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NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Budget likely in new Parliament House

Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha may get sanskritised names

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Hectic preparations are underway to unveil this year's annual Budget in the new Parliament House. Sources said the first day of the upcoming Session, which is a joint sitting of both the Houses, will be addressed by President Draupadi Murmu on January 31 followed by the presentation of the Union Budget 2023-24 on February 1 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Sources also said the bicameral legislatures commonly known as Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha or Lower House and Upper House may be rechristened with a new sanskritised nomenclature.

Recently, when the ambitious Central Vista project was opened for public after redevelopment, it got a new name—Kartavyapath—in place of Rajpath.

The new Parliament building does not have a Central Hall similar to the present one where joint sittings of both Houses are held. However, the Lok Sabha has enough capacity to accommodate members from both Lower and Upper Houses.

"The Lok Sabha hall may



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

PTI

accommodate up to 1,272 seats for joint Sessions," Parliament sources said. The Parliament was scheduled to be completed by November last year but the pandemic affected some work being done by the Tata Projects.

The Centre on Friday released the layout and new photos from inside the new under-construction Parliament building for which the final touches are being given.

"The final decision about where the forthcoming Parliamentary Budget Session will be held — the new facili-

ty or the current one — is being done and the final call will be taken within a couple of days," Government sources said.

The new Parliament building is a part of the Central Vista redevelopment. It features larger halls, a modern library, redeveloped offices and committee rooms with state-of-art facilities.

The new Parliament building that has come up adjacent to the existing one has a built-up area of about 65,000 sqm, with its triangular shape ensuring optimal utilisation of space.

The larger Lower House

hall is based on the peacock theme (the national bird), with a capacity of up to 888 seats which is thrice the size of the older one which will be converted into a museum.

A larger Upper House hall will have a capacity of up to 384 seats and is based on the lotus theme, the national flower.

Interestingly, the existing Parliament House celebrated its inaugural day on January 18 that was inaugurated on this very day 96 years ago by the then Viceroy Lord Irwin, then called the Council House.

Panel of sports stars to probe charges against WFI chief

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

Members are Mary Kom, Dola Banerjee, Alaknanda Ashok, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sahdev Yadav among others.

This came after India's top wrestlers, including Tokyo Olympics medallists Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia, Rio Games bronze winner Sakshi Malik and World Championship medallists Vinesh Phogat and Deepak Punia, wrote to IOA president PT Usha seeking a probe into their charges against the WHI and its president.

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

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



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

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The disclosures should be in simple and clear language, should be of duration that is hard to miss, must be run with endorsements, including live streams and should be platform agnostic. The regulations are part of continuing efforts to curb misleading advertisements and protect consumers interests amid expanding social influencer market which is projected to be grow 20% annually to reach ₹2,800 crore by 2025.

P10

AI fined ₹30L for 'peeing' incident

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India airline ₹30 lakh for the urination incident that took place on a Paris-New Delhi flight late last year.

The DGCA has also suspended the licence of pilot-in-command for a period of three months for failing to discharge his duties as per Rule 141 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, and applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements, officials underlined. The DGCA also imposed a financial penalty of ₹3 lakh on Director-in-flight services of Air India for failing to discharge her duties as per applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements.

The staff involved in the matter was earlier taken off roster. The enforcement actions for violation of applicable norms come nearly two months after the incident. This is also the first time that DGCA



has penalised an airline for unruly passenger behaviour onboard a flight. In response to the DGCA penalty and action, an Air India spokesperson said it is in receipt of the DGCA order and studying it.

"We respectfully acknowledge the gaps in our reporting and are taking relevant steps to ensure that the same are addressed. We are also strengthening our crews' awareness of and compliance with policies on the handling of incidents involving unruly passengers," the airline said.

Air India is committed to stand by the safety and well-being of our passengers," the airline spokesperson said.

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Rozgar Mela exercises have become identity of Govt: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said in a rapidly growing country more opportunities for employment and self-employment are being created and pointed out the Government has made changes in the recruitment process by making it "time-bound".

Addressing a "Rozgar Mela" via video conferencing, he also said his Government had effected broad changes in the recruitment process by making it more streamlined and time-bound while boosting transparency and speed.

He digitally distributed 71,426 appointment letters to recruits in different government departments, and said the ongoing "Rozgar Mela exercises have become an identity of his Government".

The PM has, so far, handed over appointment letters to more than 2.17 lakh persons under the "Rozgar Mela".



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

PTI

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

He gave the example of "a hundred lakh crore investment

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Google will lay off 12,000 jobs across the globe, its CEO Sundar Pichai announced on Friday, becoming the latest tech giant after Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon to retrench staff en masse amid the global economic downturn.

In an email to employees, the Indian-origin CEO said: "I have some difficult news to share. We've decided to reduce our workforce by approximately 12,000 roles."

Pichai said the layoffs at Google were carried out after a "rigorous review" of its operations. The jobs being eliminated "cut across Alphabet, product areas, functions, levels and regions," he said.

"Over the past two years, we've seen periods of dramatic growth. To match and fuel that growth, we hired for a different economic reality than the one we face today," Pichai said in his mail, which was posted on the company's news blog.

Earlier this week, Microsoft announced 10,000 job cuts, or nearly 5 per cent of its workforce. Amazon is also cutting 18,000 jobs and Facebook parent Meta is trimming 11,000 positions.

"I'm deeply sorry for that. The fact that these changes will impact the lives of Googlers weighs heavily on me, and I take full responsibility for the decisions that led us here," he elaborated.

Digital consumption soared during the years of the pandemic, prompting companies to diversify portfolios and scale up hiring. But as consumers cut back on their digital footprint as normalcy returned after the pandemic, companies have been forced to restructure and cut costs.

Pichai said he was confident about the huge opportunity for the company due to "our early investments in AI" for which Google would need to make tough choices.

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SC junks pleas against caste census in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a batch of pleas challenging the Bihar Government's decision to conduct a caste survey in the State. A bench of justices BR Gavai and Vikram Nath said there is no merit in the petitions and dismissed them with liberty to the petitioners to approach the High Court concerned.

"So this is publicity interest litigation. How can we issue directions on how much reservation should be granted to such and such caste? How will they (State) determine how much reservation is to be granted to whom? Sorry, we can't issue such directions and can't entertain these petitions," the bench told the counsel for



the petitioners.

"All the petitions are dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to seek appropriate remedies in law," the bench ordered, adding the petitioners may move the Patna High Court.

One of the PILs on the issue was filed in the apex court through advocate Barun Kumar Sinha seeking quashing of the notification issued by the deputy secretary, Bihar Government, for conducting a caste survey in the State and to restrain the authorities concerned from conducting the exercise.

Continued on Page 2



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

PTI

India pushes for devolution of powers to Tamils in SL

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ COLOMBO

India favours devolution of power to the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka and considers the full implementation of the 13th Amendment in Sri Lanka "critical" for achieving reconciliation with the Tamil community, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

Making this assertion in Colombo during his two-day tour of Sri Lanka, he also said "My primary purpose to visit Colombo is to express India's solidarity with Sri Lanka during these difficult moments".

Jaishankar is in Sri Lanka to meet the country's top leaders to enhance bilateral ties and finalise a debt restructuring plan to help Colombo carve out a path from its economic crisis.



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

PTI

Elaborating upon the sensitive issue of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka, Jaishankar also underlined that New Delhi

has always supported both the political and economic stability in the island nation.

Continued on Page 2

Nadda gives term ‘HIRA’ to development lexicon

PTI ■ GHAZIPUR

BJP president JP Nadda on Friday gave a new term 'HIRA' to the development lexicon, highlighting that the Central Government's focus has been on highways, internet, railways and airways.

He also said when the entire world is reeling under a financial crisis, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, surpassing Britain.

"Today, I say that development means HIRA -- H for Highway, I for Internet, R for Railways and A for Airways," Nadda said addressing a public meeting here.

"Today, when I was coming (from Kashi), I saw Ghazipur has changed a lot. Earlier, it took hours to reach Ghazipur from Kashi. Today, it took just

one-and-a-half-hour," he added.

It is noteworthy that in the meeting of the National Executive of the BJP held in Delhi on January 17, it was unanimously approved to extend the tenure of J P Nadda till June 2024.

Addressing reporters on the last day of the BJP's two-day executive meeting at the convention center of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in the capital, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had announced the extension of Nadda's tenure. After this, Nadda, for the first time, visited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi and its adjacent Ghazipur.

Afzal Ansari of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

had won the Ghazipur seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections by defeating Manoj Sinha of the BJP. Afzal Ansari is the elder brother of former MLA Mukhtar Ansari, who is lodged in Bahubali Banda Jail in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing the public meeting in Ghazipur, Nadda attacked the Ansari brothers and said "the people of UP have taken development forward by rejecting the mafia rule".

"Earlier there was the terror of gunda raj and mafia raj in Uttar Pradesh. Kidnapping, hooliganism, illegal occupation of government and poor people's land was common, but with the advent of the double-engine BJP government, the criminals lost their courage. The mafia rule has ended in the Yogi government and the rule

of law has been established."

Targeting Afzal Ansari, the BJP president said that "the MP of Ghazipur has nothing to do with the development of the area. He has only one job -- to get Bhaiya (Mukhtar Ansari) out of jail."

"These people have looted this area with both hands, suppressed the poor. They were symbols of mafia rule and peace has come in Uttar Pradesh after their imprisonment."

Nadda said, "In a democracy, proper use of one's votes is very important. If the button is pressed at the wrong place, mafia rule comes, but if the button is pressed at the right place, the goonda rule ends, medical colleges come up, defense corridors and highways are built."



"The four-lane Varanasi-Ghazipur highway and other development works are being carried out because you pressed the right button for the Centre as well as Uttar Pradesh and set up a double-engine government in UP as well," he said.

Taking a jibe at the Samajwadi Party chief, the BJP president said, "When I was the

health minister at the Centre, I had come to Uttar Pradesh for a vaccination programme. At that time Akhilesh Yadav was the Chief Minister. Neither Yadav, nor the SP government had any knowledge about that programme. Now tell, such a big state and the chief minister do not know...(about the sheme)."

Christians not engaged in converting people, says Union Minister Barla



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Union Minister John Barla on Friday rejected allegations that Christians are engaged in converting people, and asserted that the community has immense contributions to the progress of India.

Despite that, Christians do not get respect as they do not blow their own trumpet, said the minister of state for minority affairs while addressing a Peace Rally here.

Christian schools can be found everywhere in the country, the BJP leader said asserting that a number of personalities - from Mahatma Gandhi to filmstar Shah Rukh Khan - had their schooling in such institutions.

"(Besides) there are health centres, old-age homes. Yet, after so much contribution, there is no respect. Why will there be allegations that we convert people? No, we don't convert people," the minister said. BJP leaders in various states accuse Church leaders of converting people to Christianity.

"We want nothing but peace ... Time has come to be united," Barla, himself a

Christian, said adding that members of the community should not face injustice as was the case in Chhattisgarh.

On January 2, a church was vandalised and six police personnel, including an IPS officer, were attacked and injured during a protest by tribals in connection with an alleged religious conversion in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur city.

