

## OPINION 6

PRACHANDA'S ART OF  
GOVT FORMATION

## WORLD 9

BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES PROBE  
HAND BEHIND UPRISING

## MONEY 10

BUDGET TO FOCUS ON  
FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

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## the pioneer

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VIRAT KOHLI  
HITS HIS 45TH  
ODI CENTURY  
11 SPORTFlyers' ordeal goes on;  
airlines caught nappingGo First flight  
takes off leaving  
55 passengers at  
Bengaluru airport

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



For flyers, the New Year began on a grim note with the disclosure of a shocking onboard urination incident — and the nightmare does not seem to end.

From the urination incident to a bomb hoax. From cancellation and flight delays to onboard fistcuffs. From midair drinking revelry to discovery of a stone in the meal. And the most bizarre of all — a plane taking off without 55 of its passengers. The aviation sector is in the news for all the wrong reasons.

In a shocking incident, on Monday Go First's Bengaluru-Delhi flight (G8-116) took off at 6.30 am without 55 passengers. The passengers were headed for the plane in the airliner's bus when the plane took off. Several disgruntled passengers took to Twitter slaming the airline for the unruly behaviour. The airline, after realising its mistake, arranged for another flight for the stranded flyer four hours later.

According to reports, 53 out of 55 passengers were shifted to the second flight, where-

as the airline paid the refunds as asked by the remaining two passengers.

The airline has also apologised to passengers and said an inadvertent oversight in the reconciliation of the flight to Delhi led to the incident. It has also ordered an enquiry and deroasted all the staff who were involved in the incident.

"We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused to the passengers due to an inadvertent oversight in the reconciliation of flight G8 116 from Bengaluru to Delhi," the airline said in a statement.

On Tuesday, the DGCA issued a show-cause notice to Go First (erstwhile GoAir) and after getting the airline's response, the regulator said, "Prima facie, it emerges Go First failed to comply with (civil aviation rules)."

Not satisfied with the airline's reply, the DGCA has issued a show-cause notice to Accountable Manager/ Chief Operation Officer of M/s Go First why enforcement action should not be taken against

them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations. The DGCA noted "multiple mistakes" such as lack of proper communication, coordination, reconciliation, and confirmation resulted in a "highly avoidable situation."

"However, to follow the principles of natural justice, they have been given two weeks time to submit their reply to DGCA and based on that further action will be taken," the DGCA said.

"Go First failed to comply with the provision specified at para 9 and 13 of CAR Section 3, Series C, Part II issued by DGCA resulted in violation of Para (1A) of Rule 134 read with Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. M/s Go First has failed to comply with the provision specified in para 5.2 of ATC 02 of 2019," DGCA's statement read.

"It is pertinent to mention that DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section -3, Series-C, Part-II on "Minimum Requirements for Grant of Air Operator

Certificate to Operate Scheduled Air Transport Services (Passenger)" and Air Transport Circular 02 of 2019 on "Facilities/Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports," the statement added.

The DGCA stated that according to regulations, the concerned airline is responsible to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch and passenger/cargo handling and also ensure that all the ground handling staff engaged in passenger handling undergo periodic soft skill training for sensitization, courtesy, behaviour and procedures for assisting the passengers.

Go First was under the lense last year due to incidents of passengers arriving at the airport only to find out that their flight did not exist. The carrier was also in the news for facing capacity issues after several of its planes were grounded due to a lack of engines and spare parts, which were delayed due to global supply chain problems.

After the twin peeing incidents, Air India was back in the news on Tuesday when a woman passenger took to Twitter to raise the issue about a piece of stone she found in a meal on board saying that the kind of negligence was "unacceptable."

*Continued on Page 2*Joshimath locals protest against  
demolitions sans damagesScheduled razing  
of two damaged  
hotels prevented

PNS ■ JOSHIMATH

Hotel owners supported by locals stopped the plan of the district administration of Chamoli to demolish two highly damaged and precariously placed hotel buildings in Joshimath city on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, more families were evacuated from the danger zone as the number of affected houses rose to 700.

The members of the hotel association of Joshimath staged a protest and demanded that the administration should first undertake a proper valuation of the properties and give in writing about the compensation it would provide. The locals are demanding compensation on the lines of the Badrinath master plan.

"I came to know about it (demolition) through the newspapers this morning. There was no prior notice. If the Government demarcated my hotel as unsafe it should have first come up with a one-time settlement plan before deciding to demolish it," said Thakur Singh, owner of Malari Inn.

Mount View owner Lalmani Semwal expressed similar sentiments. "It is like slaying a child one has reared through years of hard work in front of its parents," Semwal said.

"We put all our resources



**PROTEST FOR COMPENSATION:** A sadhu, with locals, protests against the demolition of the unsafe hotels and houses after cracks appeared at the landslide affected area of Joshimath on Tuesday

PTI

into building this hotel. We paid regular taxes to the Government. It said nothing then and now all of a sudden it comes up with a drastic decision like this. Isn't it a violation of human rights?"

"If the Government has decided, what can we say. But we should be offered a one-time settlement plan in compensation on the lines of Badrinath," Semwal said.

Officials had on Monday said the State Government is working on a relief package for the people of the disaster-hit town, which will soon be sent

to the Centre.

The chairman of the Joshimath Nagar Palika, Shailendra Panwar, assured that the issue of compensation would be discussed with the senior officers on Wednesday and assured that no demolition would be undertaken till a solution is reached.

Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana had issued orders to demolish Hotel Mount view and Malari Inn on Monday under the Disaster Management Act. The teams of State Disaster Response Force and adminis-

tration were on the spot to start the demolition on Tuesday when the protests erupted.

Meanwhile, the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Tuesday evening decided in Delhi that priority may be accorded to demolition of vulnerable structures in a safe manner.

The demolition of the buildings would be done under the monitoring of the experts of Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee.

*Continued on Page 2*Woman, toddler son killed in  
Bengaluru Metro pillar collapse

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Tragedy struck a family of four here on Tuesday when an under-construction Bengaluru Metro pillar collapsed on them, leaving a woman and her toddler son dead, while her husband and another child escaped with injuries.

According to police, the incident took place around 10.30 am on Outer Ring Road near HBR Layout in the city, when the steel rod centring that was done to erect the concrete pillar for the "Namma Metro" (Bengaluru Metro) fell on their scooter. The height of the pillar is said to be over 40 feet and weighing several tonnes.

The woman and her two and a half year old son who were severely injured were immediately rushed to a nearby private hospital by the bystanders, but they succumbed to their injuries.

"Both suffered head injuries, we tried our best to save them. There was a lot of blood loss already and also a fall in blood pressure," doctors who treated them said.

The woman's husband, identified as Lohit and the other child, who were injured, are doing fine, doctors added.

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35-year-old Tejaswini with her husband and their children in an undated photo. She and her toddler son were killed while her husband and another child escaped with injuries after reinforcement cage of an under-construction Metro pillar collapsed on them in Bengaluru on Tuesday

PTI

Bank cash van  
looted, guard  
shot in N Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An unidentified criminal gunned down a security guard and escaped with ₹8 lakh in cash in the Wazirabad area of North Delhi on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at an ICICI Bank ATM kiosk near Jagatpur flyover around 4.50 pm when the cash van arrived at the ATM to deposit cash at the kiosk. Just then, a person came from behind and fired at the guard of the cash van. The person took the money and fled," he said.

The victim has been identified as Jai Singh (55). He was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

Deputy Commissioner of

Police Sager Singh Kalisz said the police control room received a call around 5pm regarding a firing incident with loot of a cash van in the Wazirabad area after which the police reached the spot.

"During enquiry, it was learnt that at 4.50 pm, one cash van arrived at ICICI Bank ATM booth near Jagatpur flyover for refilling cash. One person came from behind and fired at the guard of the cash van. The person took the money and fled," he said.

The police have formed multiple teams and were scanning footage from CCTV cameras in the area to identify the suspect.

World leaders make beeline for  
India to talk Ukraine war effectsMacron, Albanese, Scholz  
to hold talks with Modi  
on Chinese aggression in  
Indo-Pacific region alsoPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

With the Ukraine conflict continuing for the last 11 months, several world leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, are likely to visit India in the next few months to discuss the adverse impact of the crisis on food, fuel and fertilisers, besides increasing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

New Delhi has all along favoured dialogue and diplo-

macy to resolve the Ukraine conflict. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly urged Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to have one-on-one talks to sort out their differences.

India on January 12 and 13 will also host a virtual conference of the Global South countries to review the impact of the conflict.

The visits by these Heads of States are expected to also focus on expansion of bilateral cooperation in areas of energy, trade, technology, Defence production, healthcare and people-to-people exchanges, sources have indicated.

While Chancellor Scholz is expected to be in India later next month, Albanese is set to visit the country in the early

part of March, sources said.

The French side was initially exploring the visit by Macron in the first week of March but the dates for the visits have so far not been firmed up.

President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi will visit India later this month to grace the Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest.

The Foreign Ministers of G20 countries will also be in New Delhi to attend a ministerial meeting of the powerful grouping which is likely to take place on March 1 and 2.

Several foreign leaders will also visit India to attend the 'Raisina Dialogue' that is scheduled to be held from March 2 to 4. It is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoconomics.

*Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

NOD TO SUE SHEHLA  
FOR MALIGNING ARMY

**New Delhi:** Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has granted sanction to prosecute former JNUSU vice president Shehla Rashid Shora for allegedly maligning the Indian Army, officials said on Tuesday. The proposal for prosecution sanction moved by the Delhi Police and supported by the Home Department of the AAP Government had submitted that Shora tweeted about the Army on August 18, 2019 — "Armed Forces are entering houses at night, picking up boys, ransacking houses, deliberately spilling rations on floor, mixing oil with rice, etc."

PLEA IN SC AGAINST  
BIHAR CASTE SURVEY

**New Delhi:** A petition was filed before the Supreme Court on Tuesday against the Bihar Government's decision to conduct a caste survey, claiming it was against basic structure of the Constitution. The petition, which is likely to come up for hearing soon, alleged that the notification was "discriminatory and unconstitutional".

Guv's Pongal invite new  
warring point with StalinPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The ongoing row between the Tamil Nadu Government and Governor RN Ravi has escalated. The Raj Bhavan has addressed Ravi as "Tamizhaga Aalunar" or "Tamizhagam Governor" in invites sent to out to dignitaries for celebrating the Pongal Peruvizha festival on January 12 at the Chennai Raj Bhavan.

The Raj Bhavan has also replaced the State Government's emblem with that of the Union Government's in the official Pongal invitations.

The Governor has already invited criticism from the ruling DMK for suggesting that the State be renamed from "Tamil Nadu" to 'Tamizhagam'. On Monday, the Governor triggered a major uproar by skipping certain portions of the text of the Governor's address to the Tamil Nadu Assembly and staging an unprecedented



Young women walk past posters that read "Get Out Ravi" pasted on a wall, a day after Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi walked out of the State Assembly during Assembly Session, in Chennai, on Tuesday

PTI

walkout.

This led to a major showdown with Chief Minister MK Stalin asking for the original text of the speech to be entered into the records and Ravi staging a walkout.

In the past, Pongal invitations from the Raj Bhavan read "Governor of Tamil Nadu." The card sent by the

Governor's office for Tamil New Year celebrations last year also had the same phrase.

Such communication also had the Tamil Nadu Government's emblem of the tower of the Andal Temple in Srivilliputtur — which has been replaced by the Union Government's this time.

*Continued on Page 2*S Asians 15 times more prone  
to die from climate change: UN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

South Asia is the hotspot of the climate crisis with people there 15 times more prone to die from its impact, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned. He also expressed dismay that global leaders are not giving the life-or-death emergency the action and investment it requires.

"South Asia is one of the world's global climate crisis hotspots in which people are 15 times more likely to die from climate impacts than elsewhere," he said.

"As always, those developing countries least responsible (for climate change) are the first to suffer" because of it, he added at an UN-sponsored fund-raising conference in Geneva to help Pakistan recover from last year's devastating floods.

"We need to be honest about the brutal injustice of loss and damage suffered by developing countries because of cli-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during the International Conference on Climate-Resilient Pakistan, at the European headquarters of the United Nation, in Geneva, Switzerland, on Jan 9

AP

mate change," he said and "if there is any doubt about loss and damage — go to Pakistan".

Pakistan received pledges of more than \$9 billion at the conference and for the first time more than half the com-

mitments came from developing countries, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for UN Chief, said.

That amount is a little more than half the \$16 billion that Guterres added that

Islamabad will need.

Making his appeal for "massive investments" to help Pakistan recover from the flood damage, the UN chief linked the devastation to climate change.

"Pakistan — which represents less than one per cent of global (greenhouse gas) emissions — did not cause the climate crisis, but it is living with its worst impacts," Guterres said.

More than 33 million people were affected by the floods that hit Sindh and Balochistan, killing more than 1,700 people and laying waste to 1.8 million hectares of farmland, according to the UN.

Guterres, who has made fighting climate change one of the major pillars of his agenda, held developed countries to their promise made at last year's UN conference in Egypt on climate change to fund developing nations' efforts to cope with it.

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NCR-PULSE

**AMITY SCIENTISTS INVITED FOR INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS-23**  
New Delhi: Eminent Amity Scientists, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Senior Vice President, Amity Foundation for Science, Technology & Innovation Alliances (AFSTIA) and Dr. Sunita Rattan, Dean, Faculty of Science & Technology and Director, Amity Institute of Applied Sciences, Amity University Uttar Pradesh, were invited as Panelists to the 108th Indian Science Congress-2023, held at Rashttrasant Tukadoji Maharaj (R.T.M.) Nagpur University, Maharashtra last week inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prof. Suresh Chandra, Deputy Director, Amity Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics was elected as the President for Physical Sciences Section of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) this year.

**TP-DDL MEETS PEAK POWER DEMAND OF 1738 MW**  
New Delhi: Tata Power - DDL has successfully met the peak power demand of 1738 MW, the highest so far this season, without any network constraint and power outage, a Tata Power- DDL spokesperson said on Tuesday. "It is adequately prepared for the winter season, by strengthening its power network and additional staff has been deployed at key locations across the distribution network," he added.

Woman, fiance thrashed by club bouncers in Gurugram Sector 29

**STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM**

Police on Tuesday said that woman and her fiance were injured after they were allegedly thrashed by bouncers of a club in Sector 29.

According to police, an FIR has been registered at the Sector 29 police station.

The woman, Jawahar Nagar Colony-resident Anjali in her complaint, alleged that she had gone to the club on Monday night with Chetan Tokas, a resident of Delhi's Munirka, when the incident happened, police said.

"It was around 2 am when we both started leaving the club after paying our bills. One of the bouncers at the club started fighting with Chetan. When I defended him, others, including female bouncers, started beating me.

"They pushed us and kept kicking and punching and finally dragged us out of the club. The name of the one bouncer was Sandeep. The police were informed and they



took us to the hospital," the woman's complaint stated.

The medical examination of the duo was conducted. The doctor told the police that Chetan received five and Anjali suffered injuries at seven places, officials said.

Following the complaint, an FIR has been registered under sections 323 (causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code at Sector 29 police station, police said.

"We are verifying the facts and have also sought footage of CCTV cameras installed in the club. Action will be taken as per the law," said Rakesh Kumar, additional Station House Officer at Sector 29 police station.

NCP ‘salutes’ Stalin for stand against Guv in TN Assembly

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Tuesday heaped praise on Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin for taking a strong stand against Governor R N Ravi, after the latter dropped the names of several Tamil leaders and late B R Ambedkar from the speech prepared for him by the TN government to deliver to the Assembly ahead of a new session and walked out of the House.

Taking serious exception to the manner in which the Governor conducted himself in



the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil said that India was a federal system of democracy where the states enjoyed the same status as the Centre.

"However, attempts are being made to crush the Constitutional rights of the

state by the Governors appointed by the Centre all over India. We fully support the strong stand taken by chief minister Stalin," Patil said.

Maintaining that a Governor's address was like a 'policy' document of the respective state government, the State NCP president said: "The Governor must read out the speech approved by the state Cabinet. This practice has been going on since the Constitution came into existence. We appreciate the strong stand taken by CM Stalin".

During the unprecedented controversy witnessed in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on

Monday, the Governor dropped the names and references to several Tamil leaders and late B R Ambedkar from the speech prepared for him by the local state government to deliver at the beginning of a new session of the Assembly and staged an unprecedented walk out from the House, before the national anthem was played.

During the Governor's speech that lasted for 50 minutes, members of the ruling DMK and its allies like Congress, VCK, MDMK and CPI-M had shouted vociferous slogans against Ravi..

After the Governor staged

a walkout, the Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a resolution moved by Stalin, approving the original speech prepared in Tamil. In its resolution, the Tamil Nadu Assembly noted that the Governor's action was "wrong", "not acceptable" and "against the Dravidian model principles of governance".

Saluting Stalin for the stand taken by him after the Governor's action, State's former minister Jitendra Awhad tweeted: "I salute chief minister of #TamilNadu #stalin when the governor changed the speech approved by the #cabinet and also dropped the name of #Periyar and

#DrAmbedkar to which #CM #Stalin objected".

Later talking to media persons, Awhad elaborated: "After the protests, the TN Governor walked out of the House, but it was heartening to see that CM Stalin did not even once attempt to call him back... He showed that any slight to icons like Thanthai Periyar or Dr. Ambedkar will not be tolerated... I salute CM Stalin for this".

