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# IAF jets collide mid-air, pilot dies

Sukhoi, Mirage jets crash near Gwalior; 2



# Crash timeline of 'Wolf of the Skies'

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PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

There is a long history of crashes of SU-30 MKI and Mirage-2000s fighter aircraft. So far, 12 Sukhoi and 14 Mirage fighter jets have crashed in India. The first SU-30 MKI crashed in 2009

At least 42 Indian Armed forces personnel were killed in 45 accidents involving aircraft and helicopters in the last five years ending 2022. The Indian Air Force (IAF) accounts for 29 of them, while the Army and Navy saw 12 casualties respectively. Five MiG-21 aircraft crashed in 2021, resulting in the deaths of three pilots.

In addition to MiG-21, the other aircraft that crashed in 2021 included a Mirage 2000, two Dhruv Advanced Light

Helicopters, two Mi-17s, and a Cheetah helicopter.

The year 2021 saw the number of accidents jumping to ten from five in 2020. Incidentally, the first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter

crash on December 8, 2021. The SU-30 MKI and Mirage-2000 are frontline fighter jets of the Indian Air Force. The SU-30 is of Russian origin, and Mirage comes from France. The deal for SU-30s was inked in 1996. The induction of these fighter planes started in 1997 and its improved variant SU-30 MKI in 2005. Currently, the IAF has 272 SU-30s — Wolf of the Skies— and 50 Mirage-2000. The deal for Mirage was inked between India and France in Continued on Page 2

1,500 residents of 15 villages Muslims. Boxanagar.

# 2 Muslims in BJP's Tripura candidate list

Former CM Biplab Deb left out

PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday released the names of 48 candidates for the Tripura Assembly election, giving tickets to two Muslim and 11 women candidates. Chief Minister Manik Saha and Union Minister Pratima Bhoumik will contest from Bordowali and Dhanpur respectively. But the party has left out former Chief Minister Biplab Deb, triggering speculation that he may find a place in the Union Cabinet.

The inclusion of two Muslim candidates from a small State like Tripura comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently asked the BJP cadres to reach out to the voters of the minority communities, including Pasmanda

Tripura Opposition CPI(M) MLA from Kailashahar Assembly constituency Md Mabashwar Ali, who on Friday joined the BJP, has been fielded from Kailashahar and Taffazal Hossain is the second BJP candidate. He will contest from

Incidentally, in the past, the BJP did not field even a single candidate from many States,

like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The inclusion of two Muslim candidates in the BJP list is also significant as Muslim consist of only 8 per cent of the Tripura population, which is dominated by Hindus (81 per cent).

Except for one, all the Ministers were re-nominated while six sitting MLAs were dropped from the contest this time. Those MLAs denied tickets are — Arun Chandra Bhowmik (Belonia), Biplab Ghosh (Matabari), Subhash (Nalchar), Mimi Das Majumder (Badharghat), Birendra Kishore Debbarma (Golaghati), and Parimal Debbarma (Ambasa).

Elections for the 60-member Tripura Assembly are scheduled for February 16.

Party leaders Anil Baluni and Sambit Patra announced the BIP's candidates at a Press conference here in the party headquarters in the national Capital after BJP's Central Election Committee attended by the Prime Minister, party president JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others met on Friday and approved the list of the nomi-

Continued on Page 2

#### **CAPSULE**

# 7 KILLED IN JERUSALEM TERROR SHOOTING

people have been killed and three others injured in a terror shooting attack at a synagogue in the Neve Yaakov neighbourhood of Jerusalem, police and medics have said. The shooting took place on Friday evening in the northern part of East Jerusalem, they

#### TALIBAN WARN WOMEN OF UNIVERSITY EXAMS

Islamabad: The Taliban on Saturday doubled down on their ban on women's education, reinforcing in a message to private universities that Afghan women are barred from taking university entry exams, according to a spokesman

# BADRINATH TO REOPEN FOR DEVOTEES ON APR 27

**NEW TEHRI:** Amid uncertainty resulting from the land subsidence in Joshimath — the gateway to Badrinath — the date for reopening of this maior shrine to lord Vishnu has been announced. The Badrinath temple will be reopened to the public on April 27 at 7.10 am, authorities said.

#### TISS CANCELS BBC **DOCU SCREENING**

Mumbai: Amid protests by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)'s student union Progressive Students Forum (PSF) cancelled the scheduled screening of the controversial BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question", on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday evening.