"If we do not tell the world (about our contribution), we will get beaten up instead," said the MP of Alipurduar in West Bengal.

He said that besides schools, there are hospitals, health centres, old age homes and other facilities run by Christians with their funds, but still, they do not get respect.

Barla said, "From the time I became a minister, as the minority minister, as Christian, I thought - what is our contribution to the country? What have we given and what have we got in return? - both before and after Independence. What respect did we get for our contribution?"

There are Christian schools in the remotest area of the country where there are no government institutes, he said.

Necessary to keep alive Hindi, other Indian languages for country's integrity: NHRC chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NHRC chairperson justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra on Friday said it is necessary to keep alive Hindi and other Indian languages by promoting their use in day-to-day life for the "cultural unity and integrity of the country".

He was addressing a function organised here to present awards to 33 winners of various competitions held during the Hindi fortnight in September 2022 for the officers and staff of the Commission.

Justice Mishra said languages play an important role

in the preservation and promotion of the culture of a country.

Therefore, it is necessary to keep alive Hindi and other Indian languages by promoting their use in our day-to-day life for the cultural unity and integrity of the country, he was quoted as saying in the statement.

However, "there is nothing wrong" in learning different foreign languages, but overuse of these languages at the cost of Hindi and other Indian languages may impact our culture and value systems, he said.

Therefore, all the mother



tongues and national languages need to be maintained and enriched, he said. Justice Mishra also said that when foreign countries have been taking advantage of Indian literature in Sanskrit language, it is necessary that we also protect

our culture through our languages and guide the world.

NHRC Member D M Mulay also addressed the officers and staff and encouraged them to promote official language in their work, the statement said.

No one can ignore India now: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Indian security agencies have succeeded in establishing their supremacy and no one can ignore the country anymore in any field.

In his address at the inaugural session of a three-day conference of DGPs and IGP's here, Shah said India is now definitely safe, strong and on a good footing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi will also attend the conference of director generals

and inspector generals of police being held at the National Agricultural Science Complex in Pusa here, according to a release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference. Unlike the symbolic presence of prime ministers earlier, he sits through all major sessions of the conference," it said.

The prime minister not only listens patiently to all the inputs, but also encourages free and informal discussions so that new ideas can come up, the PMO release said.

AI fined ₹30L for...

From Page 1
Air India has also banned accused Shankar Mishra from flying with the airline for four months after an internal committee determined that he was an unruly passenger who urinated on the complainant sitting on seat 9A without also affecting the passenger on seat 9C, it has erroneously gone on to assume that there was a seat 9B in the business class in the aircraft and imagined that the accused could have stood at this imaginary seat and urinated on the

complainant on seat 9A. However, there is no seat 9B in the business class on the craft - only seats 9A and 9C," the statement said.

Since the incident took place on November 26, Mishra, a senior executive at US financial services firm Wells Fargo, has been terminated by his

norms, Mishra may appeal against the ban to an Appellate Committee constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The decision of the Appellate Committee shall be final in so far as the Government is concerned. Any further appeal shall lie in a High Court.

In a statement, Mishra's

lawyers said Air India in its "faulty" report made up things as they could not find an "adequate explanation" as to how Shankar Mishra could have urinated on the complainant sitting on the 9A seat. The airline assumed there was a seat 9B in the business class in the aircraft and imagined that

Shankar Mishra could have stood at the "imaginary" seat and urinated on the 9A seat. However, there is no seat 9B in the business class on the aircraft -- only seats 9A and 9C, reads the statement.

"When the Committee could not find an adequate explanation as to how the

accused could have urinated on the complainant sitting on seat 9A without also affecting the passenger on seat 9C, it has erroneously gone on to assume that there was a seat 9B in the business class in the aircraft and imagined that the accused could have stood at this imaginary seat and urinated on the

complainant on seat 9A. However, there is no seat 9B in the business class on the craft - only seats 9A and 9C," the statement said.

Since the incident took place on November 26, Mishra, a senior executive at US financial services firm Wells Fargo, has been terminated by his

employer. Delhi Police also arrested Mishra from Bengaluru on 7 January, and he has been sent to 14-day judicial custody. In its statement on Friday, the DGCA said enforcement actions have been taken in the incident, which came to the notice of the regulator on January 4.

India pushes for devolution of powers...

From Page 1
India has been pressing

Sri Lanka to implement the 13th Amendment which was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987. The 13A provides for the devolution of power to the Tamil community.

"India has always supported both the political and economic stability of Sri Lanka," Jaishankar said in a press statement after talks

with Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Foreign Minister Ali Sabry.

He further said he shared with Lankan President Wickremesinghe India's considered view that the full implementation of the 13th Amendment and early conduct of provincial elections is critical for both the political and economic stability of the debt-ridden island nation.

Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit, called on President Wickremesinghe on Friday morning.

areas of energy, tourism and infrastructure. He expressed New Delhi's solidarity with the debt-ridden island nation during its "difficult moments".

"We've had a very good discussion that follows up on my meetings with my counterpart and other Sri Lankan Ministers yesterday (Thursday) evening," he said. India has extended about USD 4 billion in credits and rollovers to help Sri Lanka get through an economic crisis.

"For us, it was an issue of the neighbourhood first and not leaving a partner to fend for themselves," Jaishankar said.

Lanka to move forward," he added.

Calling tourism the lifeblood of the Sri Lankan economy, he said "Indian tourists are expressing their positive sentiments for Sri Lanka in a very, very practical manner by coming here."

He also handed over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to President Wickremesinghe to visit India at an early date to discuss how our partnership can facilitate Sri Lanka's strong recovery.

Jaishankar also met Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday and held discussions on a range of issues of mutual interest. Rajapaksa thanked the Indian Government for its steadfast commitment to assisting his country during its troubled times. The External Affairs Minister also met Mahinda Rajapaksa's younger brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

From Page 1
"As an almost 25-year-old company, we're bound to go through difficult economic cycles. These are important moments to sharpen our focus, re-engineer our cost bases, and direct our talent and capital to our highest priorities," Pichai said.

"Being constrained in some areas allows us to bet big on others. Pivoting the company to be AI-first years ago led to groundbreaking advances across our businesses and the whole industry," he said.

In the US, Google will pay employees during the full notification period (minimum 60 days), offer a severance package starting at 16 weeks' salary plus two weeks for every additional year at Google, and 6 months of healthcare, job placement services, and immigration support for those affected.

"In other countries, this

process will take longer due to local laws and practices," he said.

"This will mean saying goodbye to some incredibly talented people we worked hard to hire and have loved working with. I'm deeply sorry for that. The fact that these changes will impact the lives of Googlers weighs heavily on me, and I take full responsibility for the decisions that led us here," Pichai added.

A day before Google's announcement, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said his company will lay off less than five per cent of its total workforce, as the technology giant aligns its cost structure with revenue and customer demand.

"Today, we are making changes that will result in the reduction of our overall workforce by 10,000 jobs" through the end of the third quarter of fiscal year 2023.

Describing the current times

as that of "significant change", Nadella said customers who accelerated their digital spending during the pandemic, are now optimising their digital spending to do more with less.

Nadella noted that the next major wave of computing is being born with advances in Artificial intelligence, "as we're turning the world's most advanced models into a new computing platform."

The bloodbath in the tech sector that began last year is continuing into 2023. Meta, the parent of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp laid off more than 11,000 workers or about 13 per cent of its workforce in November last year.

"I want to take accountability for these decisions and for how we got here. I know this is tough for everyone, and I'm especially sorry to those impacted," Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said previously.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is Notified to General Public that BM Gupta Hospital Pvt. Ltd., H-9 to H-15, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 will be destroying the patients records for the period from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2019 as per admissible rules. If anyone want patient record of the above noted period, contact the Medical Director on Ph: 011-47157777 or at BM Gupta Hospital before 15-02-2023.

Dr. B M Gupta (Director)

NOTICE
I Saahil Chopra S/o Shri Ashok Chopra R/o C-46, Greater Kailash Part - 1, New Delhi - 110048, declared that, I had purchased a property bearing No. M-1010 in project Aditya Urban Homes, located at NH - 24, Uttar Pradesh. I further sold this property to one Mr. Trilok Chand, but due to some unforeseen reasons this deal got cancelled. The developer of the said property, M/s. Shubh Homes Realcon Pvt. Ltd. had issued NOC in name of Mr. Trilok Chand for the transfer of the said property. That the NOC got lost. I hereby declare that the deal stands cancelled and so does the NOC.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that my client Mukesh Mittal is in process to purchase the Property bearing no. RA-14 (adjacent with property no. RA-15) area measuring 100 sq. yds. situated in the area of village Naraina in the abadi of an approved colony Indrapuri, New Delhi from Bhunika Rajpal, who acquired the same vide Gift Deed dated 4/11/2022 (Doc No. 6334) executed by Harish Kumar, whereas Harish Kumar was the only live legal heir of late kaushalya Sharma

All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamali Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower, Sec-4, Vaisali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 981063351

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large Mrs. Nisha W/o Mr. Ompal who is Gifting the Plot of land with area measuring 140 sq. yds. i.e. 117.054 sq. mtrs., out of Gata No. (Khasra No. 76, 551, 1038BA, 260/1160, 1038VA, situated at Village Vaina, Pargana Tappal, Tehsil Khair, District Aligarh, U.P. from Mr. Ompal Singh s/o Mr. Soni Singh, who had owner through Khatauni Record, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP - 201301
Contact # 0120-4269379

NOTICE
I Pankaj Kumar Sharma S/o Govind Swaroop Sharma R/o Flat No - 704, Aster - 4, Superloch Emerald Court, Sector - 93 A, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh being the Authorized Representative of M/s Investors Clinic InfraTech Pvt. Ltd. Address 5th Floor, Tapasya Corp. Heights, Sector - 126, Noida, have declared that M/s Investors Clinic InfraTech Pvt. Ltd. have purchased a property bearing No. Spira - 4610 Project SuperTech Supernova, address Sector - 94, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, we have lost the original allotment letter of the above said property, we have request M/s SUPERTECH REALTORS PVT LTD to issue the duplicate allotment letter of the said property, if anybody or any financial Institutions have any objection, he/she may contact to M/S SUPRTECH LIMITED office Plot no-C-2, Sector 96, Noida 201303 (UP), within Fifteen Days.

SC junks...
From Page 1
The petitioner, Akhilesh Kumar, sought quashing of the notification dated

June 6, 2022 issued by the Bihar Government. The plea contended that the subject of the survey falls in List 1 of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution and only the Centre has the power to hold the exercise.

The PIL alleged that the notification violated Article 14 of the Constitution which provides for equality before law and equal protection under the law, adding that the notification was "illegal, arbitrary, irrational and unconstitutional".

noted in business that the consumer is always right. That is why employment in the government sector is called "Government service" and not jobs, he said. The Prime Minister noted that a large number of recruits are from families where no one was in government service. A transparent and clear recruitment process awards people's merit and competence, he said.

The Prime Minister said new opportunities for employment are created when a village is connected under the BharatNet project of providing broadband connectivity in every village.

