

## OPINION 6

RESETTING INDIA  
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JERUSALEM, WEST BANK ON EDGE  
AFTER OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE

## MONEY 10

BIDS FOR PROJECT IN GREAT  
NICOBAR ISLAND INVITED

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## CAPSULE

ASHISH MISHRA GETS  
BAIL RELIEF FROM SC**Lakhimpur Khri:** Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra, was released from jail on Friday after the Supreme Court had granted him interim bail in the Lakhimpur Khri violence case.FOOD POISONING IN MAHA:  
36 STUDENTS FALL ILL**Sangli:** Thirty-six students in Sangli in Maharashtra on Friday fell ill due to suspected food poisoning, an official said. All of them were shifted to a hospital, where 35 were discharged post treatment, while one has been kept under observation, he said.ARMY EVACUATES GIRL  
FROM CUT-OFF VILLAGE**Srinagar:** The Indian Army on Friday evacuated a 19-year-old girl after she had fallen unconscious at a cut-off village in Jammu & Kashmir's Baramulla district. "Indian Army's Chinara Corps warriors, today during the morning hours, conducted an emergency evacuation of a 19-year-old girl, Miss Praveena Bano, from Kurali village of Boniyar tehsil in Uri area to the Primary Health Care Centre," an Army official said.NO NEW COVID CASE IN  
MUMBAI FOR 2ND TIME**Mumbai:** No new Covid-19 case was reported in Mumbai on Friday, for second time this week, while the infection-linked death toll remained unchanged at 19,747, the city civic body said. With this, the city's overall Covid-19 case tally remained static at 11,55,242, said a BMC bulletin.Adani-sparked bloodbath  
continues; ₹10 L cr lostSensex closes lowest  
in past three months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors lost more than ₹10.73 lakh crore in just two trading sessions as the continued selling in Adani groups stocks dragged the overall markets and triggered sell-offs in banking, financials, utilities and oil shares on Friday.

Adani group's shares came into bear grip on Wednesday itself following the Hindenburg report accusing the group of serious irregularities. Stock markets were closed on Thursday on account of Republic Day.

Continuing its decline for a second session, the 30-share BSE benchmark tanked 874.16 points or 1.45 per cent, its biggest single day loss in more than a month, to settle at 59,330.90. This is the lowest closing level since October 21. During the day, Sensex plunged 1,230.36 points or 2.04 per cent to 58,974.70.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 287.60 points or 1.61 per cent to end at a three-month low of 17,604.35, also marking its worst single-day fall since December 23, 2022.

News agency PTI quoted Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, as

saying that the sharp slump in the Indian market was triggered by an unfavourable research report on Adani group companies. This is also affecting the banking stocks, especially PSU banks, due to their high exposure to the group. "According to him, FIIs' cautious stance ahead of the Union Budget and FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meetings also fuelled the collapse.

Adani group stocks opened down by up to 20 per cent and staged marginal recovery during the day. The group has lost over ₹4.17 lakh crore in terms of the combined market valuation of listed firms after the US-based investment research firm Hindenburg Research made damaging allegations.

Shares of Adani Total Gas plummeted 20 per cent, Adani

BSE SENSEX Jan 27, 2023

## Top Losers

Open:  
60,166.90Close:  
59,330.90Previous close:  
60,205.06

Closing Price in ₹

SBI

ICICI Bank

IndusInd Bank

Axis Bank

Kotak Bank

Tech Mahindra

HDFC Bank

Reliance

HDFC

Asian Paints

Change:  
-874.16

(-1.45%)

% Change

540 -5.03

818 -4.41

1,117 -3.43

873 -2.07

1,714 -2.03

1,030 -1.97

1,616 -1.96

2,338 -1.90

2,659 -1.87

2,727 -1.71

Transmission tumbled 19.99 per cent, Adani Green Energy plunged 19.99 per cent and Adani Enterprises tanked 18.52

per cent on the BSE.

Also, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone fell 16.03 per cent, Adani Wilmar dipped 5 per cent and Adani Power declined 5 per cent. Ambuja Cements tanked 17.16 per cent and ACC fell 13.04 per cent.

In the broader market, the 30-share BSE benchmark tumbled 874.16 points or 1.45 per cent to settle at 59,330.90.

In two days, the Adani group firms have lost a whopping ₹4,17,824.79 crore from their market valuation. The market valuation of Adani Total Gas plummeted ₹1,04,580.93 crore, while that of Adani Transmission eroded by ₹83,265.95 crore. Adani Enterprises market capitalisation (mcap) fell by ₹77,588.47 crore, Adani Green Energy lost ₹67,962.91 crore and Adani Ports (₹35,048.25 crore).

The market valuation of Ambuja Cements declined by ₹23,311.47 crore, Adani Power by ₹10,317.31 crore, ACC by ₹8,490.8 crore and Adani Wilmar by ₹7,258.7 crore.

From the Sensex pack, SBI fell the most by 5.03 per cent. ICICI Bank by 4.41 per cent, IndusInd Bank by 3.43 per cent, Axis Bank by 2.07 per cent, Kotak Bank by 2.03 per cent, HDFC Bank by 1.96 per cent, Reliance by 1.9 per cent and HDFC by 1.87 per cent.

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Modify Indus Water  
Treaty: India to PakMove comes as  
Islamabad refused  
to discuss issues  
regarding pactPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Taking a serious note of Pakistan refusing to discuss issues regarding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and terming it as "intransigence" in implementing the pact, India has sent a notice to its neighbour for modification of the treaty inked in 1960.

The notice for "modification" was sent on January 25 to Islamabad through respective Commissioners for Indus Waters, as per provisions of the treaty, sources said here on Friday. The action was necessitated as Pakistan refused to discuss and resolve the issue of India's Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects for the last five years, despite India's efforts, they said.

India is seeking modifications in the treaty to make it easier for Pakistan to enter into intergovernmental negotiations, within 90 days, and rectify the "material breach" of IWT. This process would also update IWT to incorporate the lessons learnt over the last 62 years.

"India has always been a



In this August 13, 2010 file photo, personnel of Border Road Organisation and local volunteers work to stop the overflowing water of Indus river which was damaging a highway at Taru Thang, near Leh. India has issued a notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of September 1960 following Islamabad's 'intransigence' on its implementation, Government sources said on Friday

PTI

steadfast supporter and a responsible partner in implementing IWT in letter and spirit. However, Pakistan's actions have adversely impacted on the provisions of IWT and their implementation, and forced India to issue an appropriate notice for modification of IWT," sources said.

Pakistan had in 2015 sought a neutral expert to examine its technical objections to India's Kishenganga and

Ratle Hydroelectric Projects.

However, it withdrew its request next year unilaterally and proposed that a Court of Arbitration adjudicate its objections. "Two simultaneous processes are in contravention of the graded mechanism of dispute settlement," sources said, adding that India then made a separate request for the matter to be referred to a neutral expert.

Continued on Page 2

Rahul's yatra halted in J&K,  
Cong alleges security breachCops supposed  
to manage crowd  
seen nowhere,  
says Rahul; J&K  
Police rejects claim

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ BANIHAL

The Congress on Friday "temporarily" suspended the Bharat Jodo Yatra after an alleged serious breach of security during the final leg of the Rahul Gandhi-led march near Qazigund, along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Rahul was escorted to safety by his security personnel in a four-wheeler.

The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Police, however, denied these allegations claiming there was no security lapse and added that they would "provide foolproof security to the yatra."

Early on Friday morning the yatra resumed from Banihal after a day's break in connection with the 74th Republic day



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with J&K National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah and others during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Qazigund on Friday

PTI

celebrations.

"J&K UT administration failed to provide security to Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi. Security lapses indicate the unfair & unprepared attitude of UT administration," Rajani Patil, Congress in-charge of J&K and Ladakh, tweeted soon after the yatra

was suspended.

Rahul was accorded a warm welcome by the former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah in Banihal in the presence of thousands of cheerful party workers and local residents.

Continued on Page 2

India 4th in world with ability  
to develop Mach 6 missilesHypersonic Tech  
Demonstrator Vehicle  
tested; earlier only  
US, Russia, China  
had this capabilityPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India on Friday carried out a test of indigenously designed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off the Odisha coast. This niche technology is only available with three other countries — the US, China and Russia.

It will enable development of hypersonic missiles which can travel at six times the speed of sound.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out the test. The DRDO had conducted three tests earlier in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The aim of the HSTDV project is to have a



scramjet engine which can fly at an altitude of 15 to 20 km.

A scramjet engine (supersonic-combustion ramjet) is one which can operate at hypersonic speeds.

Hypersonic missiles can travel at speeds faster than Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) or 3,800 miles per hour, much faster than other ballistic and cruise missiles. They are highly manoeuvrable and do not follow a predictable arc as they travel. They can deliver conventional or nuclear pay-

loads within minutes.

A Hypersonic Vehicle can be an airplane, missile, or spacecraft.

The Indian hypersonic vehicle will take another three to four years to become fully operational.

In 2020, the DRDO successfully demonstrated the hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of HSTDV.

With this successful demonstration, many critical technologies such as aerodynamic configuration for hypersonic manoeuvres, use of scramjet propulsion for ignition and sustained combustion at hypersonic flow, thermo-structural characterisation of high temperature materials, separation mechanism at hypersonic velocities were proven.

Apart from being used as a vehicle for hypersonic long-range cruise missiles, the HSTDV is a dual-use technology that will have multiple civilian applications, including the launching of small satellites at low cost.

8 Cheetahs in Kuno  
to get dozen friends  
from South AfricaPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Eight cheetahs, which were brought from Namibia to India and released in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park three months ago, may get 12 new "friends" from South Africa by mid-February, taking the total number of felines to 20 in the region.

India and South Africa recently signed a pact as a part of the former's much-ambitious Cheetah reintroduction programme. The eight big cats brought in September last year from Namibia are doing fine and making kills on their own, said the State officials.

According to reports, South Africa has donated 12 big cats to India. But India has to pay USD 3,000 for the capture of every cheetah to the African nation before they are translocated. Sources said that the MP Wildlife Department has already set up 10 quarantine facilities (enclosures) for them. In two of these facilities,



A cheetah jumps inside a quarantine section before being relocated to India, at a reserve near Bella Bella, South Africa on Sunday

PTI

two pairs of cheetah brothers would be kept.

Due to the delay in the signing of the MoU for the intercontinental translocation of these big cats, some experts had last month expressed concern over the health of the South African cheetahs as these animals have been quarantined there since July 15. As a result of long quarantine, these animals might have lost their fitness, they had feared.

Continued on Page 2

24 students  
detained in  
DU for bid to  
screen BBC  
Guj riots docu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday detained a group of 24 students who tried to screen a controversial BBC documentary at the north campus.

The detentions came days after a similar ruckus at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia over the screening of the BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Registrar Vikas Gupta said police were called to the Delhi University campus to maintain law and order after "outsiders" tried to screen the controversial BBC documentary at the arts faculty on Friday. The students belonged to the Arts Faculty.

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Capt may get  
Maha Guv role

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Soldier-turned-politician and Scion of erstwhile Patiala royal family Capt Amarinder Singh may soon get a new role as Governor of Maharashtra.

Speculation is rife that the BJP leadership has arrived at a consensus over veteran politician's name for the gubernatorial post. The development came days after the incumbent BS Koshiyari expressed his desire to leave Raj Bhavan.

In December, the BJP included Capt Amarinder in its National Executive.

The eighty-year-old has already handed over the responsibility of his home constituency, Patiala, to his daughter Jai Inder Kaur.

Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma, when asked about the development, said that he has no idea about the same as yet.

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PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday advised students to adopt "digital fasting" and suggested the parents should take an initiative to create a "no technology zone" in their homes to help children keep safe from the negative spell of the virtual space.

"Consider yourself smarter than the gadgets. Use technology but don't let technology use you," Modi said, addressing his annual "Pariksha Pe Charcha" to lakhs of students, parents, teachers and other stakeholders in school education across the country.

"Technology fasting" at regular intervals and a demarcated area as a "technology-free zone" in every household will lead to the enhanced joy of life and help children come out of the clutches of slavery of gadgets, said Modi.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with students during the 6th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023' at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

## No screen once a week: Modi's pariksha mantra

Modi gave this tip to what he calls the "Exam Warriors" during questions on how to stay focused without getting distracted by social media.

"I am rarely seen with a mobile phone despite being very active. I keep a definite time for such activities. One should not avoid technology but restrict oneself to the things of utility as per one's need," he added.

Modi also answered questions by the students about tips to deal with exam stress, time management, how not to resort to cheating, hard work or smartwork among others.

The PM further advised students to learn as many languages as possible to become more knowledgeable.

"Knowing a different language helps you give a sense of familiarity to the other person, he added remarking India is a land of multilingual culture and its citizens should take pride in

its presence.

During the session the PM also took questions on the political state of affairs to which he responded saying criticism is an integral part of India's democracy and students should learn from it to avoid getting affected by negative comments.

"Criticism is like purification in a democracy. The question is out of the syllabus. I have a conviction that criticism is an absolute condition and a Shuddhi Yagna for a prosperous democracy," he said.

Further cautioning that cheating may help them in an exam or two but not in the long run, Modi talked against the use of unfair practices in exams and advised students against boasting about how well their exam went to avoid stress.

"Cheating may help someone in an exam or two but not in life in the long run. Never take the shortcut.

Continued on Page 2



# Padma Vibhushan to MSY shrewd move to woo Yadavs, says SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taken aback by the conferring of Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour, posthumously on its founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, Samajwadi Party termed it as a "shrewd" move to reach out to the Yadav community, considered the core vote bank of the main opposition party in Uttar Pradesh.

Soon after the announcement of Padma Vibhushan award for late Mulayam Singh Yadav, senior SP leaders repeated an old demand that 'Netaji' (Mulayam), who died on October 10, 2022, should have been conferred the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, instead.

The SP also maintained that Padma Vibhushan award for Mulayam Singh Yadav was a ploy to "silence Bharat Ratna demand".

While the announcement of Padma Vibhushan for late Mulayam Singh Yadav has set the political rumour mills buzzing about the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's outreach to the Yadav community, SP leaders accepted in private that the move was "shrewd politics" to "silence all voices of demands for Bharat Ratna" for 'Netaji' who was the "face of anti-communal" politics in

Uttar Pradesh, a sharp contrast to the BJP whose resurgence to the state was marked with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the Rath Yatra in 1990.

Hours after the announcement was made, Mainpuri MP and SP national president Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav, and his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav repeated the demand for Bharat Ratna for 'Netaji'. Dimple and Akhilesh were in Saifai for Republic Day celebrations and flag hoisting ceremony.

"'Netaji' will be conferred the Padma Vibhushan (by the government) but I think he should have got Bharat Ratna. And this honour should have come much earlier. It is our demand that Netaji be conferred the Bharat Ratna," Dimple said on Thursday. Shivpal Yadav said "Netaji had always raised the voice of farmers and the poor which is why the demand of all workers and supporters should be fulfilled".

Samajwadi Party leaders admitted that the announcement was "not expected". They, however, said that the move did not come as a surprise as demand for Bharat Ratna for Netaji was raised even before his death and several party leaders had vociferously raised the demand after his death.



After Mulayam's death, several SP leaders had raised this demand. SP leader IP Singh had written a letter to the President of India after the death of Mulayam Singh Yadav, demanding the country's highest honour for 'Netaji'. He had also written to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath that the Agra-Lucknow Expressway be named 'Dhartiputra Mulayam Singh Yadav Expressway'. Sambhal MLA Iqbal Mehmood had made a similar demand too. SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said that "the BJP has an agenda" and that "there was no talk of any such honour" for 'Netaji'.

However, insiders said that the move had not come as a surprise.

"This is a shrewd move by the BJP. They want to ensure that the voices for Bharat Ratna for 'Netaji' were silenced and

also continue their outreach to the Yadavs who are the core voters of the SP," a former SP MLA from the Yadav community said.

The SP leaders pointed out how the senior leadership of the BJP, including the chief minister and both the deputy chief ministers, had reached Saifai to pay homage to 'Netaji' after his death while Union Home Minister Amit Shah had reached Medanta hospital where Yadav remained admitted for days before his death.

From UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to Union Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, and BJP state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, several party leaders, including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, had visited Saifai then. "It was all politics... There was no emotion but only politics," a senior SP leader said.

## 2,967 tigers in India across 53 reserves till 2018, Centre tells SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that there are 2,967 tigers in the country spread across 53 tiger reserves, according to a 2018 report.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Advocate Anupam Tripathi in 2017 seeking to save endangered tigers whose numbers are dwindling across the country.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati told a bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna that a lot of work has been done for the conservation of tigers and increasing their population.

The top court took note of the submission and adjourned the matter till March as Tripathi was not present.

"Heard ASG Aishwarya Bhati. As per the 2018 census, India has 2,967 tigers spread out in 53 tiger reserves.

This number constitutes 70 per cent of the global number and figures point to the growth of the tigers. In the interest of justice, to give an opportunity to the petitioner, list on March 3," the bench said.

The top court in 2017 had issued notice to the Ministry of Environment, the National Board for Wildlife and the National Tiger Conservation Authority on the plea which had also sought relocation of people living near tiger reserves.

The petition had said tigers were being killed either by poisoning by locals or the authorities, shooting by forest guards or by poaching.

## Badrinath temple to reopen on April 27



PNS ■ NEW TEHRI

Amidst uncertainty resulting from the land subsidence in Joshimath- the gateway to Badrinath, the date for reopening of this major shrine to Lord Vishnu has been announced. The Badrinath temple will be reopened to the public on April 27 at 7:10 AM.

The reopening date was arrived at in a ritual ceremony held at the erstwhile Tehri royal family's palace in Narendranagar on the occasion of Vasant Panchami on Thursday.

The date and timing for the opening the temple gates were announced by the priests of the erstwhile Tehri king Manujendra Shah.

The date for the opening of the temple gates is decided on the basis of the erst-

while Tehri king's horoscope as per traditions. The 'Gadu Ghada' (oil pot) Yatra will begin on April 12.

It is worth mentioning here that Badrinath is one of the Char Dham shrines established across India and the Char Dham shrines in Uttarakhand which registers the maximum footfalls of visitors among all the Char Dham shrines in Uttarakhand.

It will be recalled that though some have questions at the manner in which the pilgrimage will be conducted considering the disaster being experienced in Joshimath due to land subsidence, the authorities have maintained that the pilgrimage may be regulated but will not be affected majorly by the situation in Joshimath.

## Boycott culture vitiates atmosphere, says IB Minister

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday deplored the "boycott culture" targeting certain films and said such instances vitiate the atmosphere at a time when India is keen to enhance its influence as a soft power.

In case someone has a problem with a movie, they should talk to the concerned government department which can take up the issue with the filmmakers, he said.

"At a time when India is keen to enhance its influence as



a soft power, at a time when Indian films are making waves in every corner of the world, such talk vitiates the atmosphere," Thakur told reporters here responding to questions on boycott of films by various interest groups.

## 24 students detained in DU for bid to...

From Page 1 Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said 24 students were detained from the DU's Arts Faculty and the situation is now back to normal.

"We got to know that some students were trying to screen the documentary, so our proctor informed the police. There were many outsiders among those who tried to screen the film. Police came to maintain the law-and-order situation in the area," Gupta said. Kalsi said police personnel are at the spot monitoring the situation.

"We were told by the university that there is a possibility of a disruption on the campus. They wrote to us and urged us to handle the situation. So we entered the campus

and the situation was brought under control," he added.

"Around 4 PM, some 20 people came outside the arts faculty gate to screen the BBC documentary," the DCP said.

As it can cause disturbance of peace and tranquillity in the area, they were asked to disperse from there. When they did not, they were peacefully detained," the DCP further said.

Earlier in the day, the university authorities wrote to the Delhi Police about the proposed screening.

Delhi University Proctor Rajni Abbi said they would not allow the screening and said that the students' outfits had not sought the administration's permission to screen the documentary.

## 8 Cheetahs in Kuno to get dozen friends from...

From Page 1 Prolonged quarantine could be taking a toll on the health of these big cats, who are slated to join the eight cheetahs imported from Namibia and released into the KNP in Sheopur district mid-September, as per the experts. Experts said that a delegation from South Africa visited the KNP in early September to see arrangements at the wildlife sanctuary for housing the world's fastest land mammals.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his 72nd birthday on September 17, had released eight cheetahs flown in from Namibia into the KNP amid a lot of fanfare, setting the ball rolling for the revival of their population in India where these distinctively spotted cat species became extinct seven decades ago.

These fastest land animals from Namibia - five females and three males - are currently in hunting enclosures at the park before their full release into the wild. The last cheetah died in India in Koriya district of present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947 and the big cat species was declared extinct in 1952. Former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh had initiated "Project Cheetah" in 2009.

From Page 1 As both the leaders were walking along with several others, some of the overenthusiastic residents breached the outer security cordon and tried to come close and meet Rahul after which the yatra was suspended. In the absence of an outer security cordon and adequate security personnel, Rahul

was advised by his security staff to avoid marching further.

