

OPINION 6
STOP DEMONISING
DEMONETISATION**WORLD 8**
RUSSIA SAYS IT TOOK SOLEDAR,
UKRAINE DENIES ITS CAPTURE**MONEY 10**
SENSEX, NIFTY REBOUND
AFTER 3-DAY DECLINEPublished From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.33 Issue 13
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

BARCELONA
REACH SUPER
CUP FINAL
11 SPORT

Modi calls for human face of globalisation

‘We want globalisation that brings prosperity’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for the human face of globalisation ensuring prosperity for all and does not create a climate crisis or debt crisis, besides not leading to unequal distribution of vaccines.

Making this assertion at the Global South Summit here hosted by India, the PM said, “We appreciate the principle of globalisation but developing countries also desire that it does not lead to over-concentrated global supply chains. We want globalisation that brings prosperity and well-being to humanity as a whole. In short, we want human-centric globalisation.”

A day after cautioning that the world is facing a crisis due to the Ukraine conflict and climate change, while inaugurating the two-day summit hosted by India, the Prime Minister



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Concluding Leaders' Session of the Voice of Global South Summit via video conferencing from New Delhi on Friday

PTI

on Friday said geopolitical tensions distracted us from focusing on our development priorities.

“To address geopolitical fragmentation, we urgently need fundamental reform of international bodies, including UN Security Council,” he said.

Enunciating these issues, Modi announced a new Aarogya Maitri project. Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.

Moreover, India will estab-

lish a Global South Centre of Excellence. This institution will undertake research on development solutions or best practices of any of our countries which can be scaled and implemented in other members of the global south, he said.

“We will launch a Global South Science and Technology initiative to share our expertise with other developing nations,” the Prime Minister said.

Modi said the last three years have been difficult, especially for the developing nations. The challenges of the Covid pandemic, rising prices

of fuel, fertiliser and food-grains, and increasing geopolitical tensions have impacted our development effort

Over the past two days, this Summit has seen the participation of more than 120 developing countries — the largest-ever virtual gathering of the global south, he noted.

He also said for synergising diplomatic voice of the developing nations he proposes a Global South Young Diplomats Forum to connect youthful officers to our Foreign Ministries. India will also institute Global South scholarships for students from developing countries to pursue higher education in India, the Prime Minister said.

Referring to India's G20 Presidency this year, Modi said the country will attempt to voice the views of the Global South on these important issues.

In its development partnership, India's approach has been consultative, outcome-oriented, demand-driven, people-centric, and respectful of the sovereignty of partner countries, he said, adding, “I firmly believe that countries of the Global South have a lot to learn from each other's development experiences.”

Continued on Page 2

Joshimath sank 5.4 cm in just 12 days: ISRO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/DEHRADUN

With the passing of every day Joshimath town faces the danger of becoming a casualty of land subsidence. The satellite images of Joshimath released by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) show that the Himalayan town sank at a rapid pace of 5.4 cm in just 12 days, triggered by a possible subsidence event on January 2.

Amid reports that a similar situation can arise at other subsidence-prone locations in the State, the Uttarakhand Government on Friday decided to conduct a study on the carrying capacity of all towns located in the hills.

The Government unveiled a series of relief measures. The decisions were taken at a meeting of the State Cabinet here chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

The Cabinet gave approval to the construction of prefabricated houses for short-term rehabilitation of the affected people of Joshimath at identified locations in Koti Farm, Pipalkoti, Gauchar, Gaukh Selang, and Dhak villages after their survey.

Meanwhile, the preliminary study by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) said the land subsi-



Locals paste placards with slogan 'NTPC Go Back' on a scooter as they protest against the project in landslide-hit Joshimath town of Chamoli district on Friday

PTI

dence was slow between April and November 2022, during which the pictures were taken from the Cartosat-2S satellite.

“The region subsided around 5 cm within a span of a few days and the areal extent of subsidence has also increased. But it is confined to the central part of Joshimath town,” the NRSC report said.

It said a subsidence zone resembling a generic landslide shape was identified — tapered

top and fanning out at the base.

The report noted that the crown of the subsidence was located near Joshimath-Auli road at a height of 2,180 metres.

The images show the Army Helipad and Narsingh Temple as the prominent landmarks in the subsidence zone that spans the central part of Joshimath town.

A total of 169 families consisting of 589 members have so far been shifted to relief centres.

There are 835 rooms serving as relief centres in Joshimath and Pipalkoti which can together accommodate 3,630 people. Interim assistance of ₹1.5 lakh has been paid so far to 42 affected families. Dhami on Thursday said a committee would decide the market rate for compensation to be paid to the families affected in Joshimath by keeping in mind the interests of stakeholders.

Continued on Page 2

HP restores old pension scheme

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Fulfilling its key poll promise, the Himachal Pradesh Government-led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in its first Cabinet meeting on Friday approved the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme in the State.

There are over 1.36 lakh employees, including employees and pensioners under the New Pension Scheme (NPS). The Congress had promised to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in the first Cabinet meeting and it stood by it.

The benefit of old pension scheme would be given from Friday itself and notification in this regard would be issued soon, said Sukhu while interacting with the media persons after the Cabinet meeting.

Continued on Page 2

Anjali drag & death: 11 cops in PCR along route suspended

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 11 police personnel from Rohini district, who were deployed in PCR vans and at police pickets along the route where Anjali Singh's hit-and-run incident took place, have been suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated against them.

DCP Guriqbal Singh Sidhu said that five policemen on two pickets and six personnel in three PCR vans have been suspended in the Rohini district. Of them, two are sub-inspectors, four assistant sub-inspectors, four head constables, and one constable.

Officials said further action will be taken against them based on the results of the internal disciplinary proceedings. “As approved by the competent authority, a total of 11 policemen of Rohini district deployed on the route at PCRs



File photo

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

and pickets have been suspended in view of the Sultanpuri incident,” officials said.

The action comes a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday directed the Delhi police commission-

er to suspend all its personnel deployed on the route following a report on the accident submitted by an inquiry committee headed by special commissioner of police Shalini Singh.

Continued on Page 2

SC: Hate-spilling anchors should be taken off air

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday once again came down hard on TV channels, saying they are creating divisions in society and went to extent of observing that hate-creating anchors should be taken off the air. The court was hearing a petition seeking direction to control hate speech.

The Central Govt's counsel said that the Government is planning to introduce comprehensive amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to tackle hate speech.

The Bench comprising Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna even observed that such hate-creating anchors have to be taken off the air and said that TV channels work as per the dictates of their funders and asked the Govt to suggest ways to tackle these issues.

Detailed report on P4

Woman urinated herself: U-turn by man who peed on her on AI flight

Mishra: Lady, a Kathak dancer, suffers from incontinence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a surprise U-turn, Shankar Mishra, accused of urinating on an elderly woman on an Air India flight last November told a city court on Friday that the complainant urinated on herself because of a medical condition and then blamed him for the act.

The claim by Mishra's lawyer Ramesh Gupta, made for the first time since the sordid event unfolded on an Air India New York-New Delhi flight on November 26 last year, flies in the face of denunciation of the accused by some of the



British Airways staffer held for SpiceJet bomb hoax

NEW DELHI: A trainee ticketing agent of British Airways was held for making a hoax bomb call to stop the SpiceJet flight of his friends' girlfriends on Thursday.

Detailed report on P2

IAF detains foreign pilot for taking photos

NEW DELHI: The IAF recently detained a foreign-origin pilot of Alliance Air at Uttarlai Air Force station, Rajasthan for a few hours for reportedly taking pictures, videos in the prohibited area.

Detailed report on P4

co-passengers and even a string of WhatsApp exchanges he had with the victim woman which suggested the unsavory incident indeed took place.

The denial comes just two days after Mishra said he was not running away from the fact that the act was obscene and revolting, however arguing that the complainant's statement does not make a case of using criminal force to outrage her modesty.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

BIHAR GOVT DISMISSES 64 DOCS FOR GOING AWOL

Patna: The Bihar Government on Friday dismissed 64 doctors from service for remaining absent from duty without authorisation for over five years, officials said. The decision to this effect was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday, following a proposal by the health department.

K'TAKA HC SUO MOTU PIL ON METRO PILLAR DEATH

Bangaluru: The High Court of Karnataka on Friday initiated a suo motu PIL on the death of a woman and her child due to the collapse of a Bengaluru Metro pillar pier here.

P5

PARLIAMENT'S BUDGET SESSION FROM JAN 31

New Delhi: Parliament's Budget Session will begin from January 31 with President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Session will have 27 sittings and will continue till April 6 with a month-long recess to examine the budget papers, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said.

P4

Varanasi gets world's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas'

RAMATMA SRIVASTAVA ■ VARANASI

Flagging off the river cruise “MV Ganga Vilas” through video conferencing on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said river waterway was now becoming the strength of India and the new era of river cruise tourism would generate employment opportunities for the youth of the country.

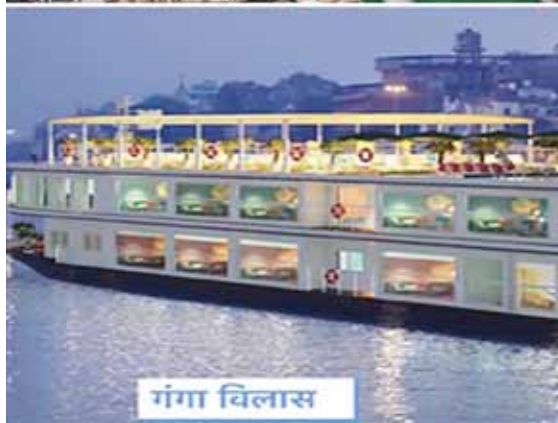
Besides inaugurating the Tent City on the bank along the Ganga in Varanasi, the Prime Minister also inaugurated Haldia Multi-Modal Terminal in West Bengal, four floating community jetties in UP and Maritime Skill Development Centre for North East at Guwahati and laid the foundation stones of five community jetties in Bihar and of a ship repair facility and an elevated road at Pandu Terminal in Guwahati.

“The river waterway is becoming the new strength of India and the new era of river cruise tourism has more potential to generate new employment opportunities for the youth of the country,” the Prime Minister said while flag-

ging off the world's longest river cruise “MV Ganga Vilas” virtually in a ceremony held at Ravidas Ghat here. Not only foreign tourists, tourists from various parts of the country would now head towards north India, he added.

The areas situated on the bank of rivers lagged behind in the post-Independence period as far as development was concerned and it led to a massive exodus of population from these areas, the Prime Minister said, adding that this situation had to be changed and thus the country adopted two approaches to address this unfortunate situation — one, the Namami Gange project to purify the water of Ganga and, the other is Arth Ganga project to give a boost to the economic activities in States through which the holy river passes.

This river cruise, which would cover a distance of 3,200 km between Varanasi and Dibrugarh in Assam in 51 days, would bring the tourism sites of this region on the world tourism map, the Prime Minister said and added that projects worth more than ₹1,000 crore would give a boost



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off world's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' in Varanasi via a video conference on Friday

PTI

to tourism and employment potential in eastern India.

“Today India has everything and a lot beyond your imagination. India can only be experienced from the heart as the nation has welcomed everyone with open hearts irrespective of region or religion, creed or country and has welcomed tourists from all parts of the world,” the Prime Minister said while addressing the tourists travelling in this cruise, adding that it had something special for everyone.

Those seeking spirituality will cover destinations like Kashi, Bodh Gaya, Vikramshila, Patna Sahib and Majuli, the tourists looking out for a multinational cruise experience will get the opportunity via Dhaka in Bangladesh and those who want to witness the natural diversity of India will cross through Sundarbans and the forests of Assam.

The cruise would pass through 25 river streams and it has significant importance for those who have a keen interest in understanding the river systems of India, he pointed out.

Continued on Page 2

NCR-PULSE



Vice-President of India Jagdeep Thakkar interacting with media persons and VP Secretariat officials during a high tea hosted by him and his wife Sudesh Thakkar at his residence in the national Capital on Friday.

EX GRATIA OF ₹1 CR TO KIN OF 14 CORONA WARRIORS: GOVT
New Delhi: The Delhi government on Friday said that it will give an ex-gratia amount of Rs one crore to the families of 14 Corona warriors who lost their lives during the Covid pandemic while serving the society. It said that prior to this, the Delhi government has given the approval for this ex-gratia amount to families of 59 warriors. Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said the corona warriors worked selflessly throughout the pandemic and sacrificed their lives to protect society even without caring for their lives.

MCD LAUNCHES ONLINE MODULE FOR RWA REGISTRATION
New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has launched the online module for registration of RWA under SAHBAGITA scheme. Under this scheme RWAs can register to claim 10 percent incentive on 90 percent tax compliance and additional 5 percent wet waste incentive. MCD has prepared a hassle-free online system and app for registration of RWAs on its official web portal.

JMI SEEKS MURMU'S HELP IN SETTING UP TRIBAL STUDIES DEPT
New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has sought President Droupadi Murmu's assistance in setting up a department of tribal studies in the university, an official said on Friday. During her meeting with Murmu, who is also the Visitor of the varsity, on Thursday, JMI vice-chancellor Najma Akhtar said that the university wants to set up a 'Department of Tribal Studies and Development' and a hostel for tribal students, the official said.

Govt will completely transform Dilli Haat in six months: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday announced the complete transformation of the Dilli Haat, the cultural hub with modern artifacts and will be illuminated with state-of-the-art LED lights. The work will be completed in the next five to six months.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia approved the proposed design for the modification of Dilli Haat.

"The designs for INA's modification emphasise on the use of natural sustainable raw materials, such as to revamp all existing stalls with bamboo roofing. The food court of Dilli Haat will be upgraded and a luxurious indoor dining area will be created. As per the plans, the modification work shall be complete within the next five to six months," said Sisodia, while addressing the media.

"Dilli Haat located at INA is a unique cultural hub and reflects the diverse, dynamic culture of India. It is also a cen-



tre of tourism in Delhi and tourists coming to the city always ensure that they visit Dilli Haat. This hub gives people an opportunity to witness and partake in the culture of different states of India," he said.

"The Delhi government will modify Dilli Haat with these considerations in mind, so as to preserve its cultural value, so that it can be given a

new look and attract thousands of tourists over the coming years," Deputy CM stated.

"The transformation of Dilli Haat shall greatly enhance the visual appeal and experience of the hub for the tourists that visit the place. The modification has several elements as a part of the plan, such as the replacement of the existing flooring, curb stones and slate stones. The Benches present at

various spots within the premises for tourists will also be upgraded," informed Sisodia.

Deputy CM said that keeping the environment in mind, natural raw material shall be used during the modification. "The walls will be redeveloped using stone nets. Modern art will be used to decorate the entire Haat all the way up to the entrance," he underlined.

Kejriwal felicitates Delhi's Commonwealth 2022 medallists



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday felicitated Delhi-based medal winners at the Commonwealth Games, 2022.

The event, hosted by the Delhi government's Directorate of Education and Sports of Delhi government, was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Kejriwal handed over incentive cheques to the seven medallists -- Ravi Dahiya, Pinki, Navneet Singh, Tulika Mann, Tejaswini Shankar, Pooja Gehlot and Rohit Tokas. Rs 2.60 crore was

also disbursed among the medal winners.

Delhi is making its mark in the country in sports. India won 61 medals in the Commonwealth Games, of which sportspersons from Delhi won seven, Kejriwal said in his address.

"Less than two per cent of the country's population live in Delhi but we brought more than 10 per cent of the medals for the country. There is no dearth of talent in our country but sportspersons don't get facilities because of political interference. We changed this in Delhi," he claimed.

Himachal restores old...

From Page 1
He said we would fulfill our promise to provide Rs 1,500 per month to women and a sub-committee with Cabinet Ministers, including Chander Kumar, Dhani Ram Shandil, Anirudh Singh and Jagat Negi, has been constituted to prepare a road map for disbursement of Rs 1,500 per month in 30 days.

A Committee has also been constituted to explore the possibility of one lakh jobs. The liability under the OPS for this year is about Rs 800 to Rs 900 crores which would be borne by the resource mobilisation like an increase of Rs 3 on VAT on

diesel. Sukhu reiterated that the state government has not restored OPS for votes but for giving social security and safeguarding the self-respect of the employees who have scripted the history of the development of Himachal.

The matter has been studied in depth and in spite of some reservations by finance officers, the issue has been settled and all the employees under the New Pension Scheme would be covered under OPS, he added. Sukhu said the previous the BJP Government has not given arrears worth Rs 11,000 crores approx, including Rs 4,430

crores to employees, Rs 5,226 crores to pensioners and Rs 1,000 crores dearness allowance of the sixth pay commission. Sukhu also said that the state is under debt of Rs 75,000 crores due to the financial mismanagement and wasteful expenditure by the previous BJP Government.

The Government de-notified over 900 institutions opened by the previous BJP Government without Budget as a sum of Rs 5,000 crores was required to make them functional. Hard decisions would have to be taken as Government cannot run under huge debt, he added.

Modi calls for...

From Page 1

On Thursday, the Prime Minister had referred to pressing global challenges such as food and energy security triggered by the Ukraine conflict, terrorism, and climate change and said the developing countries are feeling the impact of the situation though they were not responsible for it.

"We have turned the page on another difficult year, that saw war, conflict, terrorism and geo-political tensions, rising food, fertiliser and fuel prices, climate-change driven natural disasters, and lasting economic impact of the Covid pandemic," he said. "It is clear the world is in a state of crisis. It is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last," Modi said. He said there is a

need to "re-energise" the world, and pitched for a global agenda of 'Respond, Recognise, Respect and Reform' to deal with the challenges.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at the summit on Friday India and the Global South have not only a common future but also a common past. We shoulder burdens of a colonial past, even as we face inequities of the current world order, he said. He was addressing the Foreign Ministers' Session on G20 at the Voice of Global South Summit. "While we promote faster rebalancing, more multipolarity and reformed multilateralism, it is imperative that key global conversations of our times reflect our concerns and challenges" he added.

Over 60% work of Ayodhya temple completed, says Trust

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■ AYODHYA

The construction work of the grand Ram temple, being built in Ayodhya, is going on, on a war footing as over 60 per cent of the temple construction work has been completed and the goal is to complete the work of the sanctum sanctorum of the temple by December 2023 and install the idol of Ram Lalla at the garbhagriha on Makar Sankranti in 2024..

Champat Rai, general secretary of Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust, said on Friday that the grand temple of Maryada Purushottam Lord Shri Ram



would be ready before its fixed deadline. "The construction of the temple is going on at a fast pace. By October 2023, the construction work of the first

floor of the temple will be completed and 'pran pratishthan' ceremony will be performed between January 1 and January 14," Rai said and added that about 62 per cent of the construction work of the temple had been completed so far.

The work of the temple is to be done in three phases. The work of the first phase will be completed in December 2023. This also includes the construction of the sanctum sanctorum.



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)

निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

क्र. 48/यां.वि./2023

भोपाल, दिनांक 13.01.2023

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेटिज मोहर बंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	थरोहर राशि	प्रपत्र राशि	कार्य हेतु एस्.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
01	2022_UAD_244193_1	CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD WORK FROM 80 FEET PETROL PUMP TO CHOURASIYA SAMAJ MANDIR, W-73, Z-16	1,69,48,495/-	84,742/-	12500	MPUADD ISSR 2021	6 Month/-

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

2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 13.01.2023 (date) to 17:30 P.M. (time) 14.02.2023 (date).

3. Amendments to NIT (if any) would be published on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/> only, and not in newspaper.

