the government only if the party is given a dignified position in the government, RPP has also announced to support the Dahal-led government only after seeing the government's Common Minimum Program (CMP).

While the UML has a total 79 members including one inde-

pendent lawmaker joining the party, the Maoist Center has 32 members in the parliament. Similarly, RSP-led by Rabi Lamichhane has 20 seats and Janamat Party-led by CK Raut has six members. This will bring a total 137 members to Dahal during the trust vote.

Although two independent lawmakers are set to support Prachanda during the vote of confidence, Prime Minister Dahal wants to make sure that he has a comfortable majority in parliament. As such, Prime Minister Prachanda has been simultaneously holding talks with JSP, which has 12 members, and RPP, which has 14 members in parliament.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. PINKI SRINIA is the owner of Built up Property bearing No. 398-A, Old No. 32, Area measuring 50 Sq. Yds, out of Khassa No.51/22, Situated in the area of Village Paam Delhi State Delhi, Colony known as Raj Nagar II, Ambedkar Marg, Palam Colony, New Delhi, vide GPA, Will and ATS dated 20.04.2001. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above owner over the said 'floor', its Sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, IIIrd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

**LOST AND FOUND**

Original sale deed 04.03.2005 executed by Mr. Sharwan Kumar Gupta in favour of Mr. Anil Kumar in respect of Plot area Measuring 70 sqyard out of Khassa No.124, Registered as Document No.124, Book No.1, volume No.1267, on pages 481-494 Registered on Registered on 04.03.2005 Anil Kumar in the Name of Ram Parbesh Pandit & Dinesh Pandit Sons of Baijnani Pandit its Original Registry is Actually Lost. Some where if anyone found please Contact on Mobile Number:- 89291148495

Address LUCEM LEGAL LLP  
Plot No - 136 Basement Near by Mother Dairy  
Uday Park New Delhi-110049  
Contact- 8929114895,011-40046316,011-41667327

# Afghan Taliban kill 8 in raids of ISIS hideouts

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban killed eight Islamic State militants and arrested nine others in a series of raids targeting key figures in a spate of attacks in Kabul, a senior Taliban government spokesman said on Thursday.

Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Taliban government, said the raids in the capital city and western Nimroz province on Wednesday targeted IS militants who organised recent attacks on Kabul's Langan Hotel, Pakistan's embassy and the military airport.

Eight IS fighters, including foreign nationals, were killed and seven others arrested in



Kabul, while a separate operation in western Nimroz province resulted in two more IS arrests, Mujahid said.

"These members had a main role in the attack on the Chinese hotel and paved the way for foreign IS members to come to Afghanistan," Mujahid said in a tweet.

# Teen killed by army in West Bank clashes, say Palestinians

AP ■ JERUSALEM

A 16-year-old Palestinian was killed on Thursday by Israeli fire during an arrest raid in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Thursday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

It was the latest bloodshed in the region that has seen Israeli-Palestinian tensions surge for almost a year. An Israeli rights group said earlier this week that 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians since 2004, a period of intense violence that came during a Palestinian uprising.

Palestinian health officials said Amer Abu Zeitoun, 16, died after he was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers. The official Palestinian news agency WAFA said Abu Zeitoun was shot during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers during an army arrest raid. It was not immediately clear if Abu Zeitoun was taking part in the confrontations.

The Israeli police said that a joint force of soldiers, border police and Shin Bet security agents arrested two wanted persons in the Balata refugee camp next to Nablus.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mohd. Arshan Khan who is/are purchasing the Delhi Development Authority Janta Flat bearing No. 24-B, on 1st/3rd Floor, with roof rights, in Pocket-II, situated at Madhur Paschim Park, New Delhi-110063, from Ms. Parvaneh wide WILL dated 29.04.2013 which was executed by her mother Mrs. Salma Begum and who was owner of the aforesaid property vide Sale Deed dated 27.11.2012, which was registered vide Document No.6027, registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar-IIA, Purjabi Bagh, New Delhi, on 29.11.2012; and intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. That, original 1) Sale Deed dated 10.04.2012, registered vide Document No.2000, registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar-IIA, Purjabi Bagh, New Delhi, on 11.04.2012 & 2) Sale Deed dated 27.11.2012, registered vide Document No.6027, registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar-IIA, Purjabi Bagh, New Delhi, on 29.11.2012; are not available/misplaced. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP  
Plot no 136, (Basement) Uday Park,  
New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mohd. Arshan Khan who is/are purchasing the Delhi Development Authority Janta Flat bearing No. 24-B, on 1st/3rd Floor, with roof rights, in Pocket-II, situated at Madhur Paschim Park, New Delhi-110063, from Ms. Parvaneh wide WILL dated 29.04.2013 which was executed by her mother Mrs. Salma Begum and who was owner of the aforesaid property vide Sale Deed dated 27.11.2012, which was registered vide Document No.6027, registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar-IIA, Purjabi Bagh, New Delhi, on 29.11.2012; are not available/misplaced. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP  
Plot no 136, (Basement) Uday Park,  
New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316



# My brother knocked me to floor during argument over my wife: Prince Harry

PTI ■ LONDON

Prince Harry has made a shocking revelation in his upcoming autobiography that his brother Prince William "knocked" him to the floor during an argument over his American wife Meghan Markle, according to a media report.

Describing a confrontation at his London home in 2019, Harry says William called Meghan "difficult", "rude" and "abrasive", which Harry calls a "parrot (ing) of the press narrative" about his American wife, according to the Guardian, which says it has seen a copy of the duke's memoir 'Spare'.

The extraordinary scene, which Harry says resulted in visible injury to his back, is one of many in the book, which will be published worldwide next week. The book is likely to spark a serious furore for the British

royal family.

The Kensington Palace said it "has no comment to make".

The book's title comes from an old saying in royal and aristocratic circles: that a first son is an heir to titles, power and fortune, and a second is, therefore, a spare, should anything happen to the first-born, the report added.

Spare is a remarkable volume, in which the altercation between the two princes forms a startling passage.

Harry, 38, writes that William, 40, wanted to talk about "the whole rolling catastrophe" of their relationship and struggles with the press.

After William complained about Meghan, Harry told him he was repeating the press narrative and that he expected better. But William, Harry says, was not being rational, leading to the two men shouting over each other.

Harry then accused his brother of acting like an heir, unable to understand why his younger brother was not content to be a spare.

# Seoul: Kim's daughter reveal hints at prolonged family rule

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's disclosure of his daughter in recent public events was likely an attempt to show his people that one of his children would one day inherit his power in what would be the country's third hereditary power transfer, South Korea's spy service told lawmakers on Thursday. Kim publicly took his daughter to three events in the past few months: a missile

launch site, a photo session with weapons scientists and a touring of a missile facility.

State media called her Kim's "most beloved child," sparking outside debate over whether she's being groomed as his heir apparent, though she's believed to be around 9 or 10 years old.