"Even those who are not too tech savvy understand its benefits. This has opened a new area of entrepreneurship by providing online services in villages," Modi said.

Rozgar Mela...

From Page 1
"All these possibilities gave rise to employment opportunities", the Prime Minister added. "India is witnessing change. In a rapidly growing India, opportunities for employment and self-employment are being created continuously. When the country witnesses massive growth, innumerable opportunities of self-employment are generated. India is witnessing this today," Modi said.

He said extensive development of infrastructure over the past eight years has created lakhs of opportunities in the self-employment sector.

"You are aware that whenever a new road is constructed,

it also lays down that path for self-employment in its vicinity. New markets spring up, a range of shops are opened. The new road also makes it easier for farmers to take their produce to the markets," the Prime Minister said.

"Similarly, any place is connected with new railway lines, the markets in the region prosper, tourism also expands with new means of transportation. Opportunities for employment are present in such expansion," the Prime Minister said.

Addressing the recruits, he asked them to resolve to serve people and said the mantra in the administrative system should be that the citizen is always right like it is

Modi said the flourishing startup scene in tier 2 and tier 3 cities has created a new identity for the youth in the world. In June last year, the Prime Minister had directed various ministries and departments to fill up 10 lakh government vacancies in mission mode by December 2023.

Friday's Rozgar Mela was the third edition of the initiative that was launched on October 22, 2022 when the prime minister handed out appointment letters to 75,000 people. On November 22, 2022 more than 71,000 job aspirants were handed over appointment letters of Government jobs. "Regular Rozgar Melas have become a mark of this government," said Modi in his address adding transparency in the employment process generates trust among youth.

War of words between CM, LG intensifies

Saxena slams Kejriwal for stooping to low level of discourse

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tussles between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena intensified on Friday as Saxena sent Kejriwal a letter slamming what he called “substantially misleading, untrue and derogatory statements” remarks, catering to a low level of discourse.

Referring to Kejriwal’s recent “sarcastic” remark, Saxena asserted that he was not acting like a “headmaster” but working as a “benign yet conscientious voice” of the people derived from the Constitution of India. The LG also accused Kejriwal of “political posturing” during his march to Raj Niwas on January 16 along with his deputy Manish Sisodia and AAP MLAs.

Saxena said he invited Kejriwal and Sisodia for a meeting but the Chief Minister chose not to come on the pretext of wanting to meet him with all his MLAs. Given the short notice and sudden demand on Kejriwal’s part, it would not have been possible to hold a meeting with 70 to 80 people at once, nor would it have served any concrete purpose, he said. “Unfortunately, you went ahead to make a convenient political posture that ‘the LG refused to meet me,’” Saxena said.

“I must mention here that I was rather astounded at the fact that even as the city is grappling with several serious developmental issues, you found time to walk for long and stage a protest meant solely for posturing, rather than taking the issue to a logical conclusion by meeting me,” the L-G wrote in his letter to Kejriwal.



Referring to Kejriwal’s attack on him in the Delhi Assembly two days back, Saxena said, “As to ‘who is LG’ and ‘where did he come from,’ can be answered, if you were to even cursorily refer to the Constitution of India, others do not deserve a reply, since they obviously cater to a very low level of discourse.” The L-G also said he was not acting as a “headmaster” but was working as a “benign yet conscientious voice” of the people derived from the Constitution of India. The Chief Minister in his address in the recent Assembly session, had challenged Saxena’s authority, saying he checked files like he were his headmaster.

Saxena went on to list various “weak” areas in the education system under Kejriwal Government to help the Chief Minister comprehend the issues and deal with it. He also cited fall in State-run school enrolment numbers, low attendance of students, not setting up of new schools in last eight years, “ad hocism” in the appointment of thousands of guest teachers, among others.

“Contrary to claims that the number of students going to private schools has

increased in Delhi, the share of private schools in 2013-2014 that was 35 per cent went up to 43 per cent in 2019-2020,” he wrote in his letter.

Saxena also replied to the Kejriwal Government’s allegation that its teacher training in Finland proposal was rejected by him. “I did not reject the proposal.... I raised a few queries with respect to the impact assessment and cost benefit analysis of such visits which have been going on for past few years, and asked the department, whether such training could be obtained in a more cost effective manner in our own Institutions of Excellence, like the IIMs,” he said.

The training in two batches of five days each in Finland was proposed for 52 primary in-charges, three teacher educators from SCERT, one vice principal, two deputy directors of education, director (SCERT) and secretary (education), he said.

The LG said his aim was not to obstruct teachers training in Finland and added that in recent past, he cleared proposals of sending 55 principals and vice principals of Government schools to Cambridge for 10 days each in two batches. He also raised the “plight” of 12 colleges of DU, funded by the Delhi government, where salaries were pending and posts were not sanctioned.

Saxena said his letter needs to be considered as one from a concerned Delhi citizen and not from the LG, and hoped the chief minister will take cognizance of facts in it and ensure remedial measures to rectify “grave shortcomings” for better outcomes.

Crimes against women on rise, focus on law & order, retorts Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Within hours of receiving his letter, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday cited rising crimes against women and asked Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to focus on improving the law and order — one of three responsibilities entrusted upon the Lieutenant Governor by Constitution while letting the elected Government to do its job.

Alleging constant interference in governance by the Lt Governor, Kejriwal said the people of Delhi had only seen the Lieutenant Governor creating hurdles in the works of the elected government but never seen him do anything to improve the law and order of the city.

“The Constitution has given you the responsibility to improve the law and order. Why don’t you do that? The Constitution has given the remaining works to us. Let us do our job,” Kejriwal wrote in a letter to Saxena.

“If the Chief Minister, deputy Chief Minister, the entire Cabinet and all the MLAs of Delhi were standing at your door, then it is obvious that they had come with a big problem related to the State, Kejriwal stated in his letter to the LG.

“If you had wanted, even for five minutes, you could have come out and met us.



You didn’t meet us. Because of this, people of the whole State felt disrespected. The people of Delhi felt insulted that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi refused to meet the representatives of two crore people,” Kejriwal said. Accepting LG’s invitation have lunch with him, Kejriwal said he would love to meet him on January 21 at 1 pm. “If it doesn’t suit you, let us know a convenient time and we all will come to meet you,” said Kejriwal in his letter.

The Chief Minister also urged Saxena to fix the law and order situation so that a Kanjhawala-like incident does not happen again.

“Someday if the sun starts to feel that the moon is not working properly and it should do the moon’s work, the whole universe will grapple with chaos. The sun does its own work and the moon its own, only then the universe runs smoothly. “Let the

CM do his work, you fix the law and order of Delhi so that incident like Kanjhawala’s doesn’t happen again. Then and there only, Delhi’s system will be fine.”

Kejriwal, however, noted in his letter how the LG had severely criticised the education system in Delhi and said that the criticism was ‘duly respected’. “The people of Delhi have given us a historic majority thrice. In the eyes of the public, we are doing good work. Your criticism is duly respected,” Kejriwal said.

He also cited the incident in which Delhi Commission of Women chief Swati Maliwal was allegedly molested by an inebriated man and dragged by his car for 10-15 metres with her hand stuck in the vehicle window. “If the head of the women’s commission is not safe, then I fear what a common woman goes through,” he said.

“If the people of Delhi wanted to send their teachers abroad for training then why did you stop it? Because you stop people’s work every day, the people only say — who is the LG? How can he stop our work? The Constitution has given you the task of fixing the law and order situation in Delhi. Why don’t you do that? The Constitution has given us the rest of the work, let us do our work. Even if you don’t like our work, you have no right to impede our work just like we don’t impede your work,” he added.

Govt again sends file to LG for teachers’ Finland tour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has “again sent” a proposal to the Lt Governor’s Office to send teachers of State-run schools for a training programme to Finland, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Friday, days after VK Saxena allegedly rejected a similar proposal.

In its noting, Sisodia said a cost-benefit analysis had been done. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also expressed hope that permission would be granted for the teachers to travel abroad for the programme. The fresh proposal was sent amid rising tensions between the Kejriwal Government and Saxena over several issues.

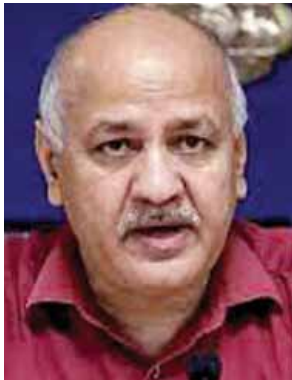
BJP MP Gautam Gambhir on Friday took a dig at Kejriwal over the Finland training programme issue, saying had the AAP leader made such spirited efforts for hospitals, clean water and combating pollution, the face and fate of Delhi

would have changed. “The kind of spirited efforts that Kejriwal is making to ensure the Finland trip, had he made such efforts for Jan Lokpal, (combating) pollution, clean water, Yamuna and hospitals, then the face and fate of Delhi would have changed #DelhiNeedsHonesty,” Gambhir, the Lok Sabha MP from East Delhi, said in a tweet in Hindi.

Sisodia, said in a tweet in Hindi, “The proposal to send Delhi Government teachers to Finland for training has been sent again to the LG.” Quoting Sisodia’s tweet, Kejriwal said, “I hope the Hon’ble LG will permit Delhi Government school teachers to go abroad for training.”

While returning the earlier proposal, Saxena had asked the AAP Government to conduct the programme’s cost-benefit analysis.

In the proposal moved this time, Sisodia noted that the Government had examined



the proposal from all aspects, including cost-benefit analysis, and found it essential to improve the quality of education.

The proposal said, “If the Chief Minister and the Education Minister have decided to send their teachers abroad, then how can LG scuttle it by repeatedly raising flimsy objections? It is against democracy and the Constitution that an unelected individual is deciding and alter-

ing almost every decision of a democratically elected government.

“Elite class of our country suffers from a feudal mindset; they want to send their children abroad but strongly object and seek cost-benefit analysis even when teachers of poor children are to be sent abroad. LG’s remarks are extremely unfortunate; such a regressive feudal mindset should have no place in 21st century India,” it added.

The proposal noted that, according to the Supreme Court, the LG does not have the power to order a cost-benefit analysis of any decision of the council of ministers.

“Wish to remind LG that the orders of SC are not only binding on every citizen of India but become the law,” it said.

Sisodia also cited a Supreme Court judgment where it repeats twice that the Lt Governor has not been entrusted with any independent decision-making power.

“So, if the Chief Minister and the Education Minister have decided that they wish to send their teachers abroad for training, then how can Hon’ble LG scuttle it by repeatedly raising flimsy objections?”

“After doing all the analysis and examining all aspects, Delhi Government has decided to send its teachers to Finland for training. Hon’ble LG may kindly inform whether he wishes to invoke proviso to Article 239AA(4) of the Constitution. If he chooses to do so, he must follow the process provided in Rule 49 of TBR,” Sisodia concluded.

Stressing that the objective behind sending back the file was “not to obstruct”, the LG in his letter to Kejriwal said that he asked the education department for an impact assessment and cost benefit analysis of such visits to training and if it could be obtained “in a more cost effective manner in our own Institutions of Excellence, like the IIMs”.