NCP's national spokesperson Clyde Crasto said that the post of Governor held a Constitutional post, he is the guardian of the state and it was his duty to remain neutral.

Three arrested for ransacking liquor shop in Gurugram

**STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM**

Gurugram Police on Tuesday arrested three men for allegedly ransacking a liquor shop and threatening the salesperson for declining to serve them for free.

According to police, the accused were produced in a city court and sent to judicial custody.

The arrested accused were identified as Anil alias Ganja (23) of Rajendra Park, Vishal Seharawat (22) of Palam Vihar and Harsh (19) of Daulatabad. An SUV and a country-made pistol were seized from them, the police said.

The incident occurred on Sunday night during which the accused also smashed the windows of two cars after entering a house in Daulatabad village.

Two separate FIRs were registered at Rajendra park police station in this connection.

According to the com-

plaint filed by Pankaj Jaiswal, the salesperson of the liquor shop along the Dwarka Expressway, the accused arrived in their SUV around 11.30 pm on Saturday.

Claiming that they were "local goons", they demanded a free bottle of liquor. When they were refused, one of them pointed a gun at Jaiswal and smashed a card swipe machine. They then rammed their car into the shop and ransacked it, the salesperson said in his complaint.

An FIR was registered on the basis of the complaint under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act at Rajendra park police station on Sunday.

In another complaint, Daultabad village resident Ravita Devi alleged that the same trio entered her home late at night and smashed the windows of their two cars. They also threatened to kill her and her family.

Following the complaint, another FIR was registered at Rajendra park police station.

Indian diaspora an important and unique force in global scene: President Murmu

**PTI ■ INDORE**

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the Indian diaspora has become an important and unique force in the global system.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) convention in Indore, the President praised overseas Indians for excelling in various walks of life through hard work and resilience.

"The Indian diaspora today has become an important and unique force in the global system. It has grown into an energetic and confident community in every region," she said.

The President said the Indian diaspora has exhibited extraordinary dedication and hard work and overcome many challenges to achieve excellence in all walks of life including art, literature, politics, business, academics, philanthropy, and science and technology.

Referring to the PBD convention theme: "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal", the



President said it reflects India's desire to make its diaspora a partner in the achievement of its national developmental goals.

In the next 25 years, India is going to embark on an ambitious journey of collective hard work, sacrifice, and intensive development to transform into a self-reliant world leader by 2047 when we would be celebrating the centenary of our Independence, she said.

The President said the col-

lective power and potential of the Indian diaspora would be a force multiplier in the nation's inclusive development. She urged the diaspora to become a full partner in this journey.

"They can contribute with their energy, experience, ideas, business acumen, investments, technical expertise and knowledge sharing, to enhance our capacities to fulfil the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," she said.

On the occasion, the

President conferred the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards on select members of the Indian diaspora to recognize their achievements and to honour their contributions to various fields including in India and abroad.

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangu Bhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia were also present.

World leaders make beeline for India to talk Ukraine...

**From Page 1**

Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal is also likely to visit India in the next few months.

Officials of India and Saudi Arabia are also looking at a bilateral visit to New Delhi by Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

India and Germany are keen to further enhance their ties during the German Chancellor's visit. The political leadership of the two countries are likely to focus on cooperation in areas of trade, defence, clean energy and cli-

mate change. In December, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock paid a two-day visit to prepare for Scholz's trip.

Prime Minister and Chancellor Scholz held bilateral talks in the Indonesian resort city of Bali on November 16 last year on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

The first meeting between the two leaders took place during Modi's visit to Berlin on May 2 last year for the 6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC).

It was followed by Modi's

visit to the Alpine castle of Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 to attend the annual summit of G-7 grouping. It will be Scholz's first visit to India after he became German Chancellor in December 2021.

Diplomatic sources said boosting trade and maritime security cooperation will figure high on the agenda of talks between Modi and Albanese. It will be the first visit to India by the Australian leader after he took charge of the top office last May.

The ties between India and Australia have been on an

upswing in the last few years. The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) came into force last month and it is expected to facilitate significant expansion of two-way trade.

Expansion of overall defence and strategic cooperation is likely to be high on the agenda during Macron's trip to India. French fighter jet Rafale is learnt to be ahead of American F/A-18 Super Hornet in the multi-billion dollar contract to supply 26 deck-based jets to the Indian Navy.

India may announce firming up the procurement of the marine version of the Rafale jet during Macron's visit. However, there is no official word on it yet.

Emmanuel Bonne, the Diplomatic Advisor to the French President, visited India last week ostensibly to make preparations for Macron's trip. Bonne held wide-ranging talks with National Security Advisor(NSA) Ajit Doval. He also called on the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.

Woman, toddler son killed in Bengaluru...

**From Page 1**

Namma Metro and the Karnataka Government announced compensation of ₹20 lakh each to the affected family.

Addressing reporters in Dharwad, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai assured an enquiry into the incident and announced compensation to the bereaved.

"I just got to know about it, we will get it investigated... We will ascertain the reason for the collapse of the pillar and pro-

vide compensation," he said.

He called the incident "unfortunate" and said an enquiry will be done and a case will be registered against those responsible.

Bengaluru East DCP Bheemashankar S Guled said that a case has been registered based on Lohit's complaint and investigation will follow.

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team has been called to do the mahajar and collect the samples, and based on their report it will be known if there was any negligence or shoddy work, he said adding that 'NCC construction company' was the contractor which was carrying out the work, and naturally a complaint will be taken against them.

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) Managing Director Anjum Parvez, who visited the spot described the incident as unfortunate. Indian Institute of Science has been requested to send a team to inspect and ascertain as to why the incident happened.

"According to a report by our engineer all the safety measures were taken as per the standard protocol, but still the incident has happened, so we will have to do the fact finding. Whether there was any manual negligence or technical problem we will get to know from the report. If there was any manual negligence action will certainly be taken against those responsible," he said.

Flyers ordeal goes on...

**From Page 1**

The air passenger identified as Sarvapriya Sangwan, who shared two pictures of the meal served to her on Air

India flight 215. "You don't need resources and money to ensure stone-free food Air India. This is what I received in my food served in the flight AI

215 today. Crew member Jadon was informed. This kind of negligence is unacceptable," Sangwan wrote.

Meanwhile, the Directorate

Joshimath locals protest...

**From Page 1**

The experts of the CBRI Roorkee would use non blast technique to bring down the buildings of the two hotels. These hotels have developed huge cracks due to the land subsidence and their buildings are leaning over one another.

A six-member team of CBRI assessed the ground situation and prepared its plan to demolish the structures. It is learnt that the CBRI sent the experts who were involved in the demolition of Twin towers in NOIDA last year. One of the experts of the CBRI said the plan is to slowly release load on the main structure.

"We will first remove the tanks, windows, doors and the non load bearing walls. After that we will demolish the main structure in the direction of the natural slope of the ground," he said.

Meanwhile the Minister of State (MoS) for Defence Ajay

Bhatt arrived at Joshimath on the day. He visited the army camp, Sunil ward, JP colony, Narsinghim temple and Gandhiagar areas and met the affected families.

Bhatt said both the Union and State Governments stood with the affected families of Joshimath and every possible help is being extended to them. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is himself monitoring the situation while Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama is taking care of all the arrangements. Bhatt said the safety of the affected people is the top most priority of the Government.

He said some buildings in the Army camp have been damaged due to land subsidence and they have been cordoned off in view of the safety. Bhatt said it is really painful that people have to leave their houses but our first priority is to save the lives of people.

Joshimath has been

declared a land subsidence-hit area after huge cracks developed in houses and other structures, roads and ground.

The holy town is the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and there has been a demand from some quarters, including the Opposition Congress, to declare the crisis a national disaster.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday listed for hearing on January 16 a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Joshimath a national disaster.

Refusing an urgent hearing, the court said there are "democratically elected institutions" to deal with the situation and all important matters should not come to it.

The plea by Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati of Joshimath was mentioned before Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha.

Guv’s Pongal invite...

**From Page 1**

The DMK-led State Government has been highly critical of the Governor over several issues including his recent comments allegedly termed Dravidian politics as 'regressive politics' and suggested changing the name of the State to 'Tamilagam'.

On January 4, addressing

a programme at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai allegedly remarked that the word 'Tamilagam' was a more appropriate term for Tamil Nadu and said, ""Here in Tamil Nadu, a different kind of narrative has been created. Everything applicable for the whole of the country, Tamil Nadu will say no. It has become a habit. So

many theses have been written - all false and poor fiction. This must be broken. Truth must prevail," he said, PTI reported. "Thamizhagam would be a more appropriate word to call it," he said.

Both DMK and Opposition took serious objections to the suggestion for changing the name of the State.

S Asians 15 times more...

**From Page 1**

"Developed countries must deliver on their commitment to double adaptation finance, and meet the \$100 billion goal urgently, without delay. And we need to reverse the outrageous trend of emissions going up, when they must go down to prevent further climate catastrophe," he said.

At a news conference, he chided world leaders for not doing enough.

"I am deeply frustrated that global leaders are not giving this life-or-death emergency the action and investment it requires," he added.

Guterres also brought up the issue of the international debt burden faced by some countries, notably Pakistan, which he called "a victim of the man-made disaster of a morally bankrupt global financial system".

"I renew my call to global leaders and multilateral development banks to join forces and develop creative ways for developing countries to access debt relief and concessional financing when they need it most," he said.



# LG nod to prosecute Shehla Rashid for maligning Army

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor DVK Saxena has granted prosecution sanction against Shehla Rashid Shora, the former vice-president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students union and member of All India Students Association (AISA), under sedition charges for anti-Army tweets.

She had made two tweets about the Indian Army aimed at "promoting enmity between different groups" and "indulging in acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony".

According to officials at the L-G office, the sanction is related to a 2019 FIR registered against her under IPC section 153A at Special Cell police station here on the basis of a complaint by an advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava. They said the sanction has been granted

under section 196 of CrPC, 1973 which relates to prosecution for offences against the State and for criminal conspiracy to commit such offence.

"Section 196 1(a) says no court shall take cognizance of any offense punishable under Chapter VI or under section 153A, of Indian Penal Code... Except with the previous sanction of the Central Government or of the state government," the L-G office said.

The former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) leader is accused of promoting enmity between different groups and indulging in acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony through her tweets.

The tweets by Shora, dated August 18, 2019, had accused the Army of entering houses and "torturing" locals in Kashmir. The allegations were rejected by the Army as base-



less.

The proposal for prosecution sanction moved by the Delhi Police and supported by the Home Department of the city government had submitted that Shora tweeted about the Army on August 18, 2019 -- 'Armed Forces are entering houses at night, picking up boys, ransacking houses, deliberately spilling rations on floor, mixing oil with rice, etc'.

In another tweet, she had said, "In Shopian, 04 men were called into the Army Camp and 'interrogated' (tortured). A mic



was kept close to them so that the entire area could hear them scream and be terrorized. This created an environment of fear in the entire area."

The Home Department had observed that the "nature of case, location to which the tweets refer and making false allegations against the Army make it a serious issue". "The tweets by Shora needed to be proceeded against for creating religious fault-lines in J&K and a case was made for prosecution under Section 153A IPC," it said.

# ACB to move HC against Speaker's refusal to allow prosecution of MLA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Anti Corruption Branch (ACB) has decided to move the high court against Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel's order declining prosecution sanction against AAP MLA from Krishna Nagar, S K Bagga in a corruption case.

According to the sources, Bagga has been accused of seeking bribe from an AAP worker, Raju Sachdeva, on multiple occasions on different pretexts. Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has now granted his approval to proceed with the filing of appeal in the court against the denial of prosecution sanction in the case, they added.

Sources said that despite having clinching evidence in the form of call recordings where Bagga can be heard demanding a bribe of Rs 5 lakh, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal turned a blind eye to it and

refused to take any action after Sachdeva filed a complaint and provided the call recording to him on November 6, 2015, the sources claimed.

"When the ACB, which is investigating the case, approached Goel seeking prosecution sanction against Bagga, after going through the due diligence of investigative procedures, he refused to grant prosecution sanction, in an obvious attempt to save Bagga. "Goel, in complete and blatant disregard of evidence verified substantively by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), sweepingly left Bagga off the hook by resorting to a partisan and questionable personal 'wisdom'," one of the official sources said.

In his complaint dated November 9, 2015, Sachdeva had alleged that Bagga took Rs 11,000, Rs 21,000 and Rs 25,000 on different occasions, promising to get him an Aam Aami Party (AAP) ticket in the



Delhi civic elections of 2017. Thereafter, Bagga demanded Rs 2 lakh and again Rs 1 lakh from Sachdeva, but he refused, the sources claimed.

They further disclosed that in November 2015, Bagga had told Sachdeva to organise a Diwali function at Gandhi Park in New Govindpura and promised that the chief minister would be the chief guest there. The complainant said Bagga demanded Rs 5 lakh for ensuring Kejriwal's presence at the event, they claimed. "As Sachdeva did not pay the



demand Rs 5 lakh, Bagga refused to get Kejriwal as the chief guest," the source added.

"However, Sachdeva who had recorded the entire telephonic conversation with Bagga, handed over the same to Kejriwal, but no action was taken by him. Later, Sachdeva gave the audio recording to ACB, which registered an FIR on March 9, 2018, under section 7/13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act and section 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code," the source added.

# LG office refused to give timely appointment to CM for meet: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a power tussle between Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and the AAP dispensation, the AAP has claimed that Lt Governor's office has refused to give "timely appointment" to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for a meeting saying that he is "very busy and cannot meet before Friday."

Sources said that the L-G had on Monday invited Kejriwal for a discussion over existing conflict over governance powers. "The CM had immediately written back accepting the invite and sought an appointment on Tuesday. However, a timely appointment was refused and Lt Governor's office stated that the L-G does not have time to meet the CM before Friday 4 PM," sources said.



The Lt Governor had written to Kejriwal on Monday inviting him for a meeting to discuss governance-related issues, amid differences between the two sides.

Kejriwal had accepted the invitation in a letter to Saxena, saying "I will fix up a convenient time with your office." In the letter, Kejriwal stated that in the beginning of the L-G letter, he have sarcastically mentioned "...you have started taking governance in the city seriously..." after my election campaigns. AAP is a national party and as its national con-

venor, I have to attend to elections campaigns in different parts of the country.

Comparing the campaign of AAP, Delhi CM said that the Prime Minister, Home Minister and many BJP Chief Ministers like Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh, Pushkar Dhami etc were also campaigning for their party at that time in Gujarat and Delhi.

The LG's office and the AAP government in Delhi have often found themselves at loggerheads over various issues, including the now-scrapped excise policy. Kejriwal had earlier questioned the LG over the appointments of the presiding officer and aldermen of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Haj Committee members by him, saying if his role as the "administrator" of Delhi meant "bypassing" the elected government.

## Amid tussle with Raj Niwas, Govt convenes 3-day Assembly session

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a tussle with the Raj Niwas, the Arvind Kejriwal Government has convened a three-day Assembly session from January 16.

According to an order issued by the Delhi Vidhan Sabha, the Commencement of the fourth part of the third session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Members are informed that the fourth part of the third session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly meeting will start on January 16.

While allotting the days for the Transaction of Business during the fourth part of the third session, it stated that the

meeting of the Legislative Assembly was tentatively scheduled for January 16, 17, and 18, 2023. "The sitting of the House can be extended if there is an urgency of work," the order said.

Informing about the time of the Assembly meeting, it stated that the meeting of the Legislative Assembly shall commence at 11.00 a.m. and shall continue till the task is set for does not end. The quorum bell will ring five minutes before the scheduled time so that the members may take their seats.

However, on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia wrote a letter to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena requesting to clear the appointment of the



Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) Chairperson urgently following the tenure of the present DERC Chairman lapsed. He also urged the L-G not to send the file directly to officers, bypassing

the elected government. Earlier, multiple letters were written by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to the L-G over the 'illegal appointment of 10 aldermen' in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

house and approving the files by bypassing the elected government in the national capital. On the other hand, the L-G cleared its stand on the appointment of the aldermen by stating the constitution.

# Cluster bus hits pavement, 9 injured on Rohtak Road

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Nine people, including a 6-year-old boy, were injured on Tuesday after a cluster bus rammied into a taxi and hit pavement dwellers on Rohtak road in central Delhi, police said. The injured were identified as Kala Devi (65), Sunita (35), Aarti (30) and Aryaman (6), Mangat Ram (60), Chand Khan (23), Anjali and Asha Devi -- all of whom stayed in shanties erected on the pavement. A bus passenger, Ramesh, was also injured, they said.

The police had earlier inadvertently mentioned that the child injured in the incident was 3-year-old. The incident took place when the bus driver lost control of the vehicle on the Nangloi-Old Delhi railway station route after which it rammied into a taxi and hit the pavement dwellers while going



towards Liberty Cinema from Kamal T-point.

Some of the passengers, who were inside the bus, managed to get down unhurt and left the spot after the accident, a senior police officer said.

It is being alleged that brakes of the offending vehicle failed leading to the incident, but police said a mechanical inspection of the cluster bus is

being carried out to ascertain if it was a technical or human fault.

Soon after the accident, the driver of the offending vehicle managed to flee. Meanwhile, a huge crowd gathered at the spot and some of them vandalised the bus. DCP, Central, Shweta Chauhan said all those injured are undergoing treatment at hospitals.