The initial period of 05 (Five) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP)

Executive Engineer
Municipal Corporation Bhopal
District Bhopal

वि.क्र. 1332/022/023

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री,
लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग क्र.-1 ग्वालियर

फोन नं. 0751-2371231 ईमेल eepwd1gw@mp.nic.in

निविदा विज्ञापन क्रमांक 51/टी.सी./डी-1 ग्वा./2022-23 दिनांक 04.01.2023

मध्यप्रदेश के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु नवीन निविदा प्रपत्र 2.10 पर आमंत्रण की सूचना क्र. 51 ग्वालियर दिनांक 04.01.2023 द्वारा प्रचलित भवन/सड़क कार्यों की दर अनुसूची दिनांक 15.09.22/25.03.2022 पर निविदायें लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार श्रेणी हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जिसका सम्पूर्ण विवरण <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। विभाग तकनीकी समस्याओं के लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। एवं किन्हीं कारणों से की जाने वाली परिवर्तन की सूचना वेबसाइट पर ही देखे पृथक से प्रकाशित नहीं की जावेगी।

स. क्र.	टेण्डर आई.डी. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	(1) ठेके की अनु. लागत राशि रु (2) अमानत राशि	टेण्डर फार्म की राशि (रु. में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की समयवधि	पंजीयन श्रेणी
1	2023_PWDRB_241889_1	लोनिवि संभाग क्र-1 ग्वालियर के अंतर्गत चार शहर के नाके से मलगढ़ा तिराहे तक 1.20 कि.मी. लम्बाई में फोरलेन मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य।	1. 600.47 लाख 2. 600470/-	20000/- + (पोर्टल चार्ज)	12 माह वर्षाकाल सहित	लो.नि.वि. में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार
2	2023_PWDRB_241890_1	लोनिवि संभाग क्र-1 ग्वालियर के अंतर्गत आर.आर. टॉवर से कटीघाटी एन.एच.-3 तक 1.50 कि.मी. मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य।	1. 756.62 लाख 2. 756620/-	20000/- + (पोर्टल चार्ज)	12 माह वर्षाकाल सहित	लो.नि.वि. में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार

कुल कार्य की संख्या - 02 दो

ऑनलाईन निविदा जारी व डाउनलोड करने की आरम्भ तिथि 04.01.2023 प्रातः 10:30

ऑनलाईन निविदा दर प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 25.01.2023 सांय 17:30

ऑनलाईन निविदा दर खुलने की तिथि 27.01.2023 प्रातः 10:30

निविदा फार्म ऊपर दर्शित वेबसाइट पर (Online System) ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। तथा सम्पूर्ण जानकारी पोर्टल पर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

कार्यपालन यंत्री
लोक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग क्र. 1
ग्वालियर (म.प्र.)

G-2161222

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mahender Singh Bisht S/o Shri Gopal Singh Bisht R/o 358 Indira Garden, Near Tiwari chowk khora Colony, Ghaziabad, U.P. have declare that my father name wrongly mentioned in my secondary school mark sheet as Shri Gopal Singh instead of Shri Gopal Singh Bisht.

PD(90245)C

I, RESHANT GHOSH S/o Shri Anupam Ghosh R/o C-6 Sector-27 Near DM Residency Noida Distt Gautam Budh Nagar Pin-201301 have changed my name to Reshant Sharma Ghosh for all future purposes.

PD(90246)A

I, SONIA GHOSH W/o Shri Anupam Ghosh R/o C-6 Sector-27 Near DM Residency Noida Distt Gautam Budh Nagar Pin-201301 have changed my name to Sonia Sharma Ghosh for all future purposes.

PD(90247)A

I, ANISHA SHARMA D/o Shri Anil Sharma R/o I-20 UG-1 Kirti Nagar New Delhi Pin-110015 have changed my name to Anisha Sharma Ghosh for all future purposes.

PD(90248)A

I, Naimuddin S/o. Shakil Ansari, R/o.16 GF, Gali No.42, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Naeem S Ansari for all future purposes.

PD(90249)A

Joshimath sank 5.4 cm...

From Page 1

The State Government on Friday decided to waive for six months the electricity and water bills of families and individuals affected in the subsidence-hit Joshimath. The Government also decided to put on hold the repayment of bank loans owed by the affected people for one year. The cooperative banks will implement the one-year moratorium on repayment of loans immediately, while the State Government will request the Centre to ask commercial banks to take a similar measure for the affected people in Joshimath, chief secretary SS Sandhu said at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet decided to increase the amount being given by the State Government to the affected families to pay rent from Rs 4,000 per month to Rs 5,000 per month. It also authorised the Chief Minister to increase it further on the recommendation of the District Magistrate. People in Joshimath have been complaining that Rs 4,000 for rent is too low. Each affected family staying in temporary relief camps built in hotels and residential units will be paid Rs 950 per room per day for their accommodation besides Rs 450 per head per day for expenses.

Varanasi gets...

From Page 1
Modi said it is a golden opportunity for those who wanted to explore the myriad culinary and cuisines of India. "One can witness the extraordinary amalgamation of the heritage of India and its modernity on this cruise," the PM said.

He also said similar experiences were being readied in other inland waterways of the country to give a boost to cruise tourism while keeping in mind the budget as well as the luxury experience.

"India is entering into a robust phase of tourism as with a growing global profile, the curiosity about India is also increasing," he said and added that keeping this view, various steps were taken to expand the tourism sector in the country during the last eight years. "Places of faith were developed on priority and Kashi is a live example of such efforts. With improved facilities and the rejuvenation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Kashi has seen a huge increase in the number of visiting devotees. This has given a massive boost to the local economy," he said. The PM said this decade of the 21st century was a decade of infrastructure transforma-

tion in India which was witnessing a level of infrastructure which was unimaginable a few years ago and added that from social infrastructure like houses, toilets, hospitals, electricity, water, cooking gas, educational institutions to digital infrastructure to physical connectivity infrastructure like railways, waterways, airways and roads, all these were strong indicators of the rapid growth of India.

"Today's event is a reflection of the policies, decisions and direction taken after 2014 in the country," he said. "Despite the rich history of river waterways in ancient times, this mode of transport was not used but after 2014, this ancient strength is being used to the cause of modern India by introducing new laws and drafting out detailed action plans to develop waterways in big rivers," the PM said, adding that in 2014 there were only five national waterways in the country and now there were 111 national waterways in the country and about two dozen were already in operation. Similarly, there has been a three times increase in cargo transportation via river waterways from 30 lakh metric tons eight years ago, he added.

Woman urinated herself...

From Page 1
"This lady (complainant) is suffering from a medical condition... She urinated on herself and is now blaming Mishra," Gupta made the submission before Additional Sessions Judge Harjot Singh Bhalla while arguing against a Delhi police petition seeking revision of an order passed by a magisterial court denying police his custodial interrogation.

"I'm not the accused. There must be someone else. It seems she herself urinated. She was suffering from some disease related to the prostate which several 'Kathak dancers' seem to suffer from. It was not me. The seating system was such that no one could go to her seat. Her seat could only be approached from behind, and in any case, the urine could not reach to seat's front area. Also, the passenger sitting behind the complainant did not make any such complaint," Gupta told the court.

The judge disposed of the application, saying the submissions made before him did not seem to have been made in front of the metropolitan magistrate. He said police can approach the magisterial court with its application afresh.

Meanwhile noted Kathak dancer and Padma awardee Shovana Narayan reacted sharply on the submission of Mishra's lawyer saying that she do not agree with it at all. "I think it is the weirdest reasoning that has ever been put forth. Any peeing or not peeing is not related to any vocation at all. He is trying to create a diversion from the fact that he has outraged a woman's modesty. I think this is what we all need to understand that this is not done. You cannot pee on a person," she said while reacting to the submission made by Mishra's lawyer.

Gupta accused police and the press of turning the case into a joke. "The first complaint was made by the complainant a day after the incident. What was the claim? To refund. That was done by the airline. The police and press have turned this case into a joke... Was this case so big, was it a murder case that they reached Bangalore to arrest me and called me an absconder? He was removed from the job," the defence counsel said.

Anjali drag & death: 11...

From Page 1

The brutal death of Anjali, a 20-year-old sole breadwinner of a family of five, in the wee hours of January 1, 2023, shocked the nation. Her scooter was hit by a Baleno car that was being driven by five drunk men and she got caught underneath the four-wheeler vehicle and dragged for 12 km. Seven people have been arrested in connection with the accident.

The MHA has directed the Delhi Police to file the chargesheet in the case as soon as possible so that the culprits are punished. The police have also been ordered to ensure that there is no let-up in the investigation and fortnightly reports on progress in the

probe are submitted to the MHA. The report was submitted by Singh and it highlighted loopholes in the police response to the incident.

In a letter sent to Delhi Police, the Ministry added that the role of supervisory officers should also be examined and if their negligence was established, action should be initiated against them. The Ministry asked the police to assess all the poorly lit roads in the city and work with civic authorities to get them properly illuminated. It also asked for the installation of CCTVs in vulnerable stretches.

The MHA has additionally asked the police to send a report on the progress of the case every 15 days.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

Slanging match at LG-CM meeting on governance

Saxena, Kejriwal blame each other for the lack of administration in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met after a long gap to discuss governance, only to blame each other for the lack of it in the national Capital.

While Kejriwal said that the L-G told him that he can ask for any file since he is the "administrator" and stressed that various orders of the L-G are illegal in view of the 2018 Supreme Court judgement on transferred subjects, the L-G flagged a 12-point concern list including "immoral continuance of Satyendra Jain as Minister despite being in prison", and no hospital or flyover being made in the last 8 years among others.

Interestingly, both Kejriwal and Saxena advised each other not to politicise every issue and focus on governance. Addressing a press conference after the weekly meeting with Saxena, Kejriwal alleged that dur-



ing his meeting with the L-G, he had cited Supreme Court judgments and various provisions of the Constitution but Saxena said that he has been referred to as the "administrator" and enjoys supreme authority."Delhi L-G has been interfering in the Government's work that is causing inconvenience to people of Delhi. My intention was to sort out the issues, which



is why I carried copies of the Constitution, Motor Vehicles Act, School Education Act, Supreme Court judgement," Kejriwal said. Kejriwal said that there are two kinds of subjects in Delhi - "reserved subjects" that include police, land, and public order on which LG can only take decisions, and "transferred subjects". "All the other subjects come under the Delhi Government.

On July 4, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had passed a judgement that said the L-G has not been entrusted with any independent decision-making power in terms of transferred subjects," he said. He also said, "There is no independent authority vested in the L-G to take decisions. In some matters, he can act as a judicial authority."

Kejriwal said that this means that various orders passed by L-G, including ones on sealing of Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission Vice Chairman Jasmine Shah's office and issuing of notice demanding Rs 164 crore in recovery for ad expenses, are "illegal and unconstitutional". "However, the L-G said that he has been referred to as the 'Administrator' and enjoys supreme authority," Kejriwal added.

The Chief Minister also said that several departments stopped payments to the Delhi Government three months ahead of the MCD polls. "Officials said that they had

been unofficially told to do so. This was done to hurt the AAP in the polls," he said.

After Kejriwal's press conference, Raj Niwas issued a press release saying that the statements that the Chief Minister attributed to Saxena with regard to orders of the Supreme Court and powers as administrator are misleading and twisted to suit a particular agenda.

Informing about the points that were discussed in the meeting, Raj Niwas said that the points which were underlined in the meeting are broken/potholed roads; no new flyover/underpass in eight years, record Air pollution and worsening condition of Yamuna, no new Hospital in eight years, no new school / college building in eight years, despite 13 plots given by DDA, no effort undertaken to create new park/green space.

"Apart from this, encroachment on Yamuna floodplains, worsened drainage system - severe waterlogging across the

city, no effort ever taken to clean Najafgarh Drain, corruption in Government Departments, illegal appointment of private persons as government nominees on Boards of Private DISCOMS instead of government officers, despite written objections from two LGs, delaying and derailing projects of National / Public Importance - redevelopment of AIIMS, new Academic Blocks in IIT, expansion of Metro and NHAI projects and immoral continuation of Satyendra Jain as Minister despite him being in prison for long were the topics which were raised by the L-G in the meeting," Raj Niwas said.

The statement said that all statements attributed by the CM to the LG in his press conference after the meeting, with regards to orders of the Supreme Court, powers as administrator, supremacy over all subjects and directions to officers are misleading, patently false and fabricated and twisted to suit a particular agenda.

LG orders removal of Govt nominees from discoms boards

SC states LG has no powers to take independent decisions, so directions are illegal, says AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena on Friday ordered removal of the Delhi Government's nominees appointed by the Arvind Kejriwal Government from the Board of the Anil Ambani-owned DISCOMs BRPL (BSES Rajdhani Power Limited) and BYPL (BSES Yamuna Power Limited), who allegedly caused a Rs 8,683.67 crore loss to the Government.

He also directed to replace them with senior Government officers, as had been the practice in the past. These nominees include AAP spokesperson Jasmine Shah, Naveen ND Gupta (son of AAP MP, ND Gupta), Umesh Tyagi and JS Deswal.

Saxena has also asked the Directorate of Vigilance to investigate the omission/commission noted on part of these private individuals acting as

Government nominees, from the angle of any possible quid pro quo. Saxena has allegedly taken the decision on the basis of an inquiry report submitted to him by Power Department and the Chief Secretary, following a complaint on September 26, 2022. The L-G has asked for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to be informed about this and action be taken.

The Delhi Government dismissed the allegations as "absolutely baseless" and said the decisions taken by the L-G are "illegal". "All allegations made by the L-G are absolutely baseless. The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has clearly said in its orders that the LG does not have any powers to take independent decisions.

Therefore, his decisions and directions are illegal and unconstitutional. He is acting like a dictator with complete disregard for the highest court of our land. This is tantamount to con-

tempt of the Hon'ble Supreme Court," the AAP government said in a statement. Meanwhile, Raj Niwas said the nomination of these private individuals to the boards of the discoms was patently illegal "since due process of law was not followed and their appointment was void".

"These compromised nominees provided undue financial benefits running into thousands of crores to Ambani's discoms at the cost of the State exchequer and Delhi Government-run undertakings (DTL, IPGCL and PPCL). The L-G has asked for the Chief Minister to be informed about this and action be taken," Raj Niwas said in a statement.

It has been brought out in the report that, these private individuals were illegally appointed surreptitiously by the AAP government as 'government nominees' on the Board of BRPL and BYPL in 2019, despite written objections on file by the then LG, Najeeb Jung on November 1, 2016 and LG, Anil Bajjal on August 11, 2017.

In 2017, CM Kejriwal had sent a file proposing their appointment as Government nominees, disposing of which Bajjal had directed that a Cabinet Decision in this regard be taken and sent to him so that, he could invoke difference of opinion as per Clause 4 of Article 239AA of the Constitution of India.

However, the Cabinet took a decision to appoint them and instead of sending the file to LG, Bajjal, who would have invoked the said clause, surreptitiously notified the appointment of these private individuals as Government nominees on the Board of the DISCOMs.

Once appointed these Government nominees rather than taking care of the government interests, in cahoots with the Anil Ambani nominees on the Board, facilitated a decision of the DISCOMs Boards of unilaterally lowering interest rates charged on LPSC (that these DISCOMs owed to DTL/IPGCL), from 15-18 per cent to 12 per cent, thereby causing a loss of Rs 8683.67 crore, said the statement.

AAP questions LG's objections to sending teachers abroad

We sent teachers to Finland as it is one of the best places that has carried out education reforms: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia on Friday alleged that Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena returned a proposal to send Government teachers to Finland for training, asking them to do a cost-benefit analysis of the programme first. The AAP workers led by MLA Atishi also protested outside the L-G's residence over the issue.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said the LG twice returned a file (containing the proposal) to send Delhi Government teachers to Finland for training, asking if a cost-benefit analysis of the programme has been done.

"I told him that a soldier

lays down his life for the country but merely gets a salary of Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000. Have we ever done a cost-benefit analysis of a soldier's life? We are shaping the future of our children here.

We are building a nation. I spend my entire salary on my children. You cannot do cost-benefit analysis of certain things," he said.

At a press conference earlier in the day, Sisodia said so far around 1,100 teachers have undergone training abroad, including Singapore, the UK and Finland.

Sisodia said the BJP was trying to "use all its might" to stop the Delhi Government's efforts to send school teachers to Finland for training.

"We sent teachers to Finland as it is one of the best places that has carried out education reforms. We want to expose our teachers to such international standards, as it is the teachers who contribute to raising the standard of education," Sisodia told reporters.

He said, "The BJP doesn't know it because they have

nothing to do with education." Sisodia said the file regarding sending teachers to Finland for training will be again sent to the LG. Now that the people of the BJP have an "unauthorised hold" over the services department, they are "doing dirty politics" to stop the AAP Government in Delhi from giving the best training to teachers, he alleged. The LG returned the proposal to send a batch of teachers to Finland in December, questioning the credentials of the institution imparting training and whether guidelines were being followed, the AAP leader said.

"When we answered his queries, he asked for a cost-benefit analysis and if such a programme can be done in India," Sisodia said, adding, "The Prime Minister and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States will go to the World Economic Forum. Will that also be stopped on the pretext of cost-benefit analysis?"

He said that if the LG cares for the future of children and doesn't want their education to be impacted, then he

"should not side with the BJP in their conspiracy". "We wanted to send a batch of 30 teachers to Finland for training. The LG delayed it on one pretext or another," Sisodia claimed.

Reacting to Sisodia's allegations, the Raj Niwas in a series of tweets said, "L-G has not rejected the proposal for the training program for primary-in-charges in Finland. Any statement on (to) the contrary is misleading and mischievously motivated".

"The Government has been advised to evaluate the proposal in totality and record the cost benefit analysis in tangible terms, so as to assess the effectiveness of various foreign training programmes for teachers undertaken in the past," it tweeted.

"LG has also advised for examining and identifying similar training programmes in the Institutions of Excellence, within the country, so as to ensure optimal utilization of resources, fiscal prudence and administrative effectiveness," L-G secretary further tweeted.

CM trying to cover up Govt's wrongs by blaming LG: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Friday lashed out at the AAP saying that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is trying to cover up the wrongdoings of his Government by putting the blame on Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena and the bureaucracy.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that Kejriwal is blaming L-G for his own inefficiency but a liquor scam worth thousands of crores took place in the national Capital and the Delhi Government itself withdrew the new liquor policy.

"Will Kejriwal tell whether the L-G asked him to withdraw the liquor policy for this? The liquor policy was withdrawn because the AAP Government came to know that this scam has been exposed," Bidhuri alleged.

"The decision to purchase one thousand buses in the Capital was withdrawn by the AAP Government because there was a huge scam in the purchase of buses.

The balance sheet of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has not been prepared since 2016, has the L-G asked for this also. Despite the court saying, neither the audit of the Board was done, nor was the balance sheet prepared. Has Saxena issued any instructions for this also?" Bidhuri questioned.

"Being the CM, he should not make such irresponsible statements. He should disclose which officer has told him so. If he is lying, and such a liar has no right to continue in his post. He should immediately resign from his post," Bidhuri said.

The LOP said that Kejriwal have to prove which officers are

not working intentionally or are following some other instructions. "The truth is that the AAP does not know how to run the Delhi Government and they violate the rules at every step, which the officers refuse to accept.

The Kejriwal Government has abolished Question Hour in the Delhi Assembly. The right of the members to ask questions has been taken away," Bidhuri added.

However, Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva has said that Kejriwal is a master of melodrama and after his meeting with L-G, he again showed melodramatic oratory skills but this time his melodrama neither succeeded nor has struck cord with people of the national capital.