Initially, Rahul was keen to continue the march, but his security officers escorted him to safety in a four wheeler to prevent any mishap.

Later, Rahul arrived at the Dak Bungalow, Khanabal in South Kashmir district of Anantnag and made a brief statement. He told reporters, "I had to cancel my walk for the day because police arrangements unfortunately completely collapsed."

"Police personnel who were supposed to manage the crowd were nowhere to be seen," the former Congress president told reporters during the special briefing.

"It's the Jammu and Kashmir administration's responsibility to provide secu-

## No screen once a week: Modi's pariksha mantra

From Page 1 The hard work of students will always help them advance in life. Students should at times analyse the pressure applied on them to see if they are underestimating their strengths," he said. Modi said it is natural for family members to have expectations but it is wrong if they are linked to consciousness about social class or status. "Exam results are not the end of life," he told the students.

Giving the example of people who cross railway tracks to go to another platform instead of taking the foot-over bridge, the Prime Minister pointed out that shortcuts will not take them anywhere and said, "Shortcuts will cut you short."

Students should concentrate on their studies like a

batman focuses on the ball thrown to him, ignoring the shouts for fours and sixes from the crowd, he added.

"One of the reasons for stress is boasting about how well we did in our exam. Parents start believing in what the children say and start telling this to people around them. Avoid giving a wrong impression about your performance in exams," the PM said.

Underlining the need for students to expand their horizons, Modi advised parents to give their children some money after Class 10 and 12 exams to travel to a few places and ask them to write about it.

"Students should be encouraged to go and meet people from different strata of society. Students should not be

bound by many restrictions. We should allow them to expand their horizons," he said.

The Prime Minister advised teachers to welcome students who ask questions. "When a student asks questions, that means he or she is inquisitive. This is a good sign," he said.

The Ministry of Education said a record 38 lakh students registered this year for participation in "Pariksha Pe Charcha". The number of registrations is at least 15 lakh more than last year, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The first edition of the Prime Minister's interactive programme with school and college students was held on February 16, 2018.

## Capt may get Maha...

From Page 1 At the same time, the Capt Amarinder camp is also maintaining a strategic silence. It is also possible that Capt Amarinder may refuse the proposal and decide to stay in Punjab's politics.

It has been learnt that BJP, which had high expectations with Capt Amarinder, was not expecting much from the former chief minister, especially after the performance during Assembly polls. Capt Amarinder, who lost to a first-timer in his home segment in 2022 polls, failed to give much leverage to BJP.

However, the political veteran has a considerable support base in Punjab, on which it would be banking by giving him a suitable post.

## Adani-sparked...

From Page 1 Bucking the trend, auto stocks Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra closed with gains. Tata Motors, which returned to profitability in the third quarter of FY23, rose the most by 6.34 per cent among Sensex shares. Mahindra & Mahindra advanced 0.71 per cent. ITC and UltraTech Cement were also among the winners.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tanked 1.89 per cent and midcap index fell by 1.29 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, utilities tanked 7.34 per cent, power tumbled 6.79 per cent while oil & gas (5.75 per cent), energy (5.22 per cent), telecom-munication (3.79 per cent), commodities (3.27 per cent),

bankex (3.06 per cent) and financial services (2.48 per cent) also declined. FMCG, healthcare and auto ended in the green.

Banking counters and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) also faced heavy drubbing amid concerns over their exposure to the Adani group firms.

Bank of Baroda tumbled 7.36 per cent, State Bank of India tanked 5.03 per cent, Bank of India declined 5.63 per cent, Punjab National Bank fell 5.31 per cent and Central Bank of India dipped 4.03 per cent on the BSE. Shares of LIC fell 3.45 per cent.

The Adani Group on Thursday said it is examining legal options to take "punitive action" against Hindenburg

Research for its "reckless" attempt to sabotage a mega share sale at the conglomerate's flagship firm -- a statement that the US activist investor responded by saying it stands by its report that alleged "brazen" market manipulation and accounting fraud by the group.

"The maliciously mischievous, unresearched report published by Hindenburg Research on January 24, 2023, has adversely affected the Adani Group, our shareholders and investors. The volatility in Indian stock markets created by the report is of great concern and has led to unwanted anguish for Indian citizens," Adani Group's lead head Jatinder Lalunhwal said in a statement.



# Rev officer axed from job for Govt land scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor DVK Saxena has dismissed a Revenue Department official from service for fraudulently registering 57 sales and purchase deeds of Government and Gram Sabha lands in favour of private people.

The officer has been identified as Harish Bajaj, Delhi Administrative Subordinate Services (DASS), Grade I, who allegedly registered 106 "instruments" illegally with mala fide intentions and financial quid pro quo, in violation of rules, regulations and instructions issued by the Revenue Department.

According to officials from the Raj Niwas, of the 106 "instruments", 57 were in relation to Government and gram sabha lands. "In a strong message to officials that no irregularity or corruption will be tolerated, Delhi LG VK Saxena has dismissed Harish Bajaj from services, for fraudulently registering 57 sales and purchase deeds of Government and gram sabha lands and lands in khas-

ras that had already been notified under Sections 4 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in favour of private persons," the official said.

Disposing a case of appeal filed by Bajaj against an order of the government that had 'compulsorily retired' him from services in 2020, for the acts of commission and omission on his part, the LG observed that the 'penalty of compulsorily retirement' is grossly disproportionate and Harish Bajaj, Dy. Secretary (Labour

Department), is liable to be held responsible for gross dereliction in discharge of his duties and responsibilities and for proven misconduct, the ends of justice would be met by imposing an appropriate major penalty, and therefore, proposed to enhance the penalty to 'dismissal from service'.

Bajaj in his appeal to the LG — who is the appellant authority in such matters, had not denied having registered the said lands. In support of his misconduct, omission/commission, , Bajaj had stated that a sub-registrar performs his

duties under the provisions of the Registration Act 1908. As per Rule 42 of the said Act, the sub-registrar has nothing to do with the 'title of land' and is under no obligation to verify the title of property before registering it. However, the LG ruled that the averments of Bajaj were misleading and he had blatantly disregarded government orders and circulars.

As per order dated 03.01.2007, of the Revenue Department, GNCTD, no fresh instrument of transfer, including GPAs in relation to government land, which includes acquired land and land notified under Section 4 & 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, shall be registered without the compliance of the provisions of Delhi Land (restriction on transfer) Act, 1972.

Bajaj violated the aforementioned provisions and registered 57 instruments pertaining to government land without even obtaining the status report of the land from the competent authority i.e. ADM (East) as prescribed vide order dated August 25, 2006.

# Pay licence fee at .05% of yearly bill: DERC to NDMC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has directed the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), a deemed power distribution licensee, to pay a licence fee at the rate of 0.05 per cent of the annual billed amount and a late payment charge, effective from 2003-04.

Taking suo motu cognizance of the non-payment of licence fee by the NDMC, under section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the DERC had reserved its judgement in August last year which was pronounced earlier this month.

The commission has directed the NDMC, having over 46,000 consumers in Lutyens' Delhi, to comply with its direction within a period of three months.

A senior NDMC officer said a comment on the issue can be made after going through the DERC order. A copy of the DERC order stated that the Accountant General (Audit) on March 8, 2019 had made an audit observation that the NDMC is a deemed licensee to supply electricity in the area under its jurisdiction.

It was also observed that the NDMC, being a deemed

distribution Licensee under The Electricity Act, 2003, is liable to pay 0.05 per cent of the annual amount billed from the year 2003-04 onwards and an interest at the rate of one per cent per month on the delayed payment.

The NDMC counsel appearing in the matter had argued that under section 197 of New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994, the council is a deemed licensee under the old Act. Therefore, they continue to be a deemed licensee and are not required to take a licence under section 14 of The Electricity Act 2003.

It was observed by the DERC, however, that by enactment of The Electricity Act, 2003, the earlier Electricity Act, 1910 was repealed. Section 14 of The Electricity Act, 2003 deals with the grant of licence.

The commission said that licences to discoms BRPL, BYPL and TPDDL, have been in line with the Delhi Electricity Reforms Act (DERA), 2000, under which they pay a fee equivalent to 0.05 per cent of the amount billed during the previous financial year.

It further said that only those provisions of DERA are protected under section 185(3)



of The Electricity Act 2003 that are consistent with its provisions. "The provision about exclusion of NDMC as contained in DERA, 2000 cannot get shelter of section 185(3) of The Electricity Act, 2003.

Thus, after coming into force of the enactment of The Electricity Act, 2003, the argument of the NDMC that it is not required to pay licence fee losses ground and has no merits," the DERC said in the

order. The NDMC counsel had argued that the Delhi Electricity Reforms Act, 2000 under which the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Comprehensive (Conduct and Business) Regulations, 2001 were framed as an enactment in the schedule to The Electricity Act, 2003.

"Regulation 1(4) of the DERC Regulations, 2001 is saved by virtue of Section 185 (3) of The Electricity Act, 2003, and therefore, the DERC Regulations, 2001 (including provisions relating to License Fee) do not extend to the NDMC," he had submitted.

The commission, however, ruled that Section 12 of The Electricity Act 2003, provides that no person shall distribute electricity unless he is authorised to do so by a licence

issued under Section 14 or is exempted under Section 13 of the 2003 Act. "NDMC is not exempted under Section 13 of the Electricity Act 2003, it has to distribute electricity under a licence, whether obtained on application or as a deemed licensee," it said.

It was also noted by the DERC in its order that the Electricity Act, 2003 does not prohibit it to levy licence and that the commission has to have a "non-discriminatory approach". The commission concluded in its order that the NDMC being a deemed licensee, the provisions of licence fee and interest on delayed payment of licence fee would also be applicable to it in order to create a level-playing field for other discoms, including the BRPL, BYPL and the TPDDL.

# Timely mayoral poll: SC to hear AAP candidate's plea on Feb 3

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to list for hearing on February 3 a plea of Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) mayoral candidate Shelly Oberoi seeking directions to ensure mayoral election in Delhi in a time-bound manner.

The petition filed on Thursday by advocate Shadan Farasat was mentioned before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud for urgent listing.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi appearing for the petitioners — Oberoi and AAP Leader of the House in MCD Mukesh Goel — told the court that the matter relates to the Mayor's election in Delhi.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud and comprising Justice Dipankar Datta took note of the submissions of senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Oberoi, on early holding of the mayoral poll for



MCD. "It will be listed on February 3," the CJI said.

The petition has sought the mayor election to be held in a time-bound manner as the same has been delayed for over a month despite AAP securing majority in the MCD polls declared on December 7. They also sought that aldermen should not be allowed to vote as they do not have the right to do so under Article 243R of the Constitution and Section 3 of the DMC Act.

According to the petition, the elected councillors are given oath in precedence over

the aldermen. It further stated that the election of mayor and deputy Mayor should be held as per law which does not permit aldermen to cast vote.

The mayoral election in the national capital was stalled on Tuesday last for the second time this month as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House was adjourned indefinitely by the lieutenant governor-appointed presiding officer, following a ruckus created by some councillors. The first meeting of the newly-elected MCD House on January 6 was also adjourned amid a ruckus by the AAP and BJP members.

This is not the first time that the AAP has taken recourse to courts in matters concerning MCD. In March, when the elections to the trifurcated MCD (East, South and North as it existed prior to its reunification by Parliament in April), were getting delayed, the AAP had approached the

top court for a direction to ensure timely holding of elections. Meanwhile, in a video message, AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj on Friday said that people have chosen the AAP to helm the MCD but the BJP wants to "capture" it through "unconstitutional" means.

"We have moved the Supreme Court, seeking directions to elect a mayor in a time-bound manner. It makes clear that we are in favour of the polls but the BJP doesn't want it," the AAP leader said in the message.

Bharadwaj said the BJP's tenure in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) ended in 2022. "Since then, the saffron party has tried to keep the municipal body under its control on one pretext or the other -- be it unification, delimitation or mayoral polls."

The AAP won 134 of the 250 wards in the MCD polls held in December. The BJP managed to win 104 wards.

# Make ad hoc teachers permanent, Sisodia writes to DU VC Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has written a letter to Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh, expressing concern over reports stating that 70 per cent of its ad hoc teachers are being "displaced". The Delhi Government believes that these ad hoc teachers should be absorbed in permanent recruitment.

Sisodia said these teachers should be absorbed as permanent staff as they have been working with DU for decades and have the necessary experience to deal with students from diverse backgrounds.

"Ongoing interviews for Assistant Professors in different colleges of DU have been catastrophic. Reports say 70 per cent ad hoc teachers are being displaced.

"We believe that ad hoc teachers should be absorbed in permanent recruitment," the

Deputy Chief Minister said in his letter. "Many of these teachers have been teaching at Delhi University colleges for decades. They understand the challenges of an institution like Delhi University, how to deal with students coming from different parts of the country, with diverse linguistic backgrounds and academic experiences. The experience of teaching in a classroom cannot be replaced. Therefore, it is important to continue these teachers in Delhi University," he said.

Sisodia, requested the VC to facilitate absorption of ad hoc and temporary teachers in Delhi government colleges and assured that government nominees on college boards will extend full cooperation.

More than 4,500 teachers work as ad hocs in colleges and departments of DU. The deputy CM reminded that the Delhi government is responsible for the adhoc and temporary teachers working in the 28

DU colleges whose governing bodies include nominees from this government. "Ordinance XVIII-4(a) provides for the appointments of teaching staff to be done by the governing body. In our 28 colleges, we want to go ahead with the absorption of the adhoc and temporary teachers.

The Temp Ord XIII A (1977-78) shall be revived to implement the absorption of the adhoc and temporary teachers by the GBs of these colleges," Sisodia added.

Recently, the Punjab government announced the absorption of such teachers and employees, Sisodia said. "Hence, we request you to facilitate the absorption of adhoc and temporary teachers in these colleges in which our GBs shall extend cooperation for this," Manish Sisodia further said in the letter.

AAP teacher's wing AADTA has also urged the Centre to take immediate

action to address the exploitation of ad hoc teachers at the DU. The party's national teachers' organisation 'AADTA' has demanded the central government to bring an ordinance for the regularisation of adhoc teachers in DU.

AADTA National Incharge Dr Aditya Narayan Mishra said that out of 12,000 teachers in DU, there are 6,000 ad-hoc teachers, who have been working for many years, the process of removing them while the interview process is going on in DU will be called a massacre.

"At least 72-75 per cent qualified teachers have qualification under UGC rules, but these teachers working as ad-hoc and temporary teachers were removed from their posts. These teachers, who have been living in the metropolitan city of Delhi for many years, do not even have the expenses for the rent of the house, nor can they pay the school fees and EMIs," he said.

# BJP panel advises mass contact before 2024 polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP's two-day executive committee meeting began on Friday with a call for reaching out to the masses in the next 400 days to ensure the party's victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing party leaders and office-bearers, BJP vice president and in-charge of Delhi unit affairs, Baijayant Jay Panda said the party is coming up with a mobile application to assess the performance of those holding different posts in the party organisation.

In his address, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva called upon party workers to dedicate next 400 days to contact programmes at ground level to ensure the saffron party's victory in the general



elections slated for next year.

He asked the workers to "change their attitude" and reach down to booth level to work for organisational expansion and expose alleged corruption of the Arvind Kejriwal

government in Delhi. Sachdeva also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lauded the Delhi BJP unit for making good arrangements for recently-held national executive meeting of the party in city. "The

party workers should take inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda, and work for organisational expansion of the party at booth-level for winning all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi in the 2024 elections," Panda said in the party statement.

Meanwhile, all 14 district presidents of Delhi BJP presented reports of their districts' political activities and performance during the recent MCD polls at meeting. Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri introduced a political resolution in the meeting.

The proposal slamming Kejriwal government for its "corruption" and lauding BJP-ruled Centre for its different welfare and infrastructure ini-

tiatives will be deliberated on second day of executive meeting, party leaders said. The meeting was attended by BJP's national general secretary Dushyant Gautam, Delhi organisational secretary Siddharthan, MPs Manoj Tiwari, Hans Raj Hans, Parvesh Verma and Ramesh Bidhuri, MLA Vijendra Gupta, former Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyay and Adesh Gupta, former Union minister Vijay Goel, among others.

Delhi BJP general secretary Kuljeet Chahal said the second day of the executive committee meeting will be held at Dr Ambedkar International Centre on Saturday. Union minister Anurag Thakur and BJP's national general secretary Sunil Bansal will address valedictory session.

# Cops bust pan-India job racket with China links

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have arrested three men and busted a pan-India job racket that was allegedly being run in connivance with a Chinese module. The accused — Abhishek Garg (40), Satish Yadav (36) and Sandeep Mahla (32) — were allegedly running a pan-India online part-time job racket in the name of Amazon.

They were arrested following raids in Delhi, Gurugram and Fatehabad. The syndicate's suspected mastermind operated from Georgia and a base in Dubai. A lookout circular and other legal action are being initiated to nab him, the police said. They syndicate allegedly

created a fictitious website designed by China-based developers. Its link was shared through a Telegram ID whose IP address was also traced to China. The module was formed and modulated from China, they added. The accused used YouTube, Instagram, Telegram, WhatsApp and other social media platforms to promote their website and dupe people. The police initiated a probe after a woman from Rohini in Delhi complained in September that she was duped with a part-time online job offer at Amazon and cheated of Rs 1,18,000 through an ad on Instagram. The IP address of the Telegram ID used by the scammers was traced to Beijing

(China). The WhatsApp number used to defraud the victims by luring them to invest in a fake Amazon website was also operated from outside India, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Devesh Kumar Mahla said. According to information received from the bank, a shell company account in the name of 'Krishna Enterprises' was used to accumulate the defrauded money.

While examining the account details, it was found that over Rs 5.17 crore was credited in September alone. The money trail also revealed that the entire amount was siphoned through 7 firms to overseas accounts using cryptocurrency.

# Delhi Govt approves redevelopment projects worth ₹12 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has approved repair and redevelopment projects worth Rs 12 crore in the national Capital. The projects include repair and redevelopment of the Andrews Ganj and Nehru Place flyovers will increase the life of the flyovers by up to 20 years. The repair and redevelopment of culverts at the Najafgarh drain will increase the life of culverts and make it safer for the commuters," he added.

Work on the flyovers will be completed in six months. The repair of the culverts, which had been pending for a long time, will be completed in nine months. The repair and redevelopment of the Andrews Ganj and Nehru Place flyovers will increase the life of the flyovers by up to 20 years.

"Following the same, two new projects have been approved recently. The repair and redevelopment of the Andrews Ganj and Nehru Place flyovers will increase the life of the flyovers by up to 20 years. The repair and redevelopment of culverts at the Najafgarh drain will increase the life of culverts and make it safer for the commuters," he added.

# 17-year-old boy apprehended for stalking girl

**New Delhi:** A 17-year-old college student has been apprehended for allegedly stalking a girl he befriended on Instagram and pressuring her to send him nude photos with the threat of circulating her already available private pictures on social media, police said on Friday.

It has also been alleged that the accused, who is pursuing his graduation from the School of Open Learning here, accosted her and demanded sexual favours.

Upon checking the accused's phone, it was revealed that he was harassing other girls using the same modus operandi, police claimed. According to them, he had forced his parents to buy him an iPhone which he used to show off to these girls.

# ‘US scribe blacklisted for violating visa norms’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Friday that American journalist Angad Singh has been blacklisted despite being an OCI card holder for misrepresenting facts in his application for obtaining a journalistic visa and violating certain norms.

Justice Prathiba M Singh granted time to the Centre's counsel to obtain instructions and file an affidavit confirming whether any proceedings have commenced against Angad Singh, who produces documentaries for Vice News with a focus on Asia, for cancellation of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card.

The high court also asked the Centre's counsel to inform whether any show cause notice was issued to the petitioner. The high court was hearing the

journalist's plea against the central government's refusal to permit his entry into India. He was deported from Delhi to New York in August last year. "Let the above instructions be placed before the court by way of an affidavit within two weeks," the court said and listed the matter for further hearing on February 28.

Appearing for the Centre, advocate Anurag Ahluwalia sought time to place on record further instructions from the Ministry of External Affairs and said that he wanted to confirm "whether any showcase notice or any proceedings have been commenced" against Singh for the cancellation of the OCI card.

Ahluwalia said that Singh had depicted India in a "negative manner" in the "India Burning" documentary. Advocate Swathi Sukumar, appearing for the journalist,

submitted that under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, OCI card holders have all the rights as recognised by the Constitution of India except for certain rights as mentioned under section 7B (2).

The lawyer also submitted under section 7D of the Act, OCI cards cannot be cancelled and no order for cancellation shall be passed unless the cardholder has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

The counsel said Angad Singh's OCI card is still valid and that according to the counter affidavit filed by Centre, although he has been blacklisted his OCI card has not been cancelled yet.