# Bidhuri lashes out at Kejriwal, advises him to manage party

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Tuesday lashed out at the AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal and advised him to manage his party instead of campaigning to defame Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

"Due to defiant MLAs and councilors of AAP, it has reached such a situation that it could not hold power in the Municipal Corporation even after a month of declaration of results," he said.

Bidhuri alleged that by creating unnecessary controversies, Kejriwal is harming the public interest.

"Kejriwal and senior leaders of his party are running a campaign against the L-G, while he himself knows that there is no point in these controversies. They (AAP) also know that the right to nomi-



nate ten members of the MCD is now with the Administrator of Delhi that is the L-G," he stated.

"By exercising his right, the L-G has not violated the Constitution in any way, but the AAP has done hooliganism in the Corporation House and harmed the Constitution and democracy. Not only this, but by appointing former mayor Satya Sharma as the presiding officer, Saxena acted according to the constitution. The name of Satya Sharma was suggested by the AAP government itself as one of the six names who could be made the Presiding Officer," he claimed.

# Govt to operate intercity buses between Delhi-NCR, neighbouring States: Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will soon operate premium intercity buses for commuters travelling between the national Capital, NCR cities and neighbouring states. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) Board has also decided provide free charging facilities to its employees owning electric two-wheelers and grant its contractual staff leave on three national holidays, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said in the statement.

In its board meeting held recently, the DTC gave in-principle approval to running premium buses within Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and intercity operations, the statement said.

The DTC had been planning to introduce high quality premium buses on longer routes for sometime. It has approved the running of battery



or CNG-operated premium buses on NCR routes within 200 km, it said. For intercity bus operations, the DTC will be running Bharat Stage (BS) VI buses for routes covering more than 200 km.

"All the buses will be equipped with CCTVs, GPS, panic buttons and other features providing convenient and safer travel for long distance commuters," Gahlot said.

The DTC board, in order to encourage the use of e-two wheelers by its employees,

approved providing free charging facilities at its depots.

Additionally, the employees will be able to avail loan from financial institutes empanelled by the Delhi Financial Corporation (DFC) according to the provisions of the Delhi EV Policy, 2020, for buying electric two wheelers, it said.

Delhi government is already providing a purchase incentive of Rs 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity with a maximum incentive of Rs 30,000 per vehicle (two wheeler).

# Cold wave conditions abate in Delhi due to fresh western disturbance



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Cold wave conditions abated in Delhi on Tuesday due to a fresh western disturbance affecting northwest India, even as a dense layer of fog lowered visibility to just 50 metres, affecting road and rail movement. As many as 100 flights have been affected while 40 trains were delayed by an hour to five-and-a-half hours due to the foggy weather.

Satellite images showed a

dense layer of fog persisting over vast swathes of north India, extending from Punjab to Bihar across Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. The Safdarjung observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, recorded a minimum temperature of 6.4 degrees Celsius as against 3.8 degrees Celsius on Monday. The maximum temperature in the Capital stood at 18.7 degree Celsius, a notch lower than the normal for this time of the year on Tuesday.

"Cold wave conditions have abated from the plains in northwest India. No cold wave is predicted in the region for the next four days. However, dense to very dense fog and cold day conditions will prevail over many parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday and will gradually abate thereafter," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Light drizzle is also expected in the capital on Thursday.

# Delhi was India's most polluted city in 2022: CPCB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi continued to be the top polluted city in the country in 2022 with an annual average of PM 2.5 concentration 99.7 micrograms per cubic metre of air. An analysis of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) air quality data by the NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) tracker showed that PM2.5 pollution in the national capital has reduced by over 7 per cent in four years, from 108 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019 to 99.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022.

The analysis, which has been released Tuesday to mark four years of the launch of the NCAP by the Centre, has found that some of the top polluted non-attainment cities in 2019 have marginally improved their PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels but continue to breach CPCB's standards. However, it still



remains way below the desired level.

NCAP Tracker is a joint project of news portal Carbon Copy and a Maharashtra-based start-up 'Respirer Living Sciences' and is designed to track India's progress in achieving clean air targets. The Centre launched NCAP on January 10, 2019 to reduce PM2.5 and PM10 levels in 102 cities by 20 per cent to 30 per cent by 2024 (with 2017 being the base year). Some more cities were added to the list, while some were dropped subsequently.

Now there are 131 cities which are called non-attainment cities, as they did not meet the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for the period of 2011-15 under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme. In September 2022, the government set a new target of a 40 per cent reduction in particulate matter concentration by 2026.

The top four cities with the highest PM2.5 are Delhi and NCR cities and the top nine are from across the Indo-Gangetic

plains, the data showed. Among the most polluted cities with respect to PM2.5 levels, Delhi (99.71 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked first, Haryana's Faridabad (95.64 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked second and Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad (91.25 micrograms per cubic metre) third, according to the analysis of CPCB data.

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI**

75th Anniversary  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER [DEMS]-III**  
10TH FLOOR; DR. S.P.M. CIVIC CENTRE  
MINTO ROAD; NEW DELHI-110002  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner, MCD through below mentioned e-tender from eligible bidders:-**  
**E-Tender Notice No. No.EE[DEMS]-III/TC/2022-23/NIT No.01 dated 05.01.2023 for Build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis Public conveniences (toilets) at 24 various locations under jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation of Delhi in two bid system (i.e. Technical and Financial) for an initial period of 7 years.**  
The Last Date of submission of bids is 21.01.2023, till 15.00 Hours.  
The detailed tender documents are available on MCD's website i.e. <http://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
R.O. No.56/DPI/MCD/2022-23  
Ex. Engineer [DEMS]-III



# DAC nod for acquisition of weapons worth ₹4,276 cr

2 proposals are for Army, 1 for Navy under ‘Buy Indian’ category



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Boosting India's military preparedness, especially on the borders facing China, the Government on Tuesday gave the go ahead for three proposals for acquisition of weapons worth Rs 4,276 crore. While two proposals are for the Army, the third is for the Navy. The nod was given by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) here in a meeting headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC is the apex body for approving proposals for the three Services. The final

decision is taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). Giving details of the DAC, officials said later all the three proposals are under the Buy Indian category. In an effort to shore up the air defence systems all along the Line of Actual Control(LAC)facing China, the apex body cleared the proposal for procurement of VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system under design and development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO). In view of the recent developments along the Northern borders(China) there is a need

to focus on effective Air Defence (AD) weapon systems which are man portable and can be deployed quickly in rugged terrain and maritime domain. Procurement of VSHORAD, as a robust and quickly deployable system, will strengthen the Air Defence capabilities, officials said.

The DAC also accorded approval for procurement of HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, launchers and associated support equipment which will be integrated to the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). This missile is an essential part of weaponisation of the ALH for countering enemy threat. Its induction will strengthen the offensive capability of Indian Army. Adding to the firepower of the Navy, the DAC approved procurement of Brahmos Launcher and Fire Control System (FCS) for the Shivalik class of ships and Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs). With their induction, these ships will have enhanced capability of carrying out maritime strike operations, interdicting and destroying enemy's warships and merchant vessels.

# In a first, Army Day parade to be held outside Delhi

## Army chief to take salute at 75th parade at Bengaluru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Army Day parade on January 15 this year will be held in Bengaluru and this is the first time the event is taking place outside the national capital. Army Chief General Manoj Pande will take the salute at the 75th Army Day parade. The IAF last year held the Air Force Day on October 8 in Chandigarh. It was for the first time the parade was held outside the national Capital. Karnataka became the first State to host this mega national event for the first time outside Delhi, Parade Commander Major General Ravi Murugan told reporters in Bengaluru. The first Army Chief Major General K M Cariappa took command of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Roy Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949



on January 15 thus becoming the first Indian Commander-in-Chief post-independence. The programme will start with laying a wreath by the Army chief at the Madras Engineering War Memorial as tribute to those who made sacrifices for the nation, Murugan said. The parade will witness eight contingents including a mounted contingent from the Army Service Corps and a military band comprising five regimental bands, he said. The parade will be supported by a fly-past of Army aviation Dhruv and Rudra helicopters. In addition, various weapon systems held in the Army's inventory will be on display. They include K9 Vajra self-propelled guns, Pinaka rockets, T-90 tanks, BMP-2 Infantry

Fighting Vehicle, Tunguska Air Defence System, 155mm Bofors guns, light strike vehicles, Swathi Radar and different assault bridges, the Parade Commander said. The Army has invited people from all walks of life including students from schools, colleges, National Cadet Corps(NCC) and children from orphanages. Over 8,000 civilians have witnessed the parade during the pre-event displays thus far, Murugan said. A high tea on January 14 has been planned in which Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot will be the chief guest, he said adding a military tattoo programme has also been organised on January 15 which Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend.

# More Indians renouncing citizenship in Modi's 'Amrit Kaal': Congress

## Large number of High Net Worth Individuals leaving, says Vallabh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that the number of people renouncing Indian citizenship has risen considerably during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Amrit Kaal' — from a daily average of 354 in 2014 to 448 in 2021 and 604 in 2022. It blamed the BJP Government's "failure" in providing jobs and growth opportunities among other things, for the exodus. AICC spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said people have realised that 'Acche Din' (good days) will come for Indians only abroad in the Modi regime and that is why they are leaving the country after renouncing their citizenship. Vallabh said a large number of people giving up citizenship were High Net Worth Individuals (HNWI). In 2022, he claimed, around 7,000 such people who renounced citizenship last year had an annual income of more than Rs 8 crore. "In 2014, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) data showed 1,29,328 renounced Indian citizenship while in 2021, it was 1,63,370. In 2022, till October 31, such cases were 1,83,741," Vallabh said addressing a Press conference. He said if the country's global ranking from hunger to happiness is falling and is consistently low,

then this is bound to happen. He said Modi had promised 'Ache Din' (Good Days) but it has now become clear that these are not for Indians. "You have noted that on an average over 600 people are giving up Indian citizenship in this 'Amrit Kaal'. Average number of Indians per day giving up their citizenship has grown by 1.7 times from 2014 to 2022." Vallabh said rising unemployment, low GDP growth opportunities, rising poverty and hunger, widening gender disparity, and sliding press freedom were among the reasons for people renouncing citizenship. He asked Modi to respond why more than 600 people renounce citizenship on a daily basis. "He has to answer why the number of Indians giving up Indian Citizenship in the last 8 years increased to 1.7 times? Why is Acche Din not coming to India for Indians? When will the Prime Minister do a Mann ki Baat on this?" he said. The Congress said the twin shocks of demonetisation and "flawed" GST led the growth on a downside and it was aggravated with the pandemic. He said poverty has been rising in the country and cited the report by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and University of Oxford which put the poor in India at 22.89 crore.

# Nadda reviews party conclave preparedness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda on Tuesday went into a long huddle with party national general secretaries to deliberate on the forthcoming BJP national executive conclave, India hosting the G20 and the Assembly polls in about a dozen States in the run up to the 2024 General Elections. They also discussed the party's ongoing organisational exercise for the 2024 Lok Sabha Prawas' exercise aimed at brightening its prospects in 160 seats where it has been traditionally weak. Party sources said the national executive, which is scheduled for January 16-17 in the national capital, may have three resolutions to cover political, economic and foreign policy issues while stressing that nothing has been finalised yet. The party will go all out to promote G20 events amid the opposition's attempts to play down India's presidency of the elite grouping by pointing out that it came to the country by rotation and was not a government's achievement. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often emphasised that India's presidency of the bloc belongs to the nation and not to the party. He has stressed on using the opportunity to showcase the country's heritage and cultural riches. The BJP will go out to mobilise people," a BJP leader said. BJP vice president Baijayant Jay Panda will coordinate the organisational exercise related to G20. India has planned around

200 events across 56 cities in the run up to the G20 summit in September. Political observers believe that the ruling BJP will leverage the global profile associated with the event for electoral gains as it works to retain yet another term at the Centre. Around 350 senior leaders, including Modi and other big-wigs, will attend the executive meeting. Amid the strong possibility of Nadda's term being extended beyond the three years of tenure for a party president, sources said it is a practice for the incumbent to continue in the position till fresh elections are conducted. Only the Parliamentary Board, the apex organisational body of the BJP, can take any decision related to the national president, they added.



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# CBI files chargesheet against Prayagraj resident for child abuse

## Zaki sexually exploited four girls and shared explicit material on Insta

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against a Prayagraj resident Mohammad Zaki for alleged sexual abuse of girls and posting photos and videos of it on social media platforms, including Instagram to make quick money. In its chargesheet filed before a special court in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, the agency has alleged that Mohammed Zaki, an electrician, sexually exploited at least four girls in the age group of 6-14 years and shared the child abuse material on social media platforms, including Instagram. "The role of the accused was allegedly found in different acts

such as aggravated sexual abuse & using child for pornographic purposes," the CBI alleged in its chargesheet. A case was registered by the CBI on December 27, 2021 against the accused on an Interpol reference received from National Central Bureau, Ottawa (Canada) on the allegations that an Indian Instagram ID user was involved in sharing of Child Sexual Abuse Material over social media platform. The agency further said, "During investigation, including analysis of data of electronic devices recovered from the possession of the accused, it was found that the accused was involved in sexual abuse of minor girls. It was also revealed that he was sharing photographs and videos of sexual exploitation of the victims on social media platforms. CBI identified four minor victims (girls) who had allegedly been sexually exploited by the accused." The accused was earlier arrested and is presently in judicial custody.

# 83rd AIPOC to begin in Jaipur today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The 83rd All-India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), the biggest gathering of the Presiding Officers of the country's legislative bodies, will begin in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Wednesday. Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate this mega event, chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. During the two-day conference, Presiding Officers of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils from all over the country will brainstorm on various matters ranging from India's leadership of the G-20 to harmonious relations between the legislature and the judiciary. Earlier on Tuesday evening, in a meeting of the Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Lok Sabha Speaker, a detailed discussion was held regarding the agenda of the Conference.

# HC seeks Centre's stand on sale of stents

## Plea for marketing of coronary stents after submission of clinical studies only

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the stand of the Centre on a plea seeking sale and marketing of coronary stents in the country only after submission of adequate supporting clinical studies. A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Subramonium Prasad issued notice to the Centre and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on a public interest litigation by Mayank Kshirsagar. The petitioner, an advocate, said in his plea that currently cardiac stents are allowed to be manufactured, imported and

sold "without or with negligible supporting clinical study" and, in the interest of public health, the Centre should develop a robust mechanism for approval of these devices similar to Food & Drugs Administration in the US. The plea highlighted that cardiovascular diseases accounted for 1.79 crore deaths in 2019 in India, out of which 1.52 crore people died of heart attack and stroke, and adequate access to appropriate drug-eluting stents (DES) is essential to save lives. "At present cardiac stents/coronary stents are allowed to be manufactured/imported and sold, without or with negligible supporting clinical study and data, and merely based on predicate (device/literature), submitted by the manufacturer/importer," the plea filed through lawyer Tushar Singh said. The plea said the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India includes the right to all reasonable health facilities.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar along with BJP president JP Nadda and discussed various issues with him. Shah also met former President Ram Nath Kovind (picture above) and had a discussion with him on various subjects related to the country's progress and social welfare

PNS

# ED seizes ex-IFoS officer's BMW in PMLA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has conducted searches in the case of Abhay Kant Pathak, erstwhile Indian Forest Service (IFoS) of 1987-batch, Odisha cadre and seized a BMW-620D GT (luxury car worth Rs 74.22 lakh) on money laundering charges. Pathak was working in the capacity of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Plan, Programme and Afforestation, Odisha Government. "During investigation being conducted under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), it was revealed that Akash Kumar Pathak, had surreptitiously attempted to sell the said BMW car to a resident of Belagavi, Karnataka who was a dealer of old cars, working in Mumbai," the ED said in a statement. The ED had initiated investigation under PMLA on the basis of an FIR registered by the Vigilance Cell police station, Cuttack for disproportionate assets (DA) amounting to Rs 9,35,42,594 held by Pathak and his family members, it said.



It was further revealed that seven other FIRs and charge-sheets registered by Odisha Police involving Pathak for allegedly duping the gullible people in the name of providing jobs in Tata Motors. Earlier, the ED had carried out search operation on December 3, 2021 under PMLA at the residence of Pathak situated at Flat No. 101, Viswanath Villa, Vivekananda Marg, Bhubaneswar which resulted into seizure of a Tata Harrier car worth Rs 15 Lakhs along with various incriminating documents/evidence (which was confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority). Subsequently, the ED has also issued a Provisional Attachment Order against Abhay Kant Pathak and others, and attached properties worth Rs 29.83 lakh belonging to them.

# SC nixes urgent hearing on Joshimath crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused urgent hearing of a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Uttarakhand's Joshimath a national disaster, saying there are "democratically elected institutions" to deal with the situation and all important matters should not come to it. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha listed the plea of Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati of Joshimath for hearing on January 16. Advocate Parmeshwar Nath Mishra, appearing for the Swami, mentioned the plea and sought its urgent listing for Wednesday. "Everything important need not come to us. There are democratically elected institutions to look into it. We will list it on January 16," the CJ said. The lawyer had mentioned the plea also on Monday for urgent listing. "Mention again on Tuesday after following the due process when your matter is in the mentioning list," the bench had said.