# SU-30 pilots eject, injured; probe begins



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In one of the worst air mishaps in recent years, two IAF fighter jets — Sukhoi SU-30 MKI and Mirage-2000 – crashed on Saturday morning

Pradesh. One pilot died and two other pilots ejected safely. They are undergoing medical treat-ment. The IAF ordered the

possibly after a mid-air colli-

sion near Gwalior, Madhya

The accident took place at about 5.30 am after the two planes took off from the

mandatory court of inquiry to Morena, Madhya Pradesh, find out the cause of the acci-

Gwalior airbase for a routine sortie. The possible collision took place during a simulated combat mission when the jets were flying at speeds of more than 800 km per hour, sources

The SU-30 crashed in

other countries, he added.

Highlighting the contri-

bution of the people of the Gurjar community in the free-

dom struggle and other move-

ments, the prime minister said

it is the misfortune of the

country that such personalities

did not get the place in histo-

new India is correcting the mis-

However, Modi said, the

Continued on Page 2

ry which they deserved.

takes done in the past.

while part of the wreckage of the Mirage was found 100 km in neighbouring Bharatpur in Rajasthan. The two pilots of the SU-30 ejected safely while the pilot of the Mirage died. Defence Minister

Eyewitnesses said people, who assembled at the site, extricated the two pilots from

Delhi's Mughal

Rajnath Singh was briefed

about the accident by senior

IAF officials.

the thicket and laid them down on the ground till an IAF helicopter arrived and flew them for treatment to Gwalior. Debris from the two aircraft was strewn over an area of 500-800 metres, some four kilometres away from Pahargarh.

The people in the vicinity tried to extinguish the flames engulfing the two aircraft by throwing mud, these eyewitnesses said, adding the area was soon swarming with more than

nearby.
"I was standing with some

people here when we heard a massive noise from above, like a powerful bomb blast. We looked up to see balls of fire descending, some of which landed in a forested path here and some in Bharatpur on the other side," Pahargarh sarpanch Shailendra Shakya told media outlets at the site.

Continued on Page 2

# Govt working to empower deprived, neglected: Modi

**PTI** ■ JAIPUR

 $P_{\text{Modi on Saturday said his}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ Government is working to empower every section of society that has faced deprivation and neglect, and is moving ahead with the mantra of "Vanchit ko Variyata (preference to the underprivileged)".

Modi is on a visit to Bhilwara district in Rajasthan on the 1111th incarnation festival of folk deity Lord Shri Devnarayan, revered by people of the Gurjar community.

Addressing a gathering at Malaseri Dungri village after taking part in a ritual to mark the occasion, the Prime Minister said the world now looks at India with high hopes and the country has shown its strength and power.

Today, India asserts itself on global platforms and is reducing its dependency on



ontinuing with its drive to Give Hindi names to Mughal-era heritages, the Centre has changed the name of Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Gardens to Amrit Udyan.

"On the occasion of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the President of India has given a common name to the Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens as Amrit Udvan," said a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Droupadi Murmu will formally inaugurate the rechristened Amrit Udyan on Sunday.

This time the gardens (Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden, Central Lawn, Long Garden, and Circular Garden) will be open for about two months — from January 31 to March 26, the statement said.



In the past, the garden was open for public viewing for a month - from February to March. The Government had last year renamed Delhi's iconic Rajpath as "Kartavya Path".

The renaming of the stretch and other institutions is in line with the Centre's effort to remove any trace of the colonial mindset, it has main-

Continued on Page 2

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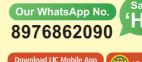


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## ing a debilitating attack on India. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's "Pathaan" took its total

Pathan's gross ₹313 cr worldwide, makes history

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

worldwide gross collection to ₹313 crore as the film continued to perform outstandingly at the ticket window

According to Yash Raj Films (YRF), the SRK-Deepika Padukone starrer raised ₹38 crore nett in Hindi format, while dubbed formats earned ₹1.25 crore nett on the third day. "Pathaan" was also released in Tamil and Telugu on January 25. "The total India collection

on day three was ₹39.25 crore nett (₹47 crore gross). Meanwhile, overseas collection was also astronomical as it collected ₹43 crore gross. The total worldwide collection on day three was an insane ₹90 crore worldwide gross box office," the studio said in a press

note.
"Pathaan", which is Shah Rukh's first big screen release in over four years, had raised ₹106 crore globally on its opening day, followed by ₹113.6 crore on day two. The total India gross box

office collection after three days stands at ₹201 crore gross and total overseas collection is at ₹112 crore gross. "It is incredible that 'Pathaan' has registered the

biggest all-time opening in

India and overseas, considering

the collections of the film in the

first 3 days of release which is

dubbed as the opening weekend for any film. "Pathaan has been blessed

by Indians across the globe and what is happening with this film is unprecedented and historic," Akshaye Widhani, CEO of Yash Raj Films, said in a statement.