As per the Centre, an affidavit has been filed by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) stating the petitioner is a 'blacklist subject' and was

blacklisted at the instance of the Consulate General of India in New York. The affidavit claimed the petitioner had misrepresented facts in the application for obtaining a journalistic visa in 2020.

During the hearing, the central government standing counsel, Anurag Ahluwalia, relied upon the provisions of the Foreigners Act and the Foreigners Order to argue that under section 11 (A) of the Foreigners Order, 1948 no foreigner can produce any picture, film or documentary for public exhibition without permission in writing from the Union government.

He said this provision has been violated by the petitioner resulting in his blacklisting despite being an OCI card holder. In the petition, the journalist has challenged the action of refusing him entry into India as illegal and viola-

tive of Articles 14, 21 and 25 of the Constitution.

He also challenged the refusal to grant him a Special Permit further to his application made on September 22, 2021. Singh submitted he holds an OCI card which was issued to him initially in March 2007 and which was renewed in August 2018.

He said he had applied for permission to shoot a documentary in India in January 2020 for Republic Day celebration and other events, and was issued a permit. However, since he could not visit immediately, he applied for a second permission which was granted to him on January 30, 2021.

In 2021, he again applied for a special permit to cover some event and interviews but the application was rejected. In respect of his application regarding the rejection, he received no response.



# Go First fined ₹10 lakh for leaving 55 stranded

Action taken for leaving 55 flyers at Bengaluru Airport on January 9

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

After Air India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Go First airline for leaving behind 55 passengers at the Bengaluru airport on January 9. A day after the incident, the DGCA had issued a notice to the airline over the incident.

The passengers, who were to board flight G8 116 to Delhi, were left behind on the passenger coach. The airline apologised for the incident, which it said was "caused due to an inadvertent oversight".

"Perusal of reply of M/s Go First reveals that there was improper communication, coordination between terminal coordinator (TC), commercial staff and crew regarding boarding of passengers in the aircraft.

The airline failed to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch and passenger/cargo handling and therefore, enforcement action in the form



of Financial Penalty of ₹10, 00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh only) has been imposed for violation of CAR Section 3, Series C, Part II and of Air Transport Circular 02 of 2019," the DGCA said in an order.

It further stated: "It is pertinent to mention that DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section - 3, Series-C, Part-II on "Minimum Requirements for Grant of Air Operator Certificate to Operate Scheduled Air Transport Services (Passenger)" and Air Transport Circular 02 of 2019 on "Facilities/Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports."

The aviation regulator had said "multiple mistakes" could be easily avoided. The DGCA had sent notice to the airline for "multiple mistakes" soon after the incident and demanded an explanation. Go First's response revealed that there was improper communication, coordination between terminal coordinator, commercial staff, and crew regarding boarding of

passengers in the aircraft, the DGCA said, adding that the airline failed to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch, and passenger/cargo handling.

Flight G8 116 took off for Delhi from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport around 6.30 am on January 9 this year, as 55 passengers, who had their boarding passes, and bags checked-in, were left behind in one of the four buses that took passengers to the aircraft.

The passengers were reportedly accommodated on a flight that left four hours later, at around 10 am. A day after the incident, Go First, on January 10, apologised for the inconvenience caused to the passengers due to an inadvertent oversight in the reconciliation of the flight. It also said that affected passengers will be offered one free ticket for travel on any domestic sector in the next 12 months.

"The airline has initiated an inquiry into the incident and the matter is being investigated. All concerned staff (are) off the roster till the inquiry is going on," it had said. On January 24, DGCA imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for not reporting two incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard a Paris-New Delhi flight on December 6, 2022.

# BJP poll panel finalises candidates for Tripura elections

**PNS ■** NEW DELHI

As senior leaders of the BJP including party chief J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others met here a day ago and whetted the list of candidates for the upcoming Tripura assembly elections, the Central Election Committee (CEC) of the BJP met on Friday evening and finalised the list. Thursday's meeting was also attended by Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, BJP's state incharge Mahesh Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP and former state CM

Biplab Deb and North Eastern States Convenor Sambit Patra. Earlier in the day, BJP's Tripura unit core group members met at party leader and northeast in-charge Patra's residence.

All members of the CEC on Friday attended the meeting at the BJP headquarters and also considered seat allocation with the alliance partners, if any, sources said. The 60-member Tripura Assembly will go to polls on February 16. The last date for filling nominations is January 30. The counting of votes will be taken up on March 2. Facing anti-incum-



bency, the BJP has a major challenge from Congress-Left alliance as well as from resurgent Trinamool Congress. In 2018, the BJP formed the gov-

ernment for the first time in Tripura, ending the 20-year run of the CPI(M). Like in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, the BJP leadership had, last year, changed

Chief Minister of Tripura, replacing Biplab Dev with Saha who was a congress member before joining the saffron party.

# ‘Antibiotics in India, China wastewater pose health threat’

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Antibiotic residues in wastewater and wastewater treatment plants in India and China—both major producers and consumers of antibiotics—may serve as hot spots for the development of antibiotic resistance in these regions, posing a potential threat to human health through exposure to different sources of water, including drinking water.

These observations of the researchers from Karolinska Institute were published in The Lancet Planetary Health. The researchers also determined the relative contribution of various sources of antibiotic contamination in waterways, such as hospitals, municipalities, livestock, and pharma-



ceutical manufacturing. Bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics are a global threat that can lead to untreatable bacterial infections in animals and humans.

"Our results can help decision-makers to target risk reduction measures against environmental residues of priority antibiotics and in high-risk sites, to protect human health and the environment,"

says Nada Hanna, researcher at the Department of Global Public Health at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, and the study's first author.

"Allocating these resources efficiently is especially vital for resource-poor countries that produce large amounts of antibiotics." Antibiotics can enter the environment during their production, consumption and disposal. Antibiotic residues in the environment, such as in wastewater and drinking water, can contribute to the emergence and spread of resistance.

As per the publication, "Antibiotic concentrations and antibiotic resistance in aquatic environments of the Western Pacific and South-East Asia Regions: a systematic review and probabilistic environmen-

tal hazard assessment", the researchers examined the levels of antibiotic residues that are likely to contribute to antibiotic resistance from different aquatic sources in the Western Pacific Region (WPR) and the South-East Asia Region (SEAR), regions as defined by the World Health Organization. These regions include China and India, which are among the world's largest producers and consumers of antibiotics.

This was done by a systematic review of the literature published between 2006 and 2019, including 218 relevant reports from the WPR and 22 from the SEAR. The researchers also used a method called Probabilistic Environmental Hazard Assessment to determine

where the concentration of antibiotics is high enough to likely contribute to antibiotic resistance.

Ninety-two antibiotics were detected in the WPR, and forty five in the SEAR. Antibiotic concentrations exceeding the level considered safe for resistance development (Predicted No Effect Concentrations, PNECs) were observed in wastewater, influents and effluents of wastewater treatment plants and in receiving aquatic environments.

The highest risk was observed in wastewater and the influence of wastewater treatment plants. The relative impact of various contributors, such as hospital, municipal, livestock, and pharmaceutical manufacturing was also determined.



A huge cut-out of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi looms over the Bharat Jodo Yatra route in Banihal, J&K, on Friday

PTI Photo

# AMPHEX 2023: Tri-services conclude exercise to hone military op skills

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The three Services including the Navy, IAF and Army recently conducted the biennial amphibious exercise 'AMPHEX 2023' to hone synergy in various facets of amphibious operations, the Navy said here on Friday.

The latest edition of the drill was the largest ever and took place off Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh for the first time.

It was conducted from January 17 to 22 and witnessed the participation of a number of amphibious ships consisting of Large Platform Dock (LPD), Landing Ships and Landing Crafts, Marine Commandos (MARCOS), helicopters and



aircraft from the Indian Navy. Indian Army participated in the exercise with over 900 troops which included Special Forces, Artillery and Armoured vehicles. Jaguar fighters and C 130 aircraft from the IAF also participated in the exercise.

The participating forces undertook complex exercises in all domains of amphibious operations over five days. The exercise culminated in a successful amphibious assault

which was reviewed by Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, in the presence of Force Commanders of the Indian Navy and Indian Army. 'AMPHEX 2023' successfully demonstrated the amphibious capabilities and validated the excellent coordination that exists between the three Services to undertake the full spectrum of amphibious operations.

# First Indo-Japan Air Force exercise ‘Veer Guardian’ ends

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The first-ever bilateral exercise involving air forces of India and Japan concluded in Japan on Thursday. Named 'Veer Guardian 2023', the exercise was aimed at stepping up strategic and defence ties between the two countries.

Giving details of the 16-day long exercise, officials said here on Friday, Japan deployed its F-2 and F-15 aircraft, while the IAF contingent participated with the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The IAF fighter contingent was complemented by one IL-78 flight refueling aircraft and two C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift transport aircraft.



During the joint training, the two Air Forces engaged in complex and comprehensive aerial manoeuvres in multiple simulated operational scenarios. The exercise involved precise planning and skillful execution by both the air forces. IAF and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) engaged in air combat manoeuvring, interception and air defence mis-

sions, both in visual and beyond visual range settings. Aircrew of the two participating Air Forces also flew in each other's fighter aircraft to gain a deeper understanding of each other's operating philosophies.

Exercise 'Veer Guardian 2023' provided the two Air Forces with an opportunity to enhance mutual understanding. The exercise also witnessed numerous ground interactions between IAF and JASDF personnel wherein various aspects were discussed by both sides. This enabled the participating contingents to obtain an invaluable insight into each other's best practices and learn from each other's unique capabilities.

# ED attaches 32 assets of ₹7K cr in K'taka, Maha

**PNS ■** NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached 32 immovable and movable properties in Maharashtra and Karnataka worth over Rs 69.65 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) in a case relating to fraudulent issuance of TDS refund of Rs 263 crore from Income Tax Department by Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, Senior Tax Assistant and others.

These attached assets include land, flats, luxury cars which are held in the name of Bhushan Anant Patil, Rajesh Shetty, Sarika Shetty, Kriti Verma and others. Earlier, the agency had issued freezing orders under PMLA in respect of 33 bank accounts of various entities having balances of Rs 96.23 crore and seized cash of Rs 2.85 lakh.

The ED has initiated investigations under the PMLA based upon an FIR registered by CBI on the basis of written complaint of Additional Director General (Vigilance)-4 CBDT about bogus issuance of refunds for assessment Years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, while working as a Senior Tax Assistant, had access to RSA Tokens and login credentials of his supervisory authorities and he had



allegedly orchestrated the fraud in connivance with others in fraudulently generating TDS refunds exceeding Rs 263 crore and transferred in various bank accounts including the bank account of SB Enterprises (a proprietary concern of Bhushan Anant Patil).

CBI has filed charge sheet against Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, Bhushan Anant Patil, Rajesh Shantaram Shetty and others for committing offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Prevention of Corruption

Act and Section 66 of Information Technology Act, the ED said in a statement. Investigation under PMLA revealed that, during the period from November 15, 2019 to November 4, 2020, as many as 12 fraudulent TDS refunds were generated by Tanaji Mandal Adhikari amounting Rs. 263,95,31,870 which were fraudulently credited in the account of SB Enterprises, it said.

These Proceeds of Crime (PoC) were subsequently transferred into the bank accounts of Bhushan Anant Patil and other related persons and entities and also in shell companies.

PMLA probe revealed that immovable properties in the form of lands at Lonavala, Khandala, Karjat, Pune and Udipi areas, flats at Panvel and Mumbai areas and movable assets in the form three luxury cars (BMW X7, Mercedes GLS400d, Audi Q7) have been acquired out of the proceeds of crime in their names and in the names of other related persons. On identification of these assets, a Provisional Attachment Order under PMLA was issued attaching 32 assets worth Rs 69,65,99,720, it said.

Out of total Proceeds of Crime of Rs 263 crore, assets of Rs 166 crore have been seized attached provisionally, it added.

# EC to SC: Will note Kerala HC order nixing conviction of Lakshadweep MP

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission told the Supreme Court on Friday that it will take note of the Kerala High Court order suspending the conviction of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal in an attempt to murder case, which had resulted in his disqualification from the Lok Sabha.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Faizal challenging the Election Commission's announcement to conduct a by-election in his erstwhile Lakshadweep constituency. Soon after Faizal was disqualified following his conviction in the case, the EC had said the by-poll would be con-



ducted on February 27.

A Bench comprising Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna noted the submission of senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for poll panel, that the EC action will be in accordance with law in the light of the HC's stay on the trial court's conviction of the NCP's MP for 10 years in an attempt to murder case.



"It is submitted also that the ECI went ahead as per the trial court order (of conviction).

Without going into the allegations or pronouncing on any merits, we dispose of the writ petition recording the submission that action will be taken by the ECI in accordance with law in light of the HC order of suspension of conviction," the bench said.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Faizal, submitted before the bench that the by-election cannot go on as the high court has suspended the conviction.

Faizal, in his petition, said the poll panel is proposing to fill the seat without awaiting the outcome of his plea for stay of conviction and sentence in the high court. He contended the EC's announcement was arbitrary, unlawful and mala fide.

# SC asks Lalit to refrain from public spats with lawyers

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday advised former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi to refrain from public spats with lawyers involved in his family dispute.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and MM Sundresh said parties are mature enough not to make such statements and asked the lawyers to sort out the issue. The apex court was hearing a petition on Modi's spat and posts in social media against former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi. "It is



nothing but an extension of the outburst of a family member.

Don't take it too far. Whenever you start fighting out in public, it is always detrimental...We are not passing orders but you use your good office to ensure that remedial

measures are taken," the bench observed orally, without passing any orders.

On August 1 last year, the Supreme Court appointed former apex court judge Justice R V Raveendran as a mediator to settle a family property dispute involving the former IPL head and his mother Bina Modi. Rohatgi is one of the counsels representing Bina Modi in the property dispute.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal submitted before the bench that there was an undertaking of no posts while mediation was going on. "Comments are being made while the media-

tion is going on. These should be taken down. This is a violation of the court orders," Sibal said, pointing out Modi's abusive posts against Rohatgi in social media.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Lalit Modi, said there was no breach of the court order and this was just an angry outburst. The top court was apprised that the mediation process between the parties was underway. Modi had made a comment about Rohatgi in an Instagram post. Later, though another post, he reportedly apologised to the senior advocate.



# Learn from Dhankhar, Bengal BJP tells pro-Mamata Guv

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid Bengal BJP's disapproval of new Governor CV Ananda Bose's allegedly "pro-Mamata Banerjee" lines, party's national vice-president Dilip Ghosh on Friday advised him to take a lesson or two from Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar who was the State Governor from 2019 to 2022.

Already unhappy about his "pacifist" style --- unlike Dhankhar who had several run-ins with the Chief Minister and the ruling Trinamool Congress during his tenure -- the State BJP leadership was furious at Bose's decision to hold his "Bangla Hatekhor" (initiation to Bengali letters) at the Raj Bhavan in presence of the Chief Minister.

Hatekhor is an age-old ritual in Bengali households wherein the children are introduced to Bengali letters for the first time in front of Goddess Saraswati. Hence it takes place on Vasant Panchami or Saraswati Puja day.

"It is not necessary that you

would know everything from the beginning. So he (the Governor) should try to take lessons from his predecessor Jagdeep Dhankhar ji... I hope he will have a meeting with the Governor during his visit to Delhi," Ghosh said.

Earlier, State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari who skipped the Hatekhor programme calling it a drama scripted by the Chief Minister said "though I am no body to lecture the Governor about his functions I think he will be briefed about responsibilities when he is in Delhi."

Hours after Bose got his first lesson of Bengali alphabet from a class three student Diyangshi Roy --- at Raj Bhavan where he was presented with a Varna Parichay (the basic book on Bengali letters) written by Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar --- he was summarily summoned to the national Capital on Thursday evening hours after and hours after Adhikari expressed his displeasure with him.

The TMC leadership



immediately returned fire with spokesperson Kunal Ghosh accusing the BJP leadership of "trying to hijack the Raj Bhavan."

He said, "the BJP is angry because the Governor is not towing the line of Dhankhar... they want to convert the Raj Bhavan into BJP party office which an intellectual of Bose's stature is reluctant to do."

Wondering whether there was any wrong in the Governor trying to learn languages or the Chief Minister attending a programme at his official residence TMC Rajya Sabha MP Shantanu Sen said, "if the Governor, wants to learn new languages where is a harm in it

... if he invites the Chief Minister to witness a social programme at his residence where is his fault... the BJP does not believe in smooth functioning of the State and so it is trying to disturb the Governor... it wants to enslave the Raj Bhavan."

Meanwhile, the Governor who was presently touring New Delhi on Friday visited a Bengali medium school where he watched Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pariksha pe Charcha programme along with the students.

After the programme the Governor said that the Prime Minister was a great educator and a universal teacher.

# Attempt being made to make judiciary part of PMO: Cong

PTI ■ KHANABAL

Attacking the Centre, the Congress on Friday alleged that an "undeclared emergency" prevailed in the country and an attempt was being made to "make the judiciary part of the PMO".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Bharat Jodo Yatra is aimed at highlighting such "dangers" facing the country.

Addressing a press conference here, Ramesh said the yatra is aimed at flagging increasing economic disparity, the RSS and the BJP allegedly spreading social polarisation for electoral advantage and the "political dictatorship" prevailing in the country.

He also said the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra will not discuss political issues of Jammu and Kashmir such as the abrogation of Article 370 and the Gupkar Alliance as there will be other opportunities to raise those.

"There is an undeclared emergency in the country. There is rule by one person, Parliament is being ignored,



debates don't take place in Parliament. One example is of the danger on our borders, two-and-a-half years have passed but it has not been discussed," Ramesh said, referring to the border standoff between India and China.

"Constitution is being ignored, constitutional bodies are being weakened and an attempt is being made to destroy the judiciary. Everyday comments are being made, there is an attempt to make the judiciary part of the PMO (Prime Minister's Office)," he alleged.

His remarks come in the backdrop of a raging debate on the issue of appointments

to the higher judiciary with the government questioning the current collegium system and the Supreme Court defending it.

At the press conference, Ramesh said, "So this question why is the Congress out to unite India when nobody is breaking the country, we are saying it is getting divided, there are dangers and if we don't act, the dangers will increase. So we are raising our voice against economic disparities, social polarisation and political dictatorship. We are taking on the BJP and the RSS ideologically. Election strategy has nothing to do with the yatra."

# Lakhimpur killings: Ashish Mishra released from jail



PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Ashish Mishra, the son of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra, was released from jail on Friday after the Supreme Court had granted him interim bail in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

Senior superintendent of the Kheri district jail Vipin Kumar Mishra told PTI, "He (Ashish Mishra) has been released from the jail. We have got the release order from the sessions court."

The Supreme Court on Wednesday had granted eight-week interim bail to him in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence which claimed eight lives.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice J K Maheshwari directed that Ashish Mishra shall not stay in Uttar Pradesh or Delhi during the interim bail period.

# Situation along eastern border with China stable but unpredictable: GOC-in-C

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The situation along the eastern border with China is "stable" but "unpredictable" due to the absence of delineation of boundaries, said General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Eastern Command, Lt Gen R P Kalita.

The Eastern Command takes care of the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim sectors.

Lt Gen Kalita also stated that the Army is constantly monitoring the activities across the border and is well prepared to meet any emerging chal-

lenges.

"The whole problem stems from the fact that the border between India and China is not clearly defined. There are different perceptions about the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which lead to problems.

"However, let me assure you that the situation in the eastern border in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh is stable but unpredictable due to the absence of delineation of borders," he told a Meet the Press programme at the Press Club, Kolkata.

There has been a fresh spike in tension between India and China after troops from

the two sides were engaged in a clash along the LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector on December 9.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on December 13 that the Chinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area in Arunachal Pradesh, but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat with its firm and resolute response.

Recently Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande conducted a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh after last month's skirmishes in the

Tawang sector.

"We have read reports that gradually there has been an increase in troop deployment (by China) opposite our sectors along with infrastructure development that the PLA has carried out in their bordering areas," the GOC-in-C of the Eastern Command said.

He maintained that the preparedness level of the Indian Army remained "very high" along the LAC, and it has adequate forces and reserves in each of the sectors to deal with any situation effectively.

To a question on reports of China 'building alternate access to Chumbi valley in

Tibet near Sikkim and how it would threaten the security of the Siliguri corridor, the senior Army officer said, "Siliguri Corridor is geo-strategically extremely important to us.

Requisite measures and mechanisms are in place to ensure that there are no disruptions and maintenance of connectivity with the northeast remains intact."

Siliguri corridor, commonly known as the 'chicken's neck', connects the mainland with the northeastern states. The corridor shares international boundaries with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.



# HC shortens Sengar's interim bail period as victim cites threat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday shortened the interim bail period of expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is serving a life term for raping a minor in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in 2017, asking him to surrender after his daughter's "tilak" ceremony, and said he will be released again before her marriage.