Noida gang duping aspirants on pretext of MBBS berths busted

Mastermind of gang absconding, says DCP Chander

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Noida Police on Friday arrested two persons and busted a gang allegedly involved in duping hefty sums of money from aspiring doctors on pretext of facilitating their admission into MBBS courses.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida district, Harish Chander, the third member and key operative of the gang is still at large but has been identified.

The police had started investigation after lodging an FIR at the Sector 126 police station over a complaint of fraud by a Lucknow-based aspirant Darshika Singh (26) who

claimed being cheated of Rs 13.98 lakh by Noida-based Truth Advisors Career Consultancy. "On the basis of the complaint, a team was formed in the supervision of ACP (Noida 1) Rajneesh Verma to investigate the case and resultantly we have arrested two persons although the mastermind of the gang is absconding," DCP Chander said.

Citing investigation findings, the officer said the gang targeted aspirant doctors who scored low in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) on pretext of helping them with admission into MBBS course.

Those held have been identified as Deepak Kumar, a native of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, and Rajesh Kumar Ahuja, who hails from Banda district in Uttar Pradesh, according to the police. "The gang would call the aspirants

and assure them of admission on paid seats. The gang quoted Rs 35 lakh for a seat (in a medical college) in home state (of a candidate) and Rs 25 lakh in other states.

This way, they would get in touch with aspirants," he said. "Further, they would carry out some forged document work and also arrange a visit to medical colleges as selected by an aspirant.

They would even book flight tickets for the aspirant and arrange stay in a hotel. In the hotel, they arranged aspirant's meeting with someone who posed as official of the medical college but in reality this person would also be their partner in crime," the IPS officer said.

Chander said that once the aspirant and his/her family appeared convinced, the gang took payment from them and handed over a forged admission letter to them.

Agent of British Airways held for SpiceJet bomb hoax

New Delhi: A trainee ticketing agent of British Airways was arrested for making a hoax bomb call to stop the flight of his friends' girlfriends to the SpiceJet call center at IGI Airport in Delhi on Thursday. The accused person has been identified as Abhinav Prakash, a resident of Dwarka.

The Delhi-Pune SpiceJet was scheduled to depart from the IGI Airport at 6.30 pm on Thursday. Minutes before take-off, a call was received at the SpiceJet reservation office about a bomb in the aircraft.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Ravi Kumar Singh, the accused disclosed that his childhood friends namely Rakesh @ Bunty and Kunal Sehrawat who recently went on a road trip to Manali, became friends with two girls in Manali. SR

CM, Jain harassing me over complaint, alleges Sukesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar, who is lodged in jail in connection with Rs 200 crore extortion case, in a fresh letter to Delhi Lieutenant Governor, has alleged that he is being "mentally harassed" and "threatened" by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and jailed AAP minister Satyendra Jain to withdraw his complaint against them.

Sukesh alleged that Jain called him and gave him 48 hours to withdraw the cases filed against the two and destroy the evidence.

He also wrote that he was being tortured by the jail officials and staffers. In his letter to the LG, Sukesh alleged, "I

have been severely threatened and harassed by Kejriwal and Jain, through the Jail Administration and their loyal jail staff.

One month back when I was lodged in jail-14, Mandoli, and deputed his confidant staff such as Rajender, Superintendent and Jay Singh Deputy Superintendent to threaten me and to again start extorting me but I was very firm that I would not succumb to their threats and pressure."

Sukesh alleged that last week Jain had given him "a final opportunity" to accept their demands and to hand over all evidence against them in my possession to him. He said that the message was given by him through Jail-14 Superintendent Rajkumar on December 31.

Mission Parivartan: Govt appoints 13 more to raise DTC women-drivers fleet to 34

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Usha Rani, a double MA, was one of the 13 women bus drivers who were handed appointment letters by Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Friday.

DTC now has 34 women drivers navigating the city roads, one of the highest in any state in India, a statement by the Delhi government said. "The Delhi Government has been consistently working on inducting more women as bus drivers under its city transportation fleet.

"Ten women out of the 13 women given a letter of appointment today have joined after receiving training under the Delhi government's 'Mission Parivartan' initiative," the government said in a statement. Seventeen women were



Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot poses for a group photograph with newly appointed women drivers and other at DTC Depot, Rajghat, in New Delhi on Friday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

hired under the initiative, while the rest 17 have been recruited directly by DTC, it said. In April 2022, Gahlot kicked off 'Mission Parivartan', an initiative to train women to help obtain the Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) licences. The

programme is currently training its 4th batch of women candidates, having already trained 123 women. Out of the 13 women drivers who received a letter of appointment on Friday, six are from Delhi and three from Haryana. Nirmala Devi,

Rekha, Lata Rathour, Rajkumari, Meena and Maya Devi are from Delhi, while Nisha, Sonia and Usha Rani are from Haryana. Abita Mishra originally hails from Bihar, Laxmi Rawat from Uttar Pradesh, Asha Rani from West Bengal, and Neetu Devi is from Rajasthan.

As she got her appointment letter, Abita Mishra said, "Now we have become birds that soar in the sky from a frog in the well due to this training."

Usha Rani, who has a double MA in yoga science and physical education, said it would be challenge to drive through heavy Delhi traffic.

"I started training as a bus driver in October last year. I have driven on Haryana's roads in a car but driving a bus on Delhi roads will be challenging. Haryana's roads are wider and

have lesser traffic, but in Delhi, traffic will be a challenge," she said. Laxmi Rawat, who has been a cab driver since 2017, was held back by lack of money for training, till she heard about the Delhi government scheme. "My dream was to drive a bus, but I didn't have money to pay for the training. After hearing about the training programme of the Delhi government, I joined it and now I am fulfilling my dreams."

Gahlot called women an inspiration to thousands others across country. "Each of these 34 women drivers in Delhi's transportation fleet is an inspiration and a role model for all women across India. Under leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi has been focused on empowering women and taking a lead in public transportation of city.

Transport Min: Keep to lane, speed limit to avoid accidents

NEW DELHI: Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Friday asked bus drivers to keep to the lanes designated for their vehicles and adhere to the speed limit to reduce the possibility of accidents.

Addressing a gathering of 100 cluster bus drivers, who will undergo road safety training, he said the Delhi government had kicked off the bus lane enforcement drive in April last year which led to a huge improvement in the attitude of bus drivers. "We started the bus lane enforcement

drive in April last year and bus drivers were channeled. I urge all of you to drive in the left lane. Our bus queue shelters are on the left side so it is necessary that you keep to the left lane," he told the gathering. Gahlot also asked the bus drivers to follow the speed limit while driving.

"You should follow the speed limit. I know that you have to complete a trip within a stipulated time but it is essential that you drive within the speed limit so that accidents can be averted," he added. SR

Cong plans Haath Se Haath Jodo to reach 10L booths in 6L villages



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In continuation with its efforts to mobilise and consolidate its 'lost' voters and party's credentials, the Congress will, after its Bharat Jodo Yatra, reach out to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats spread across six

lakh villages covering 10 lakh booths as part of its "Haath Se Haath Jodo" outreach campaign. The party on Friday announced that it will also deliver a letter written by party leader Rahul Gandhi who is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, to each house along with a charge sheet against the BJP led

Modi government from January 26 to March 26. "As part of this campaign, 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, six lakh villages and about 10 lakh election booths will be covered," Congress general secretary and chief spokesman Jaiiram Ramesh said at the AICC press conference.

The Congress has never undertaken such a programme at this scale, he said, adding there will also be a 'Mahila Yatra' in every state capital, padyatras at block levels and conventions at the district levels in which state and national level leaders will participate."

He also released Rahul's letter that would be delivered to people by Congress leaders along with a soon-to-be released "charge sheet".

"In his letter, Rahul said through the 'Haath se Haath Jodo Abhiyan', the Congress party is extending its hand to you — lend a hand, come together to put the country back on the path of building a Swarnim Bharat, he says.

"I write to you after completing the historic, 3,500 km long Bharat Jodo Yatra where

millions of Indians walked with us from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. It was the most enriching journey of my life, and I am overwhelmed by the love and affection that every single Indian has showered on us," he stated.

"There is a palpable economic crisis brewing — joblessness among the youth, unbearable price rise, severe farm distress, and a complete corporate capture of the country's wealth, he mentions.

"Today, even our plurality is under threat. Divisive forces are attempting to turn our diversity against us — different religions, communities, regions are being pitted against each other.

These forces, which are only a handful in number, know that only when people feel insecure and scared can they sow the seeds of hatred for the 'other'.

But after this Yatra, I am convinced that this vicious agenda has its limits, and it cannot go on any longer," Rahul said promising to fight eradicate these evils — from the streets to the Parliament, every

single day. "I am determined to create economic prosperity for everyone - right price for farmers' produce, jobs for our youth, fair distribution of the country's wealth, an enabling environment for MSMEs and entrepreneurs, cheaper diesel, a stronger rupee, and a gas cylinder for Rs. 500," he further stated. "I strongly believe that India will reject hatred," he said. His message of 'Daro Mat (fear not)' is also part of the letter in which he also says that this Yatra has renewed my vigour to fight for everyone and it has been "my Tapasya".

Ramesh said it would be a challenge to reach every household as the Congress organisation is weak in some states but the party has resolved to undertake this outreach programme.

He also informed Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is on a rest day in Punjab, will enter Pathankot on January 19 and there a rally will be held. The yatra will enter Jammu on the evening of January 20. Then there will be a rest day, after which the walk will resume on January 22.

Parl Session from Jan 31, to continue till April 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament's Budget Session will begin from January 31 and continue till April 6 with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presenting the final full-year Budget of the Narendra Modi Government on February 1, before the national elections slated for 2024. The Budge will have an eye on Assembly elections in over a dozen States besides the Lok Sabha elections in the next year and a half.

There will be a month-long recess and government sources hope that the second part of the Budget Session, beginning March 12, can be conducted in the new Parliament building which is in the final stages of construction.

The budget session will commence with President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. According to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, the Session will have 27 sittings and will continue till April 6 with a month-long recess to examine the budget papers.

The first part of the Budget Session will conclude on February 14, the Parliamentary Minister said adding



Parliament will reconvene on March 12 for the second part of the Budget Session. "Budget Session 2023 of Parliament will commence from 31 January and continue till 6 April with 27 sittings spread over 66 days with usual recess. Amid Amrit Kaal looking forward to discussions on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address followed by a discussion on the Union Budget.

While Prime Minister Modi will reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, the Finance Minister will reply to the debate on the union budget.

During the second part of the Budget Session, the major focus will be on the discussion on the demands for grants for various ministries apart from the government's legislative agenda. The Union Budget, a money bill, is passed during this part of the session.

Hate spreading anchors must be taken off air: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that TV channels are creating divisions in society and compete to sensationalise news.

Hearing petitions to control hate speech, the Bench comprising Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna even observed that such hate creating anchors have to be taken off the air and that the TV channels work as per the dictates of their funders.

As the court asked the Government to suggest ways to tackle these issues, the Centre's counsel said that the Government is planning to introduce comprehensive amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to tackle hate speech.

"When you claim freedom of speech and expression, you must act like you deserve it. Otherwise what dignity is left for us," Justice Joseph remarked, adding that such channels are creating fissures in the society.

"Channels are basically competing with each other. They sensationalize it. How do you control this? Freedom of speech and expression is important. Problem with free-



dom is it is about the audience. Can the audience dish out or understand the agenda. Agenda is serving someone else. Then there is money behind the channel. The point also is who puts money, they will dictate," Justice Joseph remarked. The Court also suggested stringent measures on news anchors who promote or indulge in hate speech. "Thus, if fine is there on anchors they will know that there is a price to pay for this.

Anchors can be taken off (air) too," the Court said. The Central Government responded by saying that it is planning to introduce comprehensive amendments to CrPC to tackle hate speech. "We are contemplating a separate amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code.

That is the stand of the Union of India," Additional Solicitor General (ASG) KM Nataraj submitted on behalf of the Central government. The Bench also observed that TV Channel's self regulatory body NBSA is also not doing any-

thing. "Unfortunately, you are not doing anything," the Court said. Senior Counsel Arvind Datar, appearing for NBSA, said that certain channels like Sudarshan TV and Republic TV do not fall within its jurisdiction.

This was in response to submissions by petitioners' counsel senior advocate Sanjay Hegde and advocate Nizam Pasha highlighting certain broadcasts made by Sudarshan News anchor Suresh Chavhanke.

The Court also asked the States to make their position clear on the broader issues projected in case. The Bench asked Amicus Currie to submit draft guidelines in the case on next date of the hearing.

Leaders pay final tributes to Sharad Yadav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Cutting across party lines, top political leaders gathered at the Delhi residence of former Union Minister Sharad Yadav on Friday to pay their last respect to the socialist stalwart who passed away a day earlier.

Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J P Nadda, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and former chief minister of Bihar Rabri Devi were among the leaders who paid tributes to Sharad Yadav at his residence.

Shah described the demise of Sharad Yadav as an "irreparable loss" for the country. "In the last five decades, Sharad Ji raised people-centric issues and promoted socialist ideas till his last breath," he said. Rahul reached Yadav's residence early



Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays tribute to mortal remains of former Union Minister Sharad Yadav, at Chhatrapur in New Delhi, on Friday. Yadav died on Thursday at a private hospital in Gurugram at the age of 75

PTI

morning around 8.30 from Punjab where the Bharat Jodo Yatra is camped presently. Talking to media, Rahul recalled a conversation with Yadav, adding that he learnt a lot from him. The former con-

gress president said that his grandmother Indira Gandhi and Yadav were political rivals but always maintained a relationship of mutual respect. Rabri Devi also arrived at Yadav's residence to pay her last

Make nation accountable for using terror for political gains: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has called for making accountable countries backing cross-border terrorism for narrow political gains and urged the international community to stand united against this scourge and not engage in double standards for political expediency.

Making this assertion in an apparent reference to Pakistan in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), New Delhi also said late Thursday, "The application of rule of law at the international level should protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states from



aggression, including terrorism, and including cross border terrorism." United Nations Secretary Antonio Guterres said the Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian and human rights catastrophe, traumatized a generation of children, and accelerated the global food and energy crises. Enunciating her country's stand on the issue in the UNSC, India's Permanent Representative to the UN

IAF detains foreign pilot for taking pics

New Delhi: The IAF recently detained a foreign-origin pilot of Alliance Air at Uttarlai air force station, Rajasthan for a few hours for reportedly taking pictures and videos in the prohibited area of the sensitive forward base. The pilot has been de-rostered, the airline said in a statement.

"Safety for Alliance Air is paramount and such occurrences are viewed seriously by Alliance Air. The said pilot has been de-rostered pending investigation. We ensure that all required corrective actions are in place," stated the Alliance airline.

The incident took place on January nine. "We would like to reiterate that Alliance Air as an airline adheres to the proce-

dures/policies.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our esteemed guests on board," the statement further added. Alliance Air operated a charter flight from Delhi to Uttarlai Air Force Station on 9 January.

After landing, the pilot clicked several pictures and made videos following which the IAF detained him. A complaint was also lodged by the IAF with the regulator Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

There were 23 passengers on board the plane and the incident reportedly took place shortly before it was to take off for New Delhi from Uttarlai. The pilot is reportedly a Brazilian.k

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS RANJAN KUMAR, CS SCJ 1640/18	Vehicle No. DL1LW3803, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Year - 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS SANCHIT, CS(Comm) - 785/2019	Vehicle No. UP14GT1840, Make and Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD CELERIO, Manu Year - 2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS SALMAN, CS (Comm.) - 4049/21	Vehicle No. DL4CAZ6553, Make and Model- HONDA SIEL CARS INDIA LTD AMAZE, Manu Year - 2020

Auction Date: January 23, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: - Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec - 17, Sukhrail, Gurugram - 122022
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS ASIF , CS (COMM) No. 1483/2021	Vehicle No. DL3CCN3029, Make and Model - WAGON R, Manu Year -2017

Auction Date: January 23, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Auction Type: Physical Auction
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard,Khasra No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP, 201102

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS ESRAR, CS (Comm.) No. 4460-2021	Vehicle No. DL10CT1001, Make and Model- MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LTD REXTON, Manu Year -2014

Auction Date: January 21, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Auction Type: Online Auction
Auction to be Conducted on website: Bid Karo (<https://www.bidkaro.net>)
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case

The intending bidders may visit ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi - 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client HDRC Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Baljeet Kaur (34% share), Mrs. Rameet Kaur (33% share), Mr. Jyoti Singh (33% share) are owners of Entire Third floor with roof rights (said floor) built on Property No. D-47A (New WZ-37C (old) admeasuring 100 sq. yds., Situated at Sarawati Garden New Delhi. Herein after Referred to as the "Said Property", wife sale deed dated 21.06.2021, registration No. 5329. Executed by Mr. Jyoti Singh (33% share) for sell and attorney of Mrs. Baljeet Kaur (34% share) & Mrs. Rameet Kaur (33 % share) legal heirs of late Mrs. Krishna Devi & Mr. Ved Singh, has lost / misplaced SMC certificate stamp legal heirs of late Mrs. Krishna Devi & Mr. Ved Singh. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document, if anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.


Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1Ind Floor, 23, Shivali Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4102527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Prem Latta is owner of Property bearing No. 187 (Part), area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Killa No. 54/17, Rect. No. 54, Killa No. 17, Situated in the abadi of I / 5m, Call No. 6, Jarni Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khlas, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi., wife of late Mr. Prem Latta and interest of Mr. Kuldeep Singh Battoo in respect of the said property its sale / Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1Ind Floor, 23, Shivali Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4102527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients namely Ravinder Kumar Sukhija and Smt. Arune Sukhija, both husband and wife and both Rto 13, DDA Pocket 2, Sector 9, Dwarka, New Delhi 110077 do hereby disown and disinherit their elder son namely Karan Sukhija and his wife namely Smt. Kanika Sukhija alias Smt. Kanika Grover and their children from all of their movable and immovable properties due to their bad behavior with my clients. It is hereby declared that from now onwards Karan Sukhija and his wife namely Smt. Kanika Sukhija alias Smt. Kanika Grover and their children shall have no right in the properties of my clients hence any person dealing with them shall do so entirely at their own risks and consequences."

Umesh Joshi (Advocate)
Chamber No. 1319, Rohini Court Delhi.



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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kasiraman Balasubramani/ Sathyabama Boobalan/ LBDEL00002080640/ LBDEL00002087966	Flat No-27-D, 1st Floor, Pocket- A1, Vihar, Kondli, Gharoli, Mayur LIG- III, Delhi/ 09-01-2023.	May 27, 2022 Rs. 29,55,163/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers/s/guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : January 13, 2023
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

India to wipe out Lymphatic Filariasis ahead of 2027 goal

New Delhi: Aiming to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis — a mosquito-borne disease—three years ahead of the global target of 2027, India has chalked out a five-pronged endgame strategy including multi-drug administration (MDA) in a mission mode twice a year, an early diagnosis and treatment; engagement of medical colleges for strengthening morbidity management and disability services among others.

Though India's National Health Policy 2002 had set a goal to eliminate LF as a public health problem by 2015, it had to be later extended to 2017. Again, the goal set by the Global Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis was to eliminate LF by 2020. The target has been subsequently revised to 2030. While national goals across endemic countries have aligned to meet that target, India has taken the

challenge head on, keeping the elimination goal three years ahead of the global target by 2027.

In keeping with this commitment, the Union Health Ministry shared its five pronged strategy to tackle the disease at the 'National Symposium on India's Roadmap to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis' here which was inaugurated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

He said, "Lymphatic filariasis is not a neglected disease for India as may be the case in some other countries but is a priority for elimination in a time-bound manner." To begin with, the Government will kick off the pan-India MDA Campaign in mission mode on February 10 this year and August 10.