(John Abraham), from launch-

Directed by Siddharth Anand, "Pathaan" follows the titular spy (Shah Rukh) who comes out of exile to stop teroffice records, also has a guest rorist group Outfit X, led by Jim appearance by Salman as fellow

spy Tiger.

Anand said the film's his-

toric performance will inspire him to "create bigger spectacles that can make India proud on the global stage? 'It feels incredible to deliv-

er the biggest 3-day collection in the history of Hindi cinema. For someone, who is passionately committed to his craft this is simply a phenomenal result that will inspire me to push the envelope of cinema in India even further," the director added. It is the fourth film in producer Aditya Chopra's ambi-

tious spy universe, following Salman Khan's "Ek Tha Tiger" (2012) and "Tiger Zinda Hai" (2017), and "War", featuring Hrithik Roshan (2019). "Pathaan", which according to YRF has broken some 21 box

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# **Badrinath Dham to reopen** for devotees on April 27

midst uncertainty resulting Afrom 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 The date and timing for the

opening the temple gates were announced by the priests of the Teĥri Manujendra Shah. The date for the opening of

the temple gates is decided on the basis of the erstwhile Tehri king's horoscope as per tradi-

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

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

# Opp unity against BJP should | TISS cancels pivot on Cong, reiterates party

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ SRINAGAR

The Congress party on Saturday reiterated that any opposition unity against the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) should pivot around the Congress and must be based on a positive agenda. The grand old party also maintained that the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra should not be seen as an exercise aimed at building a coalition or fighting elections 'unit-

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi resumed his yatra from Chersoo at Awantipora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district under tight security arrangements. He was joined by the Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti along with her daughter. A large number of Congress workers and local residents converged near the highway to catch a glimpse and welcome the yatra. The Congress workers were seen carrying tricolor and party flags during the

Elaborate security arrangements were made along the



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti joins Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, at Chursu, Awantipora in Pulwama district on Saturday

entire yatra route on Saturday. Strict vigil was kept on the interior roads connected with the National Highway by the various area domination patrol parties of the Indian army and the Central Paramilitary forces. The Congress party also acknowledged that the security arrangements were very strong on Saturday.

Along the yatra route Rahul paid floral tributes to the 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans who had sacrificed their lives in the 2019 Pulwama suicide car bomb blast attack. PDP Chief, wearing a contrasting black dress, walked along with Rahul Gandhi till Lethpora, a few kilometres short of the yatra's destination Saturday.At Lethpora, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also joined the yatra. Mehbooba Mufti termed the yatra as a breath of fresh air in Kashmir. "Rahul Gandhi's yatra comes like a breath of fresh air in Kashmir," Mufti tweeted after the yatra.

# **BBC** docu screening

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Amid protests by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)'s student union Progressive Students Forum (PSF) cancelled the scheduled screening of the controversial BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question", on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday evening.

Informed sources in the PSF attributed the cancellation of the controversial documentary's screening to the intense pressure from the Mumbai police and the TISS management, and also the organisers' failure to take the film print and projector to the screening venue owing to the protests by the BJYM.

However, the sources said that after cancelling the scheduled screening, some students circulated among the fellow students at the TISS the video



of the film through mobile, lap

tops and tablets for viewing.

The TISS management had on Thursday issued an advisory to the students warning them of strict action if they held screening of the contro-

versial documents. Despite the warning, the PSF was planning to go ahead and hold the screening of the documentary as a "symbolic protest" in view of the Government's decision to order YouTube to take down copies of the documentary and asked Twitter to remove the posts related to the film.

Having taken cognisance of the development, the local police had also warned the students against screening the controversial documentary on the TISS premises.

#### AMU student suspended for raising religious slogan at varsity Republic Day function

Controversy erupted in Aligarh Muslim University for raising slogans of Allah-hu-Akbar after Republic Day cel-

The student Wahiduzzma, a student of BA first year, an NCC cadet accused of raising slogans like Allah-hu-akbar after Republic Day celebrations was then suspended by the AMU administration and a case was also registered.