The court had earlier granted bail to Sengar for two weeks.

The court, which was informed that Sengar was released from the Tihar jail here on Friday morning and was on his way to Lucknow, passed the modification order on an application filed by the victim, seeking a recall of the interim bail order on the ground of a threat to her and her family members.

A bench of justices Mukta Gupta and Poonam A Bamba, which had on January 16 granted bail to Sengar from January 27 to February 10 on account of his daughter's marriage, directed that he shall surrender



before the jail authorities on February 1 as the "tilak" ceremony is scheduled for January 30.

It said Sengar shall again be released from jail on February 6 and surrender on February 10 as the wedding is on February 8.

The victim, who was present in the court, said, "If Kuldeep Sengar is granted bail, I and the witnesses will be in danger. All the government officials there are his appointees. I request not to release him or else he can get me killed."

However, Sengar's counsel said since the trial is complete,

there is no threat to the witnesses.

The high court rejected the submissions of Sengar's counsel and said, "We may note that the appellant (Sengar) has already filed an application for leading additional evidence, hence the plea that there can be no threat to the witnesses cannot be accepted."

Advocate Mehmood Pracha, representing the victim, said the threat perception was there even when Sengar was in custody and while ordinarily, people are released from the jail in the evening, the politician was released early in the morning, which shows his clout.

# BBC docu on 2002 riots screened at Jadavpur University



PTI ■ KOLKATA

More than 100 students at Jadavpur University have reportedly watched the controversial BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots, with a Left student's body having arranged its screening.

The Centre has recently issued directions for blocking multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the documentary India: The Modi Question', which claims to have investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 riots when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of the State then.

The Student Federation of India (SFI), a Communist Party

of India (Marxist)'s arm, said the police or institute authorities did not interfere with the screening at Jadavpur University on Thursday. SFI state unit assistant secretary Subhajit Sarkar said that the student's body will hold another screening at Presidency University on Friday.

Authorities at Presidency are yet to give a formal nod, but "we will still go ahead with the show", he said.

Sarkar, a former Presidency student, also claimed, "The varsity has effected a power cut at the badminton court, where the screening was supposed to be held. We will now use the common room for the show.

# 4-year-old girl killed, 2 injured as 6 houses collapse in Agra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A four-year-old girl was killed and two others were injured as six houses collapsed in Agra due to excavation work in a nearby inn, police said on Thursday.

The incident comes two days after a multi-storey building collapsed killing three and injuring over a dozen people in Lucknow.

"A four-year-old girl has been killed," Additional District Magistrate Anjani Kumar Singh said on the phone. Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) DS Chauhan said that rescue and relief work was going on at full speed in the Dhulia Ganj area where six houses collapsed during the excavation work.

"Our officials are present on the spot," the DGP said. The injured were admitted to a hospital, he said.

Taking cognisance of the accident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the district magistrate and senior police officers to go to the spot and conduct the relief works, an official statement said earlier.

"The six houses collapsed outside the city station located at Dhuliaganj under Hariparwat police station where the excavation work of an inn (dharamshala) was going on. Three people of a family were buried, and all have been rescued and taken to the hospital," ADM Singh said earlier.

Meanwhile, three people from Gujarat were killed and as many were injured when their car was hit by a vehicle on Lucknow-Kanpur Highway in the Unnao district, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred at around 5 am on Friday morning near Kanodia petrol pump in Achalganj police station



area, they said, adding that all the deceased were members of the same family with one being the father, other two his son and grandson. They were coming to their native Biroti village in Patti area of Pratapgarh. The three injured were admitted to

Unnao district hospital while the bodies were sent for post-mortem, police said.

According to the police, the occupants of the ill-fated car were coming from Navsari under Vapi police station of Gujarat. The victims were iden-

tified as Srinath Shukla, his son Devmani Shukla and grandson Yogesh Shukla. The injured were identified as Devmani's wife Kanchan Shukla, Manju Shukla, Supriya Shukla and her nine-month-old son Rudra Shukla.

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**

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 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 Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Abhi Nath/ Dina Nath Maurya- LBJAI0000386287/ LBJAI00003926897	Flat No. W 607N, W 608, Pink Pride- The Suites, 6th Floor, Khasra No. 9, Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrola, Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 303902/ January 24, 2023	March 30, 2022 Rs. 27,38,862.2/-	Delhi/ Jaipur/ Noida

**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 27, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi & Noida**

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

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

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.	Rajnish Kumar Thakur / Anju Thakur/ LBDEL00004958621/ LBDEL00004965421	Property No- 190, 3rd Floor, With Roof Rights, Pocket- 4, Sector- 25, Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi/ January 24, 2023	September 26, 2022 Rs. 21,61,505/-	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 27, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi/NCR**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Branch Office: ICICI Bank LTD, Service Centre 24, South Phase, Ambattur Industrial Estate Ambattur Chennai- 600058.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Sheik Mohamed & Sakubar Nisha Plot No. 94 Vasan Nagar Mevalurkuppam VI Llage Sriperumbudur Talukkancheepurams No. 209/1 and 209/2 209/19 Chennai - 602105/ LBCHE00005050874	All That Piece And Parcel of Vacant House Site, Plot No. 94, Measuring 1965 Sq. Feet., Layout Named As "Vasan Nagar" Layout Approved By: CR/DTCP-M-83-63/LP. No.32/83, Comprised In Survey Nos.209/1 & 209/2 (New Sub Division Survey No.209/19 As Per New Patna No. 4097), Situated At No. 100, Mevalurkuppam Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District and Registration District of Chengalpattu and Registration Sub District of Sriperumbudur. Bounded On The: North By: Shop South By: Plot No. 93, East By: 40 Feet Road, West By: Survey No. 210 In Vacant Land. Measuring On The: East To West On The Northern Side: 59.6 Feet, East to West On The Southern Side: 71.4 Feet., North to South On The Eastern Side: 30 Feet., North to South On The Western Side: 30 Feet., Total Extent. 1965 Sq.ft.,	21/12/2022 Rs. 19,75,801/-	08/09/ 2022

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

**Date : January 27, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi/NCR**

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



## Nothing surprising

Delhi has decided to take on Islamabad over the latter’s disregard for the Indus Waters Treaty

India has done the right thing by issuing a notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The September 1960 treaty, which came into being after nine years of negotiations between the two countries, is generally seen as one of the most successful water-sharing pacts in the world, with the World Bank also being a signatory. The notice has been necessitated by Islamabad’s “intransigence” on the implementation of the IWT. For the last five years, India has been trying to discuss and resolve the issue of India’s Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects, but Pakistan has been stubborn, refusing to sort out the matter. India’s position, as reported in the media, has always been clear: it wants implementation of IWT in letter and spirit, but Pakistan has been dillydallying. In 2015, it sought a neutral expert to examine its technical objections to the two hydel projects. But, a year later, it withdrew unilaterally and proposed adjudication by a Court of Arbitration. India objected to two simultaneous processes, an objection that the World Bank acknowledged in 2016. This is despite the fact that the IWT allows a mechanism to resolve such issues. The treaty gives control over the waters of the three “eastern rivers”—the Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej—to India and over the waters of the three “western rivers”—the Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum—to Pakistan. This gives India control over around 20 per cent of the total water carried by the Indus system, while the rest goes to Pakistan. Even over the western river waters, as per the IWT, India has the right to do limited irrigation and unlimited power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc.



At the heart of the problem is Pakistan’s deep-rooted hatred for India. Still smarting from the defeat in the 1971 Indo-Pak War and its dismemberment, it is determined to not give any concession to India. Even though it is obligatory for nations to extend the ‘most favoured nation’ (MFN) status to all members of the World Trade Organization, and India gave Pakistan the MFN status, Pakistan refused to reciprocate the gesture for two decades; and then India withdrew that. The reason: ‘most favoured nation’ translates as ‘sabse pasandida mulk’ into Urdu—something Pakistan’s deep state and radicalised society would never allow. Even now, when the Pakistani rupee is in a free fall, the forex reserves are depleting fast, and the economy has all but crumbled, its generals and jihad-compliant politicians and public figures are unwilling to improve ties with India. Trade with India would surely help Pakistan, but such is the pigheadedness of the powers that be in Islamabad and Rawalpindi that they don’t want to normalise ties with New Delhi. They can support terror groups, risking the wrath of the Financial Action Task Force or FATF, but can’t strive to have better ties with India, even though that would be for its own good. Therefore, there is nothing surprising in Pakistan disrespecting the IWT.

### PICTALK



Devotees take Goddess Saraswati’s idol for immersion during ‘Basant Panchami’ celebrations in Patna

PTI

## Shadow boxing

Upliftment of the Dalits and OBCs should be the agenda, not creating gulf in the society

Yet another controversy is raging even as the one on ‘Pathan’ has not fully subsided. This time Swami Prasad Maurya, the OBC leader from Uttar Pradesh has reservations about Tulsidas’ Ramcharitmanas which according to him spreads hate and has casteist slurs and so should be banned. Swami Prasad Maurya, who switched over to the Samajwadi Party before the 2022 UP Assembly elections, lost his seat in the UP assembly elections. His daughter though continues to be the BJP MP. His new party, however, has taken exception to his criticism of Ramcharitmanas and distanced itself from the statement. It is not the first time Ramcharitmanas has been criticized for casteist slurs or gender bias. In the past too the Epic has attracted criticism and serious debates have taken place on its content.

However, Maurya’s statement does no good to either himself, his community, his party, or the society at large. Without going into the merit of his statement, one can deduce that it does not help to point figure at a 16th century writer and ask for a ban on a book that was written some 500 years back. A time span long enough to change the languages, contexts, nuances, and morality. Banning a book or expunging the portions does not make sense, it never has. All it does is to refresh the idea. India has a long list of banned books, plays, and films. Aubrey Menen’s ‘Rama Retold’, was banned in 1955, and EV Ramasamy Periyar’s book Ramayana Retold, was banned in 1969. Ideally speaking, a writer must not hurt the sentiments of the people but the downside is if the writers always write to conform to the prevailing norms, society would never change. Equally pathetic is the reaction of the people who would swear by Ramcharitmanas and would go to any extent to abusing and admonishing him publicly. A person has a right to differ in a civil way, if you do not agree do so in a civilized way not by calling names and demonizing the person. We have enough issues of import to talk about in public life that should get precedence over such shadow boxing matches. If Maurya wants to bring about a real change in the society, he would do well to take up issues of discrimination and mistreatment of Dalits and OBCs on priority rather than rake up issues that would only consolidate the caste lines.



# Resetting India Egypt relations

Inviting President of Egypt as the chief guest at Republic day parade can usher in a new era in Indo Egyptian relations



BHOPIINDER SINGH



President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt made an interesting choice as the Chief Guest for the 74th Republic Day Parade, a first-ever from an Arab country. The choice is loaded with geopolitical and strategic suggestions that are rooted in realpolitik and better senses. As mutual people of civilizations and historical engagements, the bilateral relationship has gone through intermittent ups and downs borne of compulsions of internal political posturing and ‘bloc’ pressures.

Jawaharlar Nehru and Gamal Abdel Nasser along with Tito, Nkrumah, and Sukarno had jointly floated the Non-Aligned Movement towards, “abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers.” In the Indian context, shades of that thought exist in its modern course of ‘strategic independence’. However, considerations of co-religiosity had ensured that Egypt stood firmly on the side of Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 wars, as also, Pakistanis had supplied military wherewithal to the Egyptians in 1967 (Six-Day War) and 1973 (Yom Kippur War). As both were also Major Non-NATO allies, they had a ‘bloc’ gravitation.

Field Marshal Sisi (former General in the Egyptian Army) who had deposed a democratically elected government (Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood), presided over India’s celebration of adopting its Constitution that coup-proofed the Indian narrative with civilian control over the military, was irony at its best. Sisi has supposedly ‘won’ 97% of popular votes cast after ‘technicalities’ had disallowed almost all opposition (after imprisoning 40,000 from the opposition). Sisi is an authoritarian from the old school of Hosni Mubarak (also Air Chief Marshal of the Egyptian Air Force) governance style, only more strident. Serendipitously, on Indian Republic Day he witnessed the real and the largest democracy in the world, at the march.

Wounded memories of

Military parades must have crossed Abdel Sisi’s mind on 26th Jan in Delhi, as a young Captain in 1981, Sisi’s Egypt was rocked by the assassination of President Anwar Sadat (also a former Soldier), also during a Military Parade. As part of marching contingents and weaponry display, an assassin party in one of the trucks towing an artillery piece had suddenly jumped out of formation and attacked the Presidential dais, fatally. Religious extremists from the radical Egyptian Islamic Jihad (also Egyptian Military personnel) were ostensibly upset with Anwar Sadat’s secular and pacifist moorings and had therefore undertaken the attack. In Delhi’s Republic Day parade, Sisi would have gathered a stark contrarian impression of a highly disciplined, apolitical, and constitutionalist Military.

Egypt was the fourth country to participate in India’s Republic Day celebrations with its marching contingent. Tellingly three of the four foreign contingents to have ever participated had been from Muslim-dominated countries i.e., UAE, Bangladesh, and Egypt (France was fourth). Interestingly, immediately behind the marching Egyptian contingent were the illustrious 61st Cavalrysowars in bay-colored horses, who have had their tryst with an Egyptian



FIELD MARSHAL SISI (FORMER GENERAL IN THE EGYPTIAN ARMY) WHO HAD DEPOSED A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT (MOHAMED MORSI OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD), PRESIDED OVER INDIA’S CELEBRATION OF ADOPTING ITS CONSTITUTION

backdrop. Amalgamated from the various units of the Imperial Service State Forces of the former Indian Princely States, the DNA of 61st Cavalry harbours lancers from former ‘States’ of Jodhpur, Mysore, Patiala, etc., who took part in the last and most daringly successful cavalry charges in modern military history, at Haifa on 23rd September 1918. A German-led Ottoman expeditionary force was marching toward Egypt to seize the Suez Canal and was pitted against Egyptian Expeditionary Force and the township of Haifa was critical to defeating the Ottoman forces. 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade composed of ‘State’ regiments from Princely ‘States’ of Jodhpur, Mysore, and Hyderabad was invoked for the near-impossible task against Ottoman forces with machine guns, etc..

Under the dashing Major Dalpat Singh Shekhawat of Jodhpur Lancers, Indian lancers had shocked the Ottomans with their fearlessness, dareddevilry, and complete rout of Ottomans. 1350 German and Ottoman prisoners were taken, and eight Indian lives were lost (including Major Dalpat Singh, who was decorated with Military Cross, posthumously). The Egyptian Expeditionary Forces were greatly relieved and the Battle of Haifa became a turning point, thanks to the brava-

do of Indian Cavalry elements. Times and circumstances have come a full circle and common threats beset both the ancient lands, albeit, with different governance structures. Abdel Sisi signed agreements with India to “strengthen defence cooperation” and “increase the exchange of counter-terrorism information and intelligence”. For a nation that supported Pakistan in its wars with India, Cairo now explores procuring India’s Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, Akash missile system, and DRDO’s Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW). This is a significant shift considering a bulk of Egyptian military hardware is also from China e.g., bombers, fighters, missile system, ships, submarines, drones, etc., Whereas India’s nemesis across the Line-of-Control (LOC) still harps on the rote and tiring record of co-religiosity, which is sounding trite and troublesome, even with Arab Sheikdoms and for autocrats like Abdel Sisi who seek to protect themselves against religious puritanism e.g., Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. An indo-Egyptian framework is poised for a transformational reset.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HATH SE HAATH JODO

Sir — The Congress on Republic Day launched a nationwide ‘Hath se Hath Jodo’ campaign, under which it plans to reach out to people and make them aware of the “failures” of the Central government. Congress Party after the immense love received for the Bharat Jodo Yatra, they are sure that the Haath Se Haath Jodo campaign will also win everybody’s hearts. The party workers will deliver a letter written by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and a “charge sheet” against the Central government to each household.

During the program which is scheduled to end on March 26, party workers will reach out to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, six lakh villages, and 10 lakh booths. In the letter, Rahul Gandhi wrote, “There is a palpable economic crisis brewing - joblessness among the youth, unbearable price rise, severe farm distress, and a complete corporate capture of the country’s wealth.”

One thing is for sure and we can call it the effect of Bharat Jodo Yatra. The congress worker today is brimming with confidence and taking up the BJP attacks head on. Which is really impressive as earlier the Congress workers were rather shy and apologetic about their role as a national party. Rahul Gandhi’s 3,500 kilometer foot march has galvanized the foot soldiers of the congress who are now eager to prepare for the next general elections.

Gandhi wrote, “People are worried about losing their jobs, their incomes are falling further, and their dreams of a better future are shattering and there is a deep sense of hopelessness across the country. With this, it will be testing time for Congress Party’s Haath Se Haath Jodo.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### A NATIONAL CAUSE

Sir — 15th of August and the 26th of January are national holiday and on these days everyone gets a holiday except defence forces and policemen. So on 26th January printing media offices are closed,

## True Patriotism



Mahatma Gandhi did not attend the first Independence Day event at Red Fort, Delhi, on Aug 15th, 1947. He was busy spreading peace and harmony in Kolkata (where communal clashes were going on). Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa lead simple lives without pomp and show, always serving others as individuals

and as a team too (without exploitation and harm). That is called real patriotism and humanity. Every human should emulate such good and angelic nature.

Please make republic day and Independence Day celebrations simple, inexpensive, and compulsory as E- Celebrations. People can stay at home and watch it on TV or computers and save themselves from the cold weather. Saved money to the exchequer can be given for the welfare measures of the poor. Also saved are pollution, and depleting petroleum fuel reserves, as the public need not travel all the way to the celebration point. The public too may give the money saved (on travel etc.) to PM’s or CM’s poor’s welfare fund.

Sahasra Nirvriti Vislesha | Secunderabad

and on the next day we don’t get newspapers. The field team of the newspapers does work on the 26th of January and the 15th of August. The offices are generally shut as it is a general holiday in the country. Some employees do work part-time to receive the field information and process it. This is for the online version of the newspapers.

News is a round the clock work. It does not stop any day be it a national holiday or religious festival. I don’t quite understand why newspaper offices are closed on Republic day. Journalists work everyday to cover stories of national interest that people should know. So why they should not be doing so on the day of national importance? It is not logical. We know some journalists work hard on Independence and Republic Day to bring out the best for their readers. Some even carry special editions reminiscing the sacrifices of our forefathers. So in the national interest the newspaper offices must remain open in national interest.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

### INSPIRING BUDGET

Sir — Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that this budget will be

inspiring, that is, it will take India forward and will be similar to the previous Budget 2023. However, the economic condition of the country is not looking good. Not only India’s growth rate estimate for the financial year 2022-2023 has been reduced by many institutions, but the growth rate for the current financial year has also been reduced by RBI to 6.8 percent.

The forthcoming budget in its proclamations will also have to take into consideration the significant challenges predicted for the Indian economy due to the emergence of fears of global recession, and geo-political concerns like the Russia – Ukraine crisis.

The government should also focus on incentivizing or promoting technology in Budget 2023 to make India a talent hub for emerging technologies. Tax incentives for capital expenditure, capacity utilization, and use of new-age technology should be actively considered in this budget.

Ishika Asodiya | Ujjain

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

## SOUND BITE

I share your commitment to working together for the success of India’s G20 Presidency & 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership. India and France together are a force for global good.

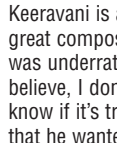


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



No backchannel talks between Pakistan and India.

Pakistan foreign minister — Hina Rabbani Khar



Keeravani is a great composer. He was underrated. I believe, I don’t know if it’s true, that he wanted to quit music and retire in 2015 and that’s exactly when his career started.

Music Composer — AR Rehman



Former South African cricketer — AB De Villiers

Unity, Harmony, Equality, and Sovereignty – the pillars of our Constitution and the soul of our Republic.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



FIRST COLUMN

EXPECTATIONS OF HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Budget should rationalise import duty for the healthcare sector



ANURAG KASHYAP

The upcoming Budget is expected to create an enabling healthcare ecosystem with higher allocations and reforms pertaining to long-term credit facilities, a big push for public private partnership (PPP), and tax incentives and relief. High import duty on medical equipment is a major pain point for the hospital sector.

In the upcoming budget, hospitals seek relaxation on imported medical equipment, as they intend to procure state-of-the-art latest technology to treat patients and get the best medical outcome.

Over the years, the import of medical equipment has significantly increased. In 2021-22 imports went up by 41 per cent. As per the industry estimates, India imported medical equipment worth Rs 63,200 crore in 2021-22 compared to Rs 44, 708 crore in 2020-21. On the other hand, Indian equipment manufacturers seek a complete ban on the import of medical equipment or higher custom or import duty and other charges if not a complete ban. The industry has witnessed over 20 per cent hike in the cost of medical equipment import in the last two years.