# Differences in gut microbiome linked to risk of death in Covid patients with respiratory failure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The composition of gut microbiota and the metabolites they produce can predict the trajectory of respiratory function and death in patients with severe Covid-19, suggesting that the gut microbiome has important links to lung health and presents an opportunity to prevent the worst outcomes. The study is published in Nature Communications



Covid-19 patients with respiratory failure. The findings could open a window for giving patients probiotic treatments containing the

right strains of bacteria to produce protective metabolites. One of the most troubling things during the pandemic was seeing patients who were

relatively healthy come into the ICU and have completely different outcomes. Some died, some ultimately recovered, and many recovered but were left with lasting complications. "This tells me there is something else going on, and this study shows that there was some interaction between their microbiome health and how they recovered from their infection," said Patel in the paper. Eric Pamer, the Donald E. Steiner Professor of Medicine and Director of the UChicago's Duchossois Family Institute (DFI), said the careful timing of sample collection was critical. The DFI's core facilities detected several notable differ-

ences in the composition of the microbiome and metabolic products among these patients. Patients who suffered progressive lung failure and died had more of a group of bacteria called proteobacteria than patients who recovered. These patients also had lower levels of secondary bile acids, and less of a metabolite called "desamino-tyrosine". Conversely, the patients who improved had higher levels of secondary bile acids and more "desamino-tyrosine". It's still too early to tell, but according to Pamer, the microbiome and the metabolites contribute to recovery from severe respiratory infection.



# TMC, Opp political war reaches Calcutta HC

Pro-TMC lawyers boycott court

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The fierce political dogfight between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition parties reached the precincts of Calcutta High Court with the pro-TMC lawyers continuing to boycott the court of Justice Rajashekhar Manthia for the second day on Tuesday even as the Judge went on to initiate suo motu proceeding of criminal contempt against the unruly lawyers who raised slogans and jammed the entrance of the court room preventing rival faction of advocates to conduct their business.

A number of ruling party leaders had been publicly questioning the role of a set of High Court Judges including Justice Manthia who had been hearing



cases related to TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and Justice Abhijit Ganguly who had ordered CBI and ED investigations into teachers' recruitment scams. The Bengal ruling outfit had been apparently angry with the Judge while hearing a money laundering case had passed some orders that allegedly went against Maneka Gambhir the sister-in-law of Abhishek Banerjee. The Judge

had also stayed police action on 26 FIRs registered against Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari. Things reached a flash-point when scores of posters depicting the Judge in question were pasted inside the court premises and also outside his house. The posters depicted the Judge and a couple of Union ministers in the same frame and described him as a "disgrace in the name of judiciary."

# BJP responsible for Kashmiri Pandits' woes: Cong

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday attacked the BJP over protests by Kashmiri Pandit employees, alleging that the saffron party's "use, discard and betray" policy is responsible for their plight. "Kashmiri Pandit employees are protesting for over 245+ days, demanding their 'right to life' & 'relocation'. Their salaries are being withheld for months and their security is being compro-

mised," Kharge said in a tweet. "BJP's 'use, discard & betray' policy is responsible for their plight," he said. Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit employee, was shot dead by terrorists inside his office at Chadoora in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir in May last year. The killing had sparked off protests by Kashmiri Pandit employees who refused to return to work. A group of protesting employees had also left the Valley and demonstrated in

Jammu, demanding that they be relocated outside the Valley till the security situation improved there. Though the J&K administration agreed to look into most of the demands of the Kashmiri Pandits, it reportedly "refused" to relocate them out of Kashmir. It further hardened its stand against the protesting employees and "stopped" salaries of those who did not return to work. However, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang Kundbarao Pole,



had said last week that a majority of Kashmiri Pandit employees have returned to work.

# Stand with J&K to safeguard unique identity, interests, Mehbooba exhorts Ladakhi leaders

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday urged Ladakhis to stand with the people of Jammu and Kashmir for a collective struggle to safeguard their unique identities and interests. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was reacting to reports that Ladakhi leaders had unanimously opted out of the high-powered committee formed by the Union Home Ministry to address their demands,



which include granting statehood to Ladakh. "Urge my Ladakhi brothers & sisters to stand with us in our collective

fight & struggle for safeguarding our unique identity & interests. For the past three years, a vicious propaganda has been unleashed to create fissures between J&K & Ladakh," Mehbooba said in a series of tweets. "Relieved that people of Ladakh finally realise that their interests & identity can be saved only if they unite with J&K. They've finally called off GOIs bluff & disinterest in granting them statehood & protecting their resources. "It's time we recognise that our struggle will reap dividends only if we

stand united," she added. Mehbooba said the decision of Ladakhi leaders to stay away from the panel did not augur well for the Centre as it went against the claim that scrapping Jammu and Kashmir's special status was acceptable to people of the erstwhile state. "This certainly doesn't bode well for GOI especially amidst a border stand-off with China & also demolishes their lies that 5th August was beneficial or acceptable for people of J&K including Ladakh," she said.

# Bhopal gas case: SC tells Centre it's bound by jurisdiction 'maryada'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday pulled up the Centre for pursuing its curative plea seeking an additional Rs 7,844 crore from successor firms of Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) for giving compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, saying the court is bound by 'maryada' of jurisdiction and the government cannot reopen a settlement arrived at with the company after over 30 years. Observing that populism cannot be a basis for judicial review, the apex court said it does not look good in a globalised world that even if you have settled something with the government of India it can be reopened at a later stage. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who headed the five-judge Constitution bench, said, "Courts are not averse to extending the envelope to exercise jurisdiction. But it all depends on the jurisdiction you are dealing with. "If I am sitting in Article 226 jurisdiction, I would certainly not hesitate to mould the relief wherever required. In a suit, I will be more constrained and here we are in curative. There is 'maryada' in the jurisdiction. We as judges are



bound by 'Maryada' (limit) of jurisdiction." The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjeev Khanna, Abhay S Oka, Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari, told Attorney General R Venkataramani, showed its clear disinclination about reopening the contentious issue. "The court is not going to step into something which is not permissible and open the Pandora box. There was a settlement which was arrived at between the parties and the court has approved it. Now in curative jurisdiction, we cannot reopen that settlement. Our decision in one case will have wide ramifications. You need to understand to what extent curative jurisdiction can be invoked," the bench said.

# Another ISIS man held by Kolkata STF

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Three days after arresting two ISIS terror moles in Howrah the Special Task Force of Bengal Police has arrested a third one from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh. The accused, identified as Abdul Ra q i b Qureshi, was apprehended on Monday night. "Based on the inputs from Md Saddam and Syed Ahmed the two IS linkmen arrested from Howrah on January 7 the STF arrested an important link of the terror module from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh," sources said adding incriminating evidences have been recovered from them.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Golden Temple during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Amritsar on Tuesday

PTI

# Chanda Kochhar, husband released from prison

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar were released from jail on Tuesday morning, a day after the Bombay High Court granted them interim bail in a loan fraud case, a police official said. Chanda Kochhar walked out of the Byculla women's prison in Mumbai, while her husband was released from the Arthur Road jail, the official said. The CBI arrested Kochhars on December 23, 2022 in connection with the Videocon-ICICI Bank loan case. The couple had filed petitions in the Bombay High Court challenging their arrest, terming it as illegal and arbitrary.

# Indian Army in J&K on high alert in run up to R-Day celebrations

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the run up to the Republic Day celebrations, the Indian Army has been kept in a state of 'high alert' to prevent any 'misadventure' by the Pakistan Army supported terrorist handlers from across the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. Taking advantage of the adverse weather conditions the Border Action team, which generally comprises special forces personnel of the Pakistan army and some terrorists, has in the past targeted forward Indian positions and even attempted beheading of the Indian soldiers to provoke a strong reaction during the same period. So far the Indian army has already foiled two major infiltration bids in the Krishna

Ghati and Balakote sectors of Poonch in the last two weeks. On January 7, two heavily armed infiltrators were neutralized along the line of control in Balakote sector of Poonch. Meanwhile, to boost the morale of the troops deployed on ground zero newly appointed General Officer Commanding (GOC) Nagrota-based 16 Corps Lt Gen Sandeep Jain Monday visited forward areas in Pallanwalla sector along the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor area to take stock of the prevailing situation and operational preparedness of the troops. Lt Gen Jain also interacted with field commanders and jawans deployed on duty. The field commanders gave him detailed briefing on the situation in Pallanwalla sector.



In the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch, the Indian army is not taking any chances and maintaining a tight vigil on the suspicious movement of infiltrators close to the line of control. According to field reports, the army has been keeping a close eye on the cross LoC activities especially along the possible routes of infiltration.

# '76% of elected women in Bihar aided by spouses in official job'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind cross-sectional mixed-method study, the Centre for Catalysing Change (C3) has published a paper titled 'Spousal Support and Work Performance during Covid-19 among Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Rural Bihar, India'. It surveyed 1338 EWRs with an in-depth interview with 31 EWRs. This study, specific to EWRs from villages in 10 Bihar districts, investigates the importance of spousal support and its impact on EWRs' work performance. The study highlights the importance of husbands' help and support in strengthening an EWRs' output at work and sheds light on the importance of gender role changes - specif-



ically, the shift of domestic labour responsibilities from women to men - to empower women in the workplace. The study found that 76 per cent of EWRs received help from their husbands with their official work, while 39 per cent of them received help with domestic labour. Furthermore, the study found that the support from EWRs'

husbands increased for domestic chores after the workload of the ERWs went up (which went up by 46.3 percent since the pandemic). This, in turn, aided the ERWs to perform their role more effectively, including arranging necessary services during the pandemic. Ultimately, this resulted in a firmer belief in themselves to make an impact as ERWs. In addition, it was observed that ERWs' husbands were most supportive when it came to intervening in cases of domestic violence against women. These findings suggest that when husbands take on a more significant share of domestic chores, it frees up time for ERWs to participate in work-related activities and help them take on leadership roles in their communities.

# PM to inaugurate National Youth Fest in Karnataka



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the National Youth Festival in Karnataka's Hubballi on Thursday, an event that is being held on the National Youth Day which is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda to honour his ideals, teachings and contributions. "Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the 26th National Youth Festival in Hubballi at around 4 pm," a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office said. The National Youth Festival is held every year to provide exposure to talented youth at the national level and galvanise them towards nation-building. It brings diverse cultures from all parts of the country on a common platform and unites the participants in the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. This year, the festival is being held in Hubballi-Dharwad in Karnataka from January 12-16, with the theme being "Viksit Yuva--Viksit Bharat". The Festival will witness Youth Summit, which will witness plenary discussions on five themes stemming from G20 and Y20 events -- Future of work, Industry, Innovation and 21st Century Skills; Climate change and disaster risk reduction; Peace building and Reconciliation; Shared future-youth in democracy and governance; and Health and Well-being, according to the statement. The Summit will witness participation of more than 60 eminent experts. Several competitive and non-competitive events will also be held.

# NIA arrests major logistics provider in terrorist-gangster nexus in Haryana

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested a major logistics provider in terrorist-gangster nexus case, Chhotu Ram Bhaat of Sirsa, Haryana. He was the key logistics provider to the gangsters. He was acting as a weapons supplier and was also providing hideouts to the gangsters of Bamba group before and after the crimes, the NIA said in a statement. On December 21 last year, the NIA conducted searches at two locations in Sirsa, Haryana (including the house of Chhotu Bhaat in Chautala village) to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters and



and their weapons suppliers based in Haryana and Punjab. "The arrest is aimed at dismantling the illegal arms support infrastructure, apart from the hideouts of absconders of the Bamba-led terror-criminal syndicate. They were taking advantage of the border location of their hideout with Punjab. Further, investigations will continue to dismantle such terror networks as well as their funding and support infrastructure," the agency said. The NIA investigation is aimed at identifying critical elements of the support infrastructure of the terror-criminal syndicate and subsequently, taking decisive action against those involved, it added.

The NIA investigation is aimed at identifying critical elements of the support infrastructure of the terror-criminal syndicate and subsequently, taking decisive action against those involved, it added.

# SC bars 'apartmentalisation' of housing units in 'Corbusian Chandigarh'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday prohibited "fragmentation or apartmentalization" of residential units in phase-I of Chandigarh, saying it will injure the "lungs" of the city as conceptualised by French architect Le Corbusier who had designed it. While appealing to the legislature, the executive and policy makers at the Centre and states to make necessary provision for carrying out environmental impact assessment studies before permitting urban development, the apex court said it is necessary that a proper balance is struck between sustainable development and environmental protection.

The top court noted that Chandigarh was made a Union Territory (UT) and became the capital for the states of Punjab and Haryana. The city, it said, was developed in two phases - phase-I having sectors 1 to 30 and phase-II having sectors 31 to 47. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna slammed the Chandigarh administration for "blindly sanctioning" building plans and said it is apparent from them that they are in effect converting one dwelling unit into three apartments. "Such a haphazard growth may adversely affect the heritage status of phase-I of Chandigarh which is sought to be inscribed as a UNESCO's heritage city," the bench said in its 131-page

verdict. The top court delivered its judgement on the appeals challenging the November 2021 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which had held that there was no provision under the Capital of Punjab (Development and Regulations) Act, 1952, or the Rules framed thereunder gov-

erning transfer of shares in relation to a site or building whether owned singly or under joint ownership. The high court had also held that sale of shares out of a building or site by the allottee or transferee was not barred and was permissible under the general civil law.









FIRST COLUMN

DIABETES CONTROL IN RURAL INDIA

Telemedicine can fill critical gaps in healthcare and help curb diabetes




AMIT GUPTA

Diabetes does not discriminate. It can occur to anyone, anywhere. Be it a person residing in metropolitan cities or a person living in rural areas. The prevalence of diabetes is increasing incessantly, raising an alarming concern, particularly in remote rural areas. It is because diabetes awareness lags in rural India due to the lack of emergency medical services, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, shortage of medical professionals and deprivation from technological advancements, among others.

The scenario, however, is changing drastically. A person sitting in some far-off village can receive a timely diagnosis for diabetes and a medication prescription in some minute span because telemedicine has intervened in healthcare in rural areas profoundly.

Being the diabetes capital of the world, India is home to more than 70 million people living with the condition. But the burden of this chronic condition can be lessened. This is prominently needed in rural areas, where about 70 per cent of Indians reside.



Telemedicine is a branch of e-health that utilises communication networks for the delivery of healthcare services and medical education from one geographical location to another. Indian healthcare infrastructure has come a long way in rural areas due to the efforts of its proactive government through telemedicine vans or e-sanjeevani. One such initiative is Sehat, which was launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Defence and has been doing a great job in providing access to quality and affordable healthcare overcoming geographical boundaries.

Many healthcare setups that have been successful in defeating the disease follow the strategy around the three T's: Test, Track, and Treat. Telemedicine is a boon to the healthcare system, as it diminishes the need for the patient to go to a clinic/hospital. This saves time, conveyance fees, and the risk of taking back home any healthcare-acquired infections, and is hassle-free than waiting in unending queues to procure an appointment, let alone the treatment process. This is largely the case with government hospitals. There is no denying the fact that for many diseases, diagnosis is only possible on physical examination necessitating the need for the patient and doctor to be in the same room. However, in other cases, online consultation has been found at par with in-person ones.

Telemedicine is helpful when an emergency arises and the primary healthcare centre is a distance away, which is a major concern in rural areas, and also when the patient has no one to accompany.

Though telemedicine has reached rural India, it is still in its infancy when it comes to it being a regular practice. It is mostly during government-run campaigns when people are educated on the latest technologies and preventive measures for their well-being.

Telemedicine can only work as long as there is easy access to smartphones for everyone. Coming out of the vicious cycle of poverty is the need of the hour for many rural Indians. Another concern is that the efforts by the Government and private organisations can only be effective when there is acceptance of innovative methods and active participation by both players—the general public and doctors.

The good thing is that the condition is bound to improve with the advent of 5G technology in India as the penetration of digital services will increase manifold in the remotest of areas across the country. In addition, the Government is leaving no stone unturned to achieve its mission to become 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'. Moreover, a populous country like ours demands a synergistic approach, where people leave their differences behind and come forward to work for a bigger cause.

*(Author is a senior diabetologist, National Executive Council Member, RSSDI)*

# The fallout of ultra radicals' rise in Israel



KC TYAGI

## With Benjamin Netanyahu back as the Prime Minister of Israel, the tensy in Israel Palestine relations is imminent and war a distinct possibility

lections have been held in Israel five times in the last three years. Governments formed by coalitions and manipulations usually do not complete their terms but definitely succeed in creating unrest and controversies regarding the implementation of their aggressive agenda. The newly-elected government of Israel is also engaged in repeating the past history more rapidly, but the apprehensions being expressed about the Benjamin Netanyahu coalition Government are not proving wrong.


The existence of the current Government hinges on the support of many extreme right-wing radicals. Radical ideology has been given priority even in the division of portfolios of the Council of Ministers. This time a new ministry has been formed in the name of 'National Mission' Ministry. This ministry has been given the responsibility to teach pro-Jewish history in pre-primary classes and at the same time prepare a programme to deal with the anti-Palestine movement. Opponents have even given it the noun of 'Zionist ministry'. The Mission Ministry will be headed by fundamentalist leader Orit Stook.

Similarly, the command of the Heritage Ministry has also been handed over to extreme right-wing leader Amihai Eliyahu, with the intention that he will try to reverse history. Obviously, this can be proved dangerous especially to those historical signs and buildings that belong to non-Jews in Israel.

Controversy began soon after the formation of the Netanyahu government. Israel's hardline leader and the country's National Security Minister Ben-Gvir has created excitement recently by visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque. At present, the entry of Jews in this area is limited. A war-like situation has arisen due to rising tension after the minister's visit. In fact, the Jews say that the place where the Al-Aqsa Mosque stands today was originally a holy place for the Jews, which was demolished to build a mosque.