The Ministry will observe these days with necessary mass

visibility campaigns at the national, state, district, sub-district and block levels to ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to accessing LF preventing drugs.

Mandaviya called for the "right synergy of governmental action and societal improvement" while highlighting that 133 districts across 20 states and Union Territories provide anti-filarial drugs for free.

The other aspects of the strategy include early diagnosis and treatment; engagement of medical colleges for strengthening morbidity management and disability services; integrated vector control with multi-sectoral coordinated efforts; inter-sectoral convergence with allied departments and ministries; leveraging existing digital platforms for LF and exploring alternative diagnostics.

PNS

Shah: Foolproof plan for security in Jammu against targeted killings

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said a time bound comprehensive action plan has been prepared to further strengthen the security grid across Jammu region in the wake of targeted killings of members belonging to the minority community.

Shah also assured the civilians that the perpetrators of the Dhangri terror attacks will be soon brought to justice and punished in the court of law. During his day-long visit to Jammu Shah announced that the cases related to both terror incidents have been handed over to the National Investigation Agency.

"The NIA and Jammu Police will jointly investigate both the incidents of terrorist violence. The investigation will proceed keeping in mind all the



incidents of terror attacks that took place in the last one and a half years." The Home Minister, who arrived here this afternoon, was addressing a press conference at the Raj Bhavan, after attending a high level security review meeting.

The meeting was attended by LG Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Financial Commissioner (ACS) Home, DGP, Jammu and Kashmir, Commander, Northern Command, Army and Intelligence, and other

senior officers of BSF and CRPF among others.

Briefing media persons, Shah said "My desire was to share the grief of victims' families of the Rajouri terror attacks, but I could not go there due to bad weather. I spoke to all the families over the phone and tried to join their grief". Shah said that the courage of all those victim families is an example for the whole country, it is a big thing to maintain the morale of fighting hard even after such a big incident.

He said that everyone he

talked to showed the courage to stay back in the land that belonged to them, "All of them said that the land belonged to them and they will not leave it. Some families also were from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. But expressing the resilience to fight the situation even after facing such a grave tragedy means a lot." Shah said that with full empathy, the affected families would be given benefits through various schemes of the government, along with this all possible help will be provided by the LG with relief measures under his authority

Referring to the prevailing security situation, Shah said a comprehensive discussion took place with the senior officers belonging to different security agencies. "The security of the Jammu region was discussed in detail."

He said we have decided to implement a time bound action

plan aimed at strengthening the security grid across Jammu, "I can assure that the security agencies be it the Jammu and Kashmir Police or the Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, the SIA team of the Jammu Police or the Indian Army-all the agencies are 100 percent alert and are determined to prevent such incidents in the times to come."

The intelligence agencies have also decided to further intensify their activities and also have chalked out a strategy to do the same," he asserted.

The minister expressed confidence in the security agencies and said, "I believe that in the days to come the people who have perpetrated the terror attacks will be brought to the books by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and make them face the court of law."

K'taka HC takes up suo motu PIL on Bengaluru Metro pillar 'death'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday initiated a suo motu (on its own) public interest litigation on the death of a woman and her child due to the collapse of an under-construction Bengaluru Metro pillar pier here.

Commencing the hearing on the PIL petition, Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Ashok S Kinagri cited news reports about the accident and expressed concern.

The reinforcement cage of an under-construction pier collapsed and fell on a two-wheeler near HBR Layout here on January 10, causing the death of a woman and her child.

The court sought answers from officials concerned on the safety measures undertaken and whether tender documents specified safety measures.

It also asked whether the state government has issued



orders on the safety measures and fixed the responsibility of contractors and officials involved in the construction.

The HC included the State, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) as the respondents in the case.

Notices were ordered to be issued to the respondents and the hearing was adjourned.

Tejaswini, a 28-year-old software engineer and her tod-

dlar son died in the incident while her husband and daughter escaped.

The BMRL has sought the help of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct an independent probe into the matter and also suspended its engineers involved in the construction.

An FIR has been registered against Nagarjuna Construction Company and seven others including a BMRL deputy chief engineer and an executive engineer.

Coal levy scam: ED conducts fresh searches in Chhattisgarh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted fresh searches at multiple locations in Chhattisgarh, including at the premises of an IAS officer, and other places in Karnataka and Jharkhand in connection with its ongoing money laundering probe into an alleged coal levy scam in the State.

The searches were conducted in Raipur, Korba and Durg in Chhattisgarh besides Ranchi in Jharkhand and Bengaluru (Karnataka). The ED search teams were provided security cover of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel during the operation, officials said.



Premises linked to IAS officer and Secretary of water resources department, tourism and culture, Anbalagan P were also covered.

The 2004-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer has earlier served as the Secretary of mineral resources department in the incumbent Congress government.

His wife Alarmelmangai D is also an IAS officer (2004 batch) and is posted as Secretary of Urban Administration and Development Department and Finance Department. She has

earlier served as the Director, geology and mining, in the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel government.

Some politicians and businesses linked to them and some coal traders are also being searched, officials said.

In October, the agency had launched a probe in this case after it searched another IAS officer of the State, Sameer Vishnoi, and some businessmen.

The investigation relates to "a massive scam in which an illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency has alleged.

'WB Govt won't accept UGC order for celebrating Makar Sankranti in varsities'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government will not accept the University Grants Commission directives to celebrate Makar Sankranti in educational institutions as a part of "Ek Bharat", State Education Minister Bratya Basu on Friday said.

Wondering whether the Constitution of India permitted issuance of such directives making celebration of such festivals in government institutions a mandatory affair Basu said "I do not know whether such directives can be issued to States and educational institutions to celebrate religious programmes like Makar Sankranti, Haj, Christmas or for that matter other religious festivals."

A communiqué from the

UGC earlier directed the governments and higher education institutions to celebrate Makar Sankranti in order to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat envisaged by the government to bridge cultural gap between the students.

"The higher educational institutions are requested to celebrate Makar Sankranti with their paired state/institution with great zeal and enthusiasm... Celebration of such festivals among the students will bridge the cultural gap between them, thereby, promoting the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)", the letter from the UGC secretary said.

"As ... EBSB) initiative aims at promoting engagement amongst people of States/UTs in the country for fur-

thering mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures," the educational institutions should celebrate the festival with great fanfare and spread through the social media, the letter added.

Rejecting such ideals the Bengal Education Minister said that the Trinamool Congress government did not have such programmes and that the Makar Sankranti was already being celebrated not only at most households but also at Ganga Sagar Islands.

"I do not know whether the Constitution permits such directives asking the governments to celebrate religious festivals like that ... of course they (BJP Government) have a great knowledge of the Constitution which can be



understood by the way they are interpreting at regular intervals in their own way ... I don't know whether such kind of interpretation of the Constitution came from Manu Samhita or not," the Minister said adding the Bengal Government would prefer to ignore the directive for now.

Meanwhile, the Bengal Government on Friday started Ganga Sagar fare at Sagar Islands with much fanfare amid chanting of Vedic hymns and

cultural programmes in front of Kapil Muni's temple at the confluence of the Ganges and Bay of Bengal even as the pilgrims from all over the country started taking holy dip at the Ganga Sagar in thousands.

With no Kumbha Mela taking place this year round about 30 lakh pilgrims from all over the country and the world are likely to visit Ganga Sagar in a matter of a week Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee earlier said.

How Nishad community will benefit from Ganga cruise, asks Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, while targeting the Ganga Vilas cruise, asked the Government to explain how the Nishad community, which plies boats, would benefit from the Ganga cruise.

He also termed the forthcoming Global Investors' Summit (GIS) proposed in February, an election stunt.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the world's longest river cruise MV Ganga Vilas from Varanasi to Dibrugarh in Assam. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had reviewed the



preparation for the launch of the cruise on Thursday.

"A large number of people visit Varanasi to spend the later years of their lives there; many visit Kashi for spiritualism, for learning to perform religious rituals and other religious ceremonies. But the Bharatiya Janata Party is promoting tourism in Varanasi to

make money. Big businessmen or entrepreneurs coming from outside will get facilities to run businesses in Varanasi while the locals will be neglected," Yadav said.

He claimed that the BJP government had dumped the boat service project proposed in Lucknow's Gomti river. "Why did the BJP government dump the Samajwadi Party government's project?" Yadav asked.

"The SP government had set an example before the country by launching the Gomti Riverfront project for cleaning and beautification of the rivers. Prior to this, there was no arrangement for treatment of

sewage flowing directly into the rivers. What does the BJP government want to show to the people by stopping the development projects?" he asked.

"The Global Investors' Summit is an election stunt. The projects being launched by the local entrepreneurs on their own initiative are also being included in the summit. The government must come out with a status paper on how much employment will be generated through the investments in various sectors. The BJP government is projecting UP as a shining state but the fact is that no project will be launched on ground after the summit," the SP chief claimed.

17 held for clash between Hathras police, Dalits

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Seventeen persons were arrested after a clash between Hathras police and Dalit residents over the "removal of idols and portraits of Hindu gods" during a religious celebration held in Jatoi hamlet under Sadabad police station of Budaun district, police said on Friday.

While members of the Dalit community complained that police misbehaved with them, police said that they arrived at the location after receiving complaints about an event being conducted without permission on Wednesday night.

According to police offi-

cials, a video that went popular on social media showed youngsters destroying images of Hindu gods from the walls of a house. A young man carrying a sack can be seen and heard saying, "Have you seen any picture of Babasaheb or Gautam Buddha at the house of a Brahmin? Why have you people put these pictures inside this sack?"

Taking note of the viral video, authorities initiated an inquiry and arrived on the scene. When the police team enquired whether permission was obtained by Dalit youngsters to organise the religious celebration, they were attacked, according to police. In the attack, a sub-inspector and a



constable were injured.

As many as 17 assailants and 50 unidentified individuals have been charged under various provisions of the law.

Udaiveer, one of the booked young men, said that

following the incident, police agreed to investigate the misbehaviour by several cops, but they filed a complaint against them. He said they had nothing to do with the viral video.

After HC warning, Rapido taxi suspends ops in Mumbai, Pune

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Rapido Bike Taxi service suspended its operations in Mumbai and Pune till January 20 on Friday, within an hour after the Bombay High Court warned the service provider that it would restrain their licence permanently and impose heavy costs.

The counsel for Rapido Bike Taxi told a HC Bench of Justices GS Patel and SG Dige, that his client would suspend all the services till January 20 and would disable the app meant for booking vehicles for services throughout Maharashtra. Consequently, Rapido suspended its operations in Mumbai and Pune from 1 PM on Friday.

Earlier, handing out a stern warning to the bike taxi aggregator company that it would not be allowed to operate without licence, the HC bench also said that if the company did not suspend its operations immediately, it would issue directions to the authorities to permanently prohibit the company from getting any license



"You thought there were guidelines, and we can run our services without a license. In other words, Mr. Judge please protect our illegality under Article 226. Guess what? We will not. Dr. Saraf's entire team is here. They will be watching over you like hawks. If you make one mistake, we will dismiss this petition. We will ensure that you are restrained from getting a license permanently, and we will impose costs while dismissing this petition," the HC bench observed.

The HC bench was hearing a petition filed by Rapido, challenging the State government's refusal to grant two-wheeler bike taxi aggregator license.

The HC bench issued a directive to Rapido in the context of the fact that there was currently licencing system in place with respect to bike taxis.

In a letter written to Rapido on December 29, 2022, the Maharashtra government had refused to grant licence to the company on the ground that there is no State policy on licensing of bike taxis and that there is no fare structure policy for bike taxis.

On its part, the HC bench had on January 2 asked the state government to consider the benefits of having two-wheeler transport and opined that there is nothing to stop the State from framing a policy. The court had later adjourned the matter to January 10.

UP Assembly to award best performing MLA

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Assembly will award the best performing MLA from this year.

The selection of the MLA to be awarded will be based on the parliamentary performance of the legislators, content of the speech and their attendance in the House.

A committee headed by the assembly speaker will select the MLA for the best performance award every year.

UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana said here on Friday that the award would be given every year and it would be given to one or two MLAs. He said a committee of MLAs would be constituted for deciding the award.

If the proposal goes ahead, Uttar Pradesh will become the first state to institute such an award.

The idea of institution of the 'Best Legislator Award' on the lines of the honour given to MPs was first mooted in January 2018 by the then UP Assembly Speaker Hriday Naryan Dikshit during the Yogi Adityanath government 1.0. The proposal was prompted by the then assembly



speaker in a bid to inculcate discipline among the legislators.

Stung by the frequent derailment of proceedings by agitated members, Dikshit had then said that his main aim would be to ensure discipline in the House. The award was mooted to encourage legislators to follow parliamentary etiquette and norms.

Speaker Satish Mahana, who recently attended the 83rd All India presiding officers' conference in Jaipur, said a call was issued to all state assemblies to start making preparations for the G-20 summit to be held in Delhi in September next.

He said nine resolutions were adopted during the presiding officers' conference. He said the speaker of the Lok Sabha was authorised to decide on the issue of financial autonomy to state assemblies.

10 killed, 34 hurt in accident near Shirdi

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least 10 persons, including two children, were killed and 34 others injured on Friday morning, when a bus collided with a truck on the Nashik-Shirdi highway in north Maharashtra.

There were 50 passengers in all at the time of the mishap. A majority of passengers were from Ambernath, Thane and Ulhasnagar.

The bus (MH 04 SK 2751) was taking pilgrim to Shirdi when the mishap took place. At that time, as many as 15 tourist buses were heading towards Shirdi

Of those killed in the mishap, five were women, three men and two children. The injured were rushed to Nashik district Civil Hospital and Sinnar Hospital.

Mourning those killed in the mishap, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde announced ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

The chief minister also ordered an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the accident.

NIA chargesheets 6 in J&K drone arms drop case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against six accused in a drone case relating to interception of a Hexacopter, several rounds of Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) and magnetic bombs from Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 114/2022 dated May 29 at Rajbagh police station, Kathua and re-registered by the NIA on July 30.

"Investigations revealed that on directions of accused, Sajjad Gul, the Pakistani handler, the accused used to collect, receive and transport the weapons, dropped over drones, to the militants active in Kashmir valley for commission of terror activities in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, as part of the conspiracy of wage war against the Government of India," the NIA said in a statement.

Nadda meets Suriname Prez



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi met BJP national president JP Nadda at the BJP headquarters here on Friday.

Santokhi is the second Indian origin person to be elected as the President of Suriname.

He is the Chairman of the Progressive Reform Party of Suriname and has earlier served as minister of Justice and police from 2005-10.

The Suriname president has also served as Chairman of The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) in the year 2022.

He was the special guest of Honour for 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas held at Indore.

Nadda's meeting with the Suriname President is part of a series of outreach by the BJP to create awareness and make understand the world community about the party and its political and economic programmes in the country.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Veritable Vilas

Flagging of MV Ganga Vilas, the longest river cruise opens a new vertical - river tourism

MV Ganga Vilas, the world's longest river cruise, will go a long way promoting tourism in the eastern states concerned, boosting economic activity there, and generating employment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi today flagged off the cruise Varanasi through video conferencing. As many as 32 tourists from Switzerland will enjoy the maiden journey to reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh. The Prime Minister also inaugurated a Tent City, with 200 luxury tents offering the scenic view of the famed ghats of the Ganga. The tent city lets tourists soak the spirituality and mystique of the ancient city and the holy river, complete with live classical music, the famous evening 'aarti,' and yoga sessions. Modi also laid the foundation of Rs 1,000-crore inland waterways projects. He rightly said, "With this cruise, many places of eastern India will now figure in the world tourism map... What can be more unfortunate than the fact that since Independence the banks of the Ganga became backward, let alone developed." Cruise tourists, witnessing 27 river systems, will be able to visit a variety of 50 prominent destinations, including world heritage sites, national parks, river ghats, and cities like Patna, Shahiganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata, Dhaka, and Guwahati. It is interesting to note Modi's interest in and zeal for promoting tourism, including the luxury variant. The cruise, costing Rs 20 lakh per head, is surely for the top income bracket people.

This highlights the fact Modi is perhaps the first Prime Minister who is not infected with the India-is-poor syndrome. In the last one hundred years, if not more, Indian politicians have not only suffered from this syndrome but also promoted it in their statements and speeches, policies and programmes. Worse, poverty was even glorified, something which began with Mahatma Gandhi. One casualty was tourism, for it was regarded as the prerogative of the rich. It never received the attention that other areas—for example, heavy industries under Jawaharlal Nehru, agriculture under Indira Gandhi, and computers under Rajiv Gandhi—received. After all, only the rich people are interested in tourism—or so it was thought. Few in India—and none in politics—even bothered to have a look at tourism which has enormous growth and job potentials. This is one sector in which people from all walks of life—the educated and the uneducated, the skilled, the semi-skilled, and the unskilled, artisans and craftsmen, hotels and shopkeepers—participate. Unsurprisingly, the tourism sector is highly taxed, as parliamentary panels have reported. It goes to the credit of PM Modi that he not only recognised the potential of tourism but also worked on it; the promotion of the Kutch region in Gujarat, where a tent city came up much earlier, is a testimony to his support for tourism. It is time his Government thought of bringing down the incidence of taxation in the sector.



A tourist beats drum with artists in traditional attires in the Camel Festival, in Bikaner

Adieu Sharad Yadav

Sharad Yadav leaves a void in the socialist movement in the country

The veteran socialist leader Sharad Yadav is no more. He died while undergoing treatment in Gurugram, Haryana. He was admitted after he collapsed at home. Yadav is survived by his wife and two children. His death is a sudden jolt to the socialist politics in the country as he was one of the most prominent faces of socialism in the country. He was one of the key leaders who opposed Indira Gandhi's Congress during the Emergency. Sharad Yadav was always active in politics and had been a part of the Lok Dal and Janata Party and its spin offs. Yadav first won a seat in the Lok Sabha in 1974, defeating the Congress candidate. Since then, he was elected as MP multiple times. Yadav served as minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee and VP Singh governments. Yadav was elected to Lok Sabha for the first time from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh in 1974 in a by-poll. It was the time when JP Movement was at its peak and he was the first candidate chosen by Jai Prakash Narayan. In 1977, he was re-elected from the same constituency. When Janata Party split in 1979, he sided with the Charan Singh faction. Though he switched parties but he never gave up his ideology and remained committed to socialistic values that he imbibed in his college days. He contested the Madhepura Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar several times which became his favourite seat. He won the Madhepura seat four times in 1991, 1996, 1999 and 2009. He lost four times from Madhepura constituency when he contested on RJD's ticket. A few years ago, there was a rift between Sharad Yadav and Nitish Kumar, after which

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar himself became the national president of the party. Sharad Yadav left JDU and formed a new party, although his new party did not work, after which he got associated with Lalu Prasad Yadav's party RJD and remained there till his last day. He had fair share of highs and lows in his long political career spanning over five decades. He was one of the accused in the 'hawala' scandal however, the charges were dismissed by the Supreme Court of India. Without him socialism which is already fading would fade even faster. Mulayam Singh Yadav, another exponent of socialism is already gone. However, the values he stood for would continue to inspire the generations to come as the dream of the egalitarian society is still unfulfilled in the country.

Stop demonising demonetisation

Demonetisation was a major reform that helped in laying the foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth

Delivering a majority 4:1 verdict on January 2, 2023, the Supreme Court (SC) upheld the constitutional validity of the demonetization announced by the prime minister, Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016. But the controversy refuses to die down. Reiterating its stance that the decision was disastrous, the grand old party (GOP) opines that the question of 'whether the stated objectives of demonetization have been achieved' was not examined by the SC.