It would take some more time for large hospitals to work on Indigenous medical equipment. Once Indian manufacturers match the global standards in terms of supply, range, and quality, big hospitals would be in a position to partner with them. Until that time, the government should restrict itself in making imports expensive with heavy duties.



The industry is always keen to be aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative or promote indigenous manufacturers. But, for big hospitals, it is more critical to maintain their global competitiveness. Hence, the sector would be expecting a reduction in import duties on medical equipment. Patients would be the ultimate winner. Currently, with heavy import duties on medical equipment, big hospitals' costs of operations significantly increased and they tend to pass on the burden to patients. So, heavy import duties on medical equipment come as a penalty for patients and must be rationalized.

Yet another pain point of the hospitals is pricing and delay in payments from Government schemes like CGHS and others. The segment would be expecting clear guidelines from the government.

The hospital segment expects a robust credit mechanism to overcome the shortage of funds. Long-term (15-20 years) credit facilities would significantly reduce the burden. Interest rate, tenure, and collateral are the major concerns.

The Government needs to impress upon the RBI to look at this pain point seriously for the sake of the financial health of the healthcare sector. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on inputs increases the delivery cost by 18 per cent. And the providers do not get any input credit facility. Tax incentives for both existing and new healthcare projects are required. For special or green field projects a tax holiday period of 10 years, as given to New Economic Zones and Tech Parks, would go a long way to transform the sector. It is strongly recommended that the government should create similar zones for hospitals and extend all the benefits including tax incentives.

This should not be limited to the hospital segment. Service providers, who are associated with hospitals, should also be included in such promotional schemes.

Overall, it is the right time to introduce some radical structural changes combined with the rationalization of taxes. The sector would keep its fingers crossed to see the government's measures and policy reforms.

So far, the government has shown its willingness to address the challenges of the sector and hopefully, this time Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would walk some extra mile with regard to further strengthening the Indian Healthcare sector.

*(The author is Director, Finance & Strategy, TR Life Sciences Private Limited)*

# Tech can expedite justice system

Use of artificial intelligence in Indian courts has the potential to significantly reduce the backlog of cases and fast track justice

The ongoing fight between the Government and the judiciary can have a significant impact on common citizens. It can lead to delays in the delivery of justice, as the judiciary may be overburdened by political considerations and government interference. This can result in citizens waiting for extended periods of time for their cases to be heard and resolved, leading to frustration and a lack of faith in the legal system.

Additionally, the Government and the judiciary may become preoccupied with their own power struggles, leading to a neglect of the needs and concerns of citizens. This can further erode trust in the legal system, and make it more difficult for citizens to access justice and have their rights protected.

The Indian legal system is facing a significant backlog of cases, resulting in delays in the delivery of justice. This is a major concern as it undermines the rule of law, and can lead to a lack of faith in the judiciary and the legal system as a whole.

One of the main reasons for the backlog of cases in the Indian courts is a shortage of judges. According to the National Judicial Data Grid, there are currently over 40 million pending cases in the Indian courts, while the sanctioned strength of judges is only around 20,000. This results in a large number of cases being assigned to each judge, leading to delays in the disposal of cases.

Additionally, the process of appointment of judges is often slow and bogged down by bureaucracy and political considerations, further exacerbating the shortage of judges. Another reason for the backlog of cases is the inefficient functioning of the courts.

The Indian court system is known for its slow pace, with cases often taking several years to be resolved. This is due to a number of factors, such as a lack of technology, inadequate infrastructure and resources, and a lack of training for court staff. Additionally, the legal process is often bogged down by delays and adjournments, further adding to the time it takes for cases to be resolved.

The backlog of cases also has a negative impact on the rights and access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable groups. For instance, the long delays in the disposal of cases can result in the denial of justice to victims of crimes, particularly women and children. Further, the long delays can also result in the release of the accused on bail, leading to the re-victimisation of the survivors of crimes.

The backlog of cases also has a significant economic impact, as delays in the disposal of cases can result in a loss of productivity and economic growth. The delays in the disposal of cases can also lead to a lack of faith in the legal system, which can discourage investments and



GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIARY MAY BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN POWER STRUGGLES, LEADING TO A NEGLECT OF THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF CITIZENS. THIS CAN FURTHER ERODE TRUST IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM, AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR CITIZENS TO ACCESS JUSTICE

*(The author is a public policy expert)*



economic growth.

In short, the backlog of cases in the Indian courts is a major concern that undermines the rule of law and can lead to a lack of faith in the judiciary and the legal system as a whole. The backlog of cases is a result of a shortage of judges, inefficient functioning of the courts, and a lack of resources.

To address the problem of the backlog of cases, there is a need for systemic reforms in the Indian legal system, including increasing the number of judges, improving the infrastructure and resources available to the courts, and implementing technology to improve the efficiency of the courts.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to significantly reduce the backlog of cases in Indian courts. However, it is important to approach the implementation of AI in the legal system with caution and consideration of potential challenges and limitations.

One potential use of AI in the Indian courts is through the use of predictive analytics. Predictive analytics can be used to analyse patterns and trends in past case decisions, allowing judges and lawyers to make more informed decisions in current cases. This could potentially speed up the legal process and reduce the backlog of cases. However, it is important to ensure that the algorithms used for predictive analytics are

unbiased and do not discriminate against certain groups of people.

Furthermore, the use of predictive analytics in the legal system raises concerns about transparency and accountability, as the decision-making process becomes less transparent and more reliant on complex algorithms.

Another potential use of AI in the Indian courts is through the use of automated document review. Automated document review can be used to quickly sort through large amounts of legal documents, allowing lawyers and judges to identify relevant information. However, it is important to ensure that the AI system is able to accurately identify relevant information and is not prone to errors or false positives.

Additionally, there is a risk that the use of automated document review could lead to job loss for court clerks and other legal professionals who currently perform this task manually. However, to mitigate this problem, there can be settled guidelines to be followed wherein the applications can be moved by trained bar council-approved lawyers and every judgment can be vetted by a trained judge to avoid error and technological shortcomings.

AI-powered chatbots can also be implemented in Indian courts especially in the district courts and rural areas to assist overburdened lower judicial staff with the

legal process by providing information and guidance. This can help to reduce the workload of court staff and improve access to legal information for citizens. However, it is important to ensure that the chatbot is able to provide accurate and up-to-date information and is not prone to errors or misunderstandings.



Also, there is a risk that the use of chatbots could lead to a decrease in personal interactions and human empathy in the legal system.

In conclusion, the backlog in the Indian courts just cannot be handled by human intervention, there has to be either a divine or technological intervention required to significantly improve the justice system. The implementation of AI in the Indian courts has the potential to significantly reduce the backlog of cases and improve the efficiency of the legal system.

However, it is important to approach the implementation of AI with caution and consideration of potential challenges and limitations. This includes ensuring that AI systems are unbiased, transparent, and accountable and that the rights of citizens are protected. Additionally, it is important to consider the ethical implications of using AI in the legal system and to ensure that the use of AI does not lead to a decrease in personal interactions and human empathy in the legal system.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE'RE ALSO GIVING UKRAINE THE EQUIPMENT TO SUSTAIN THESE TANKS. THIS IS ABOUT HELPING UKRAINE. IT IS NOT AN OFFENSIVE THREAT TO RUSSIA. — US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



IF THE US DECIDES TO SUPPLY TANKS, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO JUSTIFY SUCH STEPS USING ARGUMENTS ABOUT 'DEFENSIVE WEAPONS.' — RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US ANATOLY ANTONOV

# Test of success of Bharat Jodo Yatra lies in polls

Journey to power in New Delhi may not be easy for the Opposition against a formidable, well-oiled machine of BJP

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra traversing so far through 10 states, reaching almost the last lap, has stirred the party back to the near centre-stage of Indian politics, with a spontaneous crowd responding to it.

The Yatra has evoked interest among the people with the possibility of the rise of a counter-saffron narrative, its avowed aim. It has given acceptance to Rahul Gandhi as a leader even by the BJP. Their top functionaries now accept he has arrived. But will the emerging Third Front at Khammam at Telangana chief minister KC Rao's rally dampen its effort?

Is the yatra a success? To an extent, it can draw many eminent persons from the society



*(The author is a senior journalist)*

—the youth and children. His "T" shirt is a great draw and connects. It also shows that Congress can meticulously plan a 3500 kms march from Kanyakumari to Jammu and Kashmir, traversing through 12 states. In every state eminent social persons have been part of it despite severe derisive criticism from a curious or awed BJP and its parivar.

Some of the names include former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Tushar Gandhi, Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray, NCP's Surpriya Sule, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, lawyer Prashant Bhushan, activist Harsh Mander, Bollywood actors, former RAW secretary and intelligence bureau ex-chief

AS Dulat, actors Amol Palekar, Riya Sen, Sandhya Gokhale to Swara Bhaskar, singer Sunidhi Chauhan, IIT professors, former defence, police and other officials.

It was touted that though it might succeed in Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, the Yatra might not succeed in the limited areas of Delhi and UP. It surprisingly succeeded in the kisan belt of western UP, Haryana and Delhi the swelling crowds put the city out of gear.

Still the yatra is not beyond it. The best quote has come from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. He said at a book launch in Kolkata that the Yatra has evoked a massive response. However, has noted: "Translating that into

votes is the next challenge and does not follow automatically". That's the problem.

Rahul Gandhi may have sent a message of love but he has also been seen as "loveable" to the BJP as well. His barbs are soft and he has not yet been critical of the BJP's policies: economic, education, privatisation or simple seizure of 10-year-new cars, tractors or high tolls that make miseries deeper and inflation sharper or even for ballot paper voting.

How many of the nine states going to polls from February can win? Even in Tripura it has entered into an alliance with the CPI-M. Its presence is weak in Meghalaya, Nagaland or Mizoram. The battle will be tough in Karnataka,

Chhattisgarh, MP and Rajasthan. It cannot go alone in Maharashtra, Bihar; it does not have an ally in West Bengal, Odisha. In most states, it has fledgling organisations, not a match against the BJP.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has done well to invite 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding Srinagar ceremony on January 30, Mahatma Gandhi martyr's day. That's where he left the chinks too by not inviting AAP, JD-S, BRS, BJD and Akali Dal.

The latest January 18 Khammam mega rally by Telangana chief Minister and BRS leader K C Rao brings out this weakness and finds presence of a number of them for the launch of a third front and himself as a possible PM.

Rao said, "The Congress and the BJP only indulge in verbal fights". It was attended by Samajwadi leader Akhilesh Yadav, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and CPI general secretary D Raja. How is it to be interpreted? Is it a rally for bargaining seat-sharing with the Congress or splintering its effort? How can the Left ally with Congress in one state and also form the Third Front?

Politics is becoming interesting and intriguing. It is being interpreted as a setback to Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's effort to unite the opposition. There is apprehension that if KCR move succeeds it might dampen what the Congress is trying to achieve against the BJP.

Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee has yet to open her cards.

Most of these parties have splintered away from the Congress whether KCR's BRS or West Bengal's TMC or Andhra's YSR Congress. Even SP and RJD are wary of the rise of the Congress. They fear the minority Muslim votes shifting to the Congress.

The success of the yatra apart, the journey to power in New Delhi may not be easy for the Opposition against a formidable, well-oiled machine of BJP. The Khammam rally may be a new beginning of intense fisticuffs among the opposition ranks. Would it again be advantage BJP or Congress still has something up its sleeves to outshine the run up to 2024? The nation awaits the answer.



# Ukraine Pres' office: 10 killed in latest Russian shelling

AP ■ KYIV

Russian shelling killed at least 10 Ukrainian civilians and wounded 20 others in a day, the office of Ukraine's president reported Friday as the country worked to recover from an earlier wave of Russian missile strikes and drone attacks.

The new casualties included the deaths of at least two civilians in the southern city of Kherson, which Ukrainian troops recaptured in November, and two more in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province. The missiles and self-propelled drones Russian forces fired Thursday hit deeper into Ukrainian territory, killing at least 11 people.

The bombardment followed announcements by the United States and Germany of plans to ship powerful tanks to help Ukraine defend itself. Other Western countries said they also would share modern tanks from their stockpiles.

Moscow has bristled at the move, and accused Western nations of entering a new level of confrontation with Russia.



Gov Pavlo Kyrylenko of the eastern Donetsk region said the Russian military used phosphorus munitions in shelling the village of Zvanivka. The village is located about 20 kilometers north of Bakhmut, a city that has become the focus of a gruelling battle in recent months. The shelling also damaged apartment buildings and two schools in the nearby town of Vuhledar, Kyrylenko said.

The governor of the neighbouring Luhansk region, Serhii Haidai, said Ukrainian shelling hit two Russian bases in the occupied towns of Kreminna and Rubizhne, killing and wounding "dozens" of Russian soldiers. His claim couldn't be independently verified.

Further south, Russian troops resumed shelling the town of Nikopol, across the Dnieper from the Russia-held

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, damaging apartment buildings, gas pipelines, power lines and a bakery, officials said.

Separately Friday, Russian authorities took new steps in their months-long and widely criticised effort to graft four Ukrainian provinces onto Russia's already vast territory. They said the illegally annexed provinces would switch from the time zone that covers Kyiv to the

one in Moscow.

The Ukrainian southern and eastern regions that Russia declared as part of its territory four months ago — Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — will take place "in the near future," Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade said. The move comes as part of what the ministry called the "gradual synchronization" of Russian legislation after the "admission of the four subjects."

Russian President Vladimir Putin's highly orchestrated announcement of the illegal annexations came despite widespread international condemnation and the fact that Russia didn't fully control the areas it annexed. Russia claims to control nearly all of Luhansk and about half of Donetsk.

Less than 1-1/2 months after the annexations, Russia lost control of the city of Kherson and broad swaths of the surrounding territory under the brunt of a Ukrainian counter-offensive. Kherson was the only regional capital Russia seized since starting its invasion on Feb.

# EU official: Russia shifted war focus to NATO and the West

AP ■ TOKYO

A senior EU official said Friday that Russia has taken its war against Ukraine to a "different stage" by making indiscriminate attacks on civilians and non-military targets, while criticising Moscow for triggering recent moves by Germany and the United States to send advanced tanks to Ukraine.

Stefano Sannino, Secretary General of the European Union's European External Action Service, defended German and US provisions of the military equipment to Ukraine, and criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin for waging a war on NATO and the West.

Sannino, speaking at a news conference in Tokyo as part of an Asia-Pacific tour, said Putin had "moved from a concept of special operation to a concept now of a war against NATO and the West."

He said German and US tank provisions are meant to help Ukrainians defend themselves in the war, rather than making them attackers.

"I think that this latest devel-



opment in terms of armed supply is just an evolution of the situation and of the way Russia started moving the war into a different stage," Sannino said. He added that Russia is making "indiscriminate attacks" on civilians and cities and no longer military targets.

The EU is not moving the war into a different stage but is "just giving the possibility of saving lives and allowing the Ukrainians to defend (themselves) from these barbaric attacks," Sannino said.

Germany and the US

announced Wednesday they will send advanced battle tanks to Ukraine, offering what one expert called an "armoured punching force" to help Kyiv break combat stalemates as the Russian invasion enters its 12th month.

The announcement marked the first stage of a coordinated effort by the West to provide dozens of the heavy weapons, which Ukrainian military commanders said would enable counter-offensives, reduce casualties and help restore dwindling ammunition supplies.

# French, Dutch Ministers visit NATO battlegroup in Romania



AP ■ BUCHAREST

The foreign ministers of France and the Netherlands paid an official visit on Friday to a military base in Romania where both nations station troops as a part of a NATO battlegroup that was bolstered in the wake of Russia's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine.

Catherine Colonna of France and Wopke Hoekstra of the Netherlands visited the military base in Cincu, central Romania, along with their Romanian counterpart, Bogdan Aurescu.

Hoekstra told troops from the multinational battlegroup stationed there that they demonstrate "precisely what our alliance stands for," and said they play a key role in "keeping this continent and our territory safe."

"Russia is waging war in a way we haven't seen

in decades, and therefore we cannot let our guard down - we need to step up our efforts," Hoekstra said, adding: "There is only one way forward: Ukraine must win this war, for its own sake but also for ours." In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, NATO bolstered its presence on Europe's eastern flank, including by sending additional multinational battlegroups to alliance members Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Slovakia.

Earlier this week, around 600 French soldiers held a combat exercise in the eastern Romanian town of Smardan to test the 30-nation military alliance's readiness on its eastern flank. The drill involved some 200 military vehicles, including four French Leclerc battle tanks that practiced firing live ammunition. Romania's defense ministry said the main purpose of that exercise was to train the battlegroup "on the rapid deployment capability and execution of a combat mission" within a collective NATO defense operation.

Later on Friday, the three foreign ministers will head to Romania's capital, Bucharest, for trilateral talks on Russia's aggression against Ukraine; cooperation within NATO; and Romania's ongoing efforts to join the so-called Schengen Area, Europe's ID-check-free travel zone, after being blocked from joining last month.



## Coronavirus-denying Russian ex-monk gets 7 years in jail

AP ■ MOSCOW

A former Russian Orthodox monk, who denied that the coronavirus existed and defied the Kremlin, was handed a seven-year prison sentence Friday.

Nikolai Romanov, 67, who was known as Father Sergiy until his ex-communication by the Russian Orthodox Church, urged his followers to disobey the Russian government's lockdown measures and spread conspiracy theories about a global plot to control the masses.

A court in Moscow convicted him of inciting hatred. His lawyer immediately announced plans to appeal.

Romanov served as a police officer during Soviet times, but after quitting the ranks was convicted of murder, robbery and assault and sentenced to 13 years in prison. He became a monk after his release.

When the coronavirus pandemic began, he denied its existence and denounced government efforts to stem the pandemic as "Satan's electronic scam."

He spread long-debunked conspiracy theories about COVID-19 and described the vaccines developed against the virus as part of a global plot to control the masses via microchips.

# Social security issues to be prioritised at BRICS meetings in South Africa

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Social security issues will be on top of the agenda at the BRICS countries meeting to be hosted next month by South Africa, which took over the Presidency of the five-nation bloc from China on January 1 this year. BRICS is an economic bloc that includes: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Formed on June 16, 2009, South Africa joined BRICS in December 2010.

South African Department of Employment and Labour's Acting Deputy Director-General of its Labour Policy and Industrial Relations section Sipho Ndebele said South Africa's Presidency of BRICS would provide it with an opportunity to promote regional and global issues on the back of skyrocketing unemployment and the health fallout created by the pandemic.

The Department of Em-



ployment and Labour is gearing itself to host the first in a series of meetings of the BRICS countries' Employment Working Group (EWG) in February.

The BRICS Research Network Forum will also meet simultaneously.

"At the apex of discussions will be social security issues. This series of EWG and Research Network Forum meetings will culminate with the EWG Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting in September 2023," Ndebele said.

The first BRICS EWG and

Research Network Forum meetings will be held from February 21-24, 2023 just outside Johannesburg.

"We envisage the two forums' meetings to discuss priority issues in the technical meetings in preparations for the Labour and Employment Ministerial meeting," Ndebele said.

This will be the third time South Africa takes the reins of the Presidency of BRICS for a year, this time amidst the global crisis brought on by issues such as Covid-19, sharp rises in food prices, fertilisers, energy,

interest rates, currency depreciation, stagflation and unemployment. Some of these issues have been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. South Africa's theme for its Presidency is: "Ensuring decent work, dignity and respect for all!"

The theme will focus on building sustainable enterprises, including new forms of employment and increasing productivity; promoting labour rights and decreasing decent work deficits in the context of the recovery; universal social protection and ensuring minimum basic income; and promoting decent work by closing skills gaps in the informal economy.

In a drive to ensure the support of global initiatives for a human-centred recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, South Africa has also invited countries such as Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The African Union has also been invited.

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/END (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	O/o The Principal, Resident Commissioner, Punjab Bhawan, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi.	Supply of Chicken (Frozen Branded)	29.01.2023 / 15.02.2023	0.00 LACS	9868223238 Punjabbhawan@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM IF ANY, KINDLY VISIT : [www.aproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.aproc.punjab.gov.in), [www.punjab.gov.in](http://www.punjab.gov.in),

RO Code : 26/12/24/2022/2079/2

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**(E-Auction Notice)**

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

E-Catalogue No.	Type of Media	Location/Station	Date & Time for e-auction
DLIADVT FEB23-01	Advertisement- Glow Ball Towers	New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Ghaziabad, Anand Vihar Terminal, Sonapat, Delhi Sarai Rohilla = (7 Lots)	Start: 16.02.2023 at 10:00 hrs
	Sleeping Pods	Delhi Jn., Sonapat- Total (2) Lots	
Parking-07-2023	Parking Sites	Okhla, Gurgaon = (2 Lots)	Start: 14.02.2023 at 12:00 hrs

**Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen**

<https://ireps.gov.in/> (E-Auction-Leasing)

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

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds: Updation of Turnover Details
- A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism. The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

**Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query**

**Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055;**  
**Email:publicitycellidl@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084**

No.: 7PUB/NR-DLI0COMM(PUB)/9/2022 Dated: 27.01.2023

297/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# Protests in Pak, Middle East against Quran burning

AP ■ BEIRUT

Protests were held on Friday in several predominantly Muslim countries to denounce the recent desecration of Islam's holy book by far-right activists in Sweden and the Netherlands.