The fundamentalists are again cherishing the dream of the holy temple of the Jews in place of the mosque there. The Al-Aqsa Mosque is considered by Muslims around the world to be one of their three holiest places. This mosque is also marked as one of the symbols associated with the Prophet.

During the famous 'Six-Day War' of 1967, Israel managed to capture many areas of the Gaza Strip, including areas near mosques where worshippers' places of worship are protected. Earlier, as the custodian of the mosque, Jordan used to look after the Islamic Trust, but under an agreement with Jordan in 1994, Israel's role became prominent here. Security forces have been deployed here who also do the work of searching for the worshippers and namaz has also been banned in the area



NOW ISRAEL IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH ITS CLAIM ON THE WHOLE OF JERUSALEM. AMERICA HAS ALSO RECOGNISED JERUSALEM AS THE NEW CAPITAL IN PLACE OF TEL AVIV WHICH HAS DEEPENED THE CONTROVERSY FURTHER

*(The author is a former MP)*



of the mosque grounds.

Palestinian Muslims gather here in large numbers, especially during the month of Ramadan, but the number of worshippers has been reduced due to new restrictions. People protested Israel by gathering in large numbers, agitated by the ban imposed by the Israel Police. After the death of Yasar Arafat and the weakening of his organization, the Palestine movement was captured by Hamas.

Hamas is occupied by the organization of ultra-enthusiastic youth and now a large part of the Palestinian people also feel that only Hamas is capable of taking care of their religious and territorial sovereignty.

Actually, the Israel-Palestine conflict is almost 100 years old. After defeating the Ottoman Empire in World War I, Britain managed to capture a large part of West Asia, known as Palestine. After the Second World War, Jews from the Soviet Union to Eastern and Western countries started settling here. The major reason for this has also included being a religious place in Jerusalem. But the tensions between Jews and Arabs reached a peak when the international community took up the task of creating a separate state for Jews inside Palestine. In the fourth decade of the 19th century, there was a large increase in the number of Jews in this area, including many refugees from European persecution.

In 1947, with the active cooperation of the United States and Britain, a resolution was passed by the United Nations to divide the country of Palestine. The United Nations was dominated by the superpowers, so the way was cleared for the partition of the Jewish state and Palestine. But Jerusalem was declared an international city which was rejected by the Arab people.

Meanwhile, Mahatma Gandhi also condemned this resolution and issued a speech strongly advocating for the Palestinian nation, considering it as their official country.

The first war between Arabs and Jews took place on March 6, 1948. America and European countries were providing all kinds of military material to Israel. But due to the indecisive attitude of the rulers of the Arab countries, the Palestinians had to face many challenges. More than a million Palestinians took shelter here and there as refugees, and Israel was able to occupy a large part of Palestine.

The area occupied by Jordan is called 'West Bank'. The part that Egypt managed to capture is known as 'Gaza'. As far as Jerusalem is concerned, Israel has occupied the western part of it and Jordan has managed to capture the eastern area. Now Israel is trying to establish its claim on the whole of Jerusalem. America has also recognised Jerusalem as the new capital in place of Tel Aviv which has deepened the controversy further.

The current crisis has been a focal point of discussion in the United Nations Security Council. An emergency meeting was called at the request of Palestinian, Islamic and some Non-Aligned countries. Palestine's ambassador to the United Nations recently met with ambassadors from Arab countries, the 57-

member Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and representatives of the 120-member Non-Aligned Movement over Israel's Defense Minister Ben-Gvir's visit and the widespread extremism surrounding the new government.

The prevailing environment has been cited as the reason for the present tension. He has accused Israel of aggression against Muslim religious places including Al-Aqsa Mosque. From Jordan to Saudi Arabia, all Islamic countries are seen standing with Palestine. On the other hand, the Israeli army has created tension by firing several missiles at the Damascus airport, the capital of Syria. Remember, a large area of Syria is occupied by Israel, although the United Nations has passed a resolution asking to return it to Syria, but the construction work of the colony in the name of 'Trump' has started there during Trump's regime.

Heads of countries like Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iran, and Turkey have termed this visit as desecration of holy places and violation of international law. Hamas, the ruling group in the Gaza Strip, has warned of dire consequences in the strongest terms.

When the United Nations asked the International Court of Justice for its opinion on the Israeli occupation, the court also ruled in favor of the Palestinian residents. Now all the signatory nations are demanding to implement this order, the same has been denied by Israel. Both sides are aggressive towards each other. In the near future, it may take the shape of a war by surprise to the whole world.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT YOU ARE TAKING GOVERNANCE SERIOUSLY. — DELHI LG VINAI SAXENA




AAP IS A NATIONAL PARTY AS ITS NATIONAL CONVENER, I HAVE TO ATTEND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS. MANY BJP CMS WERE ALSO CAMPAIGNING IN GUJARAT. — DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL



# Opening frontiers: India's promising space policy

The global space industry has the potential to become worth \$1 trillion by 2040. India is vying for a significant portion of that

When we think of space exploration, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is often the first body that comes to mind. Headquartered in Bengaluru, ISRO is the primary space exploration agency of India. In 1969, ISRO was established from the INCOSPAR program and later became part of the DOS (Department of Space) and the Space Commission, which was created in 1972, and since then there's been no looking back. From launching Aryabhata, India's first satellite in 1975 to the successful Mars Orbiter Mission, named Mangalyaan in 2013, which made India the first country to reach Mars on its first attempt, with the cost of only \$76 mil-



AMIT MISHRA

*(The author is an academic associate at the Indian School of Business)*

lion, lesser than the budget of movies like Gravity (\$100 Mn) and Interstellar (\$176 Mn).

The Indian Government is eyeing its interest in expanding the boundaries of the Indian space arena and has proposed that private companies be allowed to take a more active role in the space industry.

By switching from a "Supply-Based Model" to a "Demand-Based Model", and employing New Space India Limited (NSIL) as an intermediary for customer requirements and commitments, ISRO will assist DOS. Additionally, NSIL will acquire control of DOS' operational launch vehicles and market launches, satellites, and other services.

Joining the link above, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), a government agency aimed at promoting private investment and innovation in the space sector.

IN-SPACe will support the private sector and help it participate in building satellites, launching vehicles, carrying out launches, and providing space-based services. The Indian government's new space policy is assumed to come into effect by early 2023 (the draft is already released), and it is expected to lead to the development of a vibrant and innovative space ecosystem in the country. The new space policy will outline how non-government entities can work in the space sector and provide support for the private sector through the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

The policy will focus on the use of low earth orbit (LEO) satellites, which are cheaper than traditional satellites, and will encourage the private sector to manufacture satellites for various applications such as agriculture, healthcare, urban development, disaster management, etc. The global space economy is estimated to be worth \$423 billion dollars, with India constituting 2-3 per cent of that market. The government hopes to tap into the full potential of the sector and expects to have its own SpaceX-like start-ups within the next two years.

The policy has already attracted the attention of several start-ups, with their number in the space sector increasing from just four in 2018 to over 250 in 2022. There are currently over 100 space start-ups in the country that have collectively raised over \$245.35 million in funding.

One startup that has already made a significant impact is Skyroot Aerospace. On November 18, 2022, the Indian Space Research Organisation launched India's first privately built rocket, called Vikram-S, from the Sriharikota launchpad. The rocket was developed by Skyroot Aerospace (which became the first Indian private company to reach outer space when its rocket reached an apogee of 89.5 km).

Another start-up to watch is Agnikul, which is developing a small satellite launch vehicle and has already secured funding of \$96 million. The company plans to launch its first rocket by 2024 and has set a goal of launching 100 small satellites per year. Bellatrix, a Bengaluru-based aerospace start-up is working on developing low-cost propulsion systems for small satellites. The company has already raised \$2 million in seed funding and plans to launch its first rocket by 2023. Satsure is another Indian start-up that is focused on developing small satellite platforms and has raised \$1.5 million in seed funding.

On November 26th, the PSLV-C54 mission carried nano satellites built by Indian start-ups Pixxel and Dhruva Space into space. The mission was a major milestone for both companies and has raised hopes that they will be able to make significant contributions to the development of the space industry in India.

The global space industry is currently valued at more than \$400 billion and has the potential to become a \$1 trillion industry by 2040. India may have a robust space infrastructure, including multiple launch sites, a range of advanced rockets and satellites, and a skilled and experienced workforce by 2040. It's like India is all set to reclaim its lost glory, which smiles in the adulation of Pushpak-Vimanas (mentioned in Ramayana), dating 7000 years ago. The current space policy shall be a catalyst on this path to glory.



# US announces \$100 mn flood recovery funding for Pakistan



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has announced an additional USD 100 million to Pakistan for its recovery and reconstruction efforts after the devastating floods last year that killed 1,739 and affected 33 million people.

The funding also includes humanitarian assistance to support flood relief and recovery efforts in refugee hosting areas, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at a news conference here on Monday. "I am pleased to share that today the United States

announced an additional USD 100 million of recovery and reconstruction funding, bringing our total contribution to over USD200 million," he said. The new USD 100 million in funding will be for flood protection and governance, disease surveillance, economic growth, and clean energy, cli-

mate smart agriculture, food security, and infrastructure reconstruction, Price said. The United States' flood-related assistance complements its broader efforts to form a US-Pakistan green alliance that looks at the range of climate and resilience issues central to Pakistan's reconstruction, the spokesperson said. "Pakistan's recovery and reconstruction will be a continuing process in the months and years ahead and we will continue to support Pakistan in its efforts to build a more climate resilient future for its people," Price said. Also on Monday, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while addressing the opening session of the 'International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan' in Geneva, said the country would need a minimum of USD 16.3 billion, half of which is expected to be met by foreign help, over the next three years to bridge funding needs.

## Indian-American space expert named NASA's new chief technologist

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

An Indian-American aerospace industry expert has been appointed as NASA's new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes. AC Charania joined the space agency in his new role on January 3. He replaces another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment. In his position, Charania will align NASA's agencywide technology investments with mission needs across six mission directorates and oversee technology collaboration with other federal agencies, the private sector, and external stakeholders, NASA said in a statement on Monday. The position works within NASA's Office for Technology, Policy, and Strategy.

## Classified papers from Biden's V-P days found at his think-tank centre

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A small number of documents marked as classified from the previous Obama-Biden administration have been found at President Joe Biden's think-tank institute here, the White House has said. "The White House is cooperating with the national archives and the Department of Justice regarding the discovery of what appear to be Obama-Biden administration records, including a small number of documents with classified markings," Richard Sauber, Special Counsel to the President, said in a statement on Monday. Sauber said the documents were discovered when the president's personal attorneys were packing files housed in a locked closet to prepare to vacate the office space at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, DC. The president periodically used this space from mid-2017 until the start of the 2020 campaign. On the day of this dis-



covery, November 2, 2022, the White House Counsel's Office notified the national archives, the special counsel said. The archives took possession of the materials the following morning, Sauber said. "The discovery of these documents was made by the president's attorneys. The documents were not the subject of any previous request or inquiry by the archives, he said. "Since that discovery, the president's personal attorneys have cooperated with the archives and the Department of Justice in a process to ensure that

any Obama-Biden administration records are appropriately in the possession of the archives," Sauber said in a statement. Biden's political opponents, in particular the opposition Republican Party, were quick on slamming the president. "We were told for months that this was treasonous... grounds for impeachment... and meriting the death penalty, yet I have a feeling nothing will happen!" Donald Trump Jr, son of former president Donald Trump, said in a tweet. "It's been revealed that classified documents were found inside Joe Biden's private office. Why were they there, why wasn't the Justice Department looking for these documents, and who had access to them?" Senator Marsha Blackburn said in a tweet. Classified documents from Joe Biden's vice-presidential days found at his private office," When will the FBI raid his home?" Republican Congressman Troy Nehls said on Twitter.

## Pak EC issues arrest warrants for Imran, aides in contempt case



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top election body on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants for former prime minister Imran Khan and other top leaders of his party in a contempt case. The case is based on statements issued by top Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja. A four-member ECP bench

headed by Nisar Durrani issued warrants against Khan and his close aides - Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar. The election watchdog had issued notices against them in August and September last year in the exercise of its powers of contempt after the PTI leaders repeatedly bashed the commission and Raja over what they claim is their partisan policy and their alleged favouring of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). At the previous hearing,

the ECP had given the PTI leaders a last chance to appear before it. During the hearing on Tuesday, the commission rejected the pleas for their exemption from appearance and issued arrest warrants against surety bonds worth Rs 50,000 each. The bench adjourned the hearing till January 17. Khan has been asking the ECP chief to resign for allegedly failing to play the role of a neutral election commissioner. The chief rejected the calls by asserting he was working as per law.



## China asks Bilawal to ensure safety of its citizens in Pak

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's new Foreign Minister Qin Gang in the first phone call with his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Beijing is concerned about the safety of its workers based in Pakistan and urged him to take "strong" security measures to protect them.

Qin, who recently succeeded Wang Yi, had a phone call at the request of Bilawal on January 9, a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement here said on Tuesday. Besides customary references to special ties between the two all-weather allies and China's wish to improve the relations further, Qin "stressed that with the Chinese New Year just days away, the Chinese side is highly concerned about the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan and hopes that the Pakistani side will continue to take strong security measures". Bilawal assured Qin that "the Pakistani side will spare no efforts to protect the safety of the Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in Pakistan," the statement said. The security of hundreds of Chinese personnel working on various projects of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a subject of concern for Beijing in recent years. The CPEC aims to connect Pakistan's Gwadar port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province. India has objected to the CPEC as it traverses through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

## Acceptance of Covid vaccines increased globally: Study

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines increased globally, from 75.2 per cent in 2021 to 79.1 per cent in 2022, according to a survey in 23 countries that represent more than 60 per cent of the world's population. The study underlines a wide variability among countries and the need for tailored communication strategies in addressing vaccine hesitancy. It was led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain, and the City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (CUNY SPH), US. However, vaccine acceptance decreased in eight countries and almost one in eight vaccinated respondents, particularly younger men and women, were hesitant about receiving a booster dose, the study said. The findings have been published in Nature Medicine. "The pandemic is not over, and



authorities must urgently address vaccine hesitancy and resistance as part of their COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategy," says Jeffrey V Lazarus, Head of the Health Systems Research Group at ISGlobal. To do so effectively, though, policy-makers need solid data on vaccine hesitancy trends (whether it is decreasing or increasing and in which populations) and drivers (factors that influence vaccine acceptance, such as income or education), the study said. To obtain these data, an international collaboration led by Lazarus and Ayman El-Mohandes, Dean of CUNY SPH, performed a series of surveys starting in 2020 across 23

highly populated countries that were hit hard by the pandemic. The data reported here correspond to the third survey conducted between June and July 2022, the study said. The countries surveyed were Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, the study said. Of the 23,000 respondents surveyed, 1000 per country, 79.1 per cent were willing to accept vaccination. This finding represented an increase of 5.2 per cent from June 2021, the study said.

**UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED**  
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
No. USCL/232 Tender ID: 2023\_UAD\_243516\_1 Date: 10.01.2023  
Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Interested parties for "Guinness World Record for the Largest Display of Oil Lamps During Deepostav 2023 (16th-18th February) in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh" Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)  

Eanest Money Deposit	Rs. 75000/-
Cost of Document	Rs. 10000/-
Probable Amount of Contract	NA
Purchase of Tender Start Date	16.01.2023
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	24.01.2023 up to 17:00 hrs

For more details, please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.  
For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

**G20 NORTHEN RAILWAY 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  

1. N.I.T No.	GSU/DLI/12/22-23 Dated:-10.01.2023
2. Name of work with its Location	Linking of B.G. P.Way track and other allied works such as Assembling, linking & dismantling of BG Railway track, points & crossing, traps, at welding work, glued joints, Supply of ballast, loading & unloading of P.Way material & PRC sleepers Subzimandi Delhi in c/w Additional Train handling Facilities and Delhi Subzimandi -Delhi Main Additional line.
3. Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 5,50,87,568.38/-
4. Earnest Money	Rs. 4,25,400.00/-
5. Completion period of Work	8 Months
6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 31.01.2023 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs on 31.01.2023
7. 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 IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.-CPM/GSU/Engg./NIT/12/2022-23 (NIT-12) Dated:-10.01.2023  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 109/23

**G20 NORTHEN RAILWAY 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  

1. N.I.T. No.	GSU/DLI/07/22-23 Dated:-10.01.2023
2. Name of work with its location (A)	Construction of Station Building facade, repairs of station, services buildings, paintings, whitewash electrical lightings, wiring/re-wiring and modern telecommunication installations including parking, circulating area, horticulture development and other allied Civil, Electrical & S&T works i/c with Improvement of Infrastructure and development of additional passenger amenities at Meerut Cantt & Tapri Railway stations of Delhi Division
3. Approx. Cost of work (A)	Rs. 6,77,15,700.57/-
4. Earnest Money	Rs. 4,88,600.00/-
5. Completion period of work	05 Months
6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 31.01.2023 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs on 31.01.2023.
7. 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 (IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.-CPM/GSU/Engg./NIT/07/2022-23 (NIT-07) Dated: 10.01.2023  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 110/23

## Biden, Obrador, Trudeau meet in Mexico City for summit

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

President Joe Biden, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are meeting for a series of talks on migration, trade and climate change on Tuesday as the three leaders try to mend tensions that have divided the continent. The three-way gathering is held most years, although there was a hiatus while Donald Trump was US president. It's often called the "three amigos summit," a reference to the deep diplomatic and economic ties between the countries. However, the leaders still found themselves at odds, especially as they struggle to handle an influx of migrants and to crack down on smugglers who profit from persuading people to make the dangerous trip to the United States. In addition, Canada and the US accuse Lopez Obrador of violating a free trade pact by favouring Mexico's state-owned utility over power plants built by foreign and private investors. Meanwhile, Trudeau and Lopez Obrador are concerned about Biden's efforts to boost domestic manufacturing, creating concerns that US neighbours could be left behind. The centrepiece of the sum-



mit will be hours of talks with all three leaders, but Biden will start Tuesday with a bilateral meeting with Trudeau. It's unlikely to be as contentious as his sitdown with Lopez Obrador on Monday. During that meeting, the Mexican leader challenged Biden to improve life across the region, telling him that "you hold the key in your hand." "This is the moment for us to determine to do away with this abandonment, this disdain, and this forgetfulness for Latin America and the Caribbean," Lopez Obrador said. Biden responded by pointing to the billions of dollars that the United States spends in foreign aid around the world, saying that "unfortunately our responsibility just doesn't end in the Western Hemisphere." It was a noticeably sharp exchange after the two leaders had smiled and embraced and shaken hands for the cameras.