Being a policy matter that lies within the exclusive domain of the Union government/executive, its examination by the judiciary was not required; SC's mandate was to deliver its verdict on the legality of the decision which it did. As for the impact of demonetization, there is a need for an objective and dispassionate analysis.

A major plank underlying the move was to curb the menace of black money — a jargon for income generated in cash that goes unrecorded and no tax is paid. Working on the premise that most of such cash was held in 1000/500 denomination notes, Modi declared these notes as illegal meaning that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) won't be under an obligation to discharge its liability to the holders of such notes. Put simply, the worth of these notes would become 'NIL'.

Modi acted in the belief that those who had accumulated cash by indulging in undesirable activities such as a bureaucrat taking bribe money instead of a favor extended to private entities etc. (or a person not disclosing his income and paying tax) won't have the courage to go to the bank as this would come on the radar of the income tax (I-T) department and other agencies. So, they would let these notes be annihilated while sitting in their vault.

The mandarins in the finance ministry were hoping that notes worth over Rs 300,000 crore won't come back leading to corresponding gain for the RBI by way of a reduction in its liabilities for that amount. A portion of

this mammoth gain, in fact, of it, could be transferred to the Union government to be used by the latter for reducing its fiscal deficit or funding infrastructure projects and welfare schemes. But things didn't pan out as expected. As on November 8, 2016 (the day, demonetization was announced), the total value of 1000/500 notes with the public was Rs 1540,000 crore.

Of these, notes worth Rs 1530,000 crore were either deposited or exchanged for new currency. Thus, notes worth Rs 10,000 crore didn't come back, a tiny fraction of what was expected. The cost of printing new currency to replace the banned notes and putting up infrastructure to deliver being around Rs 8,000 crore, the RBI ended up with a meager gain of Rs 2000 crore.

However, merely on this basis, we can't say that the exercise was a damp squib as it unleashed a host of other benefits. A close look at the numbers reveals that a mere 110,000 persons deposited Rs 400,000 crores or Rs 3.6 crore per person.

A release by the ministry



A large crowd of people gathered outside a bank branch, likely for demonetization exchange.

“THUS, A MOUNTAIN OF BLACK CASH WAS BROUGHT TO THE BANKS AND MANY OF ITS CARRIERS MADE ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT IT INTO WHITE. HOW FAR DID THEY SUCCEED? THIS IS A MATTER OF PROBE

of corporate affairs (MCA) on November 5, 2017, said "Preliminary inquiry based on information received from 56 banks in respect of 35,000 companies involving 58,000 accounts has revealed that an amount of over Rs 17,000 crore was deposited and withdrawn post demonetization." In one case, a company which had a negative opening balance on November 8, 2016, deposited and withdrew Rs 2,484 crore post demonetization.

Thus, a mountain of black cash was brought to the banks and many of its carriers made attempts to convert it into white. How far did they succeed? This is a matter of probe. But a big positive is: banks got hundreds of thousands of crores to increase lending.

Under 'Operation Clean', 1.8 million accounts in which 'suspicious' deposits of over Rs 300,000 crore were made, were subjected to intense scrutiny by the I-T department and made to pay tax plus penalty. Meanwhile, the government offered them a less stringent option of paying 50 percent tax plus a 25 percent

interest-free loan to PM Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY) from December 16, 2016, to March 31, 2017. This was instead of a person accepting the wrong and agreeing to be an honest taxpayer in the future.

This led to buoyancy in tax collection. During the 2017-18 assessment year (AY), the total number of return filers was about 70 million - almost double the number during AY 2014-15 at 36 million. Of 34 million filers added during the intervening period, around 16 million were added during AY 2017-18 alone. Correspondingly, the direct tax revenue (DTR) surged from Rs 850,000 crore during 2016-17 to over Rs 1000,000 crore during 2017-18.

The disclosures also helped in nabbing shell companies that were being used for laundering black money. Over 200,000 such companies have been deregistered. It has also helped the I-T department intensify searches and seizures leading to the disclosure of unaccounted income worth about Rs 125,000 crore. (The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UKRAINE INVASION

Sir — February 24 is coming in a few weeks. On that day it will be one year since the Russians invaded Ukraine. When the attack was done, Putin supporters spread all over the world saying, it is just a matter of a month and a half, in the capital Kyiv, the Russian flag will start waving. But today's situation is such that when I see Putin on TV, his face, his appearance, and his body language is telling this. He is repenting for this decision taken in haste.

So far, even 10 percent of Ukraine's territory has not been captured properly. In that itself, more than 9 thousand Russian soldiers have been killed. Due to this, inside the country, people have started condemning Putin, right from the suppressed tongue. Perhaps because of these complications, the Russian commander stationed in Ukraine has been replaced within three months. Last November, commander Sergei Surovikin, who had served in Syria, was sent to wreak havoc on Ukrainian citizens.

It seems that even these did not work, so now an army general Valery Gerasimov has been appointed on top of them to kill the citizens and army of Ukraine. It becomes clear from this that Russia has now started realizing its status. Because of this war, the economic condition of Russia is getting worse day by day. There is still time for Putin to apologize to Ukraine and stop this senseless war with immediate effect.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

SLUR ON RAMCHARITMANAS

Sir — Bihar Education Minister Professor Chandra Shekhar has cast a slur on Ramcharitmanas. Hindus and seers are outraged over the remarks of the minister. As an education minister, is Shekhar educating the people about Ramcharitmanas? People's attention is being diverted from core issues by stoking controversies on the holy books.

The education minister needs to be educated to concentrate only on the portfolio allotted to him by the Chief Minister.

Demolitions in Joshimath



The process of Demolition of two unsafe hotels in Uttarakhand's Joshimath is worrying. All of our policy-makers and experts should think about long-term solutions. It is painful to see the victims lamenting the loss of their homes and hearts. We have to think twice

now before undertaking construction activities on the banks of rivers, cutting mountains for more roads, making tunnels passing through hilly villages, and mining river sand. What is the fault of the residents and why should they pay a heavy price for urban development? To save Himalayan towns from further deterioration, the focus needs to be on sustainable development and not aggressive unplanned Development. Geologists should examine the vulnerability of the entire area and work out preventive guidelines to control the construction of new buildings. Secondly, People living in hilly areas should take early steps to protect their future as nature is unpredictable. What we give to nature, comes back to us. So, we need to conserve nature.

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

No minister needs to go the extra mile to create a hostile environment. If the minister is unable to unite the people, at least he should not divide them. The minister says that Ramcharitmanas is going to divide society. Ramcharitmanas is the forerunner of the Bharatiya Sanatan. The minister fears that Ramcharitmanas promotes caste division. By abandoning Ramcharitmanas, does he think that he can create a casteless society?

What is outrageous is his call to burn Ramcharitmanas. If such a call had been given to any other non-Hindu holy books, the consequences would have been beyond imagination.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

NECESSARY GUARDING

Sir — The decision to restart the Village Defence Guarding system mechanism in the border village areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Dangri in particular, has come up with mixed reactions.

On the one hand, it is welcoming, as villagers could be armed to at least keep the militant away unless the police took over the action charge for Rescue. But on the other hand, this is a bit problematic to reintroduce the scheme of the 80s as

it indicates that there is no normalcy in the area of J&K. Arming citizens voluntarily had their challenges on the other side also. Weaponizing people will develop a sense of threat within the community, especially challenging for women as the weapons can be utilized for coercion against their dignity. The return of weapons in the hands of people for their self-guard, questions the system of public governance, which guarantees people's safety and law and order via the police.

But the reality is that innocent villagers are becoming the victims of these terrorists, and even young children are dying, which no parent in the valley wants. Thus self-guarding and defensive training is the triggering need of their safety concerns, which the government must check for. Unless terror is completely erased, it is necessary to enhance the guarding mechanism either by VDG (Village Defence Guards) or by enhancing the troop deployment in the critical areas of concern.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Then what is the purpose of having an elected government in Delhi at all if the administration is to be carried out only at the beck and call of the Central government?"

Chief Justice of India — DY Chandrachud



The second World War wasn't over yet, but the tide was turned, all knew who would win. There were still battles and tears ahead, it was then that the Golden Globes awards appeared to honor the best performers of 1943.

Ukraine President — Volodymyr Zelenskyy



Nobody has invited me to the wedding, not even the public. Twice I've read dates and all, I'll also check for a moment. Am I getting married?

Actor — Sidharth Malhotra



"Batting at No. 5 has just helped me understand my game a little bit better. Given the ball is slightly older, you have to play spin straight away and that's not what I am used to usually."

Cricketer — KL Rahul




The world becoming increasingly volatile and uncertain for the south.

Minister for external affairs — S Jaishankar

FIRST COLUMN

AI CAN HELP FIGHT FOOD CRISIS


Several states are serious about adoption of AI in agriculture



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

The world is witnessing a widespread food crisis owing to a number of factors like climate change and other environmental shocks such as flooding and drought are adding to the food crisis. Also, supply chain disruptions caused by Russia-Ukraine and other conflicts, poverty, hyperinflation, rising commodity prices, lingering Covid pandemic, low production of cereals, and then rising population in some parts of the globe are making the food crisis acute.

The World Bank suggests that the rising food crisis is driving millions into extreme poverty, increasing hunger and malnutrition and threatening to wipe out the gains in terms of Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) through the last few decades. Here, experts concede that only leveraging new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) can be able to combat this food crisis which otherwise may aggravate.



Evolving multi-fold in the last few years, artificial intelligence offers a slew of solutions in several sectors, including agriculture. AI can help in detecting crop disease, pests, impact of weather, pesticides and weed-icides. AI helps farmers achieve higher yields through precision farming.

The lack of required infrastructure and technical knowhow and per-sisting with traditional styles of cultivation worsen agricultural problems in large part of the globe, including India. However, demands are fast growing. If estimates of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) are to be believed, demands for cereals, pulses, eggs, fruits, vegetables and milk may be more than twice by 2030 compared with the requirements in 2000. During this period, food grain demands are also expected to jump by more than 85 per cent. Similar is the situation in several parts of the world.

Sensing the situation well in advance, India has already ventured on to this path with all the required wherewithal. The Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council says, AI expenditure is expected to grow at 39 per cent year on year basis during 2019 and 2025 and Niti Aayog estimates that AI can add up to one trillion dollar to Indian economy by 2035 and experts suggest that a significant amount of this would be in the agriculture sector only.

Presently, the value of the Indian agri-tech market is estimated to be at \$204 million. New AI technologies coming into being are expected to transform Indian agriculture with the Economic Survey suggesting the contribution of agriculture to India's GDP is likely to be 19.9 per cent in 2020-21, which was just 17.1 per cent in 2019-20.

Moreover, AI can help in efficient and cost-effective resource and yield management, besides helping in coping with the complexities of modern agriculture. Helping in agri-data stacks, AI can help farmers to extract and analyze relevant information like temperature, weather, water consumption, soil conditions, use of fertilizers, besides supporting both public and privates entities who are increasingly getting involved in agricultural activities. AI can help farmers in having seasonal weather forecasts and early warnings to improve farming accuracy and productivity. AI with its accurate and real time data, can also help in addressing demand and supply mismatch.

Besides, precision farming, yield and price management would also be possible through AI-enabled internet of things, as the availability of 5G technology is just a matter of time. AI-supported drone-based cameras can also help identify real-time issues related to cultivation. Clearly, a combination of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, satellite imagery and advanced analytics is sure to lead us to smart agriculture with reduced uncertainties. Several states are serious about adoption of AI in agriculture, with Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and a few others spearheading the course.

(The author is a senior journalist)

High-values currency should be checked

RAMAKRISHNAN TS

If RBI retains the two high denomination notes, a time will come where banks receive very few such notes

T

he Supreme Court's verdict put an end to the 10 legal questions it raised about the validity and due process by which demonetisation was carried out. However, the critics of demonetisation would continue to question the efficacy which was spelt out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the time of announcing the decision to the nation.

When any public policy is devised and implemented, the intended benefits are stated. The outcome may not achieve all the stated benefits, but it may achieve some which were not envisaged at the time of implementation of a public policy.

There are essentially four menaces that were targeted by the government from demonetisation announced on November 8, 2016. They were counterfeit currency, terror financing, tax evasion and black money.

Although counterfeit currencies can be printed by anybody, it is not easy to print them very similar to currencies printed by the RBI and hence, its circulation is exceptionally difficult if the public is a little alert. The alertness and quick action of the local police also plays a large role in quickly nabbing the culprits, who try to circulate counterfeit currencies. Counterfeit currencies are also very difficult to pass through the banking system.

Invariably, attempts have been made to print counterfeit currencies of larger denominations as the huge risk involved in circulating counterfeit currencies can be compensated only by printing larger denomination currencies by the culprits. With INR 2000 denominations constituting only about 13.8 per cent in terms of value of the total currency in circulation in December 2022 and which has been on the decline further in the months to come, it is more futile now to attempt to generate counterfeit currencies.

The number of counterfeit banknotes has come down from 7.62 lakh pieces in 2016-17 to 2.09 lakh pieces in 2020-21 post decision of the Government of India to cancel the legal tender status of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denomination currency notes on November 8, 2016.

The second one is terror financing. It was the use of counterfeit currencies that played a key role in the terror financing before demonetisation and with the demonetisation, the counterfeit currencies reached the lowest level of INR 2.60 lakh between 09.11.2016 and 14.07.2017 (PIB dated 25.07.2017). But terror funding need not always have to come from counterfeit currencies but from legal tender too.

After the repeal of Article 370 for Jammu & Kashmir, the terror unleashed against the public is more local and one can surmise that it has been happening with legal tender. The third one is tax evasion. With GST and the electronic trailing associated with it, businessmen and traders are forced to show their true transactions and thereby true income to some extent. The

“

THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PRICE INDEX, WHICH WAS 165 JUST BEFORE DEMONETISATION, WAS AT 165 IN JUNE 2022. THE STAGNATION OF THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PRICE INDEX (RPPI) FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS CANNOT BE FULLY ATTRIBUTED TO DEMONETISATION

(Author is a public finance expert)



consistency of higher GST collections in FY 2022-23 shows that GST compliance has been improving significantly. The GST compliance will improve the Direct Tax collections both in terms of corporate tax and personal income tax.

The fourth one is black money or precisely unaccounted currency. Unaccounted wealth includes unaccounted currency to a limited level, but essentially consists of other movable and non-movable assets. There are different policy instruments to combat unaccounted currency and unaccounted wealth and demonetisation was never aimed to combat unaccounted wealth.

Only when the unaccounted wealth goes for sale next time, unaccounted currency may surface again or may come out whitewashed. It is a hide and seek game played by people who have accumulated unaccounted currency. Only when the unaccounted currency is captured in one or other way, the linkages between unaccounted currency and unaccounted wealth can be cut, till new unaccounted current is generated from the corrupt system.

The purchase of gold by currency, the difference between the registered value and the market value of a real estate property, unaccounted donations to educational institutions and bribes and commissions, distribution of currencies to vulnerable sections of the voters to seek votes and hiding the unaccounted currencies by creating unaccounted wealth are some of the factors that contribute to the generation of unaccounted wealth.

Real estate is one sector where unaccounted currency hides behind unaccounted wealth, as the registered values are different from market values. The Residential Property Price Index, which was 165 just before demonetisation, is at 165 in June 2022. The stagnation of the Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) for the last six years cannot be fully attributed to demonetisation.

The anecdotal evidence shows that still unaccounted currency may contribute to about 30 per cent of the total value of a real estate asset, but the control of unaccounted currency stopped the unreasonable price increase of real estate properties.

The above analysis indicates that demonetisation gave a jolt to those who had unaccounted currencies at the time of demonetisation. But the unaccounted currencies will grow again with corruption, bribes and untrue revelation of revenue and profit and will be either kept as 'Store Value' or hide behind unaccounted wealth. This systemic problem cannot be rectified with one demonetisation or demonetisation at regular intervals.

Although India witnessed an exponential rise in using non-currency transactions, first due to demonetisation, then due to the development of various Fintech platforms, including Universal Payment Interface and Covid and people's quick adoption of UPI, the currency in circulation increased from INR 17 lakh crore in 2016 to about INR 33 lakh crore in 2022.

Although the RBI has stopped printing of Rs 2000 denominations and its circulation is limited to only 13.8 per cent of the total value of currency in circulation, the circulation of Rs 500 is alarming at a level of 73.3 per cent of the total value. The combination of Rs 2000 and Rs 500 constitutes about 87 per cent of the total value of currency in circulation, which is the same as the pre-demonetisation level of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denominations.

It may be argued that the total currency value in circulation has increased only in proportion to the increase of GDP in current value, but that does not hold water, given the huge penetration of digital transactions. Hence, the surmise is that a substantial portion of the currency, especially the Rs 2000 and Rs 500 denominations in circulation, have been kept as 'Stored Value', although there is no data to support this surmise.

If the RBI retains the two high denomination currencies which come to the banks and releases only smaller denominations such as Rs 100 and Rs 50 through their ATMs and counters by printing it on a larger scale, a time will come where banks receive meagre numbers of Rs 2000 and Rs 500 denominations or may stop receiving Rs 2000 and Rs 500 denominations altogether. That is the inflection point to arrive at the estimation of the 'Stored value' of Rs 2000 and Rs 500 denominations in circulation and the right time to devise innovative measures to get hold of 'Stored Value' and crack-down against hoarders. This is the way forward to bring justification to the demonetisation exercise.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE TELUGU FLAG IS FLYING HIGH! ON BEHALF OF ALL OF ANDHRA PRADESH, I CONGRATULATE... THE ENTIRE TEAM OF RRR MOVIE. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

— ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER JAGAN REDDY



WE ARE INDIANS FIRST AND THE “SEPARATIST ATTITUDE” IS UNHEALTHY.

— SINGER ADNAN SAMI



Clinical data management is critical for efficiency

The current clinical trials reduce the cost and development time and failures in research, and support data-driven decision-making

C

linical data management is an important phase of clinical research that collects reliable, high-quality, and statistically sound data from clinical trials. It, thus, saves a lot of time in the development and marketing of drugs.

Data generated by trials is becoming complicated with time, resulting in overflowing data. Researchers prefer adaptive clinical design over fixed clinical design because of its ability to modify according to the data accumulated by subjects. Oncology drugs and biologics can be developed swiftly through adaptive studies which include basket, umbrella, and platform designs.

Master study protocol uses dynamic and flexible database builds and is used to conduct multi-arm, cohort, and decision-tree studies.

There is abundant data for the trials, including diverse data sources (e.g., wearable devices or sensors), increased data volume and precision, risk-based quality control techniques, decentralized clinical trials, and adaptive designs.

Clinical trials are focusing more on patient experience and the value they provide, which further complicates the trial. Therefore, it is becoming impossible for clinical data managers to implement and enable old-school, heads-down data cleaning methods.

Clinical data managers can utilise modernised processes and technologies to support their roles and responsibilities, and adapt to the latest domain of data management in clinical trials.

Earlier, clinical data management was centralised and collected using paper CRFs. Furthermore, they were translated into the database by manual data entry.

The clinical managers in the pre-CDM era were skilled and could review patient data by conducting cross-from reviews and using SQL queries to get the output and check the validity of the data. The managers could also review listings and by using the knowledge of therapeutic areas and indications, could raise the issue back to the investigation site.

However, this procedure was dependent on the skill and experience of the reviewer. Therefore, it was difficult to achieve consistency in reviewing and validation of data, which resulted in the use of inefficient and time-consuming quality control steps.