The protests in countries including Pakistan, Iraq and Lebanon ended with people dispersing peacefully. In Pakistan's capital of Islamabad, police officers stopped some demonstrators trying to march



toward the Swedish Embassy.

In Beirut, about 200 angry protesters burned the flags of Sweden and the Netherlands outside the blue-domed Mohammed Al-Amin mosque at Beirut's central Martyrs

Square.

Swedish officials have stressed that freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Swedish Constitution and gives people extensive rights to express their views publicly, though incitement to violence or hate speech isn't allowed.

Demonstrators must apply to police for a permit for a public gathering. Police can deny such permits only on exceptional grounds, such as risks to public safety.



## Need to fully implement 13A for political autonomy of Tamils: President Wickremesinghe

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has underlined the need to fully implement the India-backed 13th Amendment to the Constitution to grant political autonomy to the minority Tamils in the country.

Addressing an all-party meeting on Thursday, Wickremesinghe also said that if anyone opposed the full implementation of 13A, the Parliament must take steps to abolish the law.

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

Wickremesinghe, who took over as the president last year amidst the unprecedented economic crisis and political turmoil, said that as the head of the nation, it was his duty to implement the prevailing laws.

"As the president, I am duty bound to implement the prevailing law of the country," Wickremesinghe said.

Stating that the 13A would be fully implemented on the same basis as it was already a part of the country's Constitution, he said: "If not, parliament must take steps to abolish the 13A".

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited (Formerly "Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited" & "Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited") (CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)						
Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2022						
Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	9 months ended 31-Dec-22	9 months ended 31-Dec-21	Year ended 31-Mar-22	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	13.95	33.93	0.98	205.63	17.49	22.50
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(7.89)	32.06	(59.38)	174.90	(92.66)	(131.76)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(7.89)	32.06	(59.38)	174.90	(92.66)	(131.76)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(7.41)	32.27	(52.21)	175.38	(92.66)	(145.77)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(12.53)	41.70	(63.89)	159.13	(21.87)	(154.88)
Equity Share Capital	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						(313.85)
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)

**Note to the financial results:**

1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 27 January 2023.

2) **Key Standalone Financial Information:**

Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 30-Sep-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	9 months ended 31-Dec-22	9 months ended 31-Dec-21	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	23.30	52.35	0.92	497.21	16.29	20.79
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(11.75)	49.74	(70.10)	452.18	(126.55)	(170.15)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(11.28)	49.74	(70.10)	452.65	(126.55)	(170.15)

3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Nine months 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 / nine months Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.yaari.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016

Place : Gurugram  
Date : 27 January 2023

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Kubair Khara  
Executive Director & CEO



# Jerusalem, West Bank on edge after outbreak of violence

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister signalled on Friday that the military would stop its airstrikes if Palestinian militant groups halted rocket attacks, a day after the deadliest Israeli raid in decades raised the prospect of a major flare-up in fighting.

After the exchange of Palestinian rockets and Israeli airstrikes on Gaza overnight, residents of Jerusalem were on edge Friday morning as they waited to see what comes next.

Israel's defense minister instructed the military to prepare for new strikes in the Gaza Strip "if necessary."

The bombardments followed an Israeli raid in the flashpoint Jenin refugee camp, which turned into a gun battle that killed at least seven militants and a woman and sparked clashes elsewhere.

Of the five rockets fired at Israel, three were intercepted, one fell in an open area and another fell short inside Gaza, the military said.

The escalation in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict created an early test for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new far-right government, which came to office

as tensions with the Palestinians soared and has vowed to take a hard line.

The raid also prompted the Palestinian Authority to halt security coordination with Israel and drew "deep concern" from the State Department just days before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was expected to visit the region.

So far, the hostilities have followed a familiar pattern that allows both sides to respond without forcing the other side into a major escalation. Palestinian militants fired rockets from Gaza toward the south of Israel.

Israel retaliated with non-lethal airstrikes on militant targets in Gaza, such as training camps and an underground rocket manufacturing site.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant claimed the military dealt a "tough blow" to Palestinian militants in Gaza and said the army was preparing to strike "high-quality targets ... Until peace is restored to the citizens of Israel."

An uneasy calm prevailed around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, revered by Jews as Temple Mount.

Tensions at the volatile Jerusalem holy site has trig-



gered violence in the past, including a bloody Gaza war in 2021. The site is considered both the third-most sacred site in Islam, as well as the site of an ancient Jewish temple that is the holiest place in Judaism.

Israeli police were out in force at entrances to the limestone alleys that lead to the sacred compound, apparently bracing for violence as they searched Palestinian passers-by before weekly noon prayers.

Fadi, a 41-year-old shopkeeper near Al-Aqsa, said he felt the outbreak of violence had frightened residents and subdued the usual Friday morning shopping frenzy. He declined to give his last name for fear of reprisals.

"The Old City is empty

because of all the problems," he said. "We're just trying to work and this happens. It's like we're trapped in every way." The night before, scuffles erupted between young religious Jews and Palestinians at restaurants and shops in the area.

Tensions have soared since Israel stepped up raids in the West Bank last spring, following a series of Palestinian attacks. Nearly 150 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank and east Jerusalem last year, making 2022 the deadliest in those territories since 2004, according to leading Israeli rights group B'Tselem. The same year, 30 people were killed in Palestinian attacks against Israelis.

# Farm where 4 were killed had another shooting last summer



AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

The shooting that left four dead at a California mushroom farm on Monday was at least the second time an employee tried to kill a coworker on the property, records show.

Martin Medina, a manager at California Terra Garden, was charged with attempted murder after he threatened to kill another manager and then fired a shot into the man's trailer.

The bullet went through the trailer and into a neighbouring one that was home to Yetao Bing, one of the workers killed on Monday, a prosecutor told The Associated Press. No one was injured.

Law enforcement interviewed Bing's wife, Ping Yang, but it's not clear from those interviews whether Bing was at

home during the shooting, said Sean Gallagher, chief deputy district attorney for San Mateo County.

Medina remains in custody on USD 5 million bail and appeared in court Monday for a preliminary hearing, hours before authorities say Chunli Zhao shot and killed four coworkers and wounded a fifth at California Terra Garden. Prosecutors say Zhao then drove to a nearby farm where he used to work and killed three more people.

The Bay Area News Group first reported last summer's shooting.

Zhao, 66, told KNTV-TV in a courthouse interview Thursday that he committed the fatal shootings. Zhao said he was bullied and worked long hours on the farms and that his complaints were ignored, the station reported.

# Indian-American astronaut nominated by Biden for appointment to grade of an Air Force Brigadier General



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American astronaut Raja J. Chari has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the appointment to the grade of Air Force brigadier general.

The nomination was announced on Thursday and will have to be confirmed by the Senate which approves all senior civilian and military appointments, according to the US Defence Department.

Air Force Colonel Chari, 45, was nominated for the appointment to the grade of brigadier general, it said in a statement.

Chari is currently serving as the Crew-3 commander and astronaut, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Texas.

He earned a master's

degree in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland.

Chari served as the commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron and the director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Inspired by his father Srinivas Chari, who went to the US at a young age from Hyderabad for an engineering degree, to get a higher education and make a successful career. He met his wife and spent his entire career at John Deere in Waterloo.

In 2020, Chari was selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the European Space Agency.

# House GOP seeks new restrictions on use of US oil stockpile

AP ■ WASHINGTON

For the second time this month, House Republicans are seeking to restrict presidential use of the nation's emergency oil stockpile - a proposal that has already drawn a White House veto threat.

A GOP Bill set for a vote Friday would require the government to offset any non-emergency withdrawals from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve with new drilling on public lands and oceans. Republicans accuse President Joe Biden of abusing the reserve for political reasons to keep gas prices low, while Biden says tapping the reserve was needed last year in response to a ban on Russian oil imports following President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Biden withdrew 180 million barrels from the strategic reserve over several months, bringing the stockpile to its lowest level since the 1980s. The administration said last month it will start to replenish the reserve now that oil prices have gone down.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre attacked the latest GOP proposal, which follows a bill approved two weeks ago that would prohibit the Energy Department from selling oil from the strategic reserve to companies owned or influenced by the Chinese Communist Party.

"House Republicans will vote to raise gas prices on American families ... And help Putin's war aims by interfering with our ability to release oil," Jean-Pierre said, referring to the current GOP bill. "These extreme policies

would subject working families to immense financial pain and balloon our deficit, all just to benefit the wealthiest taxpayers and big corporations."

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, appearing with Jean-Pierre at the White House, said the bill would make it "harder to offer Americans relief in the future" from oil disruptions that could raise prices.

Republican Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee and sponsored the GOP bill, accused Granholm and the White House of multiple misleading claims, including an erroneous assertion that the bill could affect use of the reserve during a presidentially declared emergency.

"At a time when gas prices are on the rise, Secretary



"Republicans want durable, long-lasting relief at the pump. The best way to do this is by unleashing American energy," which her legislation helps accomplish, added McMorris Rodgers, of Washington state.

The heated rhetoric is part of a larger fight over oil drilling and climate change. Republicans say restrictions on oil leasing imposed by the

Biden administration hamper U.S. Energy production and harm the economy, while Democrats tout a sweeping climate law approved last year as a crucial step to wean the nation off fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas. The measure authorizes billions in spending to boost renewable energy such as wind and solar power and includes incentives for Americans to buy

millions of electric cars, heat pumps, solar panels and more efficient appliances.

Biden, citing the dangers of climate change, canceled the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline in his first days in office and suspended new oil and gas leases on federal lands.

The moratorium has since been lifted, under court order, but Republicans complain that lease sales for new drilling rights are still limited.

Biden campaigned on pledges to end new drilling on public lands, and climate activists have pushed him to move faster to shut down oil leasing. Fossil fuels extracted from public lands account for about 20% of energy-related U.S. Greenhouse gas emissions, making them a prime target for emissions reductions intended to slow global warming.

"Whether on land or at sea, oil drilling poses an unacceptable risk for our wildlife, wild places and waterways," said Lisa Frank of

Environment America, an advocacy group. "When we drill, we spill. At a time when we should be moving away from this destructive, dangerous practice - and expanding use of renewable power - this bill doubles down on the outmoded energy of the past."

Frank urged lawmakers to reject the GOP bill and instead move to permanently ban new drilling off U.S. Coasts and in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Conservative and industry groups support the bill.

"We can continue making the Strategic Petroleum Reserve the nation's sole response to future disruptions, or we can also utilize more of the vast oil supplies sitting beneath the lands and offshore areas currently kept off limits by the president," the Competitive Enterprise Institute and other conservative groups said in a letter to Congress.

The Treasury Department estimates that release of oil from the emergency stockpile

lowered prices at the pump by up to 40 cents per gallon. Gasoline prices averaged about \$3.50 per gallon on

Thursday, down from just over \$5 per gallon at their peak in June, according to the AAA auto club.



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Invitation of Tenders through e-procurement system



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

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82232080	Cap Iron Containing Ferrous Fumarate 150mg atleast with Folic acid 1.5mg (Livogen or Equivalent)	1591802 Nos.	08.03.2023
2.	82231764	Inj Human Rabies Immunoglobulin 300IU per mL in Vial	592 Nos.	08.03.2023
3.	82231773	Inj Rabies Vaccine Human Containing Purified Rabies Antigen NLT 2.5IU as 1mL Dose in Vial	12521 Nos.	08.03.2023

**Note:1). Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. Tender Notice No.: Inj. Medicines Date: 25.01.2023**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 286/23



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Subhodh Kumar S/o Mr. Jagdish Singh is the owner of Residential House, area measuring 350 Sq. Yds. i.e. 292.81 Sq. Mtrs. out of Plot No. 4603, situated in Sushila Vihar-II (Bund), Pargana Baran, Tehsil & District Bulandshahr, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dated 05.12.2022 regd. Vide Doc. No. 10399 and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with URG Capital Ltd. The Original Sale Deed dt. 15.06.2009, regd. vide doc. No. 3734, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint has been registered on 27.01.2023 vide LR no. 8554/2023, with Delhi Police. Who so ever believes and finds any claim or interest, directly or indirectly over the aforesaid property, has/she may raise the objection within 7 days from the date of this publication at the below mentioned address, failing which, it shall be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari, Advocate  
Ch. 830, Patilwa House Courts, New Delhi - 110001  
Mob.: +91-8078188828

**OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED**  
CIN No: L28219HR1989PLC030347  
Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz- Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District Meerut, Haryana - 122103  
Website: [www.okplay.in](http://www.okplay.in) Email: [info@okplay.in](mailto:info@okplay.in)  
Tel: +91 124 2362335-36 Fax: +91 124 2362326

BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED (CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038), Tel No. 011-49800900						
E-mail: <a href="mailto:commodities@bharatbhushan.com">commodities@bharatbhushan.com</a> , Website: <a href="http://www.bbinvestments.in">www.bbinvestments.in</a> Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022 (Rs. in Lakhs)						
Particulars	Quarter Ended		Nine Month Ended		Year Ended	
	31-Dec-22	30-Sep-22	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21	31-Mar-22
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	29.72	20.37	6.92	57.93	39.62	49.37
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	19.69	11.99	-3.66	31.27	12.22	13.09
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	19.69	11.99	-3.66	31.27	12.22	13.09
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	16.20	9.55	-3.07	25.34	10.31	9.79
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	59.29	63.85	-23.47	73.71	141.98	131.96
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)						
-Basic	0.48	0.28	-0.09	0.75	0.30	0.29
- Diluted	0.48	0.28	-0.09	0.75	0.30	0.29
<b>Notes :</b> 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Nine Months ended December 31st, 2022 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Nine Months ended December 31st, 2022 is available on the Stock Exchange website ( <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> ) and on Company's website ( <a href="http://www.bbinvestments.in">www.bbinvestments.in</a> ). 2. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 27.01.2023. 3. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.						
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS						
Sd/- Vijay Bhushan Director DIN: 00002421						
Place : New Delhi Date : 27.01.2023						



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Meem Agro Foods Private Limited having registered office at T-239, 1st Floor, Gali Haji Ameer Bakhsh, Quresh Nagar, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006 is taking over the proprietorship concern of Salahuddin S/o Haji Mohd. Din, Address- 6299, Gali Marwari Nawab Road, Quresh Nagar, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006. M/s. MDA Exports w.e.f. 28th February 2023.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed taken over of the proprietorship concern, M/s. MDA Exports by M/s. Meem Agro Foods Private Limited may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objection to the Regional Director, Northern Region B-2, Wing 2nd Floor, Prayagvaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, New Delhi-110003, within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company M/s. Meem Agro Foods Private Limited at its registered office at the address mentioned below:-

**For Meem Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd. Sd/- (MOHAMMAD ATIF)**  
Director  
DIN No: 05141326  
T-239, 1st Floor, Gali Haji Ameer Bakhsh, Quresh Nagar, Sadar Bazar, Delhi -110006



**Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited**  
(Formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited).  
CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639

Registered Office: Unit No.-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla, Mumbai-400070 - T+91 22 3802 4000, Branch Office: Plot No-6, Block A, Sector-2, Noida, U.P-201 301  
Contact Person: 1. Nishant Gautam - 9899216466, 2. Naveen Kapoor- 9810854841, 3. Vishal Ketele - 9584966653

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE – SUBSEQUENT SALE**  
Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (Formerly Known as DHFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code / Branch / Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (01-12-2022)
Loan Code No. 00000960, Ghaziabad (Branch), Deepak Roy, (Borrower), King Ganga Movers (Co Borrower 1), Jitendra Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 27-03-2018, Rs. 26,24,273/-, (Rs. Twenty Six lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Three Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Flat No-5/413, Flat No-5, First Floor (Rhs Back Portion) Sector-5, Vashali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201011, Uttar Pradesh.	Rs. 20,52,000/-, (Rs. Twenty lakh Fifty Two Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,05,200/-, (Rs. Two lakh Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Only)	Rs.51,12,756.12/-, (Rs. Fifty One lakh Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six Only and Twelve Paise)
Loan Code No. 00001067, Greater Noida (Branch), Ravindra Singh (Borrower), Dharmendra Singh (Co Borrower 1), Sachin Kumar (Guarantor 4)	Dt: 16-08-2017, Rs. 8,22,076/-, (Rs. Eight lakh Twenty Two Thousand Seventy Six Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Flat No. 304, Third Floor, Sector- XU-01, Greater Noida, District-Gautamdh Nagar,Uttar Pradesh 201308 Boundaries As :- North : OTHER South : OTHER East : OTHER West : ENTRY	Rs. 5,81,400/-, (Rs. Five lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Only)	Rs. 58,140/-, (Rs. Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred Forty Only)	Rs.17,72,322.22/-, (Rs. Seventeen lakh Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Two Only and Twenty Two Paise)
Loan Code No. 00000286, Raj Nagar (Branch), Rohit Sahani (Borrower), Jitender Sahni (Co Borrower 1),	Dt: 20-07-2018, Rs. 11,23,982/-, (Rs. Eleven lakh Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Two Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Shop No-5 Ugf Plot No.- 12/com-4A, Lucky Plaza Vasundhara Sector 12,Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201001,Uttar Pradesh.	Rs. 11,00,000/-, (Rs. Eleven lakh Only)	Rs. 1,10,000/-, (Rs. One Lakh Thousand Only)	Rs.22,63,110.48/-, (Rs. Twenty Two lakh Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Ten Only and Forty Eight Paise )

**DATE OF E-AUCTION: 14-02-2023, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 13-02-2023, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION:** The sale shall be subject to the terms & conditions as described below:-  
1. The asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 2. In case of single bidder, the bidder/purchaser has to bid with an minimum increment amount of Rs. 10,000/- for property upto 3cr RP & More than 3 Cr (Property Reserve Price (RP) bid increment amount will be Rs. 1,00,000/-). 3. Auction/bidding shall only by "online electronic mode" through the website of the service provider i.e Company Name: C1 India Private Limited, Name of Representative: **Mr. Dharami Krishna; Contact Number: 9948182222; Site: <https://www.bankaueauctions.com>**. 4. Care has been taken to include adequate particulars of Secured Assets in the Schedule herein above. The Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 5. The intending bidders are advised to go through the portal <https://www.bankaueauctions.com> for detailed terms and conditions for e-Auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction sale proceedings and contact the respective Authorized Officer for the concerned property as mentioned herein above against the property. 6. Auction shall commence at one increment above the Reserve Price and bidders shall be free to bid among themselves by improving their offer with minimum incremental amount stated herein above. 7. 10% Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) DD shall be deposited on or before 13-02-2023, before 4.00 P.M. to the designated Branch in favour of 'Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited' along with fully filled bid form and Tender/Sealed Bid Offer in the prescribed tender forms along KYC. a) Self attested true copy of Identity Card containing Photograph and Residential Address and PAN card of the intending bidder, issued by Govt. of India. Original of the document should be made available for verification by the concerned Authorized Officer. b) Intending Bidder's Mobile Number and E-Mail address. 8. The intending bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact **Mr. Dharami Krishna; Contact Number: 9948182222, Help Line E-mail ID: [https://www.bankaueauctions.com](mailto:https://www.bankaueauctions.com)** and For any property related query may contact PCFHL Authorised Officer - **Nishant Gautam - 9899216466** during the office hours on any working days. 9. In case of stay of sale or Recovery proceeding by any superior court of competent jurisdiction, the auction may either be postponed/cancelled in compliance of such order, without any further notice and the persons participating in the sale shall have no right to claim damages, compensation or cost for such postponement/cancellation etc. 10. Only those bidders holding valid user ID and Password and confirmed payment of EMD through Demand Draft shall be permitted to participate in the online e-auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Further, the Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone or cancel or adjourn or discontinue the Auction or vary the terms of the Auction at any time before conclusion of the Auction process, without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. 11. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount immediately within 24 hours (including Earnest Money Already paid) from knocking down of bid in his/her favor, in the same mode as stipulated in clause 7 above. The balance of the purchase price have to be paid in the same mode as stipulated in clause 7 above within 15 days of acceptance/confirmation of sale conveyed to them. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited including earnest money deposit. 12. Meagre deposit of 25 % of the Sale Price shall not entitle the successful bidder to get the sale confirmed in his favour. Sale shall be subject to terms and conditions applicable to this e-auction notice and confirmation by the secured creditor to that effect. 13. The EMD (without interest) of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on 3rd day of the closure of the e-auction sale proceedings. 14. During e-auction, in case any bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the Auction, the closing time shall automatically get extended for another 5 minutes. 15. The sale is subject to final confirmation by the PCFHL. In case if the borrower/guarantors pays the total Outstanding due to the PCFHL before the Date of Auction, then auction sale may be cancelled at the discretion of PCFHL. 16. All statutory dues/attendances charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 17. The Sale Certificate shall be issued to the highest successful bidder and in the same name in which the Bid is submitted. 18. The property is sold on "As is where" and "As is what is" basis and the Authorized Officer or the PCFHL shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the government or anyone else in respect of properties E-Auctioned. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, search records and other revenue records relating to the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. and shall satisfy themselves before submitting the Bid. 19. Properties as mentioned above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with the prior appointment of concerned Branch Manager or Authorized Officer or any other officer identified for the purpose, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. on any working day before 13-02-2023. 20. PCFHL reserves its right to accept/reject any or all of the offer(s) or bid(s) so received or cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. 21. In case there is any discrepancy found in Publication of Vernacular Version or English Version then in such case English Version will be considered for the purpose of interpretation. Bidding in the final minutes and seconds should be avoided in the bidders own interest. Neither PCFHL nor Service Provider will be responsible for any failure/lapse (Power failure, Internet failure etc.) on the part of the vendor. In order to prevent such situation bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as backup power supply etc required so that they are able to prevent such situation and continue to participate in the auction successfully. 22. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable u/s 194-1-A if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online by filing form 26QB & TDS certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government account within 15 days of e-auction.