After student stabs teacher, Deputy CM holds review meeting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia held a review meeting with education department officials on Friday where measures to prevent attacks on school teachers were discussed.

The meeting came against the backdrop of an incident, in which a 29-year-old teacher was allegedly stabbed by a student inside a Government school in west Delhi’s Inderpuri on Thursday.

Sisodia said suggestions should be taken from principals and teachers and there should be a policy to prevent such attacks on teachers.

“It is the Delhi Government’s responsibility to ensure the safety of teachers. A review meeting was held with education department officials and suggestions will be taken from principals and teachers to make a policy to prevent such attacks on teachers,” the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said in a tweet in Hindi.

The teacher who was attacked on Thursday, identified as Bhudev, takes physical education classes in the school, police said, adding that the 18-year-old accused has been arrested. According to police, the victim had scolded the accused student in the past over not wearing the school uniform.

Atishi: Centre sending notices to slum dwellers to demolish houses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Atishi on Friday alleged that the BJP-led Central Government is sending notices to slum dwellers in the city to demolish their houses, though the saffron party had promised to provide free flats to them during the MCD polls. She alleged that a similar notice was sent to a slum area in Tughlakabad, asking the residents there to vacate the place within 15 days.

“Before the MCD elections, the BJP had promised that slum dwellers will be provided flats for free. Once the elections got over, it is using Central Government to serve notices to them to raze down their houses.

“In Tughlakabad area, a notice has been served asking



people to clear the area in 15 days. Paramilitary forces were also deployed to scare the residents there. This is the truth of the BJP,” Atishi alleged.

“AAP will gherao BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri’s house against BJP-led Central Government’s notice to bulldoze homes in Navjeevan Camp, Nehru Camp, Tughlakabad village and

Subhash Camp. We will gherao BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri’s house tomorrow at 11.30 am, if he doesn’t meet us, there will be a huge protest outside the house,” she said.

“The Kejriwal Government in MCD will not let these demolitions happen. We will not let the BJP scare the slum dwellers,” she said.

No Question Hour due to restriction by LG: Speaker

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday said he is not in favour of having Question Hour in the House as he cannot accept queries of MLAs on reserved subjects of law and order, land and services due to a “restriction” by the Lieutenant Governor.

It is irrelevant to allow question hour unless the LG permits questions to be asked by the MLAs on these subjects, he said.



“I am not in the favour of question hour. When the Speaker cannot accept questions about the Delhi Police, services, land and the building department, what subjects remain to be accepted,” he told a press conference when

asked why there was no question hour during the four-day session that ended on Thursday.

Goel said the Lt Governor has “prohibited” asking questions on these subjects and demanded he lift it. “There has never been such a restriction since the constitution of Assembly in Delhi. Is the LG scared that the corruption in the police, the DDA and the transfer scam of the services department will be exposed,” he said, alleging the LG was “misusing his office”.

Govt running House in undemocratic way, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MLAs have alleged that the Delhi Government is running the Assembly in an unconstitutional and undemocratic manner.

“Rules are being flouted openly to strangle the opposition. When the opposition demanded or tried to discuss the problems of the people, it was thrown out of the house. BJP members were marshalled out on all four days, which is the biggest example of running the House in a dictatorial and arbitrary manner,” Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said.

Anti-terror measures stepped up ahead of R-Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has deployed additional pickets, intensified anti-terror measures and enhanced patrolling ahead of Republic Day celebrations in the national Capital.

All Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACSP) and Station House Officers (SHOs) have been holding meetings with members of the Residents Welfare Association and Market Welfare Associations and briefing them about security measures in place for Republic Day, they said. The police have also urged people to stay vigilant and inform them about anything suspicious.

The Delhi Police has also been creating awareness on the social media, asking people to alert or inform the police about any suspicious person, activity or article, they said.

Tenant and servant verifications are being done, police said, adding that surprise checks are also being conducted at hotels, guest houses and ‘dharamshalas’ to ensure no suspicious or anti-social elements have occupied the space illegally, police said. Mock drills have also been conducted by various districts to check their preparedness for anti-terror measures ahead of Republic Day, a senior police officer said.

Special Commissioner of



Police (Law and Order) Dependra Pathak said, “Our security checks and anti-terror measures are robust and we would not allow any mischief monger or terror criminal to function or get successful.

“We are also alerting the market and resident welfare associations, organising public meetings, other initiatives to

counter anonymity and create a vibrant web of human relationship focusing on security in place.” According to officials, anti-terror measures have been intensified in coordination with other security agencies since Delhi has always been a target for terrorists or anti-social elements.

This year officers are on high alert. Extra pickets have also been deployed on bordering areas to ensure no mischievous elements gain entry into the national capital, officials said. Besides, the internal meetings of Delhi Police, inter-state coordination meetings are also being held to ensure there are no lapse of security, a senior police official said.

Man who harassed me at AIIMS had preyed on another woman: Maliwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Friday alleged that the man accused of harassing her outside AIIMS had also “preyed on another woman” in a similar fashion earlier this month.

“The person who harassed me has also preyed on other women. One woman reported on the 181 helpline that on January 17 this man had repeatedly circled around her with his car on Lodhi Road, asking her to get in. I am thankful that I got him caught. I appeal to everyone to not be afraid but raise your voice,” Maliwal said in a tweet in Hindi. Maliwal also shared a video of the woman narrating her ordeal of being harassed by the man.

“In today’s newspaper I saw that the chairperson of Delhi Commission (for Women) had been harassed and there was a picture of the perpetrator. I would like to tell you that this same person did the same thing to me on Tuesday at Lodhi Colony around 7 to 7.30 pm. He said the same thing to me - ‘Do you want a lift?’ and kept taking a U-turn to come back.

“I ignored him the first time he asked... But after that, when he kept on returning, I looked at him properly and kept thinking of getting out of the place as soon as possible but since there were no buses around, I had to face some problems,” the woman said in the video.

Meanwhile, a video footage showing Maliwal being allegedly harassed by the accused inebriated man and dragged by his car for 10-15 metres with her hand stuck in the vehicle window has been recovered, police said.

Maliwal is seen in the video, which has been widely circulated on social media, waiting on the pavement when



a car arrives and the driver tells her to get in. To this, Maliwal can be heard saying, “Sorry, I can’t hear you...What?”

When the driver keeps insisting, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson is heard asking, “Where will you drop me? I want to go home. My relative are coming...” She then moves aside and the car is seen leaving.

After sometime, the same vehicle is seen returning after taking a U-turn and stops in front of Maliwal. At this point, she asks the driver, “You were the same person who told me that you will drop me right? Where will you drop me? I had told you right I have my relatives and they are coming.” When he doesn’t get her words

and allegedly makes lewd gestures at her, Maliwal is seen reprimanding him and again questions him where he would drop her.

“You have come for the second time. I have been repeatedly telling you that I don’t want to get dropped anywhere,” Maliwal can be heard saying in the video. The video also showed that when she caught hold of the driver, he rolled up the window on her hand and dragged her along. She could also be heard screaming in the video.

The DCW chief said she was inspecting the state of women’s security in Delhi along with her team in wake of the Kanjhawala hit-and-drag incident in which a 20-year-old woman was dragged to death while trapped under a car in the national capital. Maliwal’s team that was with her during the inspection was stationed at some distance.

A 47-year-old man living in south Delhi’s Sangam Vihar has been arrested following the incident which took place in the early hours of Thursday.

DCW chief staged AIIMS incident, accused is AAP member, alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after AAP leader and Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Chief Swati Maliwal claimed that she was dragged by a drunk driver for 10-15 metres by trapping her hand in the car window, BJP has accused her of staging the incident, Delhi BJP alleged that she staged the incident.

Delhi BJP Working President Virendra Sachdeva on Friday said the accused of eve-teasing the Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal is a Aam Aadmi

Party member.

Releasing a photo in which accused Harish Chandra is seen campaigning with AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal in Sangam Vihar, Sachdeva said that this shows a bigger conspiracy of AAP to defame the national capital internationally by showing the capital as an unsafe for women.

The video of the incident has emerged on social media, and it does raise some questions. Many netizens pointed out that when the car stopped, Swati Maliwal went forwards to talk to him.

NEHRU MEMORIAL FUND Urgent hearing on JNMF eviction from Teen Murti sought



TEEN MURTI BHAVAN
File photo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday requested the Delhi High Court for an urgent hearing of the matter related to the eviction notice given to the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund (JNMF), chaired by former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, to vacate the Teen Murti Estate complex.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma vehemently opposed the request for adjournment made by the JNMF counsel who assailed the eviction notice issued in 2018 and said it was a clear abuse of authority.

ASG Sharma said a museum is proposed to be built at the site is a "project of national importance", and the petitioner cannot be permitted to occupy the land which belonged to the Centre. The complex now houses 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya', a museum built as a tribute to all Prime Ministers since Independence. Considering the submissions, Justice Mini Pushkarna listed the case for hearing on January 24.

The court was informed that the matter was earlier heard at length by another bench and

motives.

The plea has said the JNMF is a charitable trust and the Directorate of Estates has no jurisdiction to initiate any proceedings in relation to the property of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) which is a registered society and the JNMF is in legal occupation of the premises.

The JNMF has contended that the eviction notice was arbitrary and without jurisdiction and has been issued without application of mind. The petition has said the proceedings initiated by the estate officer are part of a larger design to efface and destroy the legacy and contributions of Nehru and create a new historical narrative.

"The legacy of Nehru is a historical fact which is now sought to be effaced by the central government led by the BJP which is totally opposed to the secular and inclusive principles which Nehru stood for," the plea has alleged.

In response, an affidavit filed by the deputy director of estates at Directorate of Estates has claimed the JNMF has failed to produce any authority which allows it to use the demised premises and the Central Government is the sole owner of the premises and the Teen Murti Estate in its entirety.

The affidavit has said in the absence of any material placed by the Fund to show that it is either JNMF which is the owner or someone else other than the Central government, it should not be permitted to argue that the government does not own the property. The High Court had on November 1, 2018 passed an order staying the proceedings before the Directorate of Estates.

has to be now considered afresh. The ASG contended the petition was not maintainable before the High Court and since the proceedings against the petitioner were initiated under the Public Premises Act, all grievances should be raised before the authority concerned under the law. "A show cause was issued in 2018. This is Public Premises Act. How can you come to the High Court? This is an important national project," Sharma said.

The JNMF had approached the High Court in 2018 seeking setting set aside of the estate officer's October 15, 2018 eviction notice. The Fund has been located at Teen Murti Bhavan, once the residence of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru since 1967. The JNMF was set up in 1964. Its offices are not part of the main building but the Fund occupies a set of barracks on its eastern side with a separate entry from Teen Murti Marg. The JNMF has denied the claim that it was in illegal possession of the property.

Its petition, filed through advocates Sunil Fernandes and Priyansha Indra Sharma, has said the estate officer's notice was mala fide and been issued with ulterior political

SC to set up 5-judge bench to hear pleas challenging 'nikah halala', polygamy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will set up a five-judge Constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the constitutional validity of polygamy and 'nikah halala' practice among Muslims.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha took note of the submissions of lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, who has filed one of the PILs on the issue, that a fresh five-judge bench was needed to be constituted as two judges of the previous constitution bench — Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Hemant Gupta — have retired.