After the incident, the police entered SS North hall where the student used to reside on Friday night. The students protested this act and created a ruckus by locking the proctor's office after the entrance of police in SS North Hall without any information.

The students also raised slogans against the police. Proctor Prof. M. Wasim Ali was engaged in convincing the stu-dents from two o'clock in the

At six in the morning the students opened the lock of the office. On Saturday afternoon, the students have also announced to take out a protest march in AMU against this.

The administration swung into action after a video of the sloganeering was circulated on the internet media. In another video, NCC cadets are raising slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Vande Mataram.

The administration has constituted a three-member committee to investigate the entire matter. Which will submit the report in five days.



# Kerala fallen into debt trap, will take years to recover, says Chacko George

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

 $\mathbf{I}^n$  what is seen as a double whammy for the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government, Plathottathil Chacko George, who served as member of the legislative Assembly for 33 years, said on Saturday that the State has fallen into a debt trap from which it would take years

"Though the Finance Minister of Kerala K N Balagopalan claims that the State has debt of only Rs 3.97 lakh crores, my studies and investigation has found that debt is more than Rs 4.97 lakh crore. The administration has failed in all rounds," George, a specialist in the agriculture and industrial economy, told The Pioneer.



al enterprises have opened shop in Kerala since 2016. "More than that many entrepreneurs who had set up factories that employed thousands have left Kerala for good and moved to other States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana," said George. George, the law maker with

an impeccable track record, pointed out that the Kerala Government instead of focusing its attention on urgent issues was more bothered about controversial missions like the 511 km long semi high speed silver line rail and Angamaly-Sabari rail projects. "Both these projects are of no use in resolving the infrastructural bottlenecks troubling the State. Deaths due to food poisoning caused by restaurants and eateries have made Kerala a dangerous place," he said. Interestingly, the observations by George come at a time when Balagopalan is getting ready to present the State budget on February 3. The opposition UDF led by

the Congress too portrayed a gloomy picture of the State's economy in the white paper which it released on Saturday.

# Govt

Many attempts were made to break India ideologically but no power has succeeded, he said, adding, "India is not just a landmass, but an expression of our civilisation, culture, harmony, and potential."

"People should stay away from any thing which is against the unity of the nation," he

For the last eight-nine years, the country has been trying to empower every section of society that has been neglected and deprived, Modi said. moving mantra of giving preference to the underprivileged."

He said social power has played a huge role in India's journey of thousands of years.
"Let us take pride in our her"Let us take pride in our heritage, get out of the slavery

mindset and remember our duties towards the country," the prime minister added.

Lord Devnarayan always gave priority to social service and public welfare, and put all his energy towards the welfare of the people, he said.

Highlighting the schemes government, the prime minister said, "Earlier, the poor used to worry about rations but today, they get full and free

"Facilities of banking transactions were available to limited people in the past, but today, the doors of the banks have opened for all, water through pipes is reaching more than 11 crore households and farmers are being benefited with PM Kisan Samman

In Rajasthan, assistance of more than Rs 15,000 crore has been given to farmers under the PM Kisan Kisan Samman Nidhi and welfare of livestock and cattle rearers is also being done, he said.

# **BJP** considers me 'Shudra': Akhilesh

Escalating the controversy over remarks by Swami Prasad Maurya's on Ramcharitmanas, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said the BJP considalleged that the BJP sent its goons to prevent him from attending religious ceremony 'Mahayagya', organized on the banks of the

Gomti river on Saturday.
"For the BJP, we are 'Shudras'. They are indulging in discrimination. The BJP may face a similar situation when they will be

voted out of power. Even today, some people want to deprive others of their right to enter temples. It's a fact that whoever prevents anybody from entering temples is a 'vidharmi' for creating obstacles in the path of 'dharma'', Akhilesh said here on Saturday. Mahayagya' on the banks of the Gomti river

"My security was scaled down and national security guards commandos were withdrawn. Today, I have realised the reason behind the withdrawal of my security cover", said Akhilesh.

#### Maurya meets SP chief, refuses to say sorry for Ramcharitmanas barb

ajwadi Party MLC Sv Maurya met party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday amidst row over his remarks on Ramcharitmanas. Refusing to apologise for his remarks on the holy book, Maurya said the party is seeking justice for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes.

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# IAF jets

"We saw two parachutes coming down and we waited for 15-20 minutes for the duo to land. However, they fell into the thicket and sustained injuries. We took them out from the bushes and laid them on the ground. While we were talking to the two pilots in uniform, an IAF helicopter arrived and flew them to Gwalior," said Shakya.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a tweet said, "The news of the crash of Sukhoi-30 and Mirage-2000 aircraft of the Air Force near Kolaras in Morena is very sad."