## WHO Europe: No immediate Covid threat from China

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

The director of the World Health Organisation's Europe office said Tuesday that the agency sees "no immediate threat" for the European region from a COVID-19 outbreak in China, but more information is needed. China is battling a nationwide outbreak of the coronavirus after abruptly easing restrictions. Australia and Canada

Hans Kluge said that, based on the information WHO had received from china, there was no threat, but more detailed and regular information was required from China to monitor the evolving situation. "We cannot be complacent," he added. Several countries have imposed COVID-19 testing requirements on Chinese travellers.



require travellers from China to take a COVID-19 test prior to boarding their flight. Other countries including the U.S.,

India, Japan, South Korea and several European nations have announced tougher COVID-19 measures on travellers from China amid concerns over a lack of data on infections in China and fears that new variants may emerge. China has threatened to retaliate against countries that require travellers from China to show a negative test result for COVID-19 taken within the previous 48 hours.

## China suspends visas for South Koreans in virus curbs retaliation

AP ■ BEIJING

China suspended issuing visas on Tuesday for South Koreans to come to the country for tourism or business in apparent retaliation for COVID-19 testing requirements imposed by South Korea on Chinese travellers, according to a notice posted by the Chinese Embassy in Seoul. Japan's Kyodo News service said the ban would also affect Japanese travellers. A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said the government was aware of the report and was holding unofficial discussions with Chinese authorities about measures being considered by Beijing. It would be "regrettable" if restrictions are imposed, the official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

## Nepal's PM Prachanda wins vote of confidence in House of Representatives

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's newly-appointed Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Tuesday won the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives. The 68-year-old CPN-Maoist Centre leader was sworn in as the Prime Minister for the third time on December 26 last year after he dramatically walked out of the pre-poll alliance led by the Nepali Congress and joined hands with opposition leader K P Sharma Oli. Out of the 270 members in the House of Representatives (HoR) present during the voting, 268 voted in favour of Prime Minister Prachanda, while 2 voted against him. Pashupati Shamsheer JB Rana, the senior-most member of the House, who chaired the meeting, said that the HoR passed the vote of confidence proposal moved by Prachanda.



Rana, who chaired the meeting did not vote, while four other lawmakers were absent. Prachanda needed only 138 votes in the 275-member parliament to continue his term as the prime minister.

## After hype, readers get hands on Prince Harry's 'Spare'

AP ■ LONDON

After weeks of hype and days of leaks, readers got a chance to judge Prince Harry's book for themselves when it went on sale around the world on Tuesday. In Britain, a few stores opened at midnight to sell copies of "Spare" to diehard royal devotees and the merely curious. Many said they wanted to form their own opinion of the book after days of snippets and debate on news sites and television. "I'm excited just to hear about Prince Harry's life from

Prince Harry," said Sarah Nakana, a surveyor who bought the book at London's Victoria station. "There's so much misinformation, disinformation about Harry and Meghan." The book's myriad revelations and accusations have already been splashed across the media. In the ghostwritten memoir Harry, 38, recounts his grief at the death of his mother, Princess Diana, his disputes with brother Prince William and frustration at the role of royal "spare" in the shadow of his elder sibling, who is heir to the British throne.



He lacerates the UK's tabloid press for coverage he considers prurient, intrusive and sometimes plain wrong, claims his relatives were unwelcome to his wife Meghan and

accuses members of the royal family, including his stepmother Camilla, of leaking stories to the media to burnish their own reputations. Buckingham Palace has not commented on any of the allegations, though royal allies have pushed back, largely anonymously. Harry's exposure of bitter divides inside the House of Windsor — alongside details of his mental health struggles, experiences with sex and drugs and decade-long military career — has generated reams of media coverage.

## Lawyers for jailed HK publisher ask to meet UK PM

AP ■ HONG KONG

Lawyers for a jailed Hong Kong pro-democracy publisher have asked for an urgent meeting with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, a leading member of his international legal team said on Tuesday. Jimmy Lai, the 75-year-old founder of the now-defunct newspaper Apple Daily, was arrested in 2020 during a crackdown on the city's pro-democracy movement. He is fighting collusion charges under a

Beijing-imposed national security law and faces up to life in prison if convicted. Last month, the team called for the UK government to take immediate action to secure Lai's release ahead of his high-profile national security trial after he was sentenced to five years and nine months in prison on fraud charges linked to lease violations. The meeting request is the latest attempt from his legal team to urge the British Government to step into the case of Lai, a Hong Kong and British citizen.



# Russia intensifies onslaught against Ukraine in Bakhmut

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces are escalating their onslaught against Ukrainian positions around the wrecked city of Bakhmut, Ukrainian officials said, bringing new levels of death and devastation in the grinding, monthslong battle for control of eastern Ukraine that is part of Moscow's wider war.

"Everything is completely destroyed. There is almost no life left," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late on Monday of the scene around Bakhmut and the nearby Donetsk province city of Soledar.

"The whole land near Soledar is covered with the corpses of the occupiers and scars from the strikes," Zelenskyy said. "This is what madness looks like."

The Kremlin, whose invasion of its neighbour 10 1/2 months ago has suffered numerous reversals, is hungry for any victories. Russia illegally annexed Donetsk and three other Ukrainian provinces in September, but its troops have struggled to advance.



After Ukrainian forces recaptured the southern city of Kherson in November, the battle heated up around Bakhmut.

Ukraine's deputy defense minister, Hanna Malyar, said Russia has thrown "a large number of storm groups" into the fight for the city. "The enemy is advancing literally on the bodies of their own soldiers and is massively using artillery, rocket launchers and mortars, hitting their own troops," she said.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, the

Donetsk region's Kyiv-appointed governor, on Tuesday described the Russian attacks on Soledar and Bakhmut as relentless.

"The Russian army is reducing Ukrainian cities to rubble using all kinds of weapons in their scorched-earth tactics," Kyrylenko said in televised remarks.

"Russia is waging a war without rules, resulting in civilian deaths and suffering," The Moscow-backed leader

of the occupied areas of Donetsk said on Tuesday that Russia's forces were "very close" to taking over Soledar. But the gains were coming "at a very high price," Denis Pushilin told Russian state TV.

Control over the city would create "good prospects" for taking over Bakhmut, Pushilin said, as well as for a further assault on Siversk, a town further north where Ukrainian fortifications "are also quite serious."

The UK Defence Ministry concurred with that appraisal of the battle developments. Russian troops alongside soldiers from the Wagner Group, a Russian private military contractor, have advanced in recent days in Soledar and "are likely in control of most of the settlement", the ministry tweeted on Tuesday.

It said that taking Soledar, which is located 10 kilometres (6 miles) north of Bakhmut, was likely Moscow's immediate military objective and part of a strategy to encircle Bakhmut.

But it added that "Ukrainian forces maintain stable defensive lines in depth and control over supply routes" in the area.

# Ukraine school rejects Russian claim of troops killed there

AP ■ KRAMATORSK (UKRAINE)

Officials at a vocational school in an eastern Ukraine city dismissed claims by Russia that hundreds of Ukrainian troops were killed in a missile strike there, saying Monday that a rocket merely blew out windows and damaged classrooms.

Russia specifically named the vocational school in Kramatorsk as the target of an attack in the almost 11-month war. The Russian Defense Ministry said its missiles hit two temporary bases housing 1,300 Ukrainian troops in the city, killing 600 of them, late Saturday.

Associated Press reporters visiting the scene in sunny weather Monday saw a four-story concrete building with most of its windows blown out. Inside, locals were cleaning up debris, sweeping up broken glass and hurling broken furniture out into a missile crater below.

A separate, six-story school building was largely undamaged. There were neither signs of a Ukrainian military presence nor any casualties.

Yana Pristupa, the school's



deputy director, scoffed at Moscow's claims of hitting a troop concentration.

"Nobody saw a single spot of blood anywhere," she told the AP. "Everyone saw yesterday that no one carried out any bodies. It's just people cleaning up."

She said that before the war began last February the school had more than 300 students, most of them studying mechanical engineering, with most lessons moving online when Russia invaded.

The students "are now in shock," she said, adding, "What a great facility it was."

Ukrainian officials on Sunday quickly denied the Russian claims it had lost a large

number of soldiers in the attack.

Despite the absence of any evidence, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said reports from the scene didn't shake senior officials' faith in defense authorities.

"The Defense Ministry is the main, legitimate and comprehensive source of information about the course of the special military operation," Peskov said Monday in a conference call with reporters, using the Kremlin's term for the war.

Both sides have regularly claimed killing hundreds of each other's soldiers in attacks. The claims can seldom be independently verified because of the fighting.



# Japan PM in Paris to discuss Ukraine, climate, food security

AP ■ PARIS

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida started a week-long trip to Europe and North America in Paris where he held talks Monday with French President Emmanuel Macron on key issues including North Korea and the war in Ukraine.

Kishida first visited Notre-Dame Cathedral with Macron before heading to the Elysee presidential palace for a working dinner.

Reconstruction work on the cathedral, ravaged by the April 15, 2019 fire, is expected to be completed in time for its reopening to the public next year.

Japan's historic Shuri Castle on the southern island of Okinawa, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was also nearly destroyed by fire in 2019. Both countries decided to rebuild the respective monuments exactly as they had been before.

Macron and Kishida's talks come as Japan is leading the Group of Seven most advanced economies and is preparing the next G-7 summit scheduled in May in Hiroshima.

"We have an ambitious agenda ahead," Macron said in a joint declaration with Kishida ahead of their working dinner.

Macron thanked Japan for its economic and humanitarian support to Ukraine and said both countries will work jointly to face the global consequences of Russia's invasion, especially energy and food security issues.

Kishida's five nation-tour will also take him to Italy, Britain, Canada and the U.S. Where he will have talks Friday with President Joe Biden.

Japan in December adopted key security and defense reforms, including a counter-strike capability that breaks from an exclusively self-defense-only postwar principle.

Macron and Kishida notably addressed North Korea's nuclear and missile development.

"Japan can count on our unfailing support to face flagrant breaches to international law from Pyongyang," Macron said.

Kishida said France is a top partner to create a "free and open" Indo-Pacific area as the security situation in the region gets tenser amid China's growing military assertiveness. He announced stepped-up joint military exercises with France.

# Brazilian authorities probe hand behind uprising

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilian authorities said Monday that they were looking into who may have been behind the shocking uprising that sent protesters storming into the nation's halls of power in a riot that had striking similarities to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

In an unprecedented display for Latin America's largest nation, thousands of supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro swarmed into Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace on Sunday. Many of them said they wanted the Brazilian army to restore the far-right Bolsonaro to power and oust the newly inaugurated leftist president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Also on Monday, police broke down a pro-Bolsonaro encampment outside a military building and detained some 1,200 people there, the justice ministry's press office told The



Associated Press. The federal police press office said the force already plans to indict roughly 1,000 people.

Lula and the heads of the Supreme Court, Senate and Lower House signed a letter that denounced the attack and said were taking legal measures.

Justice Minister Flávio Dino told reporters that police have begun tracking those who paid for the buses that transported protesters to the capital.

Speaking Monday at a news conference, he said rioters apparently intended for their displays

to create a domino effect nationwide, and that they could be charged with a range of offenses, including organized crime, staging a coup and violent abolition of the democratic rule of law.

"We think that the worst is over," Dino said, adding that the government is now focused on punishing lawbreakers and those who enabled them. "We cannot and will not compromise in fulfilling our legal duties, because this fulfillment is essential so such events do not repeat themselves."

# Brazilians demand prison for rioters

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

"No amnesty! No amnesty! No amnesty!"

The chant reverberated off the walls of the jam-packed hall at the University of Sao Paulo's law college on Monday afternoon. Hours later, it was the rallying cry for thousands of Brazilians who streamed into the streets of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, penned on protest posters and banners. The words are a demand for retribution against supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed Brazil's capital Sunday, and those who enabled the rampage.

"These people need to be punished, the people who ordered it need to be punished, those who gave money for it need to be punished," Bety Amin, a 61-year-old therapist, said on Sao Paulo's main boulevard. The word "DEMOCRACY" stretched across the back of her shirt. "They don't represent Brazil. We represent Brazil."



Protesters' push for accountability evokes memories of an amnesty law that for decades has protected military members accused of abuse and murder during the country's 1964-85 dictatorship. A 2014 truth commission report sparked debate over how Brazil has grappled with the regime's legacy.

Declining to mete out punishment "can avoid tensions at the moment, but perpetuates instability," Luis Felipe Miguel, a professor of political science at the University of Brasilia, wrote in a column entitled "No Amnesty" published on Monday evening.

# German, Lithuanian lawmakers show support in Taiwan visit

AP ■ TAIPEI

Lithuanian lawmakers on a visit to Taiwan took aim at China Tuesday, saying the world's second largest economy tried to use all sorts of measures to change Lithuania's decision to break diplomatic norms in warming up relations with the self-ruled island democracy.

Taiwan is hosting German and Lithuanian lawmakers this week. China, which objects to diplomatic contacts between the island it claims as its own and other nations, held large-scale

military exercises aimed at Taiwan over the weekend and into Monday.

The Lithuanian visit is focused on national security and defence as well as economic ties, lawmakers said.

"They tried to break our will, they tried to change our decision, they tried to harass investors and they tried to make economic sanctions ... But we survived," Laurynas Kasciunas, head of the defence committee in Lithuania's parliament, said. "We are now resilient and stronger, and we can be a role



model for other EU countries."

The Lithuanian delegation is led by Kasciunas, along with the

vice chair of the Taiwan friendship group in parliament, Dovile Sakaliene. The lawmakers drew parallels between the threat they face from Russia and the threat Taiwan faces from China, saying they both had authoritarian neighbours.

"We have very clear common goals, strengthening democracy globally ... And really helping everyone around us understand very clearly. There cannot be any ambivalence. You are either with the aggressor or you are with the victim," Sakaliene said.

# Trump's longtime CFO faces sentencing for tax fraud scheme

AP ■ NEW YORK

Allen Weisselberg, a longtime executive for Donald Trump's real estate empire whose testimony helped convict the former president's company of tax fraud, is set to be sentenced Tuesday for dodging taxes on USD 1.7 million in job perks.

New York Judge Juan Manuel Merchan is expected to sentence Weisselberg, a senior Trump Organisation adviser and former chief financial officer, to five months in jail, in keeping with a plea agreement reached in August.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Akhtar Ali intends to purchase & mortgage the Land area measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 470, Situated at Jalpara, Paragana Tehsil, Dadri & District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. with our client, against the financial assistance. Whereas, out of the entire chain link documents Original Sale Deed dated 30.06.2011 having registration No. 10592, related to the Said Property was already lost/misplaced and in this regard NCR/FIR No. 28411/2023 has been lodged with Delhi Police. Public is hereby warned not to deal with the above-mentioned document & the property. If anyone do the same, then he will be responsible for all consequences. If any person(s) having objection with regard to mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address.

DEEPIYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE  
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II,  
New Delhi-110049 # 011-40587824.

# 'RRR', 'Kantara' and 'Gangubai' feature in Oscar's reminder list

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) has come out with a list of 301 feature films eligible for Oscars with Indian films "RRR", "Gangubai Kathiawadi", "The Kashmir Files" and "Kantara" making the cut.

The reminder list includes movies that can officially compete in various categories but merely featuring in the list does not guarantee that the film will advance in the final nominations of the Academy Awards, to be announced on January 24.

Pan Nalin's "Chhello Show" ("Last Film Show"), India's official Oscar entry, also features in the list along with Vivek Agnihotri's "The Kashmir Files", Marathi titles "Me Vasantrao" and "Tuihya Sathi Kahi Hi", R Madhavan's "Rocketry: The Nambi Effect", Iravin Nizhal and Kannada movie "Vikrant Rona".

# A newly-restored house in Pompeii offers glimpse of elite life

AP ■ POMPEII (ITALY)

The newly-restored remains of an opulent house in Pompeii that likely belonged to two former slaves who became rich through the wine trade offer visitors an exceptional peek at details of domestic life in the doomed Roman city.