In a closed-door Parliamentary committee meeting, the National Intelligence Service said it assessed that by taking his daughter to public places, Kim

aims to show North Koreans his resolve to hold another round of hereditary power transition, Yoo Sang-bum, one of the lawmakers who attended the private NIS briefing, told reporters.

**COURT NOTICE**

**DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, ALLAHABAD.**

Ministry of Finance, Govt of India.  
147-A-58/1, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Tagore Town, Allahabad.

(Summons to the parties through publication under section 20 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act 1993)

Misc Application No. 8 of 2021 in Appeal No 156 of 2016

M/s. International Tractors Limited  
.....Appellant  
Vs  
Punjab & Sind Bank and Others  
.....Respondents

To

3. Dharamveer s/o Sh. Ramchandra r/o 1060/3, Shastri Nagar, Dist Meerut 250001.

4. Smt Om Veeri w/o Sh. Dharamveer r/o 1060/3, Shastri Nagar, Dist Meerut 250001.

**NOTICE**

Take Notice that the appellant has filed an appeal against the order dated 07.05.2016 passed in appeal no O.A 174 of 2011 by the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Lucknow the above mentioned appeal has been listed for appearance and further proceedings before the Appellate Tribunal at Allahabad on 07.02.2023 at 11.00 AM. You may appear before this Appellate Tribunal on the date either in person or through legal practitioner duly appointed by you for this purpose.

Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the date fixed, the appeal will be heard ex-parte.

Registrar  
Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Allahabad.  
Issued 17.11.2022

**Notice Inviting Tender**

No.SSA-18017(12)/2022-MDM-SSA 1/101911/2023 Date:05.01.2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal.

1. GEM/2022/B/2924161 Dated 29.12.2022 for printing and supply of MDM Register.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly.

Sd/-Mission Director,  
Samagra Shiksha, Assam  
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

**G20**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	33/22-23/WE
Name of work with its location (A)	Renovation of TPC office, Gati Shakti office and other misc. works in DRM office and repair to leaky roof & other misc. works of IRCA building in the section of SSE/W/Transit Camp.
Approx. Cost of work (A)	10565458.04
EMD amount (A)	202800.00
Completion period of work (A)	06 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Closing date of tender on 27.01.2023 at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.: 128-W/269/OET/22-23/WE/NIT/33 Dated: 04.01.2023  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 55/23

**Noida**

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)  
Website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in) & <https://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

**B) Fresh Tender Work:-**

SL No.	Job No	Name of Work	Tender Amount (in Lacs.)
1	57/DGM/Sr.M (E&M-II)/ 2022-23/E.T.	Providing Diesel Generating Set of Staff Quarter Sector-14A, Noida	32.60
2	58/DGM/Sr.M (E&M-II)/ 2022-23/E.T.	Annual Electrical Maintenance of Staff Quarters at Sector-14A & 15A, Noida	68.99

The above tenders can be uploaded from dated **19.01.2023 up to 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on dated **20.01.2023 at 11.00 AM**.

**Dy. General Manager (E&M) NOIDA**

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**



# Stocks skid for 2nd day as hawkish Fed weighs

## Bajaj Finance tanks 7.21%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks buckled under selling pressure for the second straight session on Thursday as traders reduced their exposure to riskier assets after minutes from the US Federal Reserve's latest meeting indicated more rate hikes this year.

Continuous foreign fund outflows added to the selling pressure, market participants said. Paring initial gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 304.18 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 60,353.27.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 50.80 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 17,992.15.

Bajaj Finance was the top loser among Sensex constituents, plunging 7.21 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Power Grid, Titan, Axis Bank, and Tech Mahindra.

In contrast, ITC, NTPC,



Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle India, Sun Pharma and Tata Steel were among the gainers, climbing as much as 1.91 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 18 declines compared to 12 advances.

"Globally, investors are digesting the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes with stock markets trading lower revealing that the Fed officials are determined to tame inflation by maintaining its aggressive stance. Financials led the losses in the domestic market, following dismal business num-

bers from NBFC leader.

"Oil prices recovered after falling sharply on fears of a worldwide recession, as investors remain optimistic about long-term demand," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent and smallcap index inched up 0.01 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, financial services declined 1 per cent, bankex dipped 0.78 per cent, teck (0.61 per cent), IT (0.61 per cent) and telecom- munication (0.20 per cent).

Oil & Gas rallied 1.60 per

cent, FMCG climbed 1.36 per cent, energy jumped 1.28 per cent, auto 1.12 per cent and metal 1.03 per cent.

"Markets have been drifting lower amid mixed signals from the global front however the pace of decline is gradual, thanks to rotational buying in select index majors from across sectors... Amid all, we recommend continuing with stock-specific approach while keeping a check on the position size," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Minutes from the US Federal Reserve's December meeting showed that officials remained determined to keep rates high in 2023 and wanted more evidence of cooling inflation before easing its tight monetary policy.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green on optimism over China restricting its anti-COVID measures.

# Rupee climbs 37 paise to 82.45 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rallying for the second straight session, the rupee jumped 37 paise to close at 82.45 against the US dollar on Thursday amid a weak green-back overseas.

Forex traders said factors like strong Asian peers and crude oil prices trading below USD 80 per barrel also helped the local currency.

However, unabated foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in domestic equities dented investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic unit opened at 82.75 and touched an intra-day high of 82.50 and a low of 82.80 against the greenback.

It finally ended at 82.45, registering a rise of 37 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled at 82.82 against the dollar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.06 per cent to 104.18.

"The Indian rupee gained for a second day in trot supported by a weaker greenback and stronger regional peers. However, the gain was cur-



tailed amid foreign fund outflows..." said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

The December Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes barely affected the forex market as nothing new came from the minutes, he added. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 304.18 points or 0.50 per cent to end at 60,353.27, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 50.80 points or 0.28 per cent to 17,992.15.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 2.62 per cent to USD 79.88 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,449.45 crore,

according to exchange data.

"Officials at the Federal Reserve's December policy meeting agreed the US central bank should slow the pace of its aggressive interest rate increases. Overall the minutes were hawkish and that kept the dollar supported at lower levels," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Focus will be on services PMI and private payrolls numbers from the US.

"We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade positive and quote in the range of 82.50 and 83.05," Somaiya added.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, the rupee gained as crude oil prices were trading below USD 80 per barrel.



## Total vehicle retail sales jump 15% to 2.11 cr units in 2022: FADA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail sales of overall vehicles in India grew by 15.28 per cent to 2,11,20,441 units in 2022 led by record sales of passenger vehicles and tractors, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Thursday.

In 2021, total retail sales of vehicles in India were at 1,83,21,760 units, FADA said in a statement.

Two-wheelers retail sales stood at 1,53,88,062 units last year, a growth of 13.37 per cent from 2021 when sales stood at 1,35,73,682 units.

Passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales were at 34,31,497 units in 2022, as against 29,49,182 units in 2021, up 16.35 per cent, it added.

FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said, "For CY2022, while total vehicle retails grew by 15 per cent year-on-year and 17 per cent compared to CY20 it failed to surpass CY19 retails, (a pre-Covid year) and registered a fall of 10 per cent."

He further said, "The PV category during this period continued to gain new grounds by clocking 34.31 lakh retails during the full year. This is by far, the highest retails which PV has done till date."

Singhania, however, lamented that the two-wheeler segment once again failed to impress as retail sales during December 2022 continued to fall after two good months.

"Reasons like rise in inflation, increased cost of ownership, rural market yet to pick up fully and increased EV sales, the ICE (internal combustion engine) two-wheeler segment is yet to see any green shoots," he added.

In 2022, commercial vehicles retail sales stood at 8,65,344 units, as against 6,55,696 units in 2021, a growth of 31.97 per cent.

"The CV segment has continued to grow during entire CY2022 and is now almost at par with CY2019 retails. With an uptick in demand in LCV (light commercial vehicles), HCV (heavy commercial vehicles), buses and construction equipment, the government's continued push for infrastructure development has kept this segment going,"

## Policy to make adoption of Indian Standard Time mandatory on anvil: Govt official



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is planning to come out with a comprehensive policy for mandatory adoption of Indian Standard Time (IST) nationwide, a senior consumer affairs ministry official said.

The purpose is to ensure synchronization of all networks and computers to IST and adoption of IST by Telecom Service Providers, Internet Service Providers, power grids, banks, stock exchange, etc, the official said. Presently, IST is not being adopted mandatorily by all telecom and internet service providers. They are utilising the servers synchronised to other sources such as Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) is already working on a project in coordi-

nation with the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to generate and disseminate accurate time traceable to IST.

Speaking to PTI, the official said the ministry is also planning to develop a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework for "mandatory adoption of IST" under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

Consultants will be hired for carrying out a detailed assessment of the requirements of time synchronisation, study best international practices in this domain and lay down plans and procedures for effective implementation of the project.

"It is imperative that all networks and computers within the country, especially those that cater to the real time applications to the strategic sectors for national security, be synchro-

nized to the national time standard," the official said.

The project which is being implemented along with NPL and ISRO aims to create technology and infrastructure to disseminate IST from five sites across India to all the telecom operators, power grids, financial institutions, data centres, common citizens etc.

These locations are the Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs) of DoCA at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Faridabad and Guwahati.

"Upon completion, the project is expected to enhance national security and reduce the error in time synchronisation," the official added.

Precise time is essential for country's strategic and non-strategic sectors for navigation, telecommunication, internet, power grid synchronization, banking systems, digital governance, transport systems, financial transactions, defence systems, cyber physical systems, and upcoming technologies of 5G, artificial intelligence and internet of things.

Precise time with nanosecond accuracy is also required for high-end research in science, namely, measurement of fundamental physical constants, detection of the gravitational waves, geodesy, deep space navigation, radio telescopes, etc.

## Sundararaman Ramamurthy takes charge as MD, CEO of BSE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sundararaman Ramamurthy has assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of leading stock exchange BSE.

In a regulatory filing last year, BSE said that markets regulator Sebi has approved the appointment of Ramamurthy as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.

"Sundararaman Ramamurthy has assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BSE," the exchange said in a release on Wednesday. The appointment is subject to acceptance of the offer made to Ramamurthy and fulfillment of terms and conditions, it added. The appointment comes after BSE's erstwhile MD & CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan resigned from the bourse in July 2022 and moved to NSE.

Ramamurthy has previously served as the senior member of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) since its inception. However, after serving this role, he took up the position of MD and Chief Operating Officer at the Indian arm of Bank of America.

## RBI allows 6 entities to test fintech products to deal with financial frauds under sandbox scheme

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Six entities, including HSBC and Creditwatch, have been allowed to test their fintech products to prevent and mitigate financial fraud as part of the fourth cohort under the RBI's regulatory sandbox scheme.

Regulatory sandbox refers to the live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which the regulators may permit certain relaxations.

The Reserve Bank announced the opening of the fourth cohort under the regulatory sandbox in June 2022 for the prevention and mitigation of financial fraud.

The RBI said it had received nine applications under the fourth cohort, of which six entities have been selected for the 'test phase'.

The six entities are — Bahwan Cybertek, Crediwatch Information Analytics, enStage Software (Wibmo), HSBC in collaboration with Wibmo, napID Cybersec and Trusting Social. The selected entities would commence testing their products in February.

The applications for the fourth cohort were received from June 15 to August 1, 2022.

The regulatory sandbox allows the regulator, innovators, financial service providers and customers to conduct field tests



to collect evidence on the benefits and risks of new financial products.

The objective of the regulatory sandbox is to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefits to consumers.

As per the RBI, the first and foremost benefit of the regulatory sandbox is that it fosters 'learning by doing' on all sides. Among other benefits, the regulatory sandbox could lead to better outcomes for consumers through an increased range of products and services, reduced costs and improved access to

financial services.

The RBI invited applications for the first cohort with the theme 'Retail Payments' in November 2019 and for the second cohort with the theme of 'Cross Border Payments' in December 2020.

The target applicants for entry to the regulatory sandbox are fintech companies, including startups, banks, financial institutions, any other company and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms, partnering with or providing support to financial services businesses.

## Sebi extends relaxation for cos' to send hard copies of annual reports to shareholders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday extended the relaxation to listed companies whereby they will not be required to dispatch physical copies of the annual reports to their shareholders till September this year.

Earlier, the regulator had given similar relaxations to listed companies till December 2022. The fresh decision has been taken after Sebi received representations from listed companies, seeking dispensation from requirements of sending hard copies of annual reports to the shareholders.

Against this backdrop, the watchdog has decided to provide relaxation till September 30, 2023, from LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, pertaining to dispatching of hard copies of the annual report to shareholders, according to a circular.

The LODR rules require listed companies to dispatch a hard copy of the statement containing salient features of all the documents — financial statements, board's report, auditor's report — to those shareholders who have not registered their email addresses.

However, Sebi said listed



entities are required to send hard copies of full annual reports to those shareholders who request the same. Further, the notice of the annual general meeting (AGM) published by advertisement under the norms would disclose the web link to the annual report so as to enable shareholders to have access to the full annual report.

Separately, the regulator has eased the rules for entities, which listed their non-convertible securities, from dispatching hard copies of annual reports to debenture holders. The relaxations have been extended till September 2023. Earlier such relaxations were given till December 2022.

The latest move also comes after the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on December 28 last year extended the relaxations from dispatching physical copies of financial statements to the shareholders for the AGMs conducted till September 30, 2023.

## Elevated coal price a drag on margins of domestic base metal players: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The increased price of coal continue to be a drag on the margin of domestic base metal players with no immediate relief in sight, rating agency ICRA said on Thursday.

In a recent note on the primary base metal industry, ICRA said that the earnings of the industry would continue to remain under pressure in the second half of the current fiscal, following a dull performance in the first half of FY'23.