"I have instructed the local administration to cooperate with the Air Force in quick rescue and relief work. I pray to God that the pilots of the planes are safe," he said. The IAF said in a state-

ment, "Two fighter aircraft of IAF were involved in an accident near Gwalior today morning." The two aircrafts were on a routine operational flying training mission. "One of the three pilots

sustained fatal injuries. An inquiry has been ordered to determine the cause of the accident," the IAF said.

While details of the mishap

were vet to come out, sources said there was a mid-air collision and the Mirage 2000 crashed immediately

after. The two Sukhoi pilots managed to keep their aircraft in the air despite one of the two engines catching fire. However, they could not regain full control for a safe landing and ejected.

The SU-30MKI is a twinseater while the Mirage 2000 is a single-seater aircraft. The Su-30MKIs are developed by Russia's JSC Sukhoi company and built under license by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Mirage 2000s are manufactured by French defence conglomerate Dassault Aviation.

Eyewitnesses to the crash recounted hearing a deafening sound and sighting balls of fire descending to the ground followed by two persons in uniform parachuting into the thicket nearby, PTI reports from Morena said.

The debris of the two aircraft fell in Pahargarh area here, 75 kilometres from the district headquarters, while some parts also fell in Bharatpur, just across the borneighbouring in Rajasthan.

# Delhi's Mughal

From Page 1

"Rashtrapati Bhavan is home to a rich variety of gardens. Originally, they included East Lawn, Central Lawn, Long Garden, and Circular Garden.

"During the term of former Presidents Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind,

more gardens were developed, namely Herbal-I, Herbal-II, Tactile Garden, Bonsai Garden, and Arogya Vanam," the statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan on said.

In this year's Udyan Utsav, among several other attractions, visitors will be able to see

specially cultivated tulips of 12 unique varieties. The gardens will open for the general public on January 31, 2023, and will remain open till March 26, 2023, except on Mondays which are maintenance days and on March 8 on account of

# BJP names | 2 Muslims in Tripura...

From Page 1

The BJP ended the Left's 25-year rule in 2018 and went on to form the Government in Tripura, picking Biplab Deb as the Chief Minister. However, the party removed Deb and appointed Manik Saha as CM in May last year.

Deputy CM Jishnu Debbarma will contest from the Charilam constituency and state BJP chief Kajib Bhattacharjee from Banamalipur. The party will announce the name for the rest twelve seats later which also include tribal seats.

# Crash timeline.

From Page 2 It is a multirole, fourth-

generation jet fighter and has several variants which are used by many countries including India, UAE, Qatar, Brazil, Taiwan, Greece, Peru, and Egypt. The Mirages are based in Gwalior. Nearly all of them have undergone a mid-life upgrade. Incidentally, Dassault, which manufactured the Mirages, has now delivered 36 Rafale medium multi-role combat aircraft to IAF.

Mirages played a key role in destroying enemy bunkers in the mountains during the 1999 Kargil war. More recently, nearly 12 Mirages carried out surgical strikes in 2019 in

Balakot in Pakistan against terrorist hideouts. As for the Sukhoi Su-30

MKI, it is rated one of the safest aircraft with the IAF. The last known crash of the Sukhoi Su-30 MKI was reported in August 2019 in Assam. The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a

multi-role combat fighter aircraft jointly developed by the Sukhoi Design Bureau and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force. Sukhoi Su-30 is called "Air Dominance" fighter by IAF. After the arrival of the Sukhoi in the IAF Fleet, there was a decisive tilt of the balance of power in favour of the IAF in the region. Its supermaneuverability, its armory of advanced beyond visual range missiles, and its extraordinary range of 3000 km (extendable to 8000 km with aerial refueling) are aspects that make it the 'Wolf of the Skies".

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# City's 1,400 km of roads under PWD to get facelift

#### Govt to introduce 1,500 e-scooters for last-mile connectivity

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced a slew of projects to be taken up by the Delhi Government in the upcoming months, which include refurbishment of 1,400 km of roads under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department and introduction of 1,500 e-scootlast-mile connectivity.

"The PWD will begin the refurbishment project in April and try to complete it within six months. About 4,500 crore rupees will be spent in the first year and then 2,000 crore rupees will be spent every year on the project.