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR**  
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

**Place: Delhi Date: 28.01.2023**

Sd/- (Authorized Officer)  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited



# TRANSHIPMENT PORT Bids for project in Great Nicobar Island invited

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will invite expressions of interest (EOI) from interested players for a ₹41,000 crore international transshipment port project at Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal.

The ministry in a release on Friday said that the project is expected to be completed with an investment of ₹41,000 crore (USD 5 billion), including investment from both government and PPP concessionaire.

The EOI will be released on Saturday (January 28). The proposed port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will have ultimate capacity to handle 16 million containers per year and in the first phase, to be commissioned by 2028 at a cost of ₹18,000 crore, will handle above 4 million containers. Other projects planned around the transshipment port include airport, township and power plant, it added.

The project is located on the international trade route, with existing transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang and Colombo in proximity.

According to the statement, the project focuses on three key drivers which can result in making it a leading container transshipment port,



i.E. Strategic location in terms of proximity (40 nautical miles) with the international shipping trade route, availability of natural water depth of over 20m and carrying capacity of transshipment cargo from all the ports in the proximity including Indian ports.

Holistic development of islands aims to bridge the gaps in infrastructure and improve economic opportunity for rapid increase in size for all types of vessels, from feeders to large inter-continental carriers.

Further, the proposed infrastructure facilities shall be such that the service levels and facilities match with that of the global top container transshipment terminals and neighbouring ports. The proposed facility is envisaged to be developed in four phases.

The estimated cost for Phase 1 of the proposed transshipment port is around ₹18,000 crore which includes the construction of breakwaters, dredging, reclamation, berths, storage areas, building and utilities, procurement and installation of equipment and development of port colony with core infrastructure is going to be developed with the government support.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be encouraged for this project via landlord mode. The PPP concessionaire shall have the flexibility to develop storage area, container handling equipment and other infrastructure based on concessionaire's own market and business assessment subject to the Minimum Guaranteed Traffic.

## PE/VC investments declined by a third to \$54.2 bn in '22

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Investments by private equity and venture capital funds declined by nearly a third to \$54.2 billion in 2022, which was characterised by a 'funding winter' after consecutive years of surge.

Even after the decline, the year was the second best for India in terms of bets taken by such long term investors on growing Indian companies, a report by industry lobby Iyca and the consultancy firm EY said.

The investments by value were down 29 per cent as compared to \$75.9 billion in 2021, while by volumes there was a 4.6 per cent decline at 1,211 transactions as against 1,269, the report said, adding that a sharp fall in large deals resulted in the decline.

The firm's partner Vivek Soni said investor interest has been weighed down by inflation woes, recession fears, the rising cost of capital and elevated levels of uncertainty driven by geostrategic challenges.

He added that 99 funds dedicated to India raised \$17.4 billion in 2022, and there is a high level of dry powder available globally, which has the potential for a rebound in activity. "We expect the startup space to continue receiving large investments, albeit at valuation multiples lower than 2021. There is high likelihood that Indian PE/VC investments in 2023 shall be meaningfully more than 2022 levels," he said.

## Equity mutual fund to shift to T+2 settlement cycle

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asset management companies (AMCs) will move to a shorter redemption payment cycle of T+2 for equity schemes from February 1.

At present, funds are transferred to the investor's bank account within 3 days after the completion of the redemption process.

The move is in line with the T+1 settlement cycle of equity markets to benefit mutual fund investors.

From Friday, Indian equity markets moved to a T+1 settlement cycle for all stocks, shortening the settlement cycle by a day and making the availability of funds a day sooner than at present.

To pass on this benefit to mutual fund investors, it has been decided all AMCs will move to the T+2 redemption payment cycle for equity schemes, and implement this uniformly with effect from February 1, 2023, after allowing a couple of days for the settlement cycle to stabilise, Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) said in a statement.

"We want to pass on the benefit to our mutual fund investors and hence we are proactively adopting a T+2 redemption payment cycle for equity funds," Aditya Birla



Mutual Fund MD and CEO and AMFI Chairman A Balasubramanian said.

Since the day, Sebi announced the phased movement of equity markets to the T+1 settlement cycle, the industry has been preparing to shorten the redemption payment cycle, AMFI Chief Executive NS Venkatesh said.

From January 27, all securities -- equity shares, including SME shares, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB), Government Bonds and Corporate Bonds trading in the equity segment will now be settled only on T+1 basis.

Globally most stock exchanges in developed as well as emerging markets follow the T+2 settlement system.

## Pakistan's currency plunges to ₹262.6 against US dollar

PTI ■ KARACHI

Cash-strapped Pakistan's currency depreciated to its lowest against the US dollar on Friday in the interbank and open market and closed at ₹262.6.

At one stage the currency depreciated to ₹265 in the open market and ₹266 in the interbank before making a slight recovery by the end of the day.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, when the market opened on Friday the currency fell by ₹7.17 or 2.73 per cent from Thursday's close.

The Pakistani rupee's value has devalued by ₹34 since Thursday in the interbank, the largest depreciation in both absolute and percentage terms since the new exchange rate system was introduced in 1999.

The Pakistani rupee has depreciated sharply after the government removed an unofficial cap on the USD-PKR exchange rate to revive the stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme.

The government decision came on Thursday after the exchange companies announced the removal of a self-imposed rate cap in the open market.

The country needs to complete the ninth review of a \$7 billion IMF programme that would not only lead to a disbursement of \$1.2 billion but



also unlock inflows from friendly countries and other multilateral lenders.

The IMF conditions include a market-based dollar-rupee exchange parity and high-interest rate and imposition of a 17 per cent general sales tax on diesel and petrol within a week.

The first two conditions have already been met.

According to data given by the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (Ecap), a substantial amount of remittances started flowing into the country through official channels on Friday.

A financial analyst, Hameed Khokhar with CX investments, expected the flow of remittances to increase in the coming days and felt it would cross \$2.5 billion per month again to gradually reach close to \$3 billion in the coming months.

## Worst of inflation, growth, currency crises behind us: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta on Friday said the latest datapoints on growth, inflation and currency volatilities indicate that the worst for the financial markets and the world economy is behind us and that high interest rates for a longer period looks a distinct possibility going forward.

Though the global economy is projected to contract significantly in 2023, the worst, both in terms of growth and inflation, seems to be behind us. Lately, with some ebbing of Covid-related restrictions and cooling of inflation in various countries, though still elevated, central banks have started what appears to be a pivot towards lower rate hikes or pauses, Das

told the annual meeting of the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (Fimmmda) and the Primary Dealers Association of India (PDAI) held in Dubai on Friday.

But Das put a caveat saying at the same time, central bankers continue to emphatically reiterate their resolve to bring inflation down closer to their respective targets. At the same time, high policy rates for a longer duration appear to be a distinct possibility, going forward.

On the growth front, projections are now veering around to a softer recession as against a severe and more widespread recession projected a few months back.

On the domestic front, he said, in this hostile and uncer-

tain international environment, "our economy remains resilient", drawing strength from its macroeconomic fundamentals.

"Our financial system remains robust and stable. Banks and corporates are healthier than before the crisis. Bank credit is growing in double-digits. We are widely seen as a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy world. Our inflation remains elevated, but there has been a welcome softening on November and December. Core inflation, however, remains sticky and elevated," the governor said.

On the domestic financial markets, Das said since the 1990s, "we have come a long way in developing the financial markets".

"The journey of our finan-



cial markets through the last decade has been a story of steady progress with stability. Going forward, greater challenges will emerge as the footprints of our banks increase in offshore markets, the range of products expand, non-resident participation in domestic markets grows and as capital account convertibility increases.

"Market participants will have to prepare themselves to manage the changes and the risks associated with globally integrated markets. The achievement of desired outcomes is contingent on financial institutions and market participants taking forward the reform agenda so that we have more vibrant and resilient financial markets," Das said.

On the external front, he said de-globalisation and protectionism are gaining ground as witnessed during the recent global supply-chain shocks. It is thus necessary to build and strengthen bilateral trade relations to deal with such challenges. Accordingly, the government recently signed bilateral trade agreements with the UAE and Australia and more such pacts are in the offing.

## Best Agrolife Ltd adds 98% growth in net profit for Q3

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agro-chemical firm Best Agrolife Ltd has posted a 98 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit to ₹30.61 crore for the third quarter ended December 2022. Its net profit stood at ₹15.47 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing.

The company's revenue from operations rose 41 per cent to ₹327.8 crore in the October-December period of this fiscal against ₹232.5 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Vimal Alawadhi, Managing Director of Best Agrolife, said, "...despite being a lean season, we successfully managed to remain consistent with its performance in the third quarter of this financial year".

### BUSINESS BRIEF

#### VIT- AP VARSITY FELICITATES 17 UNSUNG HEROES

**Amaravati:** On the occasion of 74th Republic Day Celebrations on Thursday, VIT- AP University felicitated APSRTC drivers B Chenchu Krishnaiah and P Raja Gopal, who was honoured posthumously, 5 RTC drivers, 1 conductor, and 6 fire services personnel. B Sundar Balakrishna, Special Secretary to Government, Department of IT, Electronics & Communications, Government of Andhra Pradesh lauded the university for choosing the prominent days like the Republic Day, Independence Day to felicitate Unsung Heroes in remembrance of their

#### ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS CONCLUDES

**New Delhi:** With an aim to spread awareness about the need for organ donation in India, Zindagi Express, a drive by Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance, have reached over 10 lakh people journeying 5,500 kms through 50 cities. At its final destination Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Minister of Medical Education & Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief & Rehabilitation Vishvas Sarang received the baton from Zindagi Express. "We are heartened to see that people turned out in big numbers," said Sumit Rai, MD & CEO, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.

## Rupee rises 8 paise to end at 81.53 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 8 paise to close at 81.53 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a firm American currency against major rivals overseas.

However, heavy selling pressure in the domestic equity markets and unabated foreign fund outflows restricted the gains in the local currency, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened stronger at 81.51 to a dollar. The local unit moved in the range of 81.50 to 81.67 during the day.

It finally settled at 81.53, a rise of 8 paise against the previous close of 81.61.

On Wednesday, the rupee had slipped 2 paise against the US dollar.

The currency markets were closed on Thursday on account of Republic Day.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.02 per cent to 101.82 after positive macroeconomic data released by the US government on Thursday.

Brent crude was trading 1.19 per cent higher at \$88.51 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 874.16 points or 1.45 per cent to end at 59,330.90. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 287.60 points or 1.61 per cent to 17,604.35.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday as they sold shares worth ₹2,393.94 crore, according to exchange data.

## Gold falls ₹70; silver jumps ₹ 45



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price fell ₹70 to ₹56,842 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid a fall in rates of precious metal internationally, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at ₹56,912 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, jumped ₹451 to ₹68,874 per kilogram. "Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹56,842 per grams, down ₹70 per 10 grams," said an analyst at HDFC Securities.

In the overseas market, gold was quoting lower at \$1,924 per ounce while silver was up at \$23.71 per ounce.

Comex gold prices traded negative in Asian trading hours on Friday, the analyst said.

## Forex kitty rises by \$1.727 billion to \$573.727 billion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves increased by \$1.727 billion to \$573.727 billion in the week ended January 20, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

This is the second consecutive week of a rise in the kitty after the \$10.417 billion jump to \$572 billion during the preceding week.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$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.

In October 2022, the reserves had swelled by \$14.721 billion during a week.

During the reporting week, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$ 839 million to \$506.358 billion, according to the Weekly



Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves continued to rise, jumping by \$821 million to \$ 43.712 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$68 million to \$18.432 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$1 million to \$5.226 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

## Tata Motors shares jump over 8% after earnings announcement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Tata Motors on Friday jumped over 8 per cent in morning trade after the firm reported a consolidated net profit of ₹3,043 crore in the December quarter.

The stock climbed 8.16 per cent to ₹453.20 on the BSE.

At the NSE, it zoomed 8.19 per cent to ₹453.40.

Tata Motors on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹3,043 crore in the December quarter, its first profit in two years, on account of robust sales.

The Mumbai-based auto major had reported a net loss of ₹1,451 crore in the October-December quarter of the previous fiscal.

Stock markets were closed on Thursday on account of Republic Day.

Total income increased to ₹88,489 crore in the period under review from ₹72,229 crore in the year-ago period, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing.



On a standalone basis, Tata Motors reported a net profit of ₹506 crore in the third quarter, a jump of over two-fold, from ₹176 crore in the October-December period of 2021-22.

The company said it remains cautiously optimistic on the demand situation despite global uncertainties.

"We will remain vigilant on demand and our continued focus on profitable growth, improving semiconductor supplies and stable commodity prices will aid revenue growth, margin improvement and positive cash delivery in Q4 FY23," it added.

## Airtel rolls out 5G services in J&K seven cities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Friday announced the launch of its 5G services in Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Akhnoor, Kupwara, Lakhanpur and Khour.

In a statement, Airtel said its 5G services will be available to customers in a phased manner as the company continues to construct its network and complete the rollout.

"Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Akhnoor, Kupwara, Lakhanpur and Khour get ultrafast Airtel 5G Plus services in addition to Jammu and Srinagar cities," the company said in a statement.

Adarsh Verma, Chief Operating Officer of Bharti Airtel, Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh said: "Connectivity to our customers in the Valley is in line with our commitment to bridge the digital divide and connect communities who need it the most".

## Porsche's car delivery in India rises 64% to 779 units in 2022

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German sports Luxury car maker Porsche on Friday said its delivery of cars in India increased 64 per cent in 2022 to 779 units against 474 units in 2021.

The massive surge in sales was driven by a strong interest among the buyers for its SUVs and sports cars, with a 69 per cent growth in the sales of SUV models, Porsche India said in a statement.



The premium carmaker said the sales include 78 units of its all-new electric

Tycan (launched in December 2021) in the 12-month period.

Manolito Vujicic, Brand Director, Porsche India, said the strong result shows the upward trajectory that started in 2021 was maintained through 2022.

"It has been a strong year for Porsche India with a 69 per cent growth in the sales of our SUV models, highlighted by our top-selling model, the Cayenne, ending the year with 399 retail units," said Vujicic.

## Automobili Lamborghini posts record sales in India last yr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Italian automaker Automobili Lamborghini on Friday reported record sales in India with 92 units in 2022, growing at 33 per cent from the previous year.

The company, which sells a range of super luxury cars with prices starting from Rs 3.16 crore in India, had recorded its previous best-ever sales in the country in 2021 with 69 units. Before that its best sales

was in 2019 when it had sold a total of 52 units.

Globally, the company said 2022 saw the best sales figure ever and delivered 9,233 cars worldwide, an increase of 10 per cent over the previous year.

"In all the macro-regions the sign was clearly positive, maintaining a homogeneous and consistent distribution, with Asia registering a 14 per cent, followed by America with (over) 10 per cent and EMEA



with (over) 7 per cent compared to 2021. Sales in the key markets broke all records," Automobili Lamborghini said in a statement.

Further, the company said, "Along with the Chinese Mainland, which is one of the

markets that contributed to the substantial sales performance in Asia Pacific region, India also recorded a significant increase of 33 per cent and attributed to 92 cars delivered in 2022."

The US continued to be its top market with 2,721 cars delivered, up 10 per cent, followed by Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau at 1,018 units, up 9 per cent and Germany with 808 units, a growth of 14 per cent.



# NOVAK IS GOING FOR 10

## Djoker's perfect record in Melbourne Park semifinals continues on Friday as he booked a 10th tilt at Australian Open glory

AP ■ MELBOURNE

**A** rampant Novak Djokovic surged into a 10th Australian Open final on Friday to close in on a record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam crown, with only Stefanos Tsitsipas now standing in his way.

The Serbian fourth seed overcame an early wobble to romp past unseeded American Tommy Paul 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena in style.

Another title on Sunday will move him alongside Rafael Nadal with 22 Slam wins and see the 35-year-old return to world number one for the first time since last June.

Djokovic played the clash without father Srdjan courtside after he was filmed posing with a man holding a Russian flag featuring Vladimir Putin's face following his son's quarter-final win on Wednesday.

The incident sparked a backlash from Ukraine and led to calls for Djokovic's father to be banned from the tournament.

Srdjan issued a statement ahead of the semi-final saying he would stay away, insisting he "wishes only for peace" and never wanted to cause "disruption".

There was an empty seat next to his mother Dijana during the match.

"I'm really thankful that I have enough gas in my legs to be able to play at this level on one of the biggest tennis courts in the world," said Djokovic, who is now 11-0 for the season and into a 33rd Grand Slam final.

"Of course, I'm not as fresh



as the beginning of the tournament but we put in a lot of hours in the off-season on fitness in order to be in a good condition to play best of five (sets).

"I know what's expected of me, I've been in this situation so many times in my career. Experience helps also," he added of being in another final.

The win extended his unbeaten streak at the Australian Open to 27 matches to claim sole ownership of the Open-era record at Melbourne Park ahead of Andre Agassi.

Djokovic had never played Paul before and said he was wary of a "very explosive, very dynamic player", with the American

initially refusing to go quietly.

The Serb, a hot favourite, attacked his opponent's straight away for an early break, then broke again when the 35th-ranked Paul fired a forehand long to race 5-1 in front.

A run-in with the umpire over using his towel between points seemed to rattle Djokovic

and he was broken twice in a row as Paul came surging back to 5-5.

Djokovic regrouped to hold serve and break again and take the set in 59 minutes.

After that wobble, it was all business, despite clutching his strapped hamstring several times, romping through the

next two sets with minimal resistance.

He will meet Tsitsipas next after the Greek battled into his first Australian final and only second at a Grand Slam.

In the previous one, at Roland Garros in 2021, he fell to Djokovic in five sets after holding a 2-0 lead.



## Tsitsipas in dreamland after reaching maiden Australian Open final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

**S**tefanos Tsitsipas said he was living the dream after reaching the Australian Open final on Friday for a first time and standing on the cusp of becoming world number one.

The Greek third seed showed grit to defeat Russia's Karen Khachanov and set up a final against either nine-time Melbourne champion Novak Djokovic.

The 18th-seeded Khachanov threatened a comeback after saving two match points to force the semi-final into a fourth set, before Tsitsipas triumphed 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3.

Tsitsipas can top the world rankings if he wins his first Grand Slam crown on Sunday.

"I dreamed as a kid to maybe one day get to play in this court against the best players in the world," Tsitsipas told a sunny Rod Laver Arena after winning an Australian

Open semi-final at the fourth attempt.

"So I'm happy with the fight I put out there today. I feel blessed, blessed that I'm able to play tennis at this level.

"I've been wanting for many years now to put Greek tennis on the map."

At 24, Tsitsipas is the youngest man to reach the Australian Open final since a 23-year-old Djokovic in 2011.

Tsitsipas has thrived in Melbourne throughout his career, after bursting on the scene at the 2019 event as a 20-year-old when he dethroned defending champion Roger Federer in the last 16.

He went on to reach the semi-finals that year and again in 2021 and 2022, falling one match short on each occasion.

A Grand Slam crown has remained elusive, with his runner-up showing at Roland Garros in 2021 his best result so far, falling to Djokovic in five sets after holding a 2-0 lead.



## Sabalenka, Rybakina promise power-packed final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

**T**wo of the biggest hitters in women's tennis go toe-to-toe when Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina clash in Saturday's Australian Open final in Melbourne.

Belarusian fifth seed Sabalenka is in the form of her life and on the brink of a maiden Grand Slam crown.

The 24-year-old comes into the showpiece under the Rod Laver Arena lights on a 10-match unbeaten streak in Australia, having won the Adelaide International and is yet to drop a set in 2023.

She has defeated Wimbledon champion Rybakina in all of their three previous meetings.