"Elevated coal costs along with metal price corrections remain the key headwinds affect-

ing the margins, with no immediate relief in sight," ICRA said in a statement.

On account of input cost pressures, the rating agency said it has revised its estimates of operating profitability of domestic players downward to 18 per cent in the current fiscal.

ICRA's operating profitability forecast for domestic players is almost 3 percentage points lower compared to its earlier forecast made in September last year and 10 percentage points lower compared to FY'22.

## President dedicates transmission system

Gurugram: President of India, Droupadi Murmu virtually dedicated transmission system builder evacuation of 8.9 GW of power power in Bhadla, Fatehgarh and Bikaner regions of Rajasthan at a function held at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on January 3.

The transmission system has been built by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna company of Ministry of Power, Government of India.

Governor of Rajasthan, Kalraj Mishra, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, senior officials of Government of Rajasthan and others were present.

## NTPC starts India's first green hydrogen blending operation in PNG network

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Country's largest power generator, NTPC Ltd commences India's first green hydrogen blending project. The green hydrogen blending has been started in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawastownship, Surat. The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL).

The first molecule of green hydrogen from the project was set in motion by Shri P Ram Prasad, head of project, Kawas in presence of other senior executives of NTPC Kawas and GGL.

After the start of blending operation, NTPC Kawas held awareness workshops for township residents with help of GGL officials.

NTPC and GGL have worked relentlessly towards achieving this milestone in record time after the foundation stone laying by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 30th July 2022. This set-up is geared up to supply H2-NG (natural gas) to households of Kawastownship at Adityanagar, Surat. Green hydrogen in Kawas is made by electrolysis of water using power from already installed 1 MW floating solar project.

## Housing sales momentum to sustain in 2023 with likely moderation in inflation: JLL India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sales of residential apartments, which rose 68 per cent in 2022, are likely to sustain this year on likely moderation in inflation and better price deals from builders, according to JLL India.

In a statement, JLL India on Thursday said that the sale of apartments grew 68 per cent to 2,15,666 units in 2022 from 1,28,064 units in the previous year across seven major cities — Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune.

Mumbai includes Mumbai city, Mumbai suburbs, Thane city and Navi Mumbai.

The annual sales of 2,15,666 units recorded in 2022, the highest in over a decade, next to the peak seen in 2010 at 2,16,762 units, it added.

Data includes only apartments, while rowhouses, villas and plotted developments have been excluded.

On the outlook, JLL India said, "Sales momentum is likely to sustain in 2023 on the expectations of moderating inflation supporting a reversal in repo rate hikes."

"Moreover, likely measures from stakeholders, such as longer loan tenures and attractive pricing deals, will keep buyers' affordability levels within comfort," it added.



JLL India noted that the sales of apartments rose despite the rise in mortgage rates, property prices and global headwinds during 2022.

"The (sales) momentum inhibitor looks to be a temporary one as India has a resilient domestic economy and robust macroeconomic fundamentals," said Siva Krishnan, Managing Director and Head, Residential Services, India, JLL. Commenting on the report, Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman of Signature Global, said the housing demand scenario has changed significantly post-COVID.

"Most families now understand the importance of owning a house and this is why we are witnessing strong demand in the housing sector," he noted.

However, Aggarwal said, the sector needs support from the government in the upcoming Budget so that the demand remains intact even in 2023.

Trehan Group MD Saransh Trehan said, "The good sign is that recent hikes in home loan interest rates have not impacted housing demand much".



# RUTHLESS KANE LIFTS SPURS

AP ■ LONDON

Harry Kane lifted the gloom at Tottenham on Wednesday, scoring twice in a convincing 4-0 win against Crystal Palace as Nottingham Forest hauled themselves out of the relegation zone.

Forest beat bottom side Southampton 1-0 while troubled Wolves drew 1-1 at Aston Villa and struggling West Ham shared the points with Leeds in a 2-2 draw.

Antonio Conte's inconsistent Tottenham, who finished fourth last season, had taken just one point from two matches after the Premier League resumed following the World Cup.

The disaffected Italian manager, used to success at Inter Milan, Chelsea and Juventus, warned this week he would only stick around if he was 100 percent convinced by the club's project.

Conte was looking for a reaction after Sunday's 2-0 defeat at home against Aston Villa and he eventually got it despite an insipid first-half performance from his team.

"The character of this team always shows," he told Sky Sports. "Maybe only in the last game against Aston Villa we didn't have a strong reaction. Otherwise every game we show strong character."

"It is really important. We got three points. We continue to stay very close for the good positions. After you don't win and the confidence is down, it was important to win."

Spurs were second best in the first half at Selhurst Park, lacking zip in attack and had goalkeeper Hugo Lloris to thank for keeping the score at 0-0 but it was a different story after the break.

England captain Kane scored twice in five minutes in his 300th Premier League appearance to move just two goals behind Jimmy Greaves' all-time record of 266 goals for Spurs.

Tottenham broke the deadlock in the 48th minute when Ivan Perisic crossed to Kane from the left and he neatly nodded past Vicente Guaita at the near post.



Kane doubled Spurs' lead when the ball fell to Bryan Gil on the right and he flicked a pass to the England forward, who sent a low strike unerringly into the bottom left corner.

Matt Doherty made it 3-0 midway through the second half and Son Heung-min completed the scoring four minutes later, lifting Spurs to 33 points — just two behind fourth-placed Manchester United.

## FOREST WIN

Nottingham Forest climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone courtesy of a precious 1-0 victory, which heaped more misery on basement club Southampton.

Taiwo Awoniyi's fifth goal of the season earned his team a first top-flight away success of the season to strengthen their survival hopes.

Steve Cooper's resurgent

side have now taken 11 points from the past 21 available, having only managed six from the previous 33, and fully merited a significant triumph on the south coast.

West Ham were on course for their first league win since October when they took a 2-1 lead against Leeds at Elland Road but Spain international Rodrigo equalised in the 70th minute.

## Kane will break all goalscoring records: Conte

AP ■ LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane will have beaten every goalscoring record by the time he retires, according to the club's manager Antonio Conte. The 29-year-old England captain needs just three more goals to become Spurs all-time record scorer after his brace in Wednesday's 4-0 thumping of Crystal Palace.

The double —which took Kane's tally to 15 in the Premier League this season —moved him on to 264 goals, two shy of the late Jimmy Greaves' tally. Kane has 198 Premier League goals to his credit, with only Alan Shearer (260) and Wayne Rooney (208) ahead of him.

"I think to speak about Harry, I think a bit that we waste time to explain about the type of player that he is," said Conte after Spurs' win.

"I repeat, we are talking about a really world-class striker and he's going to beat every record with the goals."

Conte says his belief that Kane will set new milestones is based on what a strong character he is. Kane has had to bounce back after his missed penalty in the World Cup quarter-final with England saw the French prevail 2-1. If he had converted it he would also have become England's record goalscorer.

David Moyes' side, who had lost their previous five matches in the Premier League, remain perilously placed, outside the bottom three only on goal difference. Daniel Podence fired Wolves into the lead at Villa Park but Danny Ings levelled in the 78th minute to ensure Wolves remained in the relegation zone.