"There are very important matters which are pending before a five-judge bench. We will constitute one and bear this matter in mind," the CJI said. The matter was earlier mentioned on November 2, last year also by Upadhyay. On August 30, last year, a five-judge bench comprising Justices Indira

Banerjee, Hemant Gupta, Surya Kant, M M Sundresh and Sudhanshu Dhulia had made the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Commission for Women (NCW) and the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) parties to the PILs and sought their responses.

Justice Banerjee and Justice Gupta retired on September 23 and October 16 last year respectively giving rise to the need for re-constitution of the bench to hear as many as eight petitions against the practices of polygamy and 'nikah halala'. Upadhyay, in his PIL, has sought a direction to declare polygamy and 'nikah halala' unconstitutional and illegal.

While polygamy allows a Muslim man to have four wives, 'nikah halala' deals with the process in which a Muslim woman, who wants to re-marry her husband after divorce, has to first marry another person and get a divorce from him after the consummation.

'Report by probe agency can't be made public'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held that a chargesheet filed by an investigating agency is not a public document and said that putting it in public domain will violate the rights of both the victim and the accused.

"Putting the FIR on the website cannot be equated with putting the charge sheets along with the relevant documents on the public domain and on the websites of the State Governments," a bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said.

"If the relief as prayed in the present petition is allowed and all the charge sheets and relevant documents produced along with the charge sheets are put on the public domain or on the websites of the State Governments it will be contrary to the Scheme of the Criminal Procedure Code and it may as such violate the rights of the accused as well as the victim and/or even the investigating agency," said bench rejecting the PIL.

First ever joint India, Egypt' armies drill Cyclone-1 underway in Raj



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

With the objective to forge closer bilateral ties between the armies of the two countries, India and Egypt are currently engaged in the first ever joint exercise 'Cyclone-1' in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan beginning January 14. The drill will last for 14 days.

Incidentally, Egypt President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi is the chief guest for Republic Day this year and a 120-member Egyptian contingent will also march during the celebrations on Kartavya Path.

Giving details of the ongoing exercise between the elite Special Forces of the two countries, army officials said here on Friday it aims to bolster defence co-operation between the two nations and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter terrorism, recon-

naissance, raids and other special operations.

Exercise "Cyclone - I" is the first exercise bringing the special forces of both the nations on a common platform. The exercise in the deserts of Rajasthan engages both the contingents to advance special forces skills such as sniping, combat free fall, reconnaissance, surveillance and target designation, sharing of information on weapons, equipment, innovations, tactics, techniques and procedures.

The participants will also undertake joint planning and drills for Special Forces operations in a mechanised warfare setting as well as surgical strikes on terrorist camps to include sniping of High Value Targets.

The joint exercise will provide an insight into the culture and ethos of both armies thereby fostering military cooperation and interoperability to further strengthen the diplomatic relations between India and Egypt.

ICG's Rajveer, Shaurya end B'desh tour

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In an effort to enhance bilateral maritime ties between the two countries, Indian Coast Guard ships Shaurya and Rajveer were on a six-day visit to Chattogram, Bangladesh from January 13 to 19 January.

The visit also aimed to further promote cooperative engagements and interoperability under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Indian and Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG), defence ministry said here on Friday.

The visit holds significance in strengthening the bilateral relationships with the BCG which has grown manifold over the years to ensure safe, secure and clean seas in the region. The fruitful engagements with various senior officials and personnel of the BCG

further enhanced the safety and security of the fishermen and mariners.

During the visit, Pollution Response Team of Indian Coast Guard conducted a five-day International Maritime Organisation Level I course on Pollution Response for the first time in Bangladesh for 20 BCG personnel. The BCG personnel were also imparted training on operations of PR equipment onboard ICGS Ships Shaurya and Rajveer.

A joint exercise was held at sea with BCG ships to validate the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in area of environmental protection and Search and Rescue at the end of the visit. The enthusiasm and keen interest displayed by senior officials and trainees will certainly bolster the marine environmental protection initiatives by the respective governments in the region, the ministry statement said.



Need for rapid changes in urban policing, says Shah

'Security agencies will have to remain two steps ahead of criminals'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday emphasised the need for rapid changes in urban policing and capacity building of the police forces, pointing out that the challenges are now multidimensional instead of one-dimensional and the security agencies will have to remain two steps ahead of the criminals.

Shah, who also called for making internal security approaches global in character, was speaking after inaugurating the All India Conference of Directors General/Inspectors General of Police at the National Agricultural Science Complex, PUSA here.

He said nine insurgent groups in the North East have surrendered and joined the societal mainstream and AFSPA has been lifted from 30 percent of the areas even as violence has decreased by 42 percent. In so far as Naxalite-affected districts are concerned, they have reduced from 96 districts in 2010 to 46 now.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend on Saturday and Sunday. The three-day Conference is being held in hybrid format.

About 100 invitees including DsGP of States/UTs and Heads of Central Armed Police Forces or paramilitary forces and Central Police



Organizations (CPOs) will attend the Conference physically, while the remaining invitees will participate virtually from across the country.

The conference will discuss a wide range of issues including Cyber Crime, Technology in Policing, Counter Terrorism challenges, Left Wing Extremism, capacity building, prison reforms, among others.

"The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from district, state and national levels on identified themes. Best practices from States/ UTs under each of the themes will be presented at the Conference so that the States can learn from each other," an official release said.

Since 2014, the Prime Minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference. "Unlike the symbolic presence of Prime Ministers earlier, he sits through all major sessions of the conference. The Prime Minister not only listens patiently to all the inputs, but also encourages free and informal discussions so that new ideas can come up. This provides a congenial atmosphere for the top police officials of the country to directly brief the Prime Minister on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country, and give their open and frank recommendations," it said.

The Conference has started discussions on futuristic themes in policing and security, to ensure not only safety in

the present times, but also to develop capability to meet emerging issues and challenges.

The PM has also encouraged the organisation of annual DGP conferences all across the country since 2014.

Besides Modi and Shah, NSA Ajit Doval will address the annual meet that is also expected to discuss the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, border management and maritime security. Around 350 top police officers of the country in the rank of DGP and IGP are attending the conference, an official said.

Threats from Khalistani extremists, danger to the economy, cryptocurrencies, Maoist violence and northeast insurgency are other issues that will also be discussed.

The Home Minister also highlighted the achievements of police forces during his inaugural address and said insurgency-infested Jammu and Kashmir is getting normal and as many as 32,000 students from across India are studying in the Union Territory. Earlier, students from the Valley used to study in other parts of the country. The tourist footfalls in the Valley have surpassed all records and 1.80 crore visitors came to Jammu and Kashmir in 2022. Likewise, Shah also pointed out the improved security situation in the Northeast Naxal-affected States.

IN SHORT

SC TO HEAR FAIZAL'S LS DISQUALIFICATION PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on January 27 the plea of Mohammed Faizal, who was disqualified as Lok Sabha MP following his conviction in an attempt to murder case, challenging the Election Commission's press note announcing conduct of by-election in his erstwhile Lakshadweep constituency.

SSC NON-TECH EXAMS IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

New Delhi: The Staff Selection Commission will conduct the multi-tasking (non-technical) staff examination, 2022, in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English for the first time. The 13 regional languages are Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Konkani, Manipuri (also Meiti), Marathi, Odia and Punjabi.

SC SENDS BACK TO AP HC PUBLIC RALLIES PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday remitted back to the Andhra Pradesh High Court an appeal of the State Government against a recent directive of the High Court, suspending the operation of an executive order that prohibited public meetings and rallies on roads, including national highways.

'ESI ACT 1948 SHOULD BE GIVEN LIBERAL MEANING'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948, should be given a "liberal interpretation" and interpreted in such a manner so that social security can be given to the employees. While dealing with an appeal filed by the ESI Corporation against the February 2021 verdict passed by the high court of the state of Telangana, a bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar said any interpretation which would lean in favour of the beneficiary should be given as the Act is a social welfare legislation.

SC ISSUES CONTEMPT NOTICE TO UP JAIL DG

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday issued a show cause notice to the Director General of Prisons of Uttar Pradesh on a contempt petition alleging violation of its earlier orders by which it had directed the prison authorities to consider and decide pleas for premature release of convicts within three months. According to the 2018 policy of the Uttar Pradesh government, a convict serving a life term would be considered for premature release if he/she has undergone a total of 20 years of sentence — 16 years of actual sentence and four years of remission.

R&AW probe into gay lawyer's sexual orientation strange: Tiwari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress MP Manish Tewari on Friday questioned how India's external intelligence agency R&AW was investigating gay lawyer Saurabh Kirpal's sexual orientation a day after the Supreme Court collegium reiterated its recommendation for appointing him as a judge of the Delhi High Court.

The SC Collegium rejected the Centre's contention that though homosexuality stands decriminalised in India, same-sex marriage is still bereft of recognition.

Oz envoy condemns Hindu temples vandalism by Khalistanis in Australia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day after India expressed concern over acts of vandalism against some Hindu temples by alleged Khalistani supporters in Australia, its envoy to New Delhi Barry O'Farrell on Friday condemned the incidents and said the authorities were "shocked" when made aware of the developments.

He said an investigation has been launched and said support for freedom of speech does not mean allowing hate speech or violence.

In a tweet, Farrell said "Like India, Australia is a proud, multicultural country. We have been shocked at the



vandalism of two Hindu temples in Melbourne, and Australian authorities are investigating. Our strong support for freedom of expression does not include hate speech or violence."

Earlier this week, the Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Australia's Carrum Downs was vandalised with anti-Hindu graffiti. The act came to notice on Monday, January 16, when devotees observing the Thai

Pongal festival visited the temple and found out there was anti-Hindu graffiti sprayed on temple walls.

Before this incident, the Bocharanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Mandir in Australia's Mill Park was smeared with anti-India and anti-Hindu graffiti leading to concern amongst the Hindus living in Australia.

On Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here India has taken a serious note of recent incidents of vandalism of temples in Australia and urged the law enforcement agencies there for a thorough probe and pre-emptive measures.

Woman officer to lead R-day Navy parade

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Navy contingent for this year's Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path here will see woman officer Lt Commander Disha Amrith, posted at a strategic base, leading the 144-strong team including three newly inducted three women and five men Agniveers.

Besides, the naval tableau will showcase the 'Nari Shakti' in the force and its theme is 'Indian Navy -- Combat Ready, Credible, Cohesive and Future Proof', Vice Admiral Suraj Berry, the Controller Personnel Services (CPS) said here on Friday. Besides Amrith, another woman officer -- Sub Lt Valli Meena S -- will be among the three platoon commanders of

the naval contingent.

Giving details of the Navy contingent for the parade, Berry said the renowned brass band of the Indian Navy of 80 musicians will be led by M Antony Raj, playing the Indian Navy Song 'Jai Bharti'.