Presently, multiple software programs are supporting smart data management, which allows data managers to multitask and use various tools. There are multiple solutions for different studies when it comes to streamlining and flexibility. The biggest innovation of data management is centralization.

Sponsors are centralising their technology along with centralizing their data management systems. The functional service providers (FSPs) in smaller companies are outsourcing their work to keep everyone on the same level. The right software and partnership with an FSP can produce an efficient and productive working environment.

A good data management system makes an organized and analytics-based approach possible. Data sources such as Electronic Data Capture (EDC), Electronic Clinical Outcome Assessment (eCOA), central laboratory data, and electrocardiograms (ECGs) are used in CDM. In recent years, we have witnessed the use of biosensors, wearable devices, and Electronic Health Records (EHRs). It helps in enabling real-time access to participant statistics.

The current clinical trials are dependent on real-time analytics, modeling, and simulation. This, in turn, reduces the cost and development time and failures in research, and supports data-driven decision-making.

The traditional methods to acquire and manage clinical trials have not seen much advancement as compared to the technology. All these methods were considered inefficient and the healthcare industry needs to find new methods of clinical development in the future to create new and better medicines in the future.

Technology is advancing rapidly and the clinical data management process finds it difficult to keep up with it. High-quality medical data is growing fiercely and at a rapid rate, therefore, it is difficult to keep up with it without the usage of modern tools.

It is possible, that the future of clinical data management will use AI and machine learning to understand the pattern of the data and predict the outcome from it. These automated tools and intelligence will decrease the risk factor and Quality by Design (QOD) and the clinical database system will help in the actionable analysis of the data.

The modern clinical data management approach uses systematic, prioritized, and risk-based quality management approaches for clinical trial monitoring. To adapt to the modern clinical data management paradigm, it is important to establish central monitoring strategies to read the data provided by electronic data capture (EDC) and other sources. The sponsors and CROs must avoid post-database lock delays to identify and mitigate the negative trends in data after the database is locked.



KRUTIKESH AGE

(The author is Co-founder, DPHS Pvt. Ltd)

Russia says it took Soledar, Ukraine denies its capture

AP ■ KYIV

Russia claimed Friday that its forces captured a fiercely contested salt mining town, in what would mark a rare victory for the Kremlin after a series of setbacks in its invasion of Ukraine.

Ukrainian authorities said the fight for Soledar continued. There have repeatedly been conflicting reports over who controls the town, the site of a monthslong bloody battle in the grinding fight for Ukraine's eastern regions. The Associated Press could not independently confirm either side's claim.

Soledar is located in Ukraine's Donetsk province, one of four that Moscow illegally annexed in September.

From the outset, Moscow identified Donetsk and neighbouring Luhansk province as priorities, and in September declared them part of Russia along with two other regions.

"The liberation of the town of Soledar was completed in the evening of Jan. 12," Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Russian Defense Ministry's spokesman, said, adding that the develop-



ment was "important for the continuation of offensive operations in the Donetsk region."

Taking control of the town would allow Russian forces "to

cut supply lines for the Ukrainian forces" in Bakhmut and then "block and encircle the Ukrainian units there," Konashenkov said.

But Serhii Cherevaty, a spokesman for the Ukrainian army in the east, denied the Russian Defense Ministry's claim in remarks carried by

RBK Ukraine news outlet, saying that "fighting is ongoing in the city."

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank in Washington, observed that the fall of Soledar wouldn't mark "an operationally significant development and is unlikely to presage an imminent Russian encirclement of Bakhmut."

The institute said that Russian information operations have "overexaggerated the importance of Soledar," a small settlement, arguing as well that the long and difficult battle has contributed to the exhaustion of Russian forces.

Just hours before Russia's claim, Ukraine reported that there had been a heavy night of fighting but did not acknowledge loss of the town.

In a Telegram post early Friday, Ukraine's deputy defense minister, Hanna Maliar, said that Moscow "had sent almost all (its) main forces" to secure a victory in the east. She said that Ukrainian fighters "are bravely trying to hold the defense."

"This is a difficult stage of the war, but we will win.

Rifts in Russian military command



AP ■ KYIV

As Russian troops wage a ferocious house-to-house fight for control of strongholds in eastern Ukraine, a parallel battle is unfolding in the top echelons of military power in Moscow, with President Vladimir Putin reshuffling his top generals while rival camps try to win his favour.

The fighting for the salt mining town of Soledar and the nearby city of Bakhmut has highlighted a bitter rift between the Russian Defence Ministry leadership and Yevgeny Prigozhin, a rogue millionaire whose private military force known as the Wagner Group has played an increasingly visible role in

Ukraine.

Putin's shakeup of the military brass this week was seen as a bid to show that the Defence Ministry still has his support and is in charge as the troubled conflict nears the 11-month mark.

Prigozhin rushed Wednesday to declare that his mercenary force had captured Soledar, arguing that the prize was won exclusively by Wagner.

The Defence Ministry has challenged that characterisation — describing action by airborne troops and other forces in the battle — and on Friday claimed credit for taking the town. A Ukrainian army spokesman denied that, saying fighting in Soledar continued.

The 61-year-old Prigozhin,

who was known as "Putin's chef" for his lucrative catering contracts and was indicted in the U.S. For meddling in the 2016 presidential election, has expanded his assets to include Wagner, as well as mining and other spheres. He has scathingly criticised the military brass for blunders in Ukraine, saying Wagner was more efficient than regular troops.

He has found a powerful ally in Chechnya's leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who has deployed elite troops from his southern Russian region to fight in Ukraine and also assailed the military leadership and the Kremlin for being too soft and indecisive.

While both have pledged loyalty to Putin, their public attacks on his top generals openly challenged the Kremlin's monopoly on such criticism, something that Russia's tightly controlled political system hadn't seen before. In the reshuffle announced Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said the head of the General Staff, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, was named the new chief of Russian forces in Ukraine, while the former top commander there, Gen. Sergei Surovikin, was demoted to Gerasimov's deputy after only three months on the job.

NATO planes to be sent to Romania to eye Russian activity

AP ■ BUCHAREST

NATO said Friday it plans to deploy three surveillance planes to Romania next week to perform reconnaissance missions and to "monitor Russian military activity" within the 30-nation military alliance's territory.

The Airborne Warning and Control System surveillance planes, or AWACS, belong to a fleet of 14 usually based in Germany. Three of the aircraft will be sent Tuesday to an airbase near Romania's capital, Bucharest, on a mission expected to last several weeks, the 30-nation alliance said in a statement.

The planes "can detect aircraft hundreds of kilometers away, making them a key capability for NATO's deterrence and defense posture," NATO spokesperson Oana Lungescu said in a statement.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, NATO

has bolstered its presence on Europe's eastern flank, including by sending additional battle-groups to Romania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia.

AWACS have conducted "regular patrols over eastern Europe and the Baltic Sea region to track Russian warplanes near NATO borders" throughout the Russia-Ukraine war, the statement said.

The NATO planes, Boeing E-3s, were jointly purchased at a cost of almost \$8 billion in 1977 at the height of the Cold War, when Jimmy Carter became U.S. President and as a missile crisis with the Soviet Union was beginning to fester in Europe.

Along with a small drone fleet in Italy, the planes are among the few military assets that NATO owns as an alliance. They've been routinely refurbished to ensure that they can keep flying until 2035.

Some of the planes were deployed in U.S. Skies 24 hours

after the September 11, 2001 attacks to help protect cities and nuclear power plants. Beyond

their role as NATO's eye in the sky, the planes can be used for air-policing, support in counter-

terrorism or evacuation operations, and provide help during natural disasters.



NORTHERN RAILWAY
75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

E-Tender Notice
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its location	Replacement/provision of Earthing arrangement in existing TSS & switching post over Delhi division.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs 11815578.5/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 209100
4	E-Tender Bid online Submission Period	27.01.2023
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	10.02.2023 (15.00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	20366203
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 28-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Date: 13.01.2023
160/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 31.01.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 25,48,487/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLR0H00485571 (Earlier LAN Code 00001027 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.01.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.01.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Roymon J and Bincy K Jose.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 21,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,10,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Back Side Middle / Eastern portion of 1st Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 80 Sq. Yards having Pvt. No. 11, out of freehold built-up Property No. C-23 & C-23-A, built on area measuring 400 Sq.Yds. (200*200) out of Khasra No. 923 situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nawada, Matiali Road Kiran Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Delhi, with common rights of common entrance, passage, stair case, lift, submersible, open shaft area, along with one bike parking rights in common parking area along with proportionate undivided indivisible and un-portioned freehold rights of Land under the said Plot, which is bounded as under:
North : Plot No. C-22 South : Plot No. C- 24
East : Lane West : Road
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 10.01.2023 Authorized Officer
Place : NEW DELHI INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

NORTHERN RAILWAY
75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2022-23-33. The details are as under:

1	Name of the work:	'Modification of M-6 bearing room and partition of M-6 SSE Room as per Sr. DEE/ELS/GZB drawing no. 701/SK/Parts/2020 & 702/SK/Parts/2020' at Electric Loco Shed, Ghaziabad.	
2	Approx. cost of work:	Rs. 19,88,772.00/-	
3	Earnest Money to be deposited:	Rs. 39,800.00/-	
4	Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender:	03.02.2023 (11:00 Hrs.)	
5	Date & Time of opening of tender document:	03.02.2023 (After 11:00 Hrs.)	
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:	www.ireps.gov.in	

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of tender document and Earnest Money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. • No. 230-TRS-GZB-2022-23-33 Dated: 13.01.2023 154/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Mrs. Mali W/o Sh. Satya Dev Upadhyay R/o 357A, Sector-19, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) who is the original allottee of property Flat No. 357A, Ground Floor, Block-C, Sector-19, Noida (UP). That my mother executed a WILL in my favour i.e., Mr. Ravi Shanker Upadhyay S/o Late Sh. Satya Dev Upadhyay R/o Flat No. B-401, Puja Apartments, 77, I.P. Extension, Patpar Ganj, Delhi-110092 which is registered in Sub Registrar-III Noida on dated 21/08/2008. So it is informed to all concern that the said Property Flat No. 357A, Ground Floor, Block-C, Sector- 19, Noida (UP) is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Ravi Shanker Upadhyay S/o Late Sh. Satya Dev Upadhyay R/o Flat No. B-401, Puja Apartments, 77, I.P. Extension, Patpar Ganj, Delhi-110092. If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing/Group Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ravi Shankar Upadhyay

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(E-Auction Notice)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in>) for allotment of contracts of advertisement at following railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Type of Media	Location/Station/Train	Date & Time for e-auction
DLIADVT JAN23-01	RDN-Digital-Videowalls	Delhi, Ghaziabad, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt., Rohtak, Delhi Shahdara, Faridabad (2), Faridabad New Town, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Panipat, Karnal (13 Lots)	Start: 30.01.2023 at 10:00 hrs.
	Out of Home Sites- Hoarding/Unipole	New Delhi (1), Delhi (3), Faridabad (1), Meerut (1)- Total (6) Lots	
DLIADVT JAN23-02	Vinyl Wrap Exterior on Trains	Rajdhani Trains, Shatabdi Trains, Duronto Trains, Gatiman Trains, Superfast Trains, Mail/Express Trains, having primary maintenance over Delhi Division (34 Lots)	Start: 31.01.2023 at 10:00 hrs.
	Outsource-Pay & Use-Waiting Rooms	Karnal, Sonapat, Rohtak (3 Lots)	
PaynUse 01-2023	Deluxe Pay & Use Toilets on BOT and ROMT	Tilak Bridge-2 sites, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Jind-2 sites, Shivaji Bridge, Okhla, Bahadurgarh, Patel Nagar, Karnal - (Total-10 Lots)	Start: 30.01.2023 at 10:00 hrs.

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen : <https://ireps.gov.in> (E-Auction-Leasing)

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender/E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query : Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055; Email: publicitycelldli@gmail.com, Tel: 011-23743084

No.: 7PUB/NR-DLI0COMM(PUB)/9/2022 Dated: 13.01.2023
163/2023

Serving Customers with a Smile

US launches online system to seek asylum on Mexican border

AP ■ SAN DIEGO (US)

The Biden administration on Thursday launched an online appointment system as the only way for migrants to get exceptions from pandemic-era limits on asylum — the US government's latest major step in eight days to overhaul border enforcement.

US Customs and Border Protection began allowing migrants to make appointments up to two weeks out using its website and through CBPOne, a mobile app that the agency has used in limited ways since 2020.

CBPOne is replacing an opaque, bewildering patchwork of exemptions to a public health order known as Title 42 under which the government has denied migrants' US and international rights to claim asylum since March 2020. Until now, CBP has arranged exemptions through advocates, churches, attorneys and migrant shelters, without publicly identifying them or saying how many slots were available. The advocates have chosen who gets in, with CBP having final say.

Under the new system, migrants apply directly to the agency and a government official will determine who gets in.

Their appointments will be at one of eight crossings — at Brownsville, El Paso, Hidalgo and Laredo in Texas; Nogales, Arizona; and Calexico and San Diego in California. Exemptions for Title 42 are meant to go to the most vulnerable migrants.

Thursday's rollout is separate from measures announced last week to expel migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to Mexico under Title 42 and — at the same time — allow up to 30,000 migrants from those four countries to be admitted to the United States every month under humanitarian parole for two years if they apply online, pay their airfare and provide a financial sponsor.

While the administration previously signalled that it would introduce CBPOne for people seeking asylum at land border crossings with Mexico, the speed of change caught advocates off-guard. "Utter and complete confusion," said Priscilla Orta, an attorney at Lawyers For Good Government's Project Corazon in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

US officials told advocates on Friday they expected the app to be ready in a month, Orta said. Then on Monday, advocates were informed the rollout had been moved up to this week.

Even as NY nurses return to work, more strikes could follow

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Even as 7,000 nurses return to work at two of New York's busiest hospitals after a three-day strike, colleagues around the country say it's just a matter of time before frontline workers at other hospitals begin walking the picket line.

Problems are mounting at hospitals across the nation as they try to deal with widespread staffing shortages, overworked nurses beaten down by the pandemic and a busted pipeline of new nurses.

That's led to nurses juggling dangerously high caseloads, said Michelle Collins, dean at the college of nursing and health at Loyola University New Orleans.

"There's no place that's immune from what's happening with the nursing shortage," Collins said. "It's everywhere."

Union leaders say the tentative contract agreement ending the strike by nurses at Mount Sinai Hospital and Montefiore



Medical Center, each privately owned, nonprofit hospitals that hold over 1,000 beds in New York City, will relieve chronic short staffing and boost pay by 19 per cent over three years.

The walkout, which ended Thursday, was just the latest dispute between nurses and their employers.

Last year, six unions representing a total of 32,000 nurses launched strikes outside of hospital systems around the country, according to the Bureau of Labour and Statistics. Those strikes represented about a quarter of all the major strikes in the US last year, an increase from the

year before.

Describing hospital environments where nurses are unable to take breaks because they are assigned too many patients — some of whom are pleading for care from frontline workers — the president of the American Nurses Association, Dr Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, said some nurses may think their only option is to strike.

"Nurses don't feel like their voices have been heard with this exact topic," she told The Associated Press Wednesday.

In California, nurse unions at two hospitals are likely to strike this year when their contract expires, said former nurse Peter Sidhu, who now works for the state union. Sidhu, who fields objections from nurses across the state who say their caseloads are unsafe, has received 7,000 such complaints in Los Angeles County hospitals since December. He said objections have at least doubled since before the pandemic began.

Biden, Kishida discuss Japan 'stepping up' security

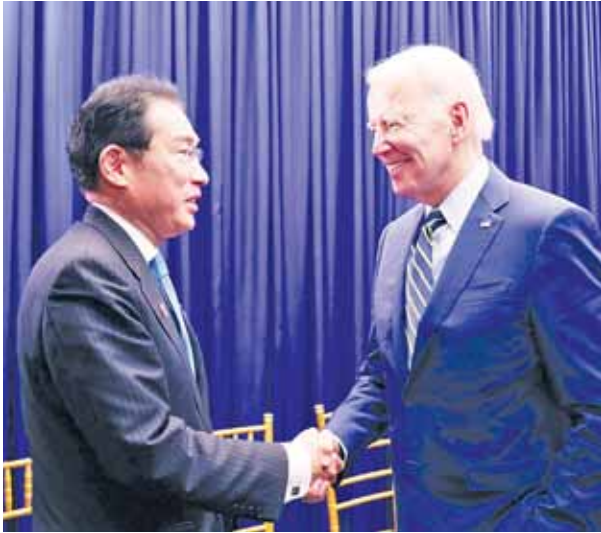
AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida were holding wide-ranging talks at the White House on Friday as Japan looks to build security cooperation with allies in a time of provocative Chinese and North Korean military action.

The two administrations were also ready to seal an agreement to bolster U.S.-Japanese cooperation on space with a signing ceremony by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa.

The Oval Office meeting and signing ceremony at NASA's Washington headquarters will cap a weeklong tour for Kishida that took him to five European and North American capitals for talks on his effort to beef up Japan's security.

Biden welcomed Kishida to the White House on Friday morning for the prime minister's first visit to Washington since he took office in October 2021. Inside the Oval Office, the U.S. President praised



Japan for its "historic" increase in defense spending and pledged close cooperation on economic and security matters.

"We meet at a remarkable moment," Biden told Kishida, adding later: "The more difficult job is trying to figure out how and where we disagree."

Kishida, speaking through an interpreter, said the two nations "share fundamental values such as democracy and the rule of law" and stressed

that their joint role on the global stage "is becoming even greater."

It all comes as Japan announced plans last month to raise defense spending to 2% of gross domestic product in five years, a dramatic increase in spending for a nation that forged a pacifist approach to its defense after World War II. Japan's defense spending has historically remained below 1% of GDP. "Japan is stepping up and

doing so in lockstep with the United States," White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said.

Blinken said this week that the U.S.-Japan space cooperation framework was a "decade in the making" and "covers everything from joint research to working together to land the first woman and person of color on the moon."

He added that the U.S. And Japan agree that China is their "greatest shared strategic challenge" and confirmed that an attack in space would trigger a mutual defense provision in the U.S.-Japan security treaty.

Before Friday's meeting of the two leaders, U.S. And Japanese officials announced an adjustment to the American troop presence on the island of Okinawa in part to enhance anti-ship capabilities that would be needed in the event of a Chinese incursion into Taiwan or other hostile acts in the region. Japan is also reinforcing defenses on its southwestern islands close to Taiwan, including Yonaguni and Ishigaki, where new bases are being constructed.

Sri Lanka announces plans to downsize military by half by 2030

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka on Friday announced plans to reduce the current strength of its military to half by 2030 to build a technically and tactically sound and well-balanced defence force, amid criticism that military expenditure was more than the allocation for health care and education in the 2023 budget.

The Army's strength is to be reduced to 100,000 by the year 2030, down from the current figure of 200,783. The strength would be limited to 135,000 by next year, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"The overall aim of the strategic blueprint is to broach a technically and tactically sound and well-balanced defence force by the year 2030 in order to meet upcoming security challenges,"



the statement quoting the state minister of defence Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon said.

The defence allocation of

539 billion rupees in the budget 2023 drew criticism as the island nation faced its worst economic crisis since 1948.

Due to the forex shortage, Sri Lanka was unable to afford key imports, including fuel, fertilisers and medicines, leading to serpentine queues. For health and education, the 2023 budget has allocated over 300 billion rupees each. Although the strength had been halved from around 400,000 since the conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ended in 2009, the current strength of 200,000 was termed excessive.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe said last year that military strategy reforms were needed to gear the island's army to face new challenges.

The Tamil minority and rights groups have been demanding the descaloring of the military in the former battle zones in the conflict regions in the Northern and Eastern provinces.