Wednesday's results also sucked Frank Lampard's Everton into the bottom three.

# Dzeko hands Napoli first defeat

AP ■ MILAN

Eдин Dzeko bust open the Serie A title race on Wednesday with the only goal in Inter Milan's 1-0 win over Napoli which cut the leaders' advantage at the top of the league to five points.

The Bosnia captain's powerful header 10 minutes after the break was enough to end Napoli's unbeaten record and put Inter eight points away from the pace setters.

Simone Inzaghi's side sit fourth and are back in the discussion for the Scudetto after their third straight league win, one which puts some pressure on a Napoli team who threatened to run away with the league before the World Cup.

Second-placed AC Milan were the main beneficiaries of their local rivals' win at the San Siro, their title defence boosted by a 2-1 win at Salernitana in the day's first match.

Also lurking are Juventus, who sit third and a further two points off the pace following their last-gasp 1-0 win at Cremonese. Inter should have been ahead before Dzeko netted the winner, with Matteo Darmian wasting a perfect lay-off from the Bosnia captain midway through the first half when he smashed over the bar.



An underwhelming Romelu Lukaku also shot over as Inter failed to fully capitalise on their clear superiority over disappointing Napoli, and they also paid the price when Giacomo Raspadori's late shot was well-saved by Andre Onana.

Poland forward Arkadiusz Milik struck his fifth league goal of the season in added time with a free-kick which handed Juve their seventh straight win, a run in which they haven't conceded a goal and will give them a boost after scandal hit late last year.

Juve have been accused by prosecutors of a variety of financial crimes while UEFA are also probing Italy's biggest club, whose entire board stepped down in November and will be replaced later this month.

"It's a good win and another step forward... Milik scored a great goal, but it wasn't an easy win. It's not simple facing Cremonese," said coach Massimiliano Allegri to DAZN.

# Lazio fans hurl racist abuse at tearful Umtiti in Italy

AP ■ ROME

France international Samuel Umtiti reportedly left the pitch in tears after he and Lecce teammate Lameck Banda suffered racist abuse from visiting Lazio fans in Italy's Serie A on Wednesday.

The referee stopped the game in the second half because of racist taunts "coming from the visitor sector occupied by Lazio supporters", Italian news agency Ansa said.

Cameroon-born defender Umtiti, who won the 2018 World Cup with France and is on loan at Lecce from Barcelona, was the primary target of the abuse. Lazio fans also hurled racist insults at Zambian international Banda during the first half, Ansa reported.

Lecce president Saverio Sticchi Damiani said that the referee halted the game and after stadium announcers called for the abuse to stop, "Umtiti asked that the match resume".



The 29-year-old Umtiti left the pitch in tears at the end of the match and also a standing ovation from the Lecce crowd, according to Italian media.

"He wanted to respond on the pitch to the insults. He reacted like a true champion," newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport quoted Damiani as saying.

Lecce, who won 2-1, afterwards praised their fans for responding to the abuse by chanting Umtiti's name.

"The racist insults were

Cremonese are still yet to win a game in their first top flight season since 1996 but they struck the woodwork twice and will be encouraged by successive home draws with Milan and Juve either side of the break for the World Cup.

Six points behind Milan are Lazio, whose defeat at Lecce came after Ciro Immobile had given them a half-time lead with his 189th Serie A goal, which took him above Alessandro De Piero and Beppe Signori in the all-time scoring charts.

Gabriel Strefezza levelled for Lecce just before the hour mark, and Federico Di Francesco's brilliantly volleyed cross find Lorenzo Colombo for a tap-in which moved his team up to 12th, nine points clear of the relegation zone.

Lorenzo Pellegrini drew sixth-placed Roma level on 30 points with their local rivals with an early penalty which gave his team a 1-0 win over Bologna.

Mario Pasalic snatched a last-gasp 2-2 draw for seventh-placed Atalanta at Spezia with a stoppage-time leveller to complete a comeback from two goals down.

Spezia are five points ahead of Sampdoria, who sit 18th after claiming their second win of the season, 2-1 at Sassuolo.

# INJURED KYRGIOS OUT OF ADELAIDE

AP ■ BARCELONA

Ansu Fati snatched an extra-time winner for Barcelona in a thrilling 4-3 victory over third-tier Intercity in the Spanish Cup round of 32 on Wednesday. The minnows from Alicante nearly embarrassed Barcelona with former La Masia youth player Oriol Soldevila scoring a superb hat-trick to force extra-time, before Fati's deflected strike settled the tie.

Ronald Araujo headed home after just four minutes from youngster Pablo Torre's corner, making it look like Barca would breeze into the last 16. The Uruguayan defender made a lively comeback from the thigh injury which kept him from starting for his country at the World Cup, also clearing an

effort off the line.

Ferran Torres and Ousmane Dembele spurned opportunities for the visitors before Intercity struck a shock equaliser, with Soldevila netting from close range after the ball was nodded into his path from a corner.

Dembele executed a fine chip to put Barcelona back in front when he was sent through in the 66th minute. Intercity levelled again when Soldevila produced a fine header to beat Inaki Pena but Raphinha stroked home Jordi Alba's low cross to restore Barcelona's lead.

However Soldevila completed a remarkable hat-trick against his former side after a Marcos Alonso slip-up to force extra-time.

Substitute Fati came close at the start of the additional peri-

od and then fired Barcelona ahead with a deflected strike which looped home in the 104th minute, and it proved decisive. Elsewhere Atletico

Madrid earned a 2-0 win at second-tier Real Oviedo with goals from Marcos Llorente and talented youngster Pablo Barrios, while Sevilla also racked up a big

win. Jorge Sampaoli's side, struggling in La Liga, thrashed Linares 5-0, including a hat-trick for Moroccan World Cup hero Youssef En-Nesyri.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**CITY/O&M CIRCLE. M.P.P.K.V.V. Co. Ltd., CHHATARPUR**  
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No. SE/O&M/PUR/3970

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Online tenders are invited for **Outsourcing of Unskilled, Semi-skilled and Skilled Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Works at O&M Circle, MPPKVVL, CHHATARPUR.** The bid seals will be received online on the e-portal <http://mptenders.gov.in> <http://www.mpez.co.in> up to date & time indicated below. The online tenders will be opened in the office of the undersigned as mentioned in tender time schedule (key date). If desired, the bidder or their duly authorized representatives may remain present at the time of opening of tender.