Regarding the tableau, he said it is designed to showcase the multi-dimensional capabilities of the Indian Navy as well as highlight key indigenously designed and built platforms. The tableau also aims to highlight 'Nari Shakti' in the Indian Navy, he added.

The forward part of the tableau will showcase a woman aircrew of Dornier aircraft (flying overhead), highlighting the all-women crew of a surveillance sortie undertaken last year.



The main section of the tableau will illustrate the 'Make in India' initiatives of the Navy and model of the new indigenous Nilgiri class ship with a Dhruv helicopter deploying

marine commandos will take the centre-stage.

On the sides of the main section, cut out models of indigenous Kalvari Class Submarine will be depicted. In

the rear section of the tableau, three models of autonomous unmanned systems being developed indigenously under IDEX-Sprint Challenge will be displayed.

The Indian Navy aims to induct at least 75 technology and products as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The sprint initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Naval Innovation and Indignation Organisation Seminar in July last year.

These products are being developed under the innovation for defence excellence scheme of the Ministry of Defence and Technology Development Acceleration Cell of Indian Navy, the official said.

‘Vindicated’ Nitish welcomes SC’s ‘no ban’ on caste survey

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court’s decision to dismiss petitions challenging the caste survey being conducted by his Government, stating that the exercise was meant to benefit all sections of society.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of ‘Samadhan Yatra’ mass outreach programme in his home district of Nalanda, the JD(U) leader expressed delight over ‘paksh mein faisla’ (order in favour).

“I was appalled when I first learnt that a petition has been filed against the survey. I read it in a paper that the petitioner belonged to Bihar Sharif (the district headquarters of Nalanda). I felt like calling him up to know what was wrong with the survey,” said Kumar.

“All political parties in the state were unanimously of the opinion that the survey be



undertaken. Moreover, it is intended to benefit all sections of the society. It is also a caste survey (jaatiya ganana) and not a census (jana ganana),” said the CM.

Notably, the petition had challenged the survey claiming that it was a “census” which could be undertaken only by the Centre and not by a state government , and also expressed apprehensions that it could sharpen caste divides.

The decision to undertake the survey was taken by the state government in June last year after the Centre made it clear that it was reluctant to

include castes other than SCs and STs in the census.

Notably, the apex court refused to entertain the PIL, dubbing it as “publicity interest litigation”, though it added that the petitioner could move the high court concerned.

About the quotas for EBCs in urban local bodies, which have been challenged by a separate petition slated for hearing next month, the chief minister said “in my view it is a settled issue. There were some technical issues which were sorted out as per the Patna High Court’s order. Now elections are over and elected representatives are looking forward to discharging their duties”.

Kumar was also asked about the ‘Rozgar Mela’ of Prime Minister Narendra Modi where people got jobs in various government departments, including railways, a portfolio the JD(U) leader had held under Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

“So much was achieved in the railways during my tenure,

including creation of jobs,” the JD(U) leader recalled nostalgically, and added that “those who are in power at present should remember that the land to which they belong also got a lot when I was at the helm of affairs”. The reference was, apparently, to Gujarat which is the home state of the PM as well as Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Kumar also voiced disapproval of scrapping of a separate budget for railways and spoke in favour of reviving the old system.

“Railway budget is such a mammoth exercise. I remember during my tenure it used to be debated till late in the night in Parliament. I wonder why they discontinued it. It should start again,” he said.

The JD(U) leader, who snapped ties with the BJP in August last year, reiterated, “I have great respect for Atal ji. He never let me down. I had excellent relations with Advani ji as well.”

EC removes 3 Tripura cops over inaction on political violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday ordered the removal of three police officers for not taking “appropriate action in time” after political violence broke out in Jirania sub-division of Tripura on Wednesday, soon after the poll panel announced Assembly elections in the State.

The EC ordered action against the Jirania Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Officer-in-charge of Rani Bazar Police Station, and officer-in-charge of Jirania Police Station.

Earlier in the day, the EC had ordered an inquiry into the political violence in Jirania that led to Congress Tripura in-charge Ajoy Kumar being injured. The AICC had on Thursday taken up the matter with the EC and the Commission asked the Tripura chief secretary and director general of police to explain why the situation escalated despite a sufficient number of CAPF personnel deployed in the state.

Expressing displeasure against the police over the incident, the EC said the Chief



Secretary and Director General of Police, Tripura were asked to explain as to why the situation escalated despite a sufficient number of CAPF personnel deployed in the State.

“The Commission conveyed its displeasure in no uncertain and strongest terms on the violent incident despite the Commission’s strict directions during a visit to the state and thereafter. CS & DGP were directed to ensure level playing field for all political parties and to initiate strict action against partisan officers,” the EC said.

“The Commission has directed CS & DGP to take stringent action against SDPO Jirania sub-division by suspending or removing him,

action against Officer-in-charge of Rani Bazar Police Station and Officer-in-charge of Jirania Police Station by removing them”, the order of EC reads.

The EC has also directed CS and DGP to immediately assess the threat perception to the leaders of various political parties in the State and provide security as per the threat perception without further delay.

“Chief Electoral Officer, Tripura was directed to reiterate to the District Election Officers to facilitate the permission to political parties on first-cum-first basis and popularise the SUIDHA App for disposing off applications of political parties for meetings, rallies, roadshows, etc,” it reads.

Ram Setu cannot be touched, BJP tells DMK regime

PTI ■ CUDDALORE (TN)

The Sethusamudram ship canal project may be implemented without causing any damage to Ram Setu, which is revered by the people, the BJP resolved in its State executive committee meet here on Friday.

Led by State unit president K Annamalai, the party meet demanded an apology from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin to the people for alleged use of language, that did not denote respect, against Governor R N Ravi.

Slamming the ruling party over the Vengaiyaval (Pudukkottai district) incident, the BJP demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for it and very stringent punishment for them.

The incident refers to mixing of human faeces in an overhead water tank in a Scheduled Caste residential neighbourhood under Vengaiyaval village in Pudukkottai district.

Cong seeks restoration of J&K statehood asap

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Barring for early restoration of ‘Statehood’ to Jammu & Kashmir the Congress on Friday launched a frontal attack on Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) claiming the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was passed by a ‘brute majority’ in the Rajya Sabha without any discussion and dialogue on August 5, 2019.

Meanwhile, after receiving a warm welcome at the gateway of J&K late Thursday evening the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, braving winter rain, Friday morning kickstarted the last leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Hatli Morh in Kathua. The yatra was delayed due to inclement weather conditions. For the first time he was seen donning a black raincoat over his white T-Shirt.

A tight security ring was thrown around Rahul as he embarked on the yatra. He was joined by the recipient of Param Vir Chakra Hony Captain (Retd) Bana Singh, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and several Congress leaders, including the party’s Jammu and Kashmir unit president Vikar Rasool Wani and his predecessor G A Mir.

Enroute the yatra route a large number of local residents and Congress supporters,



carrying placards and garlands were seen cheering the participants of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

After completing the 21 km long march the senior Congress leaders launched a scathing attack on the BJP while demanding early restoration of ‘full statehood’ along with the implementation of Article 371 of the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh in response to a question said the bill brought and passed in August 2019 on Jammu and Kashmir was not done in a democratic way.

“The bill was passed without discussion and dialogue and was passed by a brute majority,” he said. “Jammu and Kashmir was a state. It was a full-fledged state. It turned into a Union Territory. We are against it.”

Flanked by senior Congress leaders like party’s J&K in-charge Rajani Patil, JKPC chief Vikar Rasool, Divijay Singh and others, he said the party wants democracy to return to the erstwhile state. On the restoration of Article 370, he said, “You are talking about Article 370 and I am talking about Article 371. Under Article 371, many states of our country and many areas of our country are given special provisions.”

“Regions like Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and some areas of Assam, some areas of Karnataka-Hyderabad region have special provisions under Article 371,” he said in reply to a question about Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti’s demand for the restoration of Article 370.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Michael A Tibollo, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions of Ontario province in Canada, during his recent visit here was all praise for the India’s traditional medicine Ayurveda which, he felt, can help ease the burden of hospitals in his home country as ayurvedic therapies, principles and lifestyle can keep many diseases at bay.

He made these observa-



tions during his visit to the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Sarita Vihar in the national capital recently.

Impressed with the facilities at the AIIA, an autonomous body under the Union Ayush

Ministry, Tibollo said, “The institute helped me to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the importance of East and West medicines and saw here the two can work together for the betterment of mankind.

“In Canada, we are much focussed on quick results. Many times, we forget about prevention, education and doing things that lead us to a better lifestyle. Many doctors over here shared their time with me today.

Teacher kidnaps Class VII student, rapes her in house

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident, a teacher kidnapped a girl student studying in Class 7 and raped her. The incident took place in Aligarh.

According to Superintendent of Police (Rural) Palash Bansal, the age of the minor girl student is 13-14 years. When the girl did not return home after school, the family first searched here and there for a long time.

When they failed to trace

her out, they lodged a ‘missing’ report with the local police.

The police became active as soon as the complaint was received from the victim’s family. According to Palash Bansal, three police teams were deployed to search the girl. With the help of surveillance, the police reached the house of the accused teacher, recovered the student and arrested the accused. The girl was sent for medical examination and legal action was being taken by presenting the accused in the court.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raising the pitch of the Rparty’s campaign in Karnataka which is to go to polls in four months, BJP president JP Nadda will flag off nine-day State-wide ‘Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra’ from Vijayapura on Saturday covering 39 electoral districts in the state.

The BJP ‘Yatra’ seeks to reach out to two crore voters in the state.

Given the keen contest in the Karnataka poll where the ruling BJP is pitted against the Congress and the JDS, the top-line BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the party President J P Nadda have been regularly visiting the southern state.

To streamline the campaign strategy in Karnataka Modi had a meeting with former state CM and Lingayat strongman B S Yediyurappa on the sidelines of the BJP National Executive meeting on January 16.

BJP which would go alone to the poll has also been cultivating Vokkalga community in the southern Karnataka apart from Lingayat who are dominant in the Northern side of the state.

Nadda will flag off the nine-day state-wide Vijaya

Sankalpa Yatra from Vijayapura on Saturday, the party said.

Last, year, the first BJP’s campaign ‘Yatra’ in the state was ‘covered by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Yediyurappa .

With Assembly elections due in the state in about four months, the BJP has intensified its poll campaign by launching the nine-day public outreach programme from Vijayapura.

The campaign is being launched two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Yadgir and Kalaburagi where he kickstarted irrigation, drinking water and high-way projects and distribution of Hakku Patras (land title



deeds) to the nomadic tribe Lambanis.

Nadda will reach Kalaburagi by a special flight on Saturday morning and reach the Gnana Yogashrama at Vijayapura and offer tributes to Sri Siddheshwara Mahaswamiji,

who passed away recently, the state BJP media cell in-charge Karunakara Khasle said.

The BJP president will then proceed to Nagathana Assembly constituency to flag off the Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra, which will go on till January 29.

Lifeguard confesses to killing med student, search on for body



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Friday joined the Indian Navy to look for the body of a missing third-year MBBS student, after a lifeguard reportedly confessed to the investigators that he had killed the girl and dumped her body into the Arabian Sea.