UFO reports rise to 510

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US has now collected 510 reports of unidentified flying objects, many of which are flying in sensitive military airspace. While there's no evidence of extraterrestrials, they still pose a threat, the government said in a declassified report summary released Thursday.

Last year the Pentagon opened an office, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, solely focused on receiving and analyzing all of those reports of unidentified phenomena, many of which have been reported by military pilots. It works with the intelligence agencies to further assess those incidents.

The events "continue to occur in restricted or sensitive airspace, highlighting possible concerns for safety of flight or adversary collection activity," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in its 2022 report.

The classified version of the report addresses how many of those objects were found near locations where nuclear power plants operate or nuclear weapons are stored.

Erdogan effigy act of sabotage against NATO bid: Sweden

AP ■ ANKARA

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on Friday denounced a protest by Kurds in central Stockholm where an effigy of Turkey's president was hung from a lamppost as an act of sabotage against Sweden's bid to join NATO. The protest outside City Hall on Wednesday drew an angry backlash from Turkey, a NATO member which already had held off approving Sweden's application to become part of the Western military alliance until the government in Stockholm satisfies its demands.

The speaker of Turkey's parliament, Mustafa Sentop, cancelled a visit by Andreas Norlen, the speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, that was scheduled for Monday, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Turkish lawmakers need to ratify Sweden's NATO application for the Nordic nation to become a member. Turkey has made its approval conditional on Stockholm cracking down on Kurdish militants and other groups that Ankara considers a threat to national security.

Migrant entry numbers into Europe hit 6-yr high

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The number of attempts by migrants to enter the European Union without authorisation reached around 330,000 last year, the highest number since 2016, the EU's border and coast guard agency said Friday. Almost half of the 2022 attempts were made overland through the Western Balkans region, EU agency Frontex said, according to its "preliminary calculations." Regardless of entry route, Syrians, Afghans and Tunisians together accounted for roughly 47 per cent of the attempted border crossings.

Men accounted for more than 80 per cent of the attempts to get in, Frontex said. The agency calculates entry attempts rather than the number of people trying to get into Europe because it is often difficult to identify migrants, who routinely travel without passports, and some may try to enter multiple times. People arriving at Europe's borders to apply for asylum have a reasonable chance of being allowed in, while those who come without a visa in search of jobs and better lives are mostly turned away.

Well over 1 million people, most of them Syrians fleeing conflict, entered the EU in 2015,



overwhelming reception facilities and sparking one of the 27-nation bloc's biggest political crises.

Member countries still argue over who should take responsibility for people arriving without authorisation and whether their neighbours and partners should be obliged to help. Attempts to reform the bloc's asylum system have made little progress.

Frontex's latest figures did not include almost 13 million Ukrainian refugees who were counted at the EU's external borders between February and December. Special emergency measures were introduced to ease their entry and help find

them accommodation, training and short-term jobs.

The number of people making potentially perilous journeys across the Mediterranean Sea in poorly equipped and often overloaded boats and rubber dinghies continued to rise last year. Frontex said that well over 100,000 crossing attempts were recorded, around 50 per cent more than in 2021.

Egyptians, Tunisians and Bangladeshis tried in the greatest number. The agency said that 2022 saw the most people in five years arrive from Libya, the main departure point in northern Africa. The number of people leaving Tunisia hit the highest level in recent history.

Israel's outgoing army chief rebukes far-right Govt

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's outgoing army chief on Friday warned against plans by Benjamin Netanyahu's new coalition to grant more control to pro-settler lawmakers and make other changes to the Israeli security establishment, joining a loud chorus of criticism against the new right-wing government.

In several interviews with Israeli news outlets just days before he steps down, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi took unusually sharp aim at Netanyahu's coalition agreements with hard-line Jewish settler activists who seek to entrench Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank, restructure the Defence Ministry and control a special paramilitary police unit.

"This is likely to cause damage and adversely affect our preparedness for war," Kochavi told the Israeli news site Ynet.

While the coalition deals have sparked furor from many segments of Israeli society, Kochavi's worries have deep significance.

Among Jewish Israelis, the military is considered an emblem of stability and among the country's most trusted institutions.

Kochavi expressed particu-



lar concern about the coalition's plans to create three separate sources of authority in the West Bank.

Netanyahu's deal with Bezalel Smotrich gave the powerful, right-wing finance minister control over an Israeli military body that regulates planning for Israeli settlements and Palestinian construction in parts of the West Bank where Israel maintains civilian control.

Smotrich is an advocate of the outright annexation of parts of the West Bank that the Palestinians want for their hoped-for independent state.

"There cannot be two commanding authorities (in the West Bank)," Kochavi said. "The separation between us is not good and may cause damage and lead to a worse situation for all populations."

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, 4th Floor, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites e-tender single Packet System for the under noted work :

1. Name of work and location	Design, Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC single phase OHE for the Electrification work of : New line from New Prithala DFC yard to Palwal.
2. Completion period of the work	09 (Nine Months)
3. Approx Cost of work	Rs. 3,82,33,061.54
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 341200.00
5. Date & Time for Submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded 11.30 hrs on date 13.01.2023 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 09.02.2023.
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 26.01.2023 to 09.02.2023. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 331-Dy CEE/INDLS/2022-23R Dated: 13.01.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 151/23

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Closing Date
01	08221502	RELAY, PLUG IN TYPE STYLE AC LED	737 NOS	06-02-23
02	09232068	BOGIE CENTRE PIVOT TOP.	2200 NOS	06-02-23
03	16220387A	MOTOR HYDRAULIC FOR VENT FAN ENGINE	36 NOS	08-02-23
04	04220016	OIL SERVO GEAR HP 90	45780 LTR	09-02-23
05	07220377	WATER TANK (2X685 LITERS) ASSEMBLY	212 NOS	10-02-23
06	09222576	22.22 MM DIA LOCK BOLT	22638 SET	10-02-23
07	14221030	CLEANING SOLVENT FOR ELECTRICAL ROTATING MACHINES	78135 KGS	13-02-23
08	03222223	DECORATIVE THERMOSETTING SYNTHETIC RESIN BONDED	3041 NOS	14-02-23

Note:1) Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2) No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. 78/2022-2023 Date: 13.01.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 152/23

SBFC FINANCE LIMITED

Unit No. 103, First Floor C & B Square, Gangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakola, Andheri (East), Mumbai -400059 | Telephone: +91 22- 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com | Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform & notify the Public about the relocation of Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. branch of SBFC Finance Ltd. effective from 15.04.2023

From: SBFC Finance Limited
Opposite white castle, Plot no.5, Main Dadri Road, Salarpur, Sector-101, Gautam budh nagar, 201301

To: SBFC Finance Limited
First Floor, Opposite Punjab National Bank, Near police chowki, Baghel Road - 201301, U.P.

For more details, please contact:-
Ph: 8667004673/ 8368915570

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mahendra is owner of Residential Plot having area measuring 125.00 Sq. Yds. i.e. 104.51 Sq. Mtrs. Khata No. 476, Situated in Village Sarababad, Paragana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar vide Sale Deed Dated 16.11.2022 as Regd. No. 9061 and intend to sell Mr. Kamal Kumar & Mrs. Chandni Jain to be financed by Mrs. Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited. Branch Noida The Original Sale Deed Dated 14.12.2011 vide Duly Registered in the office of Sr-II. Gautam Budh Nagar. Vide Doc no.9051, Book No.1, vol.no. 132036, on pages 77 to 96, Registered on dated 16.11.2022. in, pertaining by Mrs. Mahendra V/o Mr. Chole Master to the aforesaid property has been lost and FIR LR No. 20230000220283/2023 has been registered on 13.01.2023 with Crime Branch Lucknow Police U.P. If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No. 7, Basement, Plot No. C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT AGENCY OF GUJARAT
An autonomous Society promoted by Tribal Development Department, Govt. of Gujarat
(Phone no.079-232-52253)

CORRIGENDUM

Development Support Agency of Gujarat (D-SAG) has published advertisement Vide E-Tender Notice No. VKY/2023/3049/D-SAG. However due to unavoidable circumstances the said tender could not be published.

Tender will be published soon with a fresh notice and Revised Schedule.

Chief Executive Officer
Development Support Agency of Gujarat
Gandhinagar

No/INF/VPN/2022/G/2250

UJVNL Limited

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763508 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U46101UP2005SGC0228566
Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांक: 42 (Tender Notice) दिनांक: 13.01.2023

Office of Executive Engineer (M) Ramganga Power Station, UJVNL Limited, Kalagarh, Distt. Pauri Garhwal invites sealed tender from interested parties. Detail of tender is given below.

T.No. 24/EE(M)/RPSK/2022-23,

Name of work/supply/ services etc.: Annual cleaning and gardening of various offices and central store premises

Estimated cost : Rs. 8,96,254/- GST Extra

Date of availability of bid document on website : 14/01/2023

Last date for submission of tender : 04/02/2023 up to 16.00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

Ref:- Tender Notice No.72/2022-23 dated 23.12.2022 (I). Tender No.07220207 due on 23.01.2023 in reference to above tenders, the item description has been modified. Also drg. has been uploaded. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 153/23

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering
(E-procurement Systems)

Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93226022/2023 Date: 06.01.2023
Sr. DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

S. Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1 93226022	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of on load change over Switch in power cars as per RDSO modification sheet No. RDSO/PE/MS/AC/0086-2022, (rev 0), dated 05.04.2022	512 Qty for 256 power cars	06.02.2023

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

69/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Commercial Credit Ltd. [CIN: U65923DL2006PLC150632] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 31.01.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 3,61,51,184/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty One Lakh Fifty One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLLADMTO0318649, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 11.01.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.01.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Avinash Kumar Punjani, Mukesh Punjani and Saroj Bala Punjani with Punjani Chits Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Guarantor).

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 3,50,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Plot bearing Number S-10 admeasuring area of 180.5 Square Yards in Block-S out of Kharsa Number 301/1 situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Tehar in Colony known as Ajay Enclave, Delhi-110018, within the Limits of Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Plot is bounded as under:-

North : Service Lane,	South : Road 15',
East : Plot Number S-9,	West : Plot Number S-11

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullscorporatecredit.com ; For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

Date : 11.01.2023
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS COMMERCIAL CREDIT LTD

Public, pvt sector need to think out of box to seize global chances: PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said both public and private sectors need to leverage synergies and think out of the box to seize opportunities arising as a result of the emerging global environment. While interacting with noted economists and experts at NITI Aayog ahead of the Union Budget, the Prime Minister also applauded the success of the India Digital story and the rapid adoption of fintech across the country, an official statement said. During the meeting, economists offered suggestions on

ways in which India can sustain its development momentum, it added. They said that due to its resilience, India has emerged as a bright spot on the turbulent global stage. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and senior government functionaries were present at the interaction. Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery and other members were also present, said sources. Economists who participated in the meeting included Shankar Acharya, Ashok Gulati, and Shamika Ravi. In his remarks, Modi noted that while there were

risks, the emerging global environment offers new and diverse opportunities in areas such as digitisation, energy, health care and agriculture. To seize these opportunities, both public and private sectors need to leverage synergies and think out of the box, the release quoted him saying. The Prime Minister applauded the success of the India Digital story and the rapid adoption of fintech across the country, and the potential for inclusive growth and development it promises. He also underscored Nari Shakti as a key driver of India's growth and urged to continue



making efforts to further enable and boost women's participation in the workforce. The release further said participants offered practical measures on ways in which

India could prudently sustain its development momentum. Ideas and suggestions were shared with the Prime Minister on diverse topics ranging from agriculture to manufacturing.

'Safety audit of 19,300 km of national highways completed till December'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said safety audit of 19,300-kilometre of national highways has been completed till December in the current fiscal. During FY22, safety audit of 16,500 km of national highways was undertaken. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been conducting safety audits on national highways at the planning, construction, operations, and maintenance stages, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement. NHAI has made third-party road safety audit at



Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage mandatory for all the projects. For all new projects, the DPR will be safety audited by a team of independent safety consultants, and the recommendations of the safety auditors will be taken into account during further stages of design. Further, the safety review of the DPRs is undertaken by dedicated road safety officers at NHAI to ensure that all the necessary safety measures have been incorporated.

Sensex, Nifty rebound after 3-day decline

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty snapped a three-day losing streak to settle higher by over half a per cent on Friday following buying in IT, financials and metal shares on easing inflation worries. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 303.15 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 60,261.18. During the day, it jumped 460.23 points or 0.76 per cent to 60,418.26. The broader NSE Nifty rose by 98.40 points or 0.55 per cent to end at 17,956.60. From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank and Maruti were among the major winners. Titan, Nestle, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, ITC and

Asian Paints were among the major laggards. HCL Technologies and Infosys recovered from early losses to end in green. Infosys on Thursday reported a better-than-expected 13.4 per cent rise in profit for the December quarter and raised its annual sales forecast on a strong deal pipeline even as it warned of "constraints" in certain verticals amid slowing global economy. HCL Tech reported a 19 per cent increase in the consolidated net income to Rs 4,096 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2022, driven by growth in services revenue. "Easing inflation and brighter Q3 numbers projected by the second set of IT majors are outweighing the cautiousness of the market. CPI in India and US cooled off, thereby bolstering expectations



of a less aggressive policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "The recovery in banking, IT, auto and metal majors played a crucial role in the rebound while others witnessed a mixed trend," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge gained

India's forex reserves drop by USD 1.268 bn to USD 561.583 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves declined by USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion for the week ended January 6, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The overall reserves had increased by USD 44 million to USD 562.851 billion in the previous reporting week after two consecutive weeks of the slide. In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves had been declining as the central bank deployed the reserves to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments. Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, dropped by USD 1.747 billion to USD 496.441 billion during the week



to January 6, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 461 million to USD 41.784 billion, it said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 35 million to USD 18.217 billion, the apex bank said.

HCL Tech bags IT operations contract from State Farm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

HCL Tech has bagged a deal to modernise IT service desk and infrastructure operations of insurance firm State Farm, the IT company said on Friday. Under the agreement, HCL Tech will further modernize State Farm's back-end IT services and infrastructure through automation, advanced technology tools and mature processes to enable State Farm to focus on critical technology priorities while elevating IT support experiences for its customers, agents and employees. "HCL Tech was selected because of its reputation in supporting Fortune 500 companies. Working successfully with them relies, in part, on the skills and knowledge of talented employees currently doing this



work at State Farm," State Farm Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Ashley Pettit said. Some State Farm employees supporting this work will transfer to HCLTech to continue their important role in delivering cutting-edge technology services to State Farm. These employees will have access to HCL Tech's global network and a wide range of opportunities across industries, including a variety of training and development programmes that are core to HCLTech's culture of innovation.

Centre asks States to address gaps in fishery sector in upcoming annual plans

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked state governments to address the gaps that still exist in the fishery sector in their upcoming annual plans by prioritising the value chain. This was communicated to state fisheries department officials at a workshop organised recently to formulate strategies for annual action plans for 2023-23 and 2024-25, an official statement said. "Tremendous efforts have been put in by states/UTs for increasing fish production whilst gaps exist in prioritising other aspects of the fisheries' value chain at the state level," said Union Fishery Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain said. The rectification actions are required to be taken up by relooking and replanning



upcoming state annual plans, he added. The Secretary asked the state governments to set priorities at a local level, along with the priorities of the central government. He advised that special attention may be given to sufficient seed production as the most basic activity to propel the sectoral activities, take on a collaborative approach amongst states and the Centre

for activities, such as installation of artificial reefs, cold-chain, MIS data management, expansion of fish markets (Fish Bazaar), promotion and marketing of frozen fish, among others. Priority areas mentioned along with the strategic rationale are likely to serve as guidelines for state/UT officials to set priorities for chalking out FY2023-25 detailed annual action plan, he said.

Sebi mulls allowing private equity funds to become sponsor of mutual fund

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed allowing Private Equity (PE) funds to sponsor a mutual fund house as they can bring in strategic guidance and talent to fuel growth of the industry. The proposal comes in the backdrop of IDFC Mutual Fund getting acquired by a consortium comprising Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, Sovereign Wealth Fund GIC and private equity fund ChrysCapital. In its consultation paper, a Sebi-constituted working group proposed alternative set of eligibility criteria to enable private equity funds, who do not qualify based on the current requirement, to act as sponsors of Mutual Funds (MFs) and suggested to further strengthen

the existing eligibility requirements to ensure that only high quality entities qualify. At present, any entity that owns 40 per cent or more stake in a mutual fund is considered as a sponsor and is required to fulfil the eligibility criteria. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till January 29 on the proposals. Under the alternate eligibility criteria for sponsor of MF, Sebi has proposed that sponsors should adequately capitalise the AMC such that the positive liquid net worth of AMC should be at least Rs 150 crore. The capital contributed to the AMC should be locked-in for a period of 5 years. Further,

the minimum sponsor stake of 40 per cent should also be locked in within the same period of five years. Apart from meeting alternate eligibility routes, the regulator has suggested additional criteria as well as safeguards that would be applicable for PEs to qualify as a mutual fund sponsor. Under this, PE or its manager should have a minimum of five years of experience in the capacity of investment manager in the financial sector and should have managed committed capital of at least Rs 5,000 crore. It has been suggested that off-market transactions should not be permitted between the schemes of MF and Sponsor PE. Further, the mutual fund sponsored by the PE should not



participate as an anchor investor in the public issue of an investee company, where any of the schemes/ funds managed by the sponsor PE have an investment of 10 per cent or more, or have a board representation. "PE with significant capital can invest in technology, bring in strategic guidance and good talent to fuel growth and innovation and expand the presence of mutual funds, including driving

inclusive growth. PE may also provide constructive competition to the current entities in the Mutual Fund industry and improve value to investors," Sebi noted. With regard to the role of sponsor after AMC matures, Sebi's Working Group felt that the ideal balance is to not require mandatory reduction in sponsor stake but to let the market dynamics decide the ownership composition.

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 81.34 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 4 paise to close at 81.34 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking a rebound in crude oil prices and sustained foreign fund outflows. Forex traders said positive macroeconomic data and broad weakness in the American currency supported the rupee and contained the depreciation bias. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 81.32 against the greenback, but lost ground and fell to an intra-day low of 81.45. The domestic currency finally settled at 81.34, down

4 paise over its previous close of 81.30. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent lower at 102.18. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.42 per cent to USD 84.38 per barrel. According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the Indian rupee registered the biggest weekly gains after November 11 on the back of better-than-expected economic data and broad-based weakness in the dollar. Risk assets globally rallied and the safe-haven US dollar slumped after the US inflation

readings came lower than expected, Parmar said. "The near-term outlook for USDINR remains bearish as long as it trades below 82.10 while on the downside, one can see 81.10 and 80.70," Parmar added. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 303.15 points or 0.51 per cent higher at 60,261.18, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 98.40 points or 0.55 per cent to 17,956.60. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,662.63 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, on the domestic macroeconomic



front, India's industrial production growth rose to a five-month high of 7.1 per cent in November on the back of better showing by manufacturing, according to official data released on Thursday. Retail inflation declined to a one-year low of 5.72 per cent in December 2022 mainly

due to cooling of vegetable prices, according to the data. Experts believe, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remaining below 6 per cent for the second month in a row, the Reserve Bank has some room to pause interest rate hike which has been going on since May last year.