Sr. No	Tender Specification No	Name of the Work/services	Approx Value (Rs. in Crores)	Tender fees (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Due date of opening of tender online from 14:00 Hrs
1	TS No. SE/O&M/PUR/3970 dt 03.01.2023 (e-Tender No. 2023_PKVVC_241807_1)	Outsourcing of Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Work under the jurisdiction of O&M Circle MPPKVVL, CHHATARPUR	14.33	11800	1.00 Lakh	23.01.2023

**Superintending Engineer**  
**MPPKVVL, Chhatarpur**

**SAVE ELECTRICITY**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See provision to rule 8(6)]

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mrs. Charanjeet Dhanjal (Borrower), Sandeep Dhanjal (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00004207004, LBDEL00005032728 & LBDEL00005335581	DDA Flat No- 139-D, Third Floor Pocket- AG-1 Vikaspuri, Delhi- 110018. Admeasuring An Area of 753.47 sq. fts.	Rs. 85.24, 186.16/- as on Dec 29, 2022	Rs. 68,00,000/- Rs. 6,80,000/-	January 13, 2023, From 01:00 PM To 03:00 PM	January 25, 2023, From 12:00 Noon onwards
2.	Roop Narain Kaushik (Borrower), Chanchal Kaushik, Frames Twenty Four Communications Pvt Ltd (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LBFDB000033334292	Plot No A 10A, Basement Front Side Green Park, Delhi 110016 Admeasuring An Area of 800 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 3,68.17, 330.03 as on December 21, 2022	Rs. 54,00,000/- Rs. 5,40,000/-	January 16 2023, From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	January 25, 2023, From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposahub.com>)** The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 24, 2023** before **05:00 P.M** failing which, these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **January 24, 2023** before **05:00 P.M** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **January 24, 2023** before **05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **January 24, 2023** before **05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/7304914763**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date : January 06, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

No. SE/O&M/PANNA135/3095 date 03.01.2023

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**CITY/O&M CIRCLE. M.P.P.K.V.V. Co. Ltd., PANNA**  
Telephone no. 07732-252290  
Fax No. email:- [sepanna2021@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepanna2021@rediffmail.com)

No. SE/O&M/PNN135/3095

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Online tenders invited for **Outsourcing of Unskilled, Semi-skilled and Skilled Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Works at City/O&M Circle, MPPKVVL, PANNA.** The bid seals will be received online on the e-portal <http://mptenders.gov.in> up to date & time indicated below. The online tenders will be opened in the office of the undersigned as mentioned in tender time schedule (key date). If desired, the bidder or their duly authorized representatives may remain present at the time of opening of tender.

Sr. No	Tender Specification No	Name of the Work/services	Approx Value (Rs. in Crores)	Tender fees (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Due date of opening of tender online from 14:00 Hrs
1	SE/O&M/PNN135/3095 (e-Tender No. 2023_PKVVC_241875_1)	Outsourcing of Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Work under the jurisdiction of City/O&M Circle MPPKVVL,	5.52 (excluding GST)	11800	1.00 Lakh	23.01.2023

For updated/extended due dates of for opening of tender (EMD in Cover-1 & Techno-commercial bid in Cover-2) please refer to the key dates.

**NOTE :-**

(1) Other details can be seen in the compete tender documents available on e-portal <https://mptenders.gov.in>

(2) The documents can be download from main portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> in free of cost. However, for participation in the tender the bidder shall have to pay non-refundable tender fee. Only in case when the tender is dropped without opening, the tender fees shall be refunded after deduction of necessary portal charges.

(3) The Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs) of Madhya Pradesh registered with District Industries Centre (DIC)/Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVB)/Coir Board/NSIC/Directorate of Handicraft and Handlooms/Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM)/ UDYAM or any other body specified by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises on the date of opening of tender for the tendered item(s) shall be exempted from payment of tender fee. In support of above the bidders shall be required to upload the requisite documents on the portal of MP Tender, failing which their techno commercial bid shall not be considered for opening.

(4) the bid data should be filled in and the bids seals of all the envelopes and the documents which are to be uploaded by the bidders should be submitted online as per time schedule (Key Dates).

**Superintending Engineer**  
**MPPKVVL, Panna**

**SAVE ELECTRICITY**

# Ronaldo's Saudi debut on hold over player quota

AP ■ RIYADH

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo faces a wait to make his Al Nassr debut because the Saudi club have exceeded their quota for foreign players, club sources said on Thursday.

When he was unveiled with great fanfare on Tuesday, the 37-year-old said he was keen to play as soon as possible, starting with Thursday's home game against Al Ta'ee.

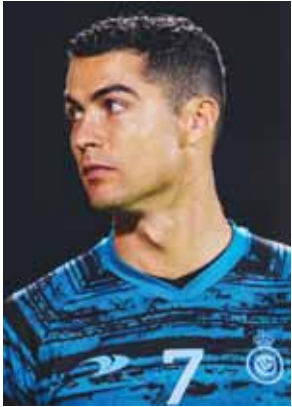
But Ronaldo, whose deal is worth an estimated 200 million euros to June 2025, is Al Nassr's ninth foreign player — one more than the eight allowed by Saudi football authorities.

"Al Nassr has not registered him yet because there is no vacancy for a foreign player," one club official, who did not want to be named because he was not authorised to speak to media, said.

"A foreign player must leave to register Ronaldo, either by selling or by terminating the contract by mutual consent."

Al Nassr's foreign contingent includes Colombian goalkeeper David Ospina, Brazilian midfielder Luiz Gustavo and forwards Anderson Talisca of Brazil and Vincent Aboubakar of Cameroon.

Saudi reports said Uzbek



midfielder Jaloliddin Masharipov was most likely to make way for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner and Champions League record scorer.

A second club source confirmed that Ronaldo was not registered as of Thursday afternoon local time.

"There are ongoing negotiations to sell one of the players, but they have not reached their final stages yet," he said.

Both officials refused to confirm whether Ronaldo still needed to serve a two-match English Football Association ban from November for hitting a mobile phone out of a teenage fan's hand after Manchester United, his club at the time, lost to Everton.



# SRI LANKA'S WAIT IS OVER

PTI ■ PUNE

Suryakumar Yadav and Axar Patel struck blistering fifties in a stunning 91-run stand, albeit in a losing cause as Sri Lanka tightened the screws in the nick of time to beat India by 16 runs in the second T20I and level the three-match series 1-1 here on Thursday.

Skipper Dasun Shanaka made a rear-guard unbeaten 56 off 22 balls, while wicket-keeper Kusal Mendis hit a 31-ball 52 to power Sri Lanka to an imposing 206 for 6.

India had a nightmarish start to their chase slumping to 57 for 5 before Axar (65 off 31) and Surya (51 off 36) raised hopes of an improbable win with a scintillating sixth-wicket stand.

The task became tough once Surya departed in the 16th over, but Axar and Shivam Mavi (26 off 15) shared quick 41 runs to bring down the equation to 21 off the last over.

But Axar's dismissal in the third ball of the final over was the last nail in the coffin for India.

Chasing the total, India lost openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill in the second over to Kasun Rajitha.

If that was not enough debutant Rahul Tripathi sneaked one to Kusal Mendis off Dilshan Madhushanaka in the next over before skipper Hardik Pandya departed an over later as India slumped to 34 for 4 in 4.4 overs.