Rybakina, 23, has coolly moved through the draw, unfazed by the snub of her opening match being shunted out to the wilderness of Melbourne Park's Court 13.

The Russian-born player, who now represents Kazakhstan, has accounted for three Grand Slam champions on her way to the final, including world number one Iga Swiatek.

Jelena Ostapenko and Victoria Azarenka followed on the back of Rybakina's dominant serve, which has smacked down 45 aces so far, more than any other.

Rybakina's graceful power appears effortless at times, emanating from clean ball-striking and immaculate timing.

Sabalenka is more brutal, her muscles generating spin and driving the ball through the court.

It is a trait Sabalenka has always possessed but was often stymied by her fractious nerves. But not this year as she finally won a Slam semi-final at the

fourth attempt against the unseeded Pole Magda Linette.

Sabalenka has turned it around by working tirelessly last year with her coaches, a sports psychologist and a biomechanical specialist.

"I was trying to do less screaming after some bad points or some errors," Sabalenka said. "I was just trying to hold myself, stay calm, just think about the next point."

"I'm still screaming 'C'mon!' and all that stuff. Just less negative emotions."

Sabalenka is now so confident of handling her emotions — demonstrated as she smoothly fought back from 2-0 down in the first set against Linette — that she has dispensed with her sports psychologist.

Rybakina, the 22nd seed, will be full of confidence heading into her second major final in the past seven months.

She's lost only one set during the Australian Open fortnight, and that was against last year's runner-up Danielle Collins.

But if her first serve deserts her, Rybakina can come under pressure, as happened against the combative Azarenka in the semi-finals when she was broken three times.

But she is more than just a big serve and has enough all-court game to ward off most danger — her wide reach and ability to hit winners off both wings enabling her to get out of trouble.

With one major victory already achieved, Rybakina believes the experience will give her an edge.

"Everything was new at Wimbledon," Rybakina said. "Now I more or less understand what to expect."

## Title eludes Sania in last Grand Slam

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

**T**railblazing Indian tennis star Sania Mirza capped off her glorious Grand Slam career with a runners-up finish alongside 'best friend' Rohan Bopanna in the Australian Open mixed doubles final here on Friday.

Pairing up with her first-ever mixed doubles partner Bopanna, the unseeded Indian duo went down 6-7(2), 2-6 to the Brazilian pair of Luisa Stefani and Rafael Mataos in the final at the Rod Laver Arena.

"If I cry, these are happy tears. That's just a disclaimer. I'm still going to play a couple of more tournaments but my journey of my professional career started in Melbourne," an emotional Sania said as she struggled to hold back tears.

"Rohan was my first-ever mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and we won the nationals, it was 22 years ago and I couldn't think of a better person, he's my best friend and one of my best partners to finish my career," Sania said, thanking Bopanna, who has one French Open mixed doubles title to his credit.

The 36-year-old, who earlier announced that the WTA event in Dubai next month will be her swansong, is India's most accomplished woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.

She had won the the mixed doubles titles at the 2009



Australian Open and the 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi and the 2014 US Open with Brazilian Bruno Soares.

The Rod Laver Arena has been a happy hunting ground for the Hyderabad. She has a women's doubles and mixed doubles title each and has finished runner up four times at the Australian Open.

"It started in 2005 when I played Serena Williams in the third round as an 18-year-old

and that was scarily enough 18 years ago. I have had the privilege to come back here again and again, win some tournaments here and play some great finals amongst you all.

"Rod Laver Arena has really been special in my life and I couldn't think of a better arena to finish my career at in a Grand Slam," Sania said.

The presence of her son Izaan, alongside family and friends made the occasion sweeter.

"I never thought I'd be able to play in front of my child in a Grand Slam final, so it's truly special for me, to have my four-year-old here and my parents here, and Rohan's wife, my trainers, my family in Australia who made me feel like home away from home."

"Cara Black who is my best friend and one of my first partners, it's been truly special I wouldn't be able to achieve anything without you all," Sania said.

## Ukraine could boycott Paris Olympics if Russian athletes take part

AP ■ PARIS

**U**kraine's sports minister warned on Thursday his country could boycott the 2024 Paris Olympics if Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to take part. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Wednesday it was seeking a "pathway" for Russians to take part in the Games despite the invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine's sports minister Vadym Goutzeit said such a move was "unacceptable".

"Our position remains unchanged — as long as the war continues in Ukraine, Russian and Belarusian athletes should not be in international competitions," Goutzeit wrote on Facebook.

"If we are not heard, I do not exclude the possibility that we will boycott and refuse to participate in the Olympics."

Russia and its ally Belarus have been sidelined from most Olympic sports since Russian forces invaded Ukraine last February.

Ignoring calls from Ukraine to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes from next year's summer Olympics, the IOC said on Wednesday that a way to allow competitors from those countries to take part as neutrals

should be "further explored".

The IOC said "no athlete should be prevented from competing just because of their passport".

Following that announcement, the Olympic Council of Asia on Thursday offered athletes from both countries the chance to compete in this year's Asian Games. That is a significant move because they could gain qualifying marks in competition in Asia to allow them to compete in Paris.

The IOC's stance was strongly criticised by Britain and Denmark on Thursday.

Britain, which has supplied military and humanitarian support to Ukraine since the invasion began, said the IOC's move was a "world away from the reality of war".

Britain's Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan said: "We condemn any action that allows President Putin to legitimise his illegal war in Ukraine. "This position from the IOC is a world away from the reality of war being felt by the Ukrainian people — and IOC president (Thomas) Bach's own words less than a year ago where he strongly condemned Russia for breaking the Olympic Truce and urged it to 'give peace a chance'," she added.

## Real defeat Atletico to reach Copa del Rey semis

AP ■ MADRID

**K**arim Benzema and Vinicius Junior's extra-time strikes earned Real Madrid a 3-1 win over rivals Atletico Madrid on Thursday to reach the Copa del Rey semi-finals.

The Brazilian winger's goal was a particularly sweet one for him after a crude effigy with his shirt on was hung from a bridge near Real Madrid's training ground before the game.

The spiky, gripping derby clash turned against Diego Simeone's side in the additional period when defender Stefan Savic was sent off. Atletico took the lead through Alvaro Morata after 19 minutes but Rodrygo's sensational slalom run past three defenders and slick finish pulled Madrid level with 11 minutes remaining.

After Savic's 99th minute red card, Benzema tucked home from Marco Asensio's pass and Vinicius netted at the death to send Los Blancos through to the

final four for the first time since 2019. "Today we had a very difficult game but with the character and the players that we have, we were able to turn it around," Benzema told Teledeporte.

"Suffering is not good -- we have to score the goals earlier."

The build-up to the derby was tainted by the Vinicius effigy being strung up overnight, which the club described as "a disgusting act of racism, xenophobia and hatred."

"(Vinicius) really wanted to play and he had a very good game," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told a news conference.

"I think the goal was his reward for his great work. What happened is very regrettable."

Madrid fans had planned to sing Vinicius' name in support in the 20th minute, matching his shirt number, but were stunned into silence by Morata's goal moments before.

Atletico, hitting their best form of the season, conjured a



brilliant move to break the deadlock, with Morata tapping home after Koke's dink allowed Nahuel Molina to stroke a first-time cross to the back post.

Madrid improved significantly after the break and Rodrygo levelled with 11 minutes to go with his jinking solo effort and subtle near-post finish, taking the clash to extra-time.

Atletico defender Savic foolishly handed Madrid the edge when he was sent off for two yellow cards in two minutes.

With an extra man Madrid capitalised, Benzema striking lethally after 104 minutes when Vinicius miskicked Marco Asensio's cross and the ball travelled through to the striker.

Madrid, who last won the Copa del Rey in 2014, kept Atletico at bay in the final 15 minutes before Vinicius dribbled through and fired home to clinch the victory — celebrating with a now customary dance routine.

Despite their improving performances, the rest of Atletico's season is looking barren, given they were eliminated from European football and are 13 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona, having played a game more.

"We are out of Europe and now the cup, the team has the second half of the season ahead of them to try and qualify for the Champions League, that's the objective the club needs," said Simeone, who cast some doubt on his future.

The Argentine coach has been at the club since 2011 and has a contract until 2024.

"After that, calmly, we will look at what is convenient for everyone," he continued. "Being at Atletico gives me enormous joy, I will give 1000 percent until the day that I leave."

Earlier Athletic Bilbao won 3-1 at Valencia to join record 31-time winners Barcelona and Osasuna in Monday's semi-final draw.



# INDIA FALL SHORT IN RANCHI

PTI ■ RANCHI

Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell conjured up fluent and fiery half-centuries before the spinners choked the hosts as New Zealand outplayed India by 21 runs in the opening T20I to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series here on Friday.

Asked to take first strike, opener Conway continued his purple patch with a 35-ball 52, while Mitchell smashed a 30-ball unbeaten 59, which included a last-over thrashing of Arshdeep Singh for 27 runs, to power the Black Caps to a challenging 176 for six.

The Kiwi bowlers, led by Mitchell Santner (2/11) and Michael Bracewell (2/31), then spun a web around the home batters, restrict India to 155 for 9 in 20 overs.

India had a disastrous start to their chase with both Ishan Kishan (4) and Rahul Tripathi (0) sent back to the pavilion by the third over.

While Ishan was bamboozled by Bracewell, pacer Jacob Duffy (1/27) induced a fine edge off Rahul's blade. Shubman Gill (7) too perished

soon after being deceived by Santner as India slumped to 15 for three.

Suryakumar Yadav (47), however, looked in good touch as he picked up two boundaries before picking one off his hips for a six off Lockie Ferguson (1/22).

Santner then bowled a maiden as India reached 33 for three in the powerplay overs.

With the pitch offering grip and turn, New Zealand spinners controlled the proceedings keeping it flat and mixing the length even as Hardik unleashed a drive over extra cover to ease the pressure.

Suryakumar too brought out his range of sweep shots to keep the scoreboard ticking. When Blair Tickner was introduced, he played a square cut and then sent another one through backward point for successive fours as India reached 74 for 3 in 10 overs.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi was then sent inside out over extra cover for a maximum but New Zealand struck twice in next five balls to remove both the set batters.

While Surya chipped one



off Sodhi to Finn Allen at long on, Hardik was caught and bowled by Bracewell as it all

went downhill after that with India slipping to 85 for five. Deepak Hooda smacked

one over the rope before being stumped. Santner then ran out Shivam Mavi. Ferguson

bowled a wicket maiden, removing Kuldeep. Washington Sundar

**Suryakumar Yadav (47), looked in good touch as he picked up two boundaries before picking one off his hips for a six off Lockie Ferguson (1/22)**

smashed a fighting 28-ball 50 but it was too late.

Earlier, Indian bowlers struggled to get their line and length, allowing New Zealand to get off to a good start.

Allen (35) smashed Hardik for successive boundaries, while a juicy half volley from Arshdeep was hit straight to the boundary.

Conway, who had scored 138 in the third ODI in Indore, also punished the left-arm pacer for a widish ball as New Zealand put up 23 in two overs.

Sundar, however, got a lot of purchase from the wicket and soon saw the back of

Allen and Mark Chapman (0) in the space of five deliveries to reduce New Zealand to 43 for 2.

Conway, however, kept it going with two fours and a six off Umran Malik, who bled 16 runs in his only over.

Hardik brought himself back and tried to mix his bowling, using more cutters and slower deliveries as New Zealand reached 79 for 2 in 10 overs.

Conway used the slog sweep and his feet to pick up boundaries off Kuldeep and Hooda as New Zealand crossed the 100-mark in the 13th over.

Kuldeep then struck with a googly as Glenn Phillips went for a slog, only to be holed out by Surya at deep midwicket.

Daryl Mitchell then joined Conway and, after surviving two video referrals for a caught behind and an LBW, blasted Hardik for two maximums.

Conway, on the other hand, completed his fifty in the 16th over but was sent packing soon by Arshdeep with Hooda taking the catch at long-off.

## India beat NZ by 8 wickets to enter U-19 Women's WC final



PTI ■ POTSCHERSTROOM

Opener Shweta Sherawat smashed an unbeaten fifty after Parshavi Chopra's triple strike

India restricted New Zealand to 107 for nine with Parshavi (3/20) leading a disciplined bowling effort after skipper Shafali Verma won the toss and elected to bowl in the first semifinals.

The 16-year-old leg-spinner broke the backbone of the Kiwi batting line-up with three successive wickets to leave them at 74 for 5 in 13th over.

Titans Sadhu, Mannat Kashyap, Shafali and Archana Devi also scalped one wicket each.

For NZ, Georgia Plimmer (35), Isabella Gaze (26) and Izzy Sharp (13) and Kayley Knight (12) reached double figures as they struggled to score runs at the Senwes Park.

Chasing 108, the women in blue romped home comfortably after Sehrawat produced a scintillating 45-ball unconquered knock which was studded with 10 hits to the fence.

Following the early exit of Shafali (10), who has not performed as per expectations in the tournament, Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari (22) added 62 runs to take them to the threshold of victory.

Sehrawat and Gongadi Trisha (5) then completed the job with the former bringing up the winning runs with a four off Browning as India scored 110 for 2 in 14.2 overs.

as India notched up a comprehensive eight-wicket win over New Zealand to storm into the final of the inaugural Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup here on Friday.

## Lara takes up new West Indies role

AP ■ MIAMI

Former West Indies batting star and captain Brian Lara has agreed to take on a role as 'performance mentor' with the West Indies teams and academy, Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced on

Thursday. CWI said that Lara's new role will be to 'support the various head coaches in providing players with tactical advice and improving their game sense'.

Lara will work alongside Jimmy Adams, the CWI's Director of Cricket, on strategy and planning

for major tournaments.

"Having spent time with the players and coaches in Australia and in discussions with CWI, I really believe that I can help the players with their mental approach to the game and with their tactics to be more successful," Lara said.



## India's campaign ends in Indonesia Masters

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Lakshya Sen's impressive run in the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament ended with a quarter-final loss to Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie here on Friday.

World No. 12 Sen squandered an opening-game advantage to go down 21-15, 10-21, 13-21 to home favourite Christie, ranked third, in a 62-minute men's singles match.

Later in the day, new women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 13-21, 18-21 to Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the quarter-finals to bring down the curtain on India's campaign.

Coming into the match with a 1-0 head-to-head record, Commonwealth Games champion Sen showed his prowess as he opened up a 8-5 lead and maintained it at the break.

Christie knocked off the three-point deficit after resumption and made it 15-15 before the Indian reeled off six straight points to pocket the opening game.

After the change of sides, Sen lost his grip on the match as Christie looked like a different player, zooming to 11-2 in a jiffy before levelling the match.

Christie made a good start in the decider, galloping to a 5-1 lead. Sen produced four points on the trot but he was left with too much to do.

The Indonesian ensured there was no hiccup as he marched to a 11-6 lead and maintained a healthy distance from his opponent to eventually seal the contest with a four-point burst.

Sen had reached the second round at India Open last week.

## Surya will bring about global revolution in T20 cricket: Ponting



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting has called India middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav a trailblazer, who could inspire a new breed of players to emulate his style of play and take T20 cricket to "another level" globally.

Suryakumar, 32, was recently named the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year after he became only the second batter in the world to score 1000-plus runs in a calendar year in the shortest format of the game.

Surya scored two centuries and nine half-tens on way to amassing 1,164 runs in 2022, only second behind Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan who leads the charts with 1,326 runs in 2021.

"I think innovation-wise, skill-wise, I haven't seen a better player (than Suryakumar) in the game," Ponting told ICC on Friday.

"What it's going to do as well, a lot of other players are going to try and do the things he's doing and it's going to add another level of skill to the T20 game all around the world. "Someone said during the IPL this year (2022), there are going to be guys who are going to try and do exactly the same as what Surya's doing, and that's going to be great for the game," added the Australian great.

Surya's 1,100-plus runs last year came in 31 T20Is at an astonishing strike rate of 187.43 and an average of 46.56, which also propelled him to the top of the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings.

Ponting also called the India cricketer as the greatest innovator in the shortest version, comparing his style of batting with South African white-ball specialist AB de Villiers and former Australian wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist.

"He's probably doing it

better than anyone's ever done it right now. We talk about players that can score 360 degrees ... some of the shots he's hitting back behind the wicket-keeper and over fine leg are just remarkable."

Ponting said he noticed Surya's innate talent a few years back in the IPL where he was making flicking the ball over deep-backward square look so easy.

The former skipper added that the batter has taken his stroke-play to another level and is playing some really audacious shots like flicking short balls for sixes over the wicket-keeper's head.

"Five or six years ago, he started doing that (innovating) a lot in the IPL. He was very good at flicking the ball over deep-backward square and getting the ball over fine-leg," Ponting said.

"Surya's now been able to hit short balls on the way up and flick short balls over the keeper's head and they're going for six, not just for four."

Ponting said that initially he thought Suryakumar would never touch such heights, but his work ethics and strenuous regimen have resulted in his success.

The cricketer scored the third-most runs at the T20 World Cup -- 239 -- in Australia, which was only behind Virat Kohli (296) and the Dutchman Max O'Dowd (242).

## Saurashtra, Andhra advance to Ranji quarters; Mumbai & Maharashtra out

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Saurashtra, despite a loss in the final round game to Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh on Friday advanced to the knockout stage of the Ranji Trophy from Group B after the Mumbai-Maharashtra game ended in an exciting draw.

Though Saurashtra, Andhra and Maharashtra finished equal on 26 points after the seven rounds of the league phase, the first two teams entered the quarterfinals while Maharashtra missed out because it did not gain any bonus point.

Andhra, which had been on 19 points before the final round match against Assam, routed their opponent by an innings to gain a bonus point which helped them pip Maharashtra.

Mumbai, which was in the reckoning but needed to win or secure a first innings lead to

grab three points and reach 26 points, managed only 1 after a tie with Maharashtra on the first innings score of 374 in the final round match.

In Chennai, left-arm spinner S Ajith Ram came up with a six-wicket haul to propel Tamil Nadu to a 59-run win over Saurashtra.

Needing 266 for victory, the visiting team was bowled out for 206 in 68.2 overs as Harvik Desai's marathon knock of 101 (205 balls, 10 fours, 3 sixes) went in vain.

Elsewhere, Hyderabad succumbed to a nine-wicket defeat to Delhi to end a dismal season with six straight defeats after a draw against TN in the opening game. Hyderabad will be relegated to the Plate group next season.

**MP, PUNJAB ADVANCE**

**Ahmedabad:** Defending champions Madhya Pradesh and Punjab qualified for the quar-



ter-finals after finishing in the top two positions in Group D following a draw in their respective matches.

While holders MP folded

for 331 to concede a first-innings lead to Tripura, Punjab didn't get to bat as Vidarbha ended their first innings on the fourth day at 273 for six follow-

ing loss of play due to bad weather.

The draw, however, wouldn't hurt MP as they finished at the top of Group D table with

33 points from seven matches. Punjab (27) and Railways (22) ended at second and third spots respectively.

On day four, medium pacer Rana Dutta completed a five-wicket haul as Tripura dismissed holders Madhya Pradesh for 331 in their first innings to grab three points on the basis of first-innings lead.

The 33-year-old emerged as the most successful bowler as MP could add another 172 runs to their overnight score of 159 for 2 to hand Tripura a crucial 31-run first-innings lead.

**ODISHA THRASH BENGAL**

**Kolkata:** Odisha created a big upset, defeating Bengal by seven wickets on the final day of their Group A match, with pace bowler Sunil Roul wrecking the hosts' batting lineup by taking six wickets.

Though Bengal had secured a quarter-final berth in the previous round itself, the

loss on Friday at the Eden Gardens ahead of the knockout round would have dampened their spirits somewhat.

Uttarakhand became the second team behind Bengal (32 points) to move into the quarter-finals after their match against Haryana ended in a draw. Uttarakhand earned three points, owing to their first-innings lead to take their tally to 29 points.

Bengal will take on Jharkhand in the first quarter-final, while Uttarakhand will play Karnataka on January 31.

Odisha first dismissed Bengal for 276 in 79 overs, thanks to 24-year-old Roul's six-wicket haul. The visitors' batters then returned for the second innings to quickly overhaul the 112-run winning target in the 23rd over.

**JHARKHAND IN LAST 8**

**Puducherry:** Jharkhand became the second team

behind Karnataka to sail into the quarter-finals from Group C after the match between Kerala and Puducherry ended in a draw and Services thrashed Rajasthan by 183 runs.

While Karnataka had already secured a last-eight berth following the penultimate round of Ranji matches, Jharkhand had to wait till the last day of the seventh and final round of group matches, which concluded on Friday, to know their fate.

On Thursday, Jharkhand had lost to Karnataka by nine wickets and their players would have been edgy all day long on Friday as their fate was to be decided by the Kerala-Puducherry and Services-Rajasthan matches.

Luckily for Jharkhand, both results went in their favour and they will take on Bengal in the quarter-finals, while Group C toppers Karnataka will play Uttarakhand in the last-eight.