"In the next 10 days, all the proposals will be approved by the cabinet and all the work will start from April the Chief Minister said.

The CM had chaired a high level meeting to review the road transformation project where senior officials including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and department offi-

Announcing the project, Kejriwal said, "broken pavements, central verges, manholes, slabs, signage, electric poles, railings, lights and FOBs will be repaired along with maintenance of broken roads and potholes under the project.

Agency will be given a 10-

year contract for maintenance & upkeep, which will be responsible for repairing any damage within 24 hours. Every road will be resurfaced twice in 10 years and road markings, zebra crossing and footpaths will be repainted every three to six months. Roads, footpaths, trees and plants will be washed three days a week with mechanical sweeping, deep scrubbing & litter picking every day," the



Chief Minister said.

According to the Chief Minister, mechanical sweeping and washing of roads would be done once in three days and posters and banners put up on streets would be removed on a daily basis.

project, Kejriwal said over 100 mechanical sweepers will be hired; 250 smog-guns-cum-sprinklers — one for each ward will also be hired for sanitation purposes. Vehicles mounted with cameras would ply across the city and monitor such activities."

Treated water from sewage treatment plants of Delhi Jal Board will be used to wash the roads. Third party monitoring will be systemised with vehicles fitted with cameras, if any shortcoming is found, the contractor will be fined heavily.

"There will be a centralised complaint system, where any person can complain if he sees any dirt, mud or potholes on

A massive plantation drive will be carried out on the central verges of the streets as well as empty spaces along side

Kejriwal said, We are transforming a total of 1,400 kms of roads that come under the jurisdiction of the Delhi PWD. The PWD has jurisdiction only upon roads wider than 18m (45ft) across the national capital, and we will leave no stone unturned to transform them. He added, all the footpaths

roads will be repaired on an as & when necessary basis.

This means that in contrast to the usual practice of replacing footpaths on the entire

and central verges along the

ments who want to spend away all public funds, in this project, we will take up spot-repairs.

If one stone is missing, it will be replaced. If two are damaged, they will be repaired. We will not misuse public funds. Damaged manholes, street furniture, railings, precast slabs, signages, electrical poles, lighting will be repaired.
"In all the city subways, the

railings and light fittings will be repaired, as will the foot over bridges. Beyond these civil and electrical repairs, all potholes and cracks on roads will be repaired."

"The project aims to redefine the maintenance standards of the urban roads across mark of world class maintenance for urban roads across

"This road repair and maintenance project will be a major benefit for the citizens of

Delhi," he added, After meeting with transport department to improve infrastructure, Kejriwal added that the Delhi Government is planning to introduce 1500 escooters, a pilot project around which will be launched in

The e-scooters will come with helmets, can be hired by anyone and will be operational for 60 km with one charge, the CM said. It will be available at

Dwarka.

# Nightclub raided, 288 detained in Gurugram, drugs recovered

Apopular nightclub 'Casa Danza' was raided by multiple teams, including the Gurugram Police and the health department team, on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday with a number of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, charas, marijuana and MDMA from the premises found and confiscated in the Udyog Vihar Phase-3 area.

According to police, 288 people including women were detained and their blood samples were taken for allegedly consuming drugs and sent to the the forensic science laboratory for testing and further

Police said no arrest has been made so far in the case. "The narcotics recovered were were from the club premises. We have taken CCTV footage into our custody and we will examine it to ascertain if some-

one had personally disposed off the narcotics at the premises or they were being supplied at the club," said police. The club owner was iden-The narcotics recovered will be tified as Arvind Yadav, sent to the FSL. Abhishek Rana, and Kuknark Sikka and the managers were Veer and Devesh. An FIR has

and other staff members at

been registered against three

club owners, three managers

grams of charas, 6.30 grams of heroin, 6.30 grams of cocaine, 3.67 grams of MDMA, 2.20 grams of Marijuana, 3 tablets (orange), 3 tablets (pink) and 3 tablets(green) from the spot.

According to police, a 'secret input' was received that contraband drugs were allegedly being consumed and distributed at a rave party at the club on Friday night, following Udyog Vihar police station.

The police seized 10.67 which teams under ACP crime,
ACP Udyog Vihar, ACP east,

four crime branch teams and a scene of crime team carried out a raid around 2 am along with assistance from teams of the chief medical officer's office. "The raid was conducted at around 2 am on Saturday at Casa Danza club, located in Udyog Vihar phase-3 by a joint police team. Police said

"During the search of these 288 persons no contraband was recovered from their possession. After vacating the club an intensive search was carried out by the crime scene team,' Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Manoj Kumar said. Fourteen sachets of drugs were also

seized by police. "A further probe is underway. We will send the blood samples to the forensic science laboratory (FSL)," he said. 'After getting the blood sample reports action will be taken as per the law," the ACP added.