Surya and Deepak Hooda tried to stabilise the innings with a hard-fought 23-run partnership but with the asking rate



creeping up, the latter departed in search of a big shot, caught by Dhananjaya de Silva off Hasarnaga de Silva as India lost half of their side for 57.

Surya and Axar tried to up the ante with a sensational 91-run sixth-wicket partnership off just 40 balls to keep India afloat after a forgettable start.

Axar was particularly severe on off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana, clobbering the bowler for a four and six over

long-on in the 13th over.

It was not just Theekshana, Hasaranga de Silva too had to bear the brunt of Axar's aggression as the left-hander smacked the bowler for a hat-trick of sixes in the 14th over.

Axar brought up his maiden fifty off just 20 balls with a six of Karunaratne over long-off.

Surya followed suit, registering another fine fifty with a six off over square-leg off Madhushanaka.

The duo raised hopes of a famous victory but it was not to be as the visitors pulled the strings just in time to level the series.

Earlier, it was a disastrous performance from the Indian bowlers after electing to field as the Lankan batters went hammer and tongs from the onset. Barring Axar (2/24 from his 4 overs), all other Indian bowlers went for runs.

Even though speedster Umar Malik (3/48) picked up three wickets, he too was taken to the cleaners, while last match's hero Mavi (0/53) looked a pale shadow of himself.

Arshdeep Singh conceded 19 runs of the second over, which included two back-to-back no balls that yielded 17 runs.

Hardik too went for 11 runs from his second over as Mendis top-edged one over deep third man.

Mavi was also taken to the cleaners by Mendis in his opening over, which yielded 15 runs.

Spin duo of Axar and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/30) gave respite for two overs before Pathum Nisanka (33) struck a four and then a mammoth six over deep midwicket. India's first breakthrough came in the ninth over when Chahal had Mendis LBW after Hardik went for a successful review.

Sri Lanka suffered their second blow in the first delivery of the next over when Malik beat Bhanuka Rajapaksa by pace to clean his stumps.

Despite losing two wickets, Sri Lanka reached a healthy score of 89 at the half-way mark.

But Axar tasted success soon when he dismissed Nissanka, caught by Tripathy. He snared his second victim of the day in his next over when Dhananjaya de Silva was caught by Hooda at long on.

Charith Asalanka (37) looked in ominous mood as he dispatched Chahal over deep midwicket in consecutive deliveries.

Aslanka then pulled a Malik short delivery for another six but three balls later the pacer had the last laugh as he had the batter caught by Gill with a similar delivery in his next over.

Malik knocked off the timbers off Wanindu Hasaranga with a pacy delivery a ball later to stand in the chance of a hat-trick. But it was not to be Malik's day as Sri Lanka skipper Shanaka muscled the bowler over his head for a one bounce four.



## Asia Cup in Sept but itinerary and venue not announced

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Thursday said that the Asia Cup, to be played in 50-over format, will be held in September this year, though the itinerary and the host country have not been announced yet.

Pakistan is the original host of the Asia Cup this year but the BCCI is not keen on playing there owing to political tension between the two countries.

The then Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja had opposed the BCCI's stand and even threatened boycott of the 50-over World Cup in India.

But following a change of guard in the PCB, with Raja being replaced by Najam Sethi, there could be some positive development.

The Asia Cup 2023 will be a six-team affair involving India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and a qualifier team.

Sri Lanka are the defending Asia Cup champions in the UAE after they beat Pakistan in the final. The tournament was played in T20 format because of the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

With India set to host the ODI World Cup later this year and the focus of all the participating teams being on the 50-over format, this year's Asia Cup will be held in that format.

A total of 145 ODI and T201 matches will be played during the two-year cycle (between 2023-2024) announced by ACC. There will be 75 games in 2023 and 70 games in 2024.

Also, the Emerging (U23) Asia Cup is back and will be held in the 50-over format in July this year for men and involve eight teams. The tournament next year will be held in December but in T20 format.

The women's Emerging Asia Cup this year in June will be T20 affair involving eight teams.



## Khawaja on cusp of double ton as Oz punish Proteas

AP ■ SYDNEY

An imperious Usman Khawaja was on the verge of a double century when rain interrupted Australia's run plunder against South Africa in the third Test on Thursday in Sydney.

In another dominant day for the hosts, Khawaja peeled off an unbeaten 195 for his highest Test score while Steven Smith passed a Don Bradman landmark with his 30th hundred.

At the rain-enforced close on day two, Australia were 475-4 with Matt Renshaw — who tested positive for Covid at the start of the match — five not out.

Australia are 2-0 up in the series and chasing a clean sweep.

Khawaja and Smith shared in a 209-run stand and Travis Head rammed home the initiative with a blistering 59-ball 70 to leave the visitors yet again fac-

ing an uphill task.

The red-hot Khawaja surpassed his previous highest score of 174, made against New Zealand in Brisbane in 2015.

Smith more than played his part, passing Bradman's 29 Test tons with a majestic pullshot off Anrich Nortje to the boundary ropes to claim a hometown hundred off 190 balls.

He was out two balls later for 104 when he innocuously chipped back a catch to Keshav Maharaj for the left-arm spinner's first wicket of the series.

Along the way Smith also overtook Michael Clarke to become Australia's fourth-highest Test run-getter with 8,647, behind Ricky Ponting, Allan Border and Steve Waugh.

Only Ponting (41) and Waugh (32) have scored more Test centuries for Australia than Smith, who is second only to the immortal Bradman (99.94) with

a current Test average of 60.89 in his 92nd Test match.

"I don't think about that stuff a great deal but I did look up at the scoreboard just after I got 100... and there are some pretty big names there, so that's pretty cool," Smith said.

"I think there is starting to get a little bit more rough. That's certainly positive signs for us. The rougher and more abrasive that surface gets, the more you'll probably see reverse swing come into play as well."

Khawaja relentlessly accumulated on his third consecutive Sydney Test hundred and when rain ended play with 14 overs left he had faced 368 balls, with 19 fours and a six.

Only England's Wally Hammond, Australian Doug Walters and India's VVS Laxman have scored three consecutive Test centuries at the famous SCG.

## Pak 2 wickets down without runs in 319-run chase



AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan lost two wickets without scoring in its chase of the 319 winning target against New Zealand at the end of an eventful fourth day of the second test on Thursday.

New Zealand set up its bid for a series victory in its first Test tour to Pakistan in 20 years after declaring its second innings on 277-5 and using the last three overs of the day to bowl opener Abdullah Shafique and night-watchman Mir Hamza.

Pakistan was 0-2 at stumps and has to beat its previous highest successful chase of 314 runs in 1994 when Australia was beaten by one wicket at the same National Stadium.

On a day when the umpires made misjudgements, New Zealand left no doubt when captain Tim Southee knocked back Shafique's off stump off the second ball which kept a bit low and Ish Sodhi clean bowled Hamza for a pair in the match to leave Pakistan in deep trouble.

Tom Blundell (74) and Michael Bracewell (74 not out) firmed up New Zealand with a 127-run stand. Blundell holed out in the deep as New Zealand looked for quick runs and Southee made a late declaration.