Twenty-two-year-old Swadichcha Sane had gone missing in the last week of November 2021. She was last seen with Mittu Sukhdev Singh, a lifeguard at the Bandra Bandstand on the evening of November 29, 2021.

Mittu Singh — who was arrested along with his associate Jabbar Ansari on January 13 in connection with the MBBS student missing case — has confessed to the police that he had killed Swadichcha in the early hours of November 30, 2021 and thrown her body into the sea near Bandra Bandstand.

Mittu Singh, a resident of Gandesh Nagar at Bandra, and Jabbar Ansari have been booked under sections 302

(murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Following the reported confession by Singh that he had dumped Swadichcha’s body, the Mumbai crime branch and Navy divers began search operations on Friday morning. The operation went on for better part of the day. They will resume the operation on Saturday.

Singh, who is in the Mumbai police custody till Saturday, had reportedly given some leads to the investigators in the case, during a narco-analysis test conducted on him a few months ago.

The investigators have recovered a selfie he took with Swadichcha. Among other things, Singh — who is the prime accused in the case — has told the police that he had befriended Swadichcha at the Bandra bandstand and moved closely with her, before killing her and dumping her body in the sea. The motive behind the murder has not been established yet.

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 20.01.2023

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

Sl. No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/23-24/RB/CR/SL/1092	RATE CONTRACTS FOR HIRING OF VEHICLES IN BRPL	8 Crs.	8 Lacs	10.02.2023 15:00 HRS	10.02.2023 15:30 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitting of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

Telephone No. : +91 11 4310 7235 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

ICICI Bank

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that **NIRAJ SHARMA / RAKESH KUMAR SHARMA** (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBGHZ00004449519 & LBGHZ00005240430** located at **FLAT NO 3G-403, 4TH FLOOR NILAYA GREENS-BLOCK 3 (PART G) KHASRA NO 1015, 1023/1, 1023/2 MINVILLE MORTA PARGANA JALALABADTEHSIL AND DISTRICT**. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **January 16, 2023** informing that **NILAYA INFRA PVT LTD.** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: **January 21, 2023** For ICICI Bank Limited

Place: **Delhi/ NCR** Sd-

ICICI Bank

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.	Sonia Pant/ Yogesh Pant/ LBGUR00002488208/ LBGUR00002495142	Flet No.201, 2nd Floor, Tower- Daffodil, Block-E, Omxare Enclave, Omxare Panoram City/Homes Shiwadi/ January 17, 2023	June 19, 2021 Rs. 31,15,955/-	Delhi/ NCR/ Bhiwadi

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 21, 2023** Authorized Officer

Place: **Delhi/ NCR** ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank

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

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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.	Ankan Suri/ Sushma Suri/ LBDEL00005310910	Plot No-C-192, Entire Basement and Ground Floor, Greater Kailash Part 1, New Delhi/ January 18, 2023	August 29, 2022 Rs. 1,97,60,305/-	Delhi
2.	Shiv Kumar Jatia/ Archana Jatia/ Shashi R Jatia/ LBDEL00002444168/ LBDEL00003454052/ LBDEL00005411830/ LBDEL00002442446/ LBDEL00002442447	Plot No-B-50, Gulmohar Park, Zone F-3, Masjid Moth Delhi 110049/ January 18, 2023	June 18, 2022 Rs. 12,46,36,117/-	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 21, 2023** Authorized Officer

Place: **Delhi/ NCR** ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

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.

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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.	Dinesh Chand Shukla/ Saroj Shukla/ Meghna Apartment 370/1 Rn Guha Road Nagar Bazar Dum Dum Kolkata West Bengal Calcutta- 700074/ LBICAL00001188344	Meghna Apartment, Flat No. Gc At The Ground Floor, Municipal Holding No. 535, R.N. Guha Road (old No. 271 Portion Thereafter Old Holding No. 370/1), Police Station Dum Dum, Circle No.ii, Ward No. 9, C.s. Dag Nos. 1610 And 1612, Khatian No. 625, J.L. No. 18, R.S. No. 161, Touzi No. 181, Mouzadigla, Additional District Sub-registrar, Cossipore Dumdum, South Dumdum Municipality, District- North 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700074 (admeasuring An Area of Super Built Up Area 580 Sq. Ft. Approximately) Date of Symbolic 17.01.2023	October 17, 2022/ Rs.2,65,341/-	Calcutta/ 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 21, 2023** Authorized Officer

Place: **Delhi/ NCR** ICICI Bank Limited

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Taking on Govt

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

The Supreme Court seems to have decided to take on the Government over the issue of the appointment of judges. Putting up its communication with the Centre in the public domain, the collegium judges, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, have made it clear that they are not going to take the almost daily badgering from the Centre lying down. Making the communication public was a big decision for them; the top judges reportedly deliberated for four days before taking this unprecedented step. Till the time of writing these lines, there has been no response from the Government to the SC's communication. This is not a desirable situation; the judiciary and the executive should act in harmony, not in conflict. Owing to differences in perspectives and lines of thinking, there can be occasion friction; this happens elsewhere as well. In the United States, for instance, the differences become pronounced over important matters like gun control and abortion. The tensions, however, cannot be allowed to linger on for longer periods; but, unfortunately, that is what is happening. In 2015, the apex court struck down the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC), the alternative judges' appointment mechanism. Since then, the Government has been smarting under that ruling. In the last few months, its unease over the collegium system has been articulated by many a personage — from Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Law Minister Kiren Rijjiu and Lok Sabha

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



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

PM's advice

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

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



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

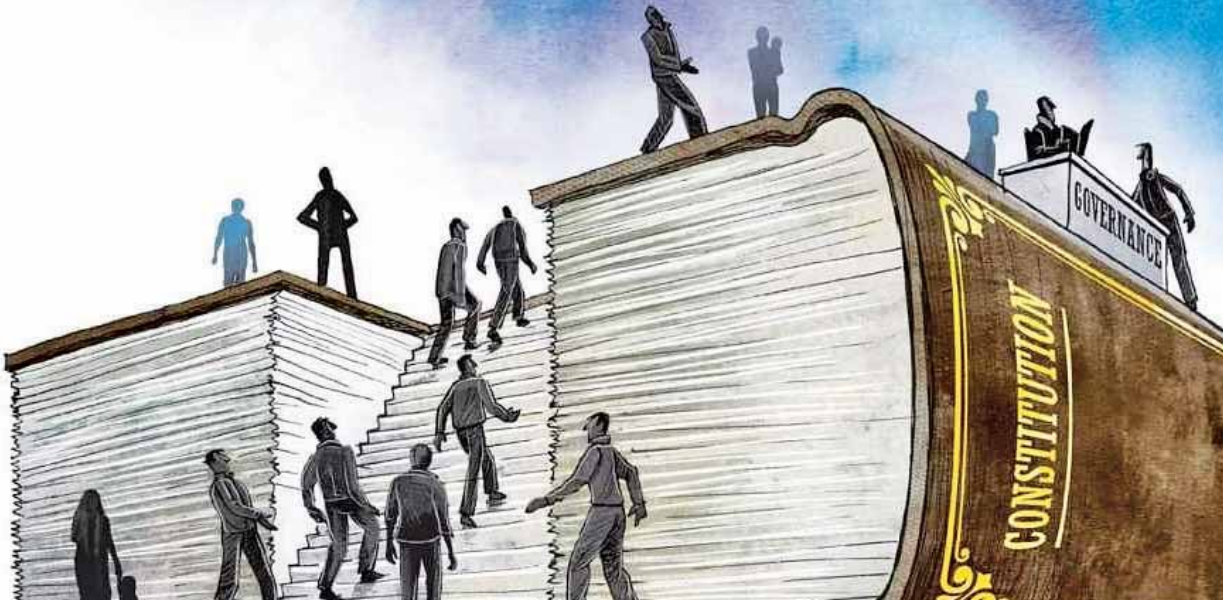
Waging a proxy war on Constitution

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The conduct of the Tamil Nadu Governor is no less



GYANESHWAR DAYAL

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHOCKING INCIDENT

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

PERMISSIBLE PUNISHMENT

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

PM with a human touch



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

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

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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

Bihar CM — Nitish Kumar

I believe that the grounds for my listing are based on heresy and disinformation by the Indian government.

I never met Osama Bin Laden, or Ayman Al-Zawahiri. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative — Abdul Rehman Makki

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

Actor — Anushka Ranjan

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

Indian cricketer — Virat Kohli

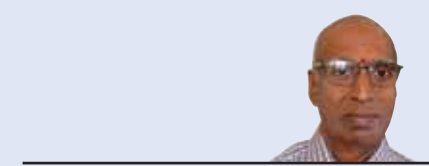
Vijay Merchant once said about retiring: Go when people ask why is he going instead of why isn't he going. Kiwi PM, Jacinda Ardern has just said she is quitting following Merchant's maxim. Indian politics needs more like her.

Congress leader — Jairam Ramesh

FIRST COLUMN

CRYPTO-CURRENCIES SHOULD BE BANNED

There should be no two opinions about banning them



S KALYANASUNDARAM

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(The author is a retired banker)

BJP shows trust is won by hard work

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



Lok Sabha elections and several Assembly polls.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

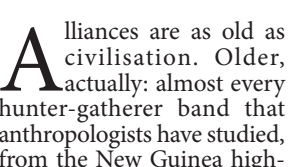
A CAR DRIVER... MOLESTED ME. IF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION IS NOT SAFE IN DELHI, THEN IMAGINE THE SITUATION.
— CHAIRPERSON OF DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
SWATI MALIWAL



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

China is expanding PLA despite a failing economy

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Three of the world’s biggest countries, China,

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

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

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

Founded in 2017, it began

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My problem is that I can’t

Gwynne Dyer’s new book is The Shortest History of War

Russia claims progress in eastern Ukraine; Kyiv craves tanks

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ukrainian presidential



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

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

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

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has pleaded

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

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

taken into account.

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

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

CIA director visits Kyiv, meets with Zelenskyy

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

The CIA director told PBS NewsHour last month that agency



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

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



Coast Guard monitoring Russian spy ship on patrol off Hawaii

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

of Ukraine and veiled threats to employ nuclear weapons.

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

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

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

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

Defence leaders meet amid dissent over tanks for Ukraine

AP ■ RAMSTEIN AIR BASE

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

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

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

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

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

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



armored vehicles for the first time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Artillery Rocket System.

It was announced Thursday by the Pentagon.