# Another scooterist dragged to death by car with 5 drunk students on board

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another hit and drag case reported from Delhi, a car collided head-on with a scooter in Delhi's Keshav Puram and drove on, dragging along one of its two riders, whose head got stuck between its mangled bonnet and the windshield. Both the riders died of injuries.

The incident took place around 3 am on Friday when the victims were returning home on the two-wheeler after watching a movie. According to the police, the incident occurred when five students, all aged between 19 and 21 were returning from a marriage function in an inebriated condition and speeding away on the road of Delhi in a Tata Zest car.

This comes weeks after a 20-year-old woman was killed in the early hours of the New Year after her scooter was hit by

a car, which dragged her for 12 km from Sultanpuri to Kanjhawala in the national

It was around 3 am at night on Friday when the said car rammed into a Honda Activa scooter at Prerna Chowk in Delhi's Kanhaiya Nagar area. The men riding the cooter were identified as Kailash Bhatnagar (41) and Sumit Khari (21) of Loni in Ghaziabad.

After being hit by the car, Kailash who was driving the scooter jumped in the air and got stuck between the car's windshield and the bonnet which had opened as a result of the collision and the the scooter under its bumper was intercepted by police around 350 metres from the spot of the accident as it accelerated towards Inderlok in a bid to flee, the officials said.

Bhatnagar was declared brought dead at the hospital,

while Khari died during treatment, police said. The victims used to work at a jeans manu-

Two of the car's five occupants were held, while the rest managed to flee but were apprehended later, a senior police official said. They said the impact of the

facturing unit.

collision had flung the pillion rider of the scooter to the roof of the car and then he fell on

Deputy Commissioner of

Rangnani said a police control room (PCR) van saw the incident and chased the offending vehicle down. It was intercepted at a distance of about 350 metres from the spot within 11 seconds and its driver Parveen Nagar alias Silli (20) of Trinagar and Diviansh Puri (20) of Shalimar Bagh were appre-

the car, Om Bhardwaj (19), Harsh Mudgal (19), and

The other occupants of

# DU forms 7-member panel to investigate ruckus over BBC's Modi docu screening

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The Delhi University on Saturday formed a sevenmember committee to investigate the ruckus outside the Arts Faculty building over the screening of a BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The committee, headed by DU Proctor Rajini Abbi, has to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh by 5 pm on January 30.

In a notification, the university said the vice-chancellor has constituted the committee to enforce discipline and maintain law and order on the cam-



committee are Professor Ajay Joint Proctor, Professor Sanjoy Social Work, Professor Rama, Principal of Hansraj College, Professor Dinesh Khattar, Principal of Kirorimal College, and Gaje Singh, Chief Security Officer, it added.

"The Committee may specifically look into the inci-dent of the 27th of January, 2023 which occurred outside the Faculty of Arts and opposite gate No. 4, University of

A commotion erupted at Kumar Singh of the the Delhi University on Friday Department of Commerce, as students attempted to screen Professor Manoj Kumar Singh, the controversial BBC documentary, even as police and the Roy of the Department of university administration intervened to scuttle the move.

#### **Batla House encounter** convict dies at AIIMS

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Mujahideen operative Shahzad Ahmad has died during treatment at AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday. He was convicted in the 2008 Batla House encounter case for murdering Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma and assaulting other officers.

A resident of Azamgarh in alias Pappu (33) was shifted to Tihar Jail on February 6, 2010. He was transferred to central jail number 15 in Mandoli on July 7, 2022, from central jail number 8/9 in Tihar, they said. He was serving life sentence in

He was held of guilty caus-ing the death of Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma and attempting to cause death of Head Constables Balwant Singh and Rajbir Singh by firing at them. Inspector Sharma was leading the police team during the Batla House encounter when he was shot and killed during the found guilty of assaulting police officers and obstructing them from doing their duty. Shahzad was convict and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Batla House encounter case of September 19, 2008.

# Teen held for Jan 7 Sadar Bazar firecracker explosion that killed 1

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

19-year-old youth was Aarrested in connection with the January 7 explosion in north Delhi's Sadar Bazar area in which a person was killed and four others were injured. According to police, the accused, identified as Mohammad Faiz, had given a Gulab Madar to dispose them of. When Madar was carrying the bag, the explosion occurred, they said.