New Zealand took a 41-run, first-innings lead after dismissing Pakistan for 408, then umpires Alex Wharf and Aleem Dar took center stage after lunch.

New Zealand successfully overturned Wharf's two leg before decisions in favor of legspinner Abrar Ahmed and

Dar erred when his caught behind ruling against Henry Nicholls (5) was overturned.

Pakistan didn't go for an lbw referral after Tom Latham (62) hit his second successive half-century when Wharf ruled for the batter and video suggested the ball would have hit the leg stump.

Blundell also successfully overturned an lbw decision before he scored and was dropped by wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed just before tea. Sarfaraz also dropped Bracewell soon after he completed his half-century and missed a stumping of Daryl Mitchell just before the New Zealand declaration.

## Pak recall Masood, Sohail for NZ ODIs

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan recalled left-handed batters Shan Masood and Haris Sohail for the three-match ODI series against New Zealand next week.

Masood hasn't featured in ODIs since 2019 against Australia, while Sohail played his 42nd and last match in 2020 against Zimbabwe.

Interim chief selector Shahid Afridi said he wanted Pakistan to make maximum use of 11 ODIs ahead of the Asia Cup and the World Cup this year, and Masood and Sohail could be useful in the top order.

The three-match New Zealand series in Karachi starts on Monday.

Sohail has scored prolifically in recent domestic cricket and Masood has featured regularly for Pakistan since making his T20I debut in September.

Uncapped batters Tayyab Tahir and Kamran Ghulam along with wrist spinner Usama Mir were rewarded for

their impressive performances in the domestic circuit by being picked. The selectors also included fast bowler Haris Rauf and opening batter Fakhar Zaman after both overcame injuries. Rauf was hurt during his debut Test against England in Rawalpindi last month and Fakhar suffered a knee injury during the Asia Cup. However, fast bowler Shaheen Afridi was ruled out after the medical panel said he needed more time to regain complete fitness from a knee injury during the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Allrounder Shadab Khan will also miss out after he broke his right index finger last week while competing in Australia's Big Bash League.

**Pakistan:** Babar Azam (captain), Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haris Sohail, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim, Naseem Shah, Agha Salman, Shahna-waz Dahani, Shan Masood, Tayyab Tahir and Usama Mir

## Delhi suffer innings defeat against Saurashtra

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Delhi suffered an innings and 214-run defeat at the hands of Saurashtra inside three days as the hosts earned a bonus point in a Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Thursday.

With Saurashtra, led by seam bowler Jaydev Unadkat, finally declaring the innings at 574 for eight, the visitors were left chasing a mountain of runs — 441, to be precise — to make the hosts bat again.

Delhi's spineless batting, which managed just 133 runs in the first innings, did come up with a slightly better display in the second innings but it was not enough given the enormity of the task.

Yash Dhull's side delayed the inevitable for a while before they were done in by the guile of Yuvrajsinh Dodiya. That they managed to score 227 on Thursday was largely due to the efforts of top-order batters Ayush Badooni and Hritikh Shokeen, who had contributions of 40 and 51 runs respectively.



Dodiya emerged the unlikely hero for Saurashtra as the 22-year-old off-spinner grabbed his first five-wicket haul in only his second first-class game to spell the demise of Delhi's batting.

Delhi are staring at Ranji relegation, having so far earned just two points from four games. With three more rounds to go —

and given the sorry state of the team — avoiding relegation would be a tall order for Dhull's side.

**K'TAKA SEIZE ADVANTAGE**  
**Bengaluru:** S J Nikin Jose's 67-run knock played a huge role in Karnataka securing the first innings lead on the third day of their Group C match against

Chhattisgarh.

Resuming at the overnight 202 for 1, Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal fell to Sumit Ruikar for 117, adding only 15 runs to his score.

There was a period when the visiting team bounced back strongly and kept the scoring in check. The Chhattisgarh bowlers hit back with wickets at regular intervals to reduce the home team to 287 for 6 and a sniff of a first innings lead.

The highly-rated 22-year old Jose (134 balls, 8 fours, 1 six) then got together with K Gowtham (18) for a 33-run stand for the seventh wicket to take Karnataka past the opponent's first innings score of 311.

Jose added 26 runs with last man Vidwath Kaverappa, who did not make a single run, and ensured that the team went ahead by 55 runs.

In the second innings, Chhattisgarh lost their openers without a run on the board as Kaverappa and V Koushik removed Avnish Singh and A G Tiwary.

**MANTRI SLAMS TON**

**Indore:** Wicketkeeper-batter Himanshu Mantri hit a fine century (126, 194 balls, 16 fours, 2 sixes) in the second innings to help defending champions Madhya Pradesh make 257 for 5 declared and set Vidarbha a target of 407 in their Group D Ranji Trophy match.

Earlier in the day, the MP bowlers polished off the Vidarbha tail with the addition of just 13 more runs to their overnight score of 147.

Pace bowler Avesh Khan added the scalps of Nachiket Bhute (12) and Lalit Yadav (4) to finish with a seven-wicket haul.

Vidarbha ended the third day at 13 for 1 with Avesh Khan accounting for S R Ramaswamy (6), having him trapped LBW.

Meanwhile in Valsad, Punjab thrashed Gujarat by 380 runs. At Surat, Railways crushed Jammu and Kashmir by an innings and 73 runs to pick up seven points.

PTI ■ DUBAI

India opener Ishan Kishan jumped 10 places to 23rd position while Deepak Hooda re-entered the top-100 in the latest ICC rankings for T20I batters issued on Thursday.

Both moved upwards in the chart after their impressive performances in the first T20I against Sri Lanka in Mumbai on Tuesday, which India won by two runs.

Hooda moved up 40 places to 97th after his unbeaten 41 off 23 balls while Kishan was rewarded for his brisk 37-run knock at the top of the order.

The swashbuckling Suryakumar Yadav continued to hold the top spot for batters despite a rare failure in Mumbai.

India's new T20I captain Hardik Pandya, up nine places to 76th among bowlers, is the other to move up the rankings.

As far as Sri Lanka are concerned, Wanindu Hasaranga was once again a strong contributor against India with figures of 1/22 with the ball helping the right-arm move further clear as the



top-ranked T20I bowler.

Hasaranga also scored a quick-fire 21 with the bat and that saw the 25-year-old jump two spots to fifth on the latest list for all-rounders.

In the Test rankings for batters, Marnus Labuschagne remains at the head of proceedings with a healthy lead despite his failure in the Boxing Day Test against South Africa.

However, his closest rivals, teammate Steve Smith, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson all are closing in on the 28-year-old Labuschagne.

Williamson is the other big winner on the latest rankings with the experienced right-hander jumping two places and back inside the top five at fifth following the fifth double century of his distinguished career in the first Test against Pakistan.

In bowling, Pat Cummins managed just one wicket during Australia's victory over the Proteas in the Boxing Day Test, but still held a big 37-point lead over England veteran James Anderson.