On Tuesday, the House of Vetti, Domus Vettiorum in Latin, was being formally unveiled after 20 years of restoration. Given fresh life were frescoes from the latest fashion in Pompeii wall decoration before the flourishing city was buried under the volcanic ash furiously spewing from Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

The unveiling of the restored home is yet another sign of the rebirth of Pompeii, which followed decades of modern bureaucratic neglect, flooding and pillaging by thieves in search of artifacts to sell.


That is delighting tourists



and rewarding experts with tantalizing fresh insights into the everyday life of what is one of the most celebrated remnants of the ancient world.

"The House of the Vetti is like the history of Pompeii and actually of Roman society within one house," Pompeii's director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, gushed as he showed off an area of the domus known as the Cupid Rooms last month.

"We're seeing here the last phase of the Pompeian wall painting with incredible details, so you can stand before these images for hours and still discover new details," the archaeological park's energetic director told The Associated Press ahead of the public inauguration.

	Office of the Managing Director		
	<b>Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd.</b> Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital) Uttarakhand		
Ref No. : C-2812UCDFE-Nvinda/2022-23		Date : 10 January, 2023	
<b>E-Tender Notice No. 30(1-13)/UCDFE/2022-23, Date- 10.01.2023</b>			
E-tenders are invited by the undersigned from experienced, reputed and financially sound Authorised Manufacturers/Dealers for the following works so as to reach this office on or before 24.01.2023 up to 5 P.M. The tenders will be opened on 25.01.2023 at 11.00 A.M.			
<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Name of work</b>	<b>Details</b>	
1.	SIT&C of Electronic weigh bridge, Ice cream deep freezer, deep freezer containers, Milk chilling plant, D.G.Set, Air compressor, LT Panel & Cables, Mozzerella cheese plant, RMRD system, Empanelment for conversion of liquid milk in to SMP and Manufacturing of UHT milk products on work charge basis	Tender fee, EMD, and other related details can be seen on E-tender portal	
Tender documents may be downloaded/uploaded from E-Tender Portal <a href="http://www.uktenders.gov.in">http://www.uktenders.gov.in</a> <b>Administrator</b> <b>Managing Director</b>			

RLF LIMITED Regd. Office: 14Kms, Gurugram Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt.Gurugram, Haryana. CIN : L74999HR1979PLC032747, Website: www.rflttd.com, Email id: investorrelations@rflttd.com, Phone:011-49075251 Statement of Quarterly Limited-Reviewed Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended December 31, 2022 (Rs. In lacs, except per share data)						
Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes below)	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended	
		31.12.2022 [Unaudited]	30.09.2022 [Unaudited]	31.12.2021 [Unaudited]	31.12.2022 [Unaudited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	25.21	24.38	27.04	71.35	47.70
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional & extraordinary items	(7.63)	(8.40)	1.65	(17.33)	(2.87)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax and exceptional & extraordinary items	(7.63)	(8.40)	1.65	(17.33)	(2.87)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	(7.63)	(8.40)	1.65	(17.33)	(2.87)
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)					
a) Basic		(0.08)	(0.09)	0.02	(0.02)	(0.03)
b) Diluted		(0.08)	(0.09)	0.02	(0.02)	(0.03)
Notes : The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2022 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> and on Company's website <a href="http://www.rflttd.com">www.rflttd.com</a> .						
For RLF Limited Sd/- Aditya Khanna Managing Director DIN : 01960028						
Place : Gurugram, Haryana Dated : January 10, 2023						

**CORRIGENDUM**  
**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005  
The sale notice was issued dated January 09, 2023 in THE PIONEER (ENG) and The PIONEER (Hindi), for Vehicle No. UP14GT8288 with applicant as AKSHAY GIRI, Please note Auction Date to be read as January 27, 2023.  
Rest all term and conditions remains the same.  
Date: January 11, 2023  
Place: Delhi NCR  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
e-Tender Call Notice  
No. TD/TM/GEN-235  
(Vol-VII)/23/55, dtd 06.01.2023  
Name of the Work: "Allotment of 04/Four nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License Fees: Rs.2.87,18,250/-, Wharage Fees: Rs.16.93,300/-, Last date & time of submission of bid: 27.01.2023 up to 15.00 hrs. Date and time of Opening (technical bid): 27.01.2023 up to 15.00 hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/>  
Traffic Manager  
Paradip Port Authority  
PPA/PR/219/2023 dtd.10.01.2023

**HDB Financial Services Limited**  
Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavnagar Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034  
Tel No.: +91 22 49116300  
FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS  
The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded /complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/ accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on 13-01-2023 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
24719330	Gajender Singh	06/06/2022	23064	Delhi NCR-Burari
13883598	Manvir Singh	13/01/2021	13491	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
19526111	Mehboob Ali	16/11/2021	9844	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
20875183	Pramod Prakash	06/01/2022	4048	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
26121654	Suraj Kumar	26/07/2022	20696	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
14461086	Rajender Singh	03/03/2021	5778	Delhi-Nai Sadak

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.  
If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.  
Place : DELHI  
Date : 11-01-2023  
Authorised Officer  
(HDB Financial Services Ltd)



# Budget to focus on fiscal consolidation

## Cap fiscal gap at 5.9%: Report



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The forthcoming budget is likely to meet the targeted 6.4 per cent fiscal deficit and pencil in for a 50 bps reduction in the same for the next fiscal, according to a foreign brokerage report.

The Modi government will present its last full budget on February 1 as the budget 2024 will be a vote on account because the nation will be heading for the hustings from April next year.

The previous budget had pencilled in a fiscal deficit — the money the government will have to borrow from the market to meet its expenditure — of 6.4 per cent.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had recently said she would meet the fiscal targets as budgeted given the more than budgeted tax collections.

The commodities shock forced incremental spending

on food and fertiliser subsidies and exhausted the fiscal room from higher tax buoyancy. That apart, the government has also tabled extra demand for spending before Parliament, comprising 0.8 per cent of GDP or Rs 2.2 lakh crore in December, mainly towards capital expenditure, rural development and defence.

Wall Street brokerage Goldman Sachs in a report on Tuesday said it expects the government will increase capex allocation towards infrastructure, mainly towards roads and railways, slashing defence spending and increase allocation towards rural spendings and welfare measures, such as education and healthcare.

The government borrowing will remain elevated in FY24, which may require the RBI to restart OMO purchases in the second half of FY24 with domestic liquidity constraints abating, as per the report.

The report also rules out any major reforms to be announced in the budget, except for some details on PLI incentives and a roadmap on direct tax code implementation, along with the rationalisation of subsidies, particularly fertilisers.

buoyant in the year — sort of walking the fiscal consolidation path.

Their optimism comes from the direct and indirect taxes, which are tracking well ahead of budget estimates, even though the government is set to widely miss the disinvestment target.

The brokerage expects the budget to stick to the medium-term fiscal consolidation path, weigh spending priorities on capex, manufacturing incentives, subsidies and welfare, and limit its market borrowing to the extent that it does not hurt markets.

Given that it's a pre-election budget, the brokerage said the government will increase capex allocation towards infrastructure, mainly towards roads and railways, slashing defence spending and increase allocation towards rural spendings and welfare measures, such as education and healthcare.

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# Sensex, Nifty down 1% following global trend

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended 1 per cent lower on Tuesday, dragged down by Reliance Industries and banking stocks along with a weak trend in European markets.

Unabated foreign fund outflows also negatively impacted the domestic equity market.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 631.83 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 60,115.48. During the day, it tumbled 808.93 points or 1.33 per cent to 59,938.38.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 187.05 points or 1.03 per cent to end at 17,914.15.

"Local investors have been following global cues, and weakness in European and US markets triggered a downfall in domestic equities, which saw Nifty end below the crucial 18,000-mark. Trading sentiment has been very weak and most of the sluggish external factors are prompting investors to book profit at regular intervals," said

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, HDFC, NTPC, ITC, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were the major laggards.

Tata Motors, Power Grid, Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the winners from the 30-share pack.

India's largest IT services company TCS dipped 1.05 per cent even after reporting an 11 per cent rise in December quarter net profit to Rs 10,846 crore.

Prashanth Tapse - Research Analyst, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, markets witnessed fresh drubbing ahead of Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell's speech, and Nifty slipped hard from 18,100 levels.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined

0.49 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.46 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, telecommunication fell 1.63 per cent, services declined 1.41 per cent, bankex (1.31 per cent), financial services 1.28 per cent, teck (1.15 per cent), commodities (0.78 per cent), IT (0.73 per cent) and realty (0.68 per cent).

Healthcare, auto, metal and oil & gas were the winners.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul and Tokyo ended in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading lower in mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended on a mixed note on Monday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.46 per cent to USD 79.28 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 203.13 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

# PE inflows plunge 42% to \$23.3 bn in 2022: Report



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Private equity investments into domestic companies fell sharply year-on-year by 42 per cent to USD 23.3 billion in 2022, which is the lowest since 2019, when it was USD 15.8 billion, according to an industry report.

The numbers reflect the overall funding winter that the startup space in particular, and the overall foreign investments in general have been witnessing since the Ukraine war began last February.

Private equity investment inflows into the country fell by a sharp 42 per cent in 2022 from last year to USD 23.3 billion -- the lowest annual inflows since 2019 when it was a low USD 15.8 billion, but still relatively elevated compared to historical levels, said Elaine Tan, a senior analyst at Refinitiv, the LSEG business arm that provides financial markets data and insights.

The report did not say how many deals were closed in the year.

In the December quarter, the PE investments totalled USD 3.61 billion, down 8.1 per cent sequentially from USD 3.93 billion and fell 67.2 per cent annually when it was USD 11.06 billion, according to the report.

The total number of deals in Q4 fell 24.8 per cent to 333 from 443 in Q3 and by 19 per cent from Q4 of 2021 when the transactions stood at 411, according to the report.

Tan attributed the sharp decline to the ongoing geopolitical tension, rising interest rates and recession fears in the Western economies, which all made global investors cautious in making investments.

Internet-specific, computer software and transportation have attracted the majority of the funding, accounting for 66 per cent of the total during the year at USD 8.58 billion.

The Internet-specific sector has seen a 57.4 per cent decline in fund inflows, while the number of deals declined to 528 in 2022 from 556 in 2021.

Computer software companies saw funding tap declining to the tune of 46.4 per cent, financial services (down 34.6 per cent), as well as medical and health saw the same falling by 26.4 per cent from 2021 levels.

However, industries catering to transportation saw inflows nearly doubling with a 93 per cent jump, communications soared by 225.6 per cent, and agri/forestry/fish jumped by 215.8 per cent in terms of fund inflows.

# 'Tariff hike-led growth, 5G key events for telecom in 2023'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Data adoption and tariff hiked revenue growth as well as 5G rollouts are key monitorables for 2023 which will also be a decisive year for Vodafone Idea as a viable third player, according to a report.

The telecom sector's Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) when adjusted for inflation is still 17 per cent below pre-Reliance Jio launch. "...We expect Bharti (Airtel) to lead tariff hikes to ARPU of Rs 236 by FY25, while Bharti targets Rs 300 ARPU", leading brokerage CLSA said in its report on the telecom sector.

According to CLSA's outlook, 2023 will have three trends to watch out for when it comes



to India's mobile market. Among them will be 5G rollouts and monetisation led by top-end subscribers.

"We see multiple events to watch, led by likely tariff hikes and Reliance Jio's (RJio) widely-anticipated IPO," it said.

Private networks, if allowed,

may eat into 5G operators' enterprise services opportunity.

India's mobile sector revenue, after rising 14 per cent in 2022, should grow again in 2023 led by tariff hikes, rising data penetration and usage.

CLSA expects that Bharti (Airtel) will possibly lead tariff hikes, with VIL (Vodafone Idea Ltd) and Reliance Jio likely to follow.

VIL's financial crisis has not been averted, with delays in fund raising and pending conversion of four years' interest on spectrum and AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) payments into equity for government.

With decline in VIL's share, Bharti and Jio together control 77 per cent and should continue to gain share, the report said.

# Rupee gains 57p to close at 81.78/\$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained 57 paise to close at 81.78 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, the biggest single-day gain since November.

Forex traders said the rupee was the best performer among Asian currencies and now has the support of 81.70.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.20 and touched an intra-day high of 81.72 and a low of 82.26 against the greenback.

It finally ended at 81.78 (provisional), registering a rise of 57 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee settled at 82.35 against the US dollar.

The dollar index, which



gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.12 per cent to 103.12.

The rupee became the best performer among the Asian currencies following stop order triggers and inflows from bond selling, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

"The local unit witnessed the biggest single-day gains after November 11 and broke the psychological level of 82 as the traders rushed to cover the positions," Parmar said.

# Provide papers to Chanda in loan case: SAT to Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has asked capital markets regulator Sebi to provide certain documents pertaining to loans sanctioned by ICICI Bank to entities including Videocon Group to the private lender's former chief Chanda Kochhar.

Directing Sebi to provide such documents, the tribunal said that denial of the documents sought for by the respondent (Sebi) was in "gross violation of the principles of natural justice".

The matter pertains to an amended show cause notice issued by the regulator to Kochhar on the basis of an analysis of a report by retired Justice B N Srikrishna.

The Srikrishna committee, which was tasked to probe the allegations of quid pro quo transactions in ICICI Bank, submitted its report to the lender in January 2019.

The committee, in its report,



observed that Kochhar violated bank policies and other rules and regulations.

The board of the bank based on the report had decided to treat her resignation as 'termination for cause' under the bank's internal policies. Kochhar, who was managing director and CEO of ICICI Bank, had quit the bank in October 2018.

Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar were released from jail on Tuesday morning, a day after the Bombay High Court granted them interim bail in a loan fraud case. The CBI had arrested Kochhars on December 23, 2022 in connection with the Videocon-ICICI

Bank loan case.

It was alleged that Videocon promoter Venugopal Dhoot allegedly induced crores of rupees in Nupower Renewables Private Limited, months after the Videocon group got Rs 3,250 crore as loan from ICICI Bank in 2012. Nupower was operated by Deepak Kochhar.

Asking Sebi to provide documents, the tribunal said that it was obligatory for the markets regulator to supply all the minutes of the Sanctioning Committee meetings in respect of loan sanctioned to Videocon Group instead of partially supplying the minutes of those meetings where Kochhar was present.

SAT noted that documents sought by Kochhar were only supplied in part -- the minutes of the Sanctioning Committee in which Kochhar participated were provided to her and the other minutes have been denied only on the ground that she was not a participant in those meetings.

# Fitch sees risks in raising natural gas' energy share

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Price volatility and infrastructure constraints will challenge India's target of increasing the share of natural gas in its primary energy to 15 per cent by 2030 from 6 per cent in 2017, Fitch Ratings said in a new report Tuesday.

"Progress on the target has been minimal - 6 per cent share in 2021 - as natural gas growth has not managed to outpace total energy growth," it said.

This is despite resilient demand from city gas distribution (CGD) networks and rising domestic production.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in 2017 set a target of raising the share of natural gas in the primary energy consumption basket with a view to cutting down emissions.

However, the demand for the fuel is rising at a slower rate, with current growth rates only around 53 per cent of levels required for the country to meet a 15 per cent gas use target. Gas demand by 2030 will only reach 326 million standard cubic meters per day at current 4-5 per cent growth rates, much lower than the 611 mmscmd of consumption needed to meet the 15 per cent energy mix goal.

# Tata Motors acquires Ford's Sanand plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Tuesday said the acquisition of Ford India's manufacturing plant at Sanand through its subsidiary has been completed.

In August last year, the company had announced that its arm Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEML) would acquire Ford India Pvt Ltd's (FIPL) Sanand plant, Gujarat for Rs 725.7 crore.

With the fulfilment of the necessary conditions, including receipt of relevant regulatory approvals, the parties have completed the transaction.

# Aluminum industry for rationalisation of duty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Aluminium Association of India (AAI) on Tuesday said that high duty on certain inputs for aluminium production should be rationalised or removed to boost the domestic industry's cost competitiveness.

Representatives from the aluminium industry are seeking the government's intervention for supportive measures amid challenges posed by rising foreign imports and surging costs.

According to the association, calcined pet coke, which is a key input for the aluminium production, attracts high duty and that should be either ratio-

nalised or removed completely.

At present, nearly 20 per cent of the cost of producing aluminium arises from government taxes and this is stifling the development of the aluminium sector, AAI, which represents the country's top aluminium producers, said in a statement.

AAI has made the suggestions ahead of the Union Budget for 2023-24, which will be presented in Parliament on February 1. The association also said that for the overall development of the domestic recycling landscape, it is crucial to prevent the dumping of low-quality foreign scrap in the country.

# CSC & Adani Capital to give working capital to village entrepreneurs



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a shared vision to strengthen local businesses by assisting micro-entrepreneurs, Common Services Centers (CSC), a SPV of Ministry of Information Technology, in collaboration with Adani Capital have started providing working capital to its Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

Currently, approval for business loans have been provided to as many as 100 VLEs empaneled with CSC Grameen eStores, while 1500 VLEs will be covered in the next three months.

Currently 10,000 VLEs are empaneled with CSC Grameen e-Stores. These VLEs act as distributors on the digital rural marketplace created by CSC e-Grameen Stores, helping cor-

porates in last mile direct distribution of their products, which includes FMCG, Consumer Durables Home Appliances, Vehicles, etc.

Currently, 3.64 lakh Grameen eStores are functional across the country and have touched the business of Rs 642.77 crore since its launch.