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

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

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

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

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

Russia's FSB opens espionage case against American

AP ■ MOSCOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Germany pressed on tanks for Ukraine; Kyiv airs frustration

AP ■ BERLIN

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that I, RAMRATI SARAWAT alias RAMRATI DEVI W/O SHRI KRISHAN R/O-H.NO.735/18,SHASTRI NAGAR, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001, I am the legal owner of LIG FLAT NO. 13, 3rd FLOOR, PKT-3, BLK-F3, SEC-34, ROHINI, DELHI, FILE NO./U33/9699/2015/DDA14 /RO which is allotted by the DDA. My Original Allotment-cum-Demand Letter of the above said DDA Flat has been lost. An FIR/NCR to this effect has lodged in P. S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR NO.66565/2023, Dated-20-01-2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone NO.9871873738 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any person claiming any right, interest, or having any objections with respect to this property can also personally inform/contact me.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**
1) MAH_BOLPIKUP
REG.NO.DL1AE7316-YOM-2020
2) MAHINDRA_AND_MAHINDRA - CB_BOLERO PLUS GOODS
REG. NO.DL1LAB9182-YOM-2019
3) MAH_BOLPLUSGD
REG. NO.DL1LAB9150-YOM-2019
4) SWRJ_MAZDA SM_SARTAJ
REG.NO.UP14KT6275-YOM-2021
5) TATAMOTORS_TATA1512
REG. NO.DL1GE0467-YOM-2022
6) TATAMOTORS_TATAACE
REG.NO.DL1LAG7726-YOM-2022
7) EICHR_VECV_EICHER1114
REG. NO. UP37T3742-YOM-2016
8) ASHOK_LEY_AL1615
REG. NO.HR58C8926-YOM-2022
9) TATAMOTORS_TATAACE
ENG. NO. 275CNG17BXXS13892
YOM 2022
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT
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KEY CORP LIMITED					
CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547 Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208001 Email: keycorppltd@gmail.com ; Phone: 0512-3013416, 3010422, 2305416					
STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022					
(Rs. in Lakhs)					
Sl. No	Particulars	Current Quarter ended	Corresponding Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Previous Corresponding Nine Months ended
		31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	31.12.2021 (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	31.12.2021 (Unaudited)
1.	Total income from operations (net)	4.45	9.86	23.35	34.95
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	(11.16)	(5.97)	(40.28)	(12.82)
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	(11.16)	(5.97)	(40.28)	(12.82)
4.	Equity Share Capital	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
5.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items)(of Rs10/- each)				
	Basic :	(0.19)	(0.10)	(0.67)	(0.21)
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)				
	Basic :	(0.19)	(0.10)	(0.67)	(0.21)
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites of BSE and also on company's website at www.keycorppltd.com . 2. Above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of directors of the company at its meeting held on 20.01.2023. The Statutory Auditor of the company have carried out a limited review of accounts of the company for the 3rd quarter ended 31st December, 2022.					
By Order of the Board (G.D. Maheshwari) Director DIN 00235209					
Place: Kanpur Date: 20.01.2023					

Florida judge fines Trump, lawyer for ‘frivolous’ lawsuit

AP ■ NEW YORK

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

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

“Here, we are confronted with a lawsuit that should never have been filed, which was completely frivolous, both factually and legally, and which was brought in bad faith for an improper purpose,” he wrote.

Citing Trump’s recent legal



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

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

“The ruling required Trump and his attorney, Alina

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

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

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

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

Nawaz blames Gen Bajwa, Faiz for Pak current turmoil

PTI ■ LONDON/ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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



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

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

“Lt Gen (retd) Faiz and Gen (retd) Bajwa were responsible for making it all about their personalities, wishes, and desires,” the 73-year-old Sharif said.

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

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



Western envoys visit Kosovo, Serbia to defuse tensions

AP ■ PRISTINA

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

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

“Last month the Western powers mediated a solution to

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

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

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

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

AP ■ BEIRUT

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

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

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

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

Indiana police kill shooter in Walmart, 1 person wounded

AP ■ EVANSVILLE

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Poland PM: Foreign divers near key port posed no threat

AP ■ WARSAW

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

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

“The divers had Spanish identity documents.

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



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

Church of England apologises for treatment of LGBTQI+ people

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

AP ■ BEIJING

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

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

Japan to lower Covid to flu status, further easing rules

AP ■ TOKYO

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

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



facilities.

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

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

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

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hindu temple in Texas raided; valuables stolen

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

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

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



Sunkari, a Board member for the Brazos Valley Shri Omkarnath Temple said.

“This is the only Hindu temple in the Brazos Valley, a place for local Hindus to worship, and find peace and community.

““There was a break-in. They broke in through the side window and what was immediately apparent was missing is our donation box and a safe in which we keep our valuables,” Sunkari said.

““The priest and his family who live in an apartment right behind the temple, they are safe,” he said.

‘A video captured by security cameras inside the temple shows a person ignoring the shrine and going straight to the donation box. The suspect then used the temple’s cart to wheel it out the door.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(e-Tendering Mode only)

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

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

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

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

Save Energy for Benefit of self and Nation

PERFECTPAC LIMITED

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

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

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

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

For Perfectpac Limited
Sanjay Rajgarhia
Managing Director

Place : New Delhi
Date : 20.01.2023

Govt makes disclosure of material interest mandatory for social media influencers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The new guidelines named

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

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

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

Launching these guidelines at a press conference, Consumer Affairs Secretary

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

He hoped that the guidelines would act as a deterrent for social media influencers.

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

The secretary said the social media influencing is here to stay and will only grow exponentially and therefore the need to regulate misleading ad on social media.

"The today's guidelines are



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



Financial Services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crypto lending platform Genesis files for bankruptcy

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Genesis filed for bank-



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

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

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

report said.

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

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

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

Amid rising NPAs, agro firms come under agencies radar

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Many of them even fled abroad after committing the fraud.

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

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



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

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

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

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

FIANS ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Forex reserves zoom by USD 10.417 bn to USD 572 bn



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

EPFO adds 16.26 L net subscribers in Nov 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



compared to the corresponding month in 2021.

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

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

The data shows that a total of 63 transgender employees

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



The obligations of the vault manager include accepting deposits, storage and safe-keeping of gold, creation as well as withdrawal of EGR, grievance redressal and periodic reconciliation of physical gold with the records of depository.

Custodian means any person who carries on the business of providing custodial services.

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

aries.

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

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

Govt may announce PLI scheme for more sectors in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

PV modules, advance chemistry cell and specialty steel.

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

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

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

sectors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

private sector.

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

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

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

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



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

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

MEN IN BLUE AIM TO SEAL SERIES



PTI ■ RAIPUR

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

With the city hosting its first-ever international game, a sell out crowd of 60,000 plus is expected to cheer the home team.

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

should worry India.

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

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

Hardik Pandya, who has not been at his belligerent best of late, will be expected to give

WITH THE CITY OF RAIPUR HOSTING ITS FIRST-EVER INTERNATIONAL GAME, A SELL OUT CROWD OF 60,000 PLUS IS EXPECTED TO CHEER THE HOME TEAM

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

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

However, bigger concerns lie in the bowling department after the hiding the bowlers got from Michael Bracewell, who put the Indian attack to sword on Wednesday.

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

PTI ■ RAIPUR

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

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

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

In the spin department, Washington Sundar had a game to forget while Kuldeep Yadav continued his impressive run. The team also has the option playing Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep together but it has stuck to one wrist spinner and one finger spinner policy.

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

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

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

SQUADS

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

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

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

PTI ■ RAIPUR

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

Santner smashed his third ODI fifty on Wednesday while supporting a rampaging Michael Bracewell in a whirlwind



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

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

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

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

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

India managed to score 349 in the first ODI but Santner feels the spinners bowled alright and it was Shubman Gill who took the game away from there.

"The way Gill used his crease forward and back it is quite challenging as a spin bowler," he said.



Debutant Amanjot & Deepti help Women in Blue beat SA

PTI ■ EAST LONDON

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

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

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

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

India suffered an early setback as skipper Harmanpreet Kaur didn't play because of illness and in her absence Smriti Mandhana led the side.

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

"He's the sort of cultural



leader around the group, being the captain, and that attitude and infectious smile and laugh he has is what we all love so much about him."

"If he's actually able to travel and be around the team, then I want him sitting

beside me in the dugout every day of the week.

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

the whole time."

India are set to play Australia in a much-anticipated upcoming four-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, with the two teams also currently on track to meet again in the ICC World Test

Championship final in June.

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

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

"When he first started, we probably all thought he was going to be a better T20 and one-day batsman than a Test batsman, but it's actually worked the other way. His Test cricket has been remarkable."

"Even the series coming up against Australia, the four-Test series there, we know how he played against Australia in Australia last time."

"He'd have been looking forward to that series, and the rest of the world would have been looking forward to watching him play."



Aussie quick Morris eyeing Test debut vs India in Feb

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Uncapped Australia pacer Lance Morris, fresh from being the season's leading wicket-taker in the Sheffield Shield, believes he has the "best chance" to make his debut in the opening Test against India in Nagpur on February 9.

The 24-year-old tearaway pacer, who has the ability to rack up deliveries at 150-plus kmph, has been included in Australia's 18-member squad for the first two Tests of the four-match marquee Border-Gavaskar series.

"I'm going to do everything I can to be as ready as possible," the West Australian was quoted saying by Fox Sports.

With Australia's quickest bowler Mitchell Starc unavailable for the opening Test of the series, Morris has a strong chance to wear the Baggy Green.

Morris has been Starc's understudy and was in Australia's Test squad during their recent series win over South Africa.

"If we're talking honestly, that's probably my best chance of playing over there. We'll see what happens," Morris said.

"It's my first overseas tour in a cricketing sense, so it will be a huge learning experience for me. I'm really excited to go away."

A raw teenager from Dunsborough, in Australia's west coast in the picturesque Margaret River region, nearly three hours from Perth, Morris was picked by Western Australia from where he made his first-class debut in 2020.

He bagged 12 wickets from five games in his first season. Thereafter, he played every match of WA's drought-breaking Shield title-winning campaign last summer and had 20 scalps.

Morris has added 27 more wickets to his tally from five matches so far this season.

Vaibhav, Divij power Delhi to maiden win of season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Resuming at 168/9 on the final day, Mumbai's Tanush Kotian (50 not out) managed to get his half-century before spinner Hrithik Shokeen snared the last

wicket with Mumbai managing to score 170 in their second essay.

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

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

With Sharma getting out in the 16th over, former skipper and IPL specialist Nitish Rana, who was added to the squad on the eve of the match, walked to the middle and sent the very first delivery he faced for a six, to seal Delhi's win.

The loss has affected the Ajinkya Rahane-led Mumbai's chances for a quarterfinal spot.

In the other matches in the group, spinner Lalith Mohan, who had a five-for in the first innings, grabbed a six-wicket haul (6/58) in the second essay as Andhra beat Saurashtra by 150 runs, while Tamil Nadu claimed and innings an 70-run win over Assam.

BENGAL STORM INTO QF
Rohtak: Bengal pacer Akash Deep returned with a career-best 10-



wicket match haul as Bengal stormed into quarterfinals with a thumping innings and 50-run victory over Haryana in their Group A match.

Resuming the final day on a precarious 177/7 following on, Haryana managed to last only 10 overs and folded for 206 with Akash wrapping up the issue, dis-

missing Ajit Chahal and Amit Rana en route to a second successive five-wicket haul (5/51).

Akash's 5/61 in the first innings had brought the home team's downfall for a paltry 153 as he returned with his maiden 10-wicket match haul (10/112).

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

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

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

They next face Odisha at the Eden Gardens from Tuesday.

CHANDIGARH PICKS UP 3 POINTS

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

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

Opener Shivam Chaudhary

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

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

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

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

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

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



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