Gold rises ₹121, silver declines by ₹145

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose by Rs 121 to Rs 56,236 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid strong global trends, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 56,115 per 10 grams. Silver, however, declined Rs 145 to Rs 68,729 per kg. In the overseas market, gold was trading in green at USD 1,898 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 23.73 per ounce. "Gold prices edged higher and were on track for a fourth



weekly gain, supported by a weaker dollar and expectations of slower interest rate hikes by the US Fed Reserve," said Navneet Damani, Senior VP - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Focus will be on UK GDP and US Michigan inflationary expectations, Damani said.

Wipro Q3 net profit rises 2.8% to ₹3,053 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wipro Ltd on Friday posted 2.8 per cent year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit for December quarter, at about Rs 3,053 crore. The net profit stood at Rs 2,969 crore in the year-ago period. Revenue of the Bengaluru-headquartered IT company came in at Rs 23,229 crore in Q3FY23, 14.3 per cent higher than the same period of previous year. The company expects revenue from IT services business for the full year to be in the range of 11.5-12 per cent in constant currency terms, according to a statement.

SIDBI to partner with AMFI to support Bengal's women entrepreneurs

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will partner with the Association of Microfinance Institutions of India (AMFI) to support women entrepreneurs in the backward districts of West Bengal. Deputy Managing Director of SIDBI, Sudatta Mandal, said that the women entrepreneurs will also be helped in terms of getting market and credit link-

ages. Speaking at the AMFI-WB micro-finance summit here, Mandal said SIDBI has already spearheaded the project in Odisha and it has been very successful. "Six backward districts of West Bengal have been identified for this purpose and 12,000 women will be given credit so that their incomes rise. This will be a two-year intervention by SIDBI," he stated.

By this intervention, the average income of women will rise by at least 30 per cent, Mandal added. Alok Mishra, CEO of MFIN, a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) in the micro-finance sector, said the basic idea is of financial inclusion which had been the focus of successive governments since Independence. He said that micro-finance penetration has reached 30 per of the addressable market,

while the balance of 70 per cent is yet to be tapped. Presently, the total outstanding of the sector is around Rs three lakh crore, Mishra said, adding that micro-credit has emerged as a robust tool for financial inclusion. He also said that besides the digital infrastructure which is being increasingly used by the micro-finance sector, the human connect factor should also remain. "Human connect has to be

there. Digital connect should be used as an enabler", he added. Jiji Mammen, Executive director of another SRO Sadahan, said the COVID-19 pandemic had posed a challenge to the industry, but the sector has now returned to normalcy. "West Bengal is a leading state for the micro-finance industry. The smaller MFIs have done a good job in terms of recovery when the collection

efficiency ratio declined during the pandemic. This had happened because of good connect with the people", he said. Credit & Development Forum, the umbrella body of MFIs in Bangladesh, expressed keenness to enter a pact with AMFI for exchange of ideas and experience. The ED of the forum, Mohammad Awal, said, "A bilateral agreement with AMFI with the forum will be worthwhile for exchange of ideas".



DJOKER IN OMINOUS MOOD FOR AUS OPEN

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic returns to next week's Australian Open as heavy favourite and with his ominous form in stark contrast to the struggles of defending champion Rafael Nadal.

A year ago Djokovic was consumed by a legal battle over his Covid vaccination stance which he ultimately lost and was deported on the eve of the Grand Slam. It opened the door for great rival Nadal on the Melbourne Park hardcourts, his thrilling five-set win over Daniil Medvedev in the final earning the Spaniard a record 21st major crown.

The 36-year-old made it 22 when he clinched the French Open. Serbia's Djokovic, who is a year younger, can draw level on 22 Grand Slam triumphs if he becomes Australian champion for a record-extending 10th time.

He brought a practice match against Medvedev to an early conclusion on Wednesday to protect a hamstring niggle, but prior to that called his preparations spot-on.

"I couldn't ask for a better preparation and lead-up to the Australian Open," said Djokovic.

"I love playing in Australia. My results are a testament to that."

Djokovic's recent exploits, coupled with Nadal's iffy form, the absence of injured world number one Carlos Alcaraz and last year's retirement of Roger Federer, undoubtedly make him the man to beat. After ending a



turbulent 2022 by winning the ATP Finals, he came through five tough matches to lift the Adelaide International trophy on Sunday.

His fears of a hostile reception in Australia after the deportation saga were alleviated by a warm welcome in Adelaide.

Djokovic faces Spain's 75th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena in his opening match.

NADAL STAYING POSITIVE

Nadal has been written off before but is facing fresh questions about whether age and injury are catching up with him. The top seed faces a tricky opening to the defence of his title against promising 21-year-old Briton Jack Draper.

Spanish great Nadal has lost six of his past seven matches including both at the recent

United Cup, going down to Cameron Norrie and Alex de Minaur.

Nadal, who is striving to join Federer and Ken Rosewall as men's major winners aged 36 or older, insisted he was not concerned by his recent struggles.

"It's true that the last couple of months I was not able to play much tennis and at the beginning of the season I lost two

matches in Sydney," he said.

"But honestly, I am not unhappy with the preparation. I need to win matches, for sure, but the preparation is going quite well, practising a lot and I think I am in good shape."

'NO-ONE IS INVINCIBLE'

Russia's Medvedev, runner-up in 2021 and 2022, is prime among other contenders.

The 2021 US Open champion has a love-hate relationship with the Melbourne crowd but pushed Nadal all the way in last year's final.

World number four Stefanos Tsitsipas also poses a threat, with the Greek star keen to better the Melbourne semi-finals he made in three of the last four years.

Still searching for an elusive

Novak 'a bit emotional' after warm return to Melbourne Park

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic was "a bit emotional" after receiving a warm welcome on Friday on his return to Melbourne Park, before facing Nick Kyrgios in a sell-out Australian Open exhibition match.

All 15,000 seats at Rod Laver Arena sold out in 58 minutes, with proceeds going to charity, ahead of the first Grand Slam of the year on Monday.

Djokovic, who was deported a year ago, was given a good reception when he went on to win an Adelaide warm-up tournament last week and it was a similar story at Rod Laver Arena, where he is a nine-time champion.

"Thank you so much, feel a bit emotional right now to be honest," the former world number one from Serbia told the crowd after his entrance on court was met by cheers and applause.

"I was really looking forward to coming back to this court, so thank you all you guys for coming out

tonight for a great cause," said the 35-year-old, one of the best men's tennis players of all time.

Djokovic has dominated the Australian Open since his maiden triumph in 2008 but he had his visa cancelled 12 months ago and was deported on the eve of the tournament because of his stance on Covid vaccines.

In a light-hearted encounter against Australia's Kyrgios, Djokovic wore tape for a left hamstring issue which saw him curtail a practice match against Daniil Medvedev this week.

But he appeared to have no trouble with his movement against Kyrgios and said beforehand that he was "feeling good". Kyrgios also allayed concerns about an ankle injury which has hampered his preparations.

They each won one shortened set before concluding the friendly knock-about with a tiebreak that also included wheelchair players David Wagner and Heath Davidson.

INDIA OFF TO WINNING START



PTI ■ ROURKELA

Commanding India dish-
ed out a superb show
of attacking hockey to
outplay a tricky Spain 2-0 in
their FIH men's World Cup
campaign opener here on
Friday.
Local boy Amit Rohidas
was among the goal scorers as he
struck in the 12th minute from
a penalty corner to the wild
cheer of the packed Birs Munda
Stadium, which made its debut
as an international hockey venue
on Friday.
Hardik Singh scored a bril-
liant field goal in the 26th
minute after a fine solo run as
India, chasing their first medal
after 1975, boosted their chances
of making it to the quarterfinals

from Pool D.
The score-line did not
reflect the degree of domination
by India, who could have won
by a bigger margin but the
world number six team did not
allow their European oppo-
nents, ranked two rungs below
them, to play their game.
India got five penalty cor-
ners and scored from the second
one. Captain Harmanpreet
Singh also missed a penalty
stroke in the third quarter.
Young goalkeeper Krishan
Bahadur Pathak was brilliant in
front of the bar as he made some
fine saves, including from pen-
alty corners.
Spain were always a tricky
opponent for India but it was the
home team which dictated the
terms to the Europeans, who

had the upper hand in the four
Pro League matches last year,
winning two and losing one.
The Indians were quick on
the attack as well as in counter-
attack and won a lot of balls
from their opponents. Spain
had a couple of chances besides
three penalty corners, which
they wasted. Spain dominated
the midfield battle in the initial
minutes without getting any
scoring chance. India settled
down nicely after taking a mea-
sure of their opponents and
started pressing towards the
end of the first quarter.
Most of the attacks began
from the right flank with
Nilakanta Sharma, Mandeep
Singh, Akashdeep Singh and
Abhishek in the thick of things.
India's incessant pressing

paid off as they got three penal-
ty corners in quick succession
and took the lead in the 12th
minute of the second one
through Rohidas.
Harmanpreet's drag-flick
came off the stick of a Spanish
defender and the ball fell to
Rohidas whose powerful hit
beat the Spanish goalkeeper all
ends up. Just a minute later, India
got another penalty corner but
Harmanpreet failed to find the
target. Just before the end of the
first quarter, Abhishek outwitted
a couple of Spanish defender
inside the circle but the efforts
did not result in a goal.
Nilakanta also took a shot
but sent it wide.
The second quarter also
went almost identical as the first,
as action remained mostly in the

Indian half initially as Spain
pressed hard for the equaliser.
But four minutes from half
time, Hardik made a fantastic
run down the left channel and
then sent a cross on the face of
the goal. It beat the Spanish goal-
keeper and forced a defender to
deflect it in for India's second
goal. Spain got their first first
penalty corner soon but wasted
it.
The third quarter did not
yield any goal but had plenty of
drama as captain Harmanpreet
wasted a penalty stroke in the
32nd minute. His effort was
ruled to have been saved by the
Spanish keeper after a video
referral by India.
Earlier in the day, England
thrashed neighbours Wales 5-0
in another Pool D match.



Hayward, Craig score hat-tricks as Australia start campaign in rampaging fashion

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Jeremy Hayward and Tom
Craig scored a hat-trick each,
first of the tournament, to
hand Australia a convincing 8-
0 win over France in a Pool A
match of the FIH men's hock-
ey World Cup here on Friday.
While Craig scored three
field goals in the eighth, 31st
and 44th minutes, Hayward
converted three penalty corners
in a span of 12 minutes as world
No.1 Australia routed their
opponents at the Kalinga
Stadium here.
Hayward sounded the
board in the 26th, 28th and
38th minutes from set pieces.
Earlier in the day, former
Olympic champions Argentina

were made to toil by world
No.14 South Africa before reg-
istering a 1-0 win in the open-
ing Pool A match.
After a barren and hard-
fought first two quarters,
Argentina, the 2016 Olympic
champions, scored the winner
in the 42nd minute through a
field effort from Casella Maico.
But it was far from rosy for
the Los Leones as it was South
Africa who pressed hard in the
first quarter but failed to con-
vert their chances into positive
results.
In the second quarter,
Argentina came back strongly
and secured three penalty cor-
ners in succession but wasted
all as South Africa defended
stoutly.
After the change of ends,
South Africa had the first shy
at the goal in the form of a
penalty corner but the oppor-
tunity was wasted.
Argentina broke the dead-
lock in the 42nd minute when
Casella capitalised on a
counter-attack and scored a
brilliant field goal from
Toscani's pass.
Down a goal, South Africa
came out attacking in the
fourth and final quarter, but the
Argentine defence stood firm
to stifle their rivals' forays and
register a hard-fought win.
Argentina will face
Australia on January 16 here,
while South Africa will take on
France in their next pool match
on the same day.

Going to be a lovely game of chess: Labuschagne on battle with Ashwin



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Star Australia batter Marnus
Labuschagne can't wait to
engage in a "lovely game of
chess" with Ravichandran
Ashwin during next month's
Test tour of India after making
required changes in his game to
combat the ace spinner.
Australia, who haven't won
a Test series in India since 2004,
will play four Tests in Nagpur
(February 9-13), New Delhi
(February 17-21), Dharamsala
(March 1-5) and Ahmedabad
(March 9-13).
Labuschagne was dismissed
twice by Ashwin even though he
emerged as the leading run-
scorer in the 2020-21 Border-

Gavaskar Trophy in Australia
with 426 runs at an average of
53.25. "I've changed some of my
game because of what I've heard
about Ashwin and how he
bowled to me," Labuschagne was
quoted as saying by
cricket.Com.Au.
"I've adapted my game to try
and foil a few of his ideas and
ways he goes about it. It's going
to be a lovely game of chess and
I can't wait for it."
The 28-year-old said he
started his preparation for the
India tour right after the 2020-
21 home series.
"The preparation starts so
far back," said Labuschagne,
who is currently playing for the
Brisbane Heat in the Big Bash

League (BBL) 2022-23.
"People think, right now it's
Big Bash then you start think-
ing - but the thinking happens
way ahead. You start processing
everything in your mind, you go
through every scenario of what
bowler you are going to come
across.
"I've already thought about
my plans, so now it's just about
executing. Finding out, 'That
works, that doesn't work. How
can that part of my game fit in?',
and just piece the puzzle togeth-
er."
Australia will have a short
training camp in Sydney in
January end. They are scheduled
to arrive in India just seven days
before the Nagpur Test.
The four-Test series also
gains significance as it will
decide table-toppers Australia's
opponents in the finals of the
World Test Championship Final
in June before they take on
England in the Ashes.
"Can't wait, so excited for
the next 10 Test matches,"
Labuschagne said.
"We've played really well,
people know we are very good
at home, very tough to
beat...but the challenge we have
going two away series in a row,
that's going to be awesome."
"I can't wait for the challenge
against spin in India and can't
wait for the challenge of Bazball
versus Ronball."

INJURED HANDSCOMB DOUBTFUL FOR INDIA TOUR

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia batter Peter Hand-
scomb will be racing against
time to recover for next month's
India tour after suffering a hip
injury.
The 31-year-old sustained
the injury while attempting to
play a pull shot in club cricket in
Victoria on Tuesday night and
left the field retired hurt after
collapsing in pain three balls
later following another pull shot.
"Scans have since confirmed
soft-tissue damage in his right
hip," a report in cricket.Com.Au
said on Friday.
"Officials are confident
Handscomb will be fit to leave
with the Australian team later
this month for the Qantas tour
of India."
Australia, who haven't won
a Test series in India since 2004,
are battling a string of injuries
issues with their key players
Mitchell Starc and Cameron
Green both recovering from
finger injuries.
Starc will miss the Nagpur
Test but is likely to join his team-
mates for the rest of the series,
while Green is hopeful of play-
ing in the series opener.
Handscomb, who was part
of the team that toured India in
2017, was named as batting
backup in Australia's squad for
the India series. He last played
a Test in 2019.

Need to address batting woes before WC: Silverwood



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sri Lanka head coach Chris
Silverwood has blamed the
senior batters for failing to step
up in the second ODI and said
they will have to "learn their
lessons" before they return to
India for the World Cup later
this year. From 103 for 1 in 17.2
overs, Sri Lanka were done in by
some quality spin bowling and
folded for a paltry 215 inside 40
overs after opting to bat on a
beautiful flat deck at Eden
Gardens.
"We got ourselves to blame.
We had a great start which was
superb. But when the spin came
on we lost wickets at regular
intervals and put us under pres-
sure," Silverwood said.
"We can't keep losing wick-
ets. We should have posted a big
score on the back of a good start.
Two-three senior players in the

middle order needed to step up
and post a big score for us and
that did not happen for us."
"We have to learn to post big
scores. With the World Cup
coming back here in a few
months time, we have to make
sure to learn the lessons with the
bat and the ball as well."
Leftarm wrist spinner
Kuldeep Yadav (3/51) triggered
the collapse, claiming three
wickets in his first five overs,
while Axar Patel bagged 1 for 16
from his five overs.
"Obviously some good Indi-
an bowling but we didn't play
well in that middle phase. Maybe
there was a bit of help for the
spinner and the ball was hold-
ing a bit, but the fact is it was not
a pitch where you will be bowled
out," Silverwood said.
"A lot of credit to the Indian
side for the way they bowled and
fought. Losing those wickets

Surya's exclusion from ODI playing XI shows India's bench strength: Chandimal

PTI ■ DUBAI

Suryakumar Yadav's omis-
sion from playing XI did
surprise him but former Sri
Lankan captain Dinesh
Chandimal also feels that it is
a testimony to India's tremen-
dous bench strength in white
ball cricket. With KL Rahul
donning the big gloves at No.
5 and Hardik Pandya an auto-
matic choice at No. 6 as the
pace bowling all-rounder,
India's one and only 'Mr 360
degree' will have to wait for his
turn despite his phenomenal
show in T20 cricket.
"Looking at this Indian
team, it shows how much
strength is there in the bench.
I still feel Surya can play in the
middle order in this Indian

team," Chandimal said.
For Chandimal, Surya's
USP will always be his strike-
rate and even a cameo of 30 or
quick half-century from him
can change the complexion of
the game in no time.
"He is different to other
batters. You need a guy like
him in the middle-order. He
can change the game by just
scoring 30 to 50 runs.
Opposition team can be frus-
trated with the speed at which
he scores. I still feel he should
play in ODIs," said Chandimal.
Having already lost the
series 0-2, Chandimal wants
Dasun Shanaka and his boys to
play positive cricket.
"It is tough to play India in
India but they should play pos-
itively in every department."

obviously made it difficult for us.
We liked to have pushed on, cer-
tainly it's something that we
need to address.
"The Indian bowlers oper-
ate in their own conditions, hit
length hard, consistently on
good areas. I'm at least happy

that we have managed to look at
them before we come here for
the World Cup (in October-
November). I hope that we can
address that," he signed off.
Sri Lanka will face India in
the third and final ODI on
Sunday.

MP beat Gujarat by 206 runs to consolidate pole position in Group D

PTI ■ INDORE

Defending champions Madhya Pradesh defeat-
ed Gujarat by 206 runs to consolidate their
position at the top of Group D in a Ranji Trophy
match here on Friday.
Shubham Sharma did the star turn for MP
with scores of 72 and 101 not out to steer his side
to victory.
After posting 312 in their first innings rid-
ing on wicketkeeper Himanshu Mantri's 159 and
Shubham's 72, MP bundled out Gujarat for 211.
In MP's second innings, Shubham led the
charge with a quick-fire ton off just 118 balls that
was decorated with eight boundaries and three
hits over the fence.
Mantri (65) and Rajat Patidar (57) also made
useful contributions with the bat as MP declared
their second innings at 280 for 6 in 71.3 overs,
thereby setting a 382-run target for Gujarat.
But Gujarat faltered in the chase as off-spin-
ner Saransh Jain (4/64) struck early blows to derail
the visitors.
Medium pacer Gaurav Yadav (3/41) comple-
mented his bowling colleagues as MP bowled out
Gujarat for 121 runs in 40.3 overs to pocket full



points from the match.
In Mohali, hosts Punjab defeated Jammu and
Kashmir by four wickets to jump to the second
spot in Group D.
Elsewhere in the group, Railways beat
Tripura by six wickets while the match between
Vidarbha and Chandigarh ended in a stalemate
as no play was possible on Friday due to bad
weather.
BENGAL WIN
Kalyani: Former India white-ball player Manoj
Tiwarly and up-and-coming cricketer Sudip
Gharami gave Bengal a hard-fought seven-
wicket win against Baroda to climb to the top of
Group A.
The two batted with confidence to stitch
together a century partnership at a time when the
match seemed to be slipping away from their
hands in the chase of a modest 177 for victory.
With three down for just 53 on day three,
things looked dismal for Bengal but young
Gharami (76 not out) and domestic stalwart
Tiwarly (60 not out) denied any more success to
the Baroda bowlers as the pair batted for nearly
33 overs on Friday to finally achieve the target.