Elaborating on the partnership, Sanjay Rakesh (ex-IAS), MD & CEO, CSC SPV, said, "VLEs running Grameen eStores leverage demand for various products and service it through CSC's tie ups with manufacturers. Like any business, working capital is key to sustainable growth and with our tie-up with Adani Capital, we have been able to address VLE's financing requirements and that too digitally."

# Fitconf conducts corporate event in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: Fitconf, Corporate Community Sports & Conference company has announced the launch of Fitconf Fit Corporate' 2023. Landmark inter-company Basketball event on March 6-7, 2023 followed by a day-long Corporate Fitness & Wellness conference on March 10, 2023. The event will witness 16 corporates competing for the 1st Fitconf Fit Corporate of the year.

Such initiatives will be beneficial for the IT & ITES sector that spend close to 90% of their professional lives in front of computer screens, said Aseem Jakhar, principal advisor & co-founder of cyber security firm Payatu.

# Jewellery retailers' revenue may grow by 20% in FY23

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The revenue of organised jewellery retailers is likely to grow by 20 per cent in 2022-23 due to tightening regulations, change in consumer preferences towards branded jewellery and planned expansion, according to a report.

The organised jewellery retailers in India continue to outpace the industry over the medium term on the back of industry tailwinds in the form of an accelerated shift in market demand from unorganised retailers and planned expansion of retail presence, Icara said in a report. The rating agency estimates organised jewellers to record revenue growth of 20 per cent in FY23.

# UIDAI norms for offline verification seeking entities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aadhaar-issuing body UIDAI has issued a set of guidelines to Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) with several usage hygiene protocols, stronger safety mechanisms at user level and ways to enhance residents' trust while using Aadhaar voluntarily.

Notably, entities have been told to perform verification of Aadhaar after explicit consent of a Aadhaar holder. Also, entities must maintain the log or record of the explicit consent received from residents for any future audit by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) or any other legal agency.

"These entities need to be courteous to residents and assure them about the security and confidentiality of their Aadhaar while conducting offline verification," UIDAI said in a statement.

The authority has also asked OVSEs to verify Aadhaar via the QR Code present on all four forms of Aadhaar (Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, m-Aadhaar and Aadhaar PVC card) instead of accepting Aadhaar in physical or electronic form as a proof of identity.

Offline verification involves the use of the 12-digit Aadhaar for carrying out identity verification and KYC processes locally, without connecting to the Central Identities Data Repository of UIDAI.

# BoB hikes lending rate by 35 BSP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday hiked Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) by up to 35 basis points, making loans linked to the benchmark rates expensive. The new rates will be effective from January 12, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

The overnight MCLR has been increased to 7.85 per cent from previous 7.50 per cent, an increase of 35 basis points.

The MCLR for one-, three-, six-month and one year tenor loans have been hiked by 20 basis points.

The lending rate for one-month tenor loans will now be 8.15 per cent, 3 months (8.25 per cent), 6 months (8.35 per cent)



and one year (8.50 per cent).

The Reserve Bank of India has increased repo rates by 2.25 per cent since May last year. The benchmark interest rate now stands at 6.25 per cent after the latest round of repo rate hike of 35 basis points on December 7, 2022. Shares of BoB closed 2.56 per cent down at Rs 180.50 apiece on Tuesday.

On Monday, HDFC Bank and India Overseas Bank had announced hike in its MCLR by up to 25 basis points.



# INDIA REIGN SUPREME

**PTI ■ GUWAHATI**

An authoritative Virat Kohli headlined India's utterly dominant performance with his 45th ODI hundred as the hosts pummelled Sri Lanka by 67 runs in the first of the three-match series here on Tuesday.

Asked to bat first, India rode former skipper Kohli's 87-ball 113 and fluent half-centuries from his successor Rohit Sharma (83) and Shubman Gill (70) to rake up an imposing 373 for seven in their allotted quota of overs on a batting-friendly strip.

In reply, the Sri Lankans were never in the hunt and ended at 306 for eight in 50 overs to hand the hosts a 1-0 lead in the rubber.

After opener Pathum Nissanka fell for 72, visiting captain Dasun Shanaka waged a lone battle and produced a counterattacking century, even as the others failed to put up any resistance.

In the end, Shanaka remained not out on 108 off 88 balls.

Young speed merchants Umran Malik (3/57) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30) then put the icing on the cake in a lopsided game.

Continuing his blazing form into the New Year, Kohli slammed his 73rd international hundred overall and made the Lankans pay for two dropped catches.

The exuberant Siraj once again bowled splendidly with the new ball and reduced the Islanders to 23/2 inside six overs to set the tone.

He first dismissed Avishka Fernando and then rattled Kusal Mendis' timber with a scorching delivery to cap a superb



opening spell of 5-1-15-2, laced with 25 dot balls.

But Nissanka held on and stood in two crucial partnerships with Dhananjaya de Silva (47) and Charith Asalanka (23) when India operated with spin twins Yuzvendra Chahal (1/58) and Axar Patel (0/32 from five overs) in the middle overs.

Amid heavy dew, Malik came to bowl in the middle overs and struck thrice, dismissing Asalanka, Nissanka and Dunieth Wellalage to reduce Lanka to 179/7 in 33.2 overs.

From there though, Sahanka held the fort en route to his second ODI century that came in the penultimate ball of their innings, after Rohit withdrew an appeal for run out at the non-striker's end after the batter had backed up too far.

Kohli, who scored 113 against Bangladesh in Chattogram in India's last ODI, continued from where he left.

The class of Kohli was on full display as he smashed 12 fours and one six and held on to one end while wickets fell at regular intervals in the middle overs.

This was Kohli's third hundred from three ODIs at Guwahati — two here at the Barsapara and one at the Nehru Stadium.

He was dropped twice — on 52 and 81 — on his way to his 45th ODI century, four shy of maestro Sachin Tendulkar's all-time record of 49 hundreds in the 50-over format.

Rohit responded to the criticism of benching the in-form duo of Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav by giving India a solid start in the company of Gill.

The Indian skipper had preferred Gill over Ishan who

The home team slowly regained momentum with Kohli and Shreyas Iyer (28) taking charge of the middle-overs.

Having got the nod ahead of Suryakumar, Iyer looked fluent and hit Wanindu Hasaranga for a six. But he failed to convert his start.

The underfire KL Rahul (39) also could not make it big and was bowled around the legs after being deceived by a slower one from Kasun Rajitha.

**DIDN'T WANT TO RUNOUT**

India captain Rohit Sharma on Tuesday said he did not want Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka 'Mankaded' after the batter had backed up too far on way to a gallant hundred in the first ODI here on Tuesday.

Riding Virat Kohli's 73rd international hundred and half-centuries from Rohit and Shubman Gill, India posted an imposing 373 for seven after being asked to bat first.

Sri Lanka were never in the hunt after losing half their side for 161, but Shanaka (108 not out off 88 balls) stood tall amid the ruins with his fighting knock. However, he wouldn't have reached the landmark had it not been for Rohit's intervention. He withdrew an appeal for run out at the non-striker's end by Mohammed Shami after the batter had left the crease, giving Shanaka an opportunity to complete his century.

"I had no idea Shami did that (run-out), he (Shanaka) was batting on 98. The way he batted was brilliant, we cannot get him out like that. Not something that we thought off, hats off to him, he played really well," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

After the batters' fine per-

formances, speed merchants Umran Malik (3/57) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30) put the icing on the cake in a lopsided game, though Rohit said India could have bowled better as a team.

"We started off really well and to get that total was a great effort from all the batters. The platform was set to come out and play freely. I thought we could've bowled slightly better, but don't want to be too critical of it although the dew was not so much."

"We bowled well as a unit and if you want to win games like this, everyone has to come to the party. There are some areas we need to look at as a group and again it's a team sport."

Man of the Match Kohli, who struck 12 fours and a six in his 87-ball 113, said one has to play every game as if it is his last outing. "I don't think there was anything different. My preparation and intent always remain the same. I thought I was hitting the ball nicely. It was close to the template I play with, I understood we needed an extra 25-30 runs," Kohli said.

"I tried to understand the conditions in the second half. Tried to get a comfortable total for us on the board. The one thing I learnt was desperation doesn't get you anywhere. You do not need to complicate things. You go out there and play without any fear, I can't hold on to things."

"You have to play for the right reasons and almost play every game like it's your last and just be happy about it. The game is going to move on. I am not going to play forever, I am in a happy space and enjoying my time playing."

## Brook, Gardner named ICC Players of the Month



**PTI ■ DUBAI**

Harry Brook on Tuesday bagged his maiden ICC Men's Player of the Month crown after a blistering run of scores which helped England claim a historic World Test Championship (WTC) series victory in Pakistan.

Australia's Ashleigh Gardner secured the ICC Women's Player of the Month award as her contributions with bat and ball

as the tourists sealed a 3-0 victory.

Despite having only played a solitary Test match before arriving in Pakistan, Brook lit up the series with his aggressive strokeplay and firepower, seamlessly integrating into England's pioneering style of play in the longer format.

He started the series in Rawalpindi in emphatic fashion, hitting 19 fours and five sixes on his way to a blistering 153 in the first innings, before another quickfire 87 in the second innings ensured Pakistan fell short on a dramatic final day. This set the tone for his breakout month, and he followed up with two further impressive centuries — 108 in Multan and 111 in Karachi.

Australia's talented all-rounder Gardner celebrates her maiden Player of the Month crown to cap a landmark month.

Gardner's impressive 2022 ended with a flourish in December as she registered a total of 115 runs at an impressive strike rate of 166.66, taking seven wickets along the way at an average of 18.28 in the hard fought T20I series victory against rivals India.

## Saina, Srikanth make first-round exits from Malaysia Open

**PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR**

Ace Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth's woeful run continued as they suffered first-round exits from the season-opening Malaysia Open here on Tuesday.

London Olympics medallist Saina, who endured a tough 2022 battling multiple injuries and a lack of form, went down 12-21, 21-17, 12-21 to Han Yue of China in the \$1,250,000 Super 1000 tournament.

Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly, in women's doubles, were the only Indian badminton players to win on the first day of the tournament.

The Indian duo, who won a bronze medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, beat Hong Kong's Yeung Nga Ting and Yeung Pui Lam 21-14, 21-19 to enter the round of 16.

Former world number one Srikanth's surrender was tamer. The world championship silver medallist, who has also been struggling for form recently, was stunned by the unseeded Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 19-21, 14-21 in 42 minutes.

It was also curtains for Akarshi Kashyap who was outplayed 10-21, 8-21 by Wen Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei in her



women's singles opener.

The men's doubles pair of Krishna Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Panjala lost their match to South Korea's Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae 21-10, 21-18 in the first round.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will take on Carolina Marin in her first match on Wednesday while Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy will fight it out for a place in the round of 16.

In men's doubles, world championships bronze medallists Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will play against South Korea's Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho.

## Prasad slams India's selection calls



**PTI ■ GUWAHATI**

Former pacer Venkatesh Prasad has criticised the exclusion of Ishan Kishan from India's playing eleven for the first ODI against Sri Lanka, saying "there is no way you drop a player for scoring a double hundred".

Ahead of the first ODI against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, India skipper Rohit Sharma made it clear that he will open

ble ton," Prasad said in a series of tweets.

Playing only his 10th ODI, Kishan had scored the fastest double hundred in ODI cricket history last month against Bangladesh. Prasad, who played 33 Tests and 161 ODIs for India, also feels that mediocrity is being preferred over "x-factor" in the current setup.

"There is a reason we have under performed in limited overs cricket. Constant chopping changing and a guy who does brilliantly and is an X factor is dropped and mediocrity retained."

"In Eng. Pant scored a hundred in the final ODI and helped India win the series. However based on T20 form was dropped from ODI team. KL Rahul on the other hand barring a couple of innings has failed consistently but retains his place. Performance is not the foremost parameter. Sad," the 53-year-old added.

Former India batter Mohammad Kaif also had his say on the subject.

"Slightly uncomfortable with the prospect of watching an Indian team today without last ODI's double hundred scorer, Ishan Kishan, and last T20's centurion Suryakumar Yadav. Hope they remain motivated," Kaif tweeted.

## Meg Lanning, Healy spearhead Aus squad



**AP ■ SYDNEY**

Australia named a powerhouse squad Tuesday to defend their women's T20 World Cup title, spearheaded by Meg Lanning, Ellyse Perry and a fit-again Alyssa Healy.

The five-time champions are heavy favourites for the tournament in South Africa next month with their ranks boosted further by the return of

leg-spinner Georgia Wareham after a long injury-related layoff.

Wicketkeeper Healy has been struggling with calf problem suffered in December in India, but was also named in the 15-women squad and is expected to play.

Australia crushed India by 85 runs in front of more than 86,000 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to win the T20 World Cup in 2020.

Lanning once again leads the side after ending an indefinite months-long break late last month, allaying fears that she had played her last international.

Australia will begin their World Cup defence on February 12 against New Zealand before pool games against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

**Australia squad:** Meg Lanning (capt), Alyssa Healy, Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Heather Graham, Grace Harris, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Tahlia McGrath, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham

## Prithvi slams career-best 240\*, Mumbai 397/2

**PTI ■ GUWAHATI**

Repeatedly ignored across formats in the last 18 months, Prithvi Shaw butchered a hapless Assam attack to submission with a breathtaking unbeaten 240 as Mumbai ended the opening day of Group B Ranji match at a comfortable 397 for two, here Tuesday.

Shaw has already added 200 runs for the unbroken third wicket partnership with skipper Ajinkya Rahane (73 not out) as Mumbai aim for bonus points against the Eastern state in order to offset the dent caused by their defeat against Saurashtra.

A free-flowing stroke maker, Shaw hit 33 boundaries and a six in his knock and was severe on each and every bowler at the picturesque Amingaon cricket ground.

The only six was struck over long on fence while he played shots all around the wicket.

There were shots behind the square but some rasping drives through covers, the off drives and clipping the ball through mid wicket and some pull shots were part of his scoring wagon wheel.

His scoring off Assam bowlers had equitable distribution.



In fact, Shaw didn't score off 153 balls out of the 283 he faced on the day. His 240 effectively came off 130 scoring strokes.

Hridip Deka was smashed for 53 off 56 balls that he bowled to Shaw.

Spinner Roshan Alam suffered the most with 76 being scored off his 76 balls. Shaw in his previous games hadn't accumulated even 200 runs but the kind of talent he is, it was a case of just one innings and he hammered the not-so-bad Assam to all corners of the ground.

The Indian team is current choc a bloc in terms of vacancy across formats but a player of Shaw's quality perhaps can't be kept at bay for too long.

**HANUMA CRAWLS AT KOTLA**

In complete contrast to Shaw's innings, another Team India comeback aspirant Hanuma Vihari made a painstaking unbeaten 76 off 202 balls as Andhra scored 203 for 3 against a depleted Delhi bowling attack at the Feroz Shah Kotla.

In fact, young opener CR Gnaneshwar (81 off 158 balls) looked more fluent in biting Delhi cold as off spinner Hrithik Shokeen (1/49 in 13 overs) looked best bowler on view.

## WOMEN UMPIRES RATHI, NARAYANAN AND VENUGOPALAN MAKE RANJI DEBUT

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

A former scorer, an ex-soft-aware engineer and a player, whose career was cut short by injury, scripted history on Tuesday as Vrinda Rathi, Janani Narayanan and Gayathri Venugopalan became the first female trio to officiate in the prestigious Ranji Trophy.

Venugopal is officiating in the second round match between Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in Jamshepur while Narayanan and Rathi are umpiring in the Railways versus Tripura game in Surat and Goa versus Pondicherry clash at Porvorim respectively.

Hailing from various backgrounds, the trio, already well-respected on the women's circuit, became pioneers courtesy BCCI's decision to draft women umpires on the men's domestic circuit.

The 36-year-old Narayanan loved cricket and everything related to it. She wanted to be on the field and even approached Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) a couple of times to become an umpire.

A few years after the state body changed its rule to allow women to officiate, she cleared the BCCI's Level 2 umpiring exam in 2018 and had to think little before quitting her cushy IT job to pursue umpiring.

She has also officiated in the Tamil Nadu Premier League in 2021.

The 32-year-old Rathi, on the other hand, has risen from the maidans of Mumbai. She used to score local matches before clearing the BCCI scorers exam. She was the official BCCI scorer for the 2013 Women's World Cup. Later on, she moved to umpiring.

Narayanan and Rathi are seasoned umpires and were also included in International Cricket Council's (ICC) panel of development umpires back in 2020.

Delhi-based Venugopalan, 43, dreamt of becoming a cricketer but a shoulder injury quashed her hopes. She started umpiring in 2019 after clearing the BCCI exam.

She has already served as a reserve (fourth) umpire in Ranji Trophy.





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**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



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11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023, INDORE



**Shivraj Singh Chouhan**  
Chief Minister

## INAUGURATION

By

**Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister, India

11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.

GRAND HALL, BRILLIANT CONVENTION CENTRE, INDORE

## SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Address by Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Address by Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President, Republic of Suriname

Address by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, India

Address by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

## PARTICIPATION

447 international delegates from 84 countries | 401 international buyers

Over 5 thousand industrialists and representatives of various international industry associations

All G-20 countries' representatives



VENDOR DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME



B2B & B2G  
MEETINGS



ONE-ON-ONE  
MEETINGS



EXHIBITION



THEMATIC & SECTORAL  
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