Five persons were injured in the incident and Madar succumbed during treatment.

Doctors' salaries, Govt projects stalled



Uttar Pradesh, they said.

On January 7, the police received information regarding a wall collapse at a building on Qutub Road, Sadar Bazar. After reaching the spot, it was found that the staircase and a blast, a senior police officer said. Later, a case under various sections of the IPC and the Explosive Act was registered at the Sadar Bazar police station and an investigation was initi-

# Delhi BJP Executive Committee targets Kejriwal Govt, vows to expose 'graft'

On the second day of the Delhi BJP executive committee's meeting, the party targeted the Arvind Kejriwal-led Government over multiple issues and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the installation of Netaii Subhas Chandra Bose's statue at the India Gate and other Centreled projects.

Delhi BJP in its executive meeting on Saturday vowed to expose the Arvind Kejriwal

A political resolution proposed by adopted by the Leader

of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bhiduri and approved by MP Pravesh Sahib Singh and State General Secretary Harsh Malhotra, stated that the Delhi government has become like

DTC employees, civil defence volunteers and home guards are not being paid salaries. Even the doctors and other staff of the Mohalla clinic did not get their salaries for several months. Mohalla clinic tests could not be done due to non-payment for several



Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur was also present at the Delhi BJP executive meeting. At a press conference held

on Saturday, Bhiduri alleged that the AAP dispensation was Union Information and indulging in "corruption" in Delhi government.

different departments such as excise and electricity as well as projects such as building classrooms. There was no immediate reaction from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) or the

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged on Saturday that doctors' salaries and Government projects were unlawfully stalled in order to influence the MCD polls, but asserted that these actions will not obstruct the public welfare work of the Arvind Kejriwalled dispensation.

Sisodia inaugurated a new casualty and emergency and labour room in the department of obstetrics and gynaecology in the MCH (maternity and child health) block, along with

upgraded oxygen facilities, at the state-run Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital.

"The Delhi government's health department has been working round the clock to ensure that the people of the national capital get the best of world-class health facilities at the hospitals run by the city government, which is a priority of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Delhi's health model has received acclamation the world over. Upgrading our hospitals is just another effort to make our health model more efficient room in the department of emergency treatment.



and sustainable," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader

He said the new casualty and emergency and labour

obstetrics and gynaecology at the MCH block of the GTB Hospital will ensure that pregnant women, mothers and children get swift and quality

# ders issued, tasks outlined for cleaning, rejuvenating

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The High Level Committee **I** (HLC) headed Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), issued detailed orders with specific tasks and timelines to ensure the cleaning/rejuvenation of river Yamuna and the sewage carry-

ing drains falling into it. All the crucial parameters on river health [like BOD < 3 mg/I, DO > 5 mg/I, minimum environmental flow — 23 Cumecs (437 MGD), etc.] were accepted by the HLC, and to achieve these parameters, the HLC finalized the Action Plan, including but not limiting to

treatment of all sewage generated in Delhi, trapping of all major drains out falling into river Yamuna, extending sewerage network in all unauthorized colonies and JJ Clusters, regulation of Yamuna Flood Plain including removal of all encroachments / Dhobi Ghats, enforcement of Delhi Water Board Septage Management Regulations 2018, utilization of treated STP water and upgra-dation of 13 Common Effluent Treatment Plants treating

industrial effluents, etc. It was also decided by HLC to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner, Revenue Department, GNCTD and consisting of CEO, DJB: MGD, for which land is yet to

bers; and Secretary. Urban Development Department, GNCTD as member-cum-convenor of this Committee, to revisit the Delhi Water Board Management Septage Regulations 2018 to make them more effective & enforceable. The Committee will submit its report latest by February 15, 2023 to the Convenor of this HLC. "Completion of construction of 40 New Decentralised

STPs with total capacity of 92 MGD. 29 Decentralized STPs

with total capacity of 57.57

MGD will be constructed by

December, 2023. The remain-

ing 11 Decentralized STPs hav-

ing total capacity of 32.43

Commissioner MCD as mem-

be allotted by DDA, required land will be made available at the earliest and thereafter construction will be completed within 12 months," it said. It has been noted with

concern that no desilting of

existing drains network has

been carried out in the recent past. As a result most of the drains are either completely choked or functioning with 10-15% of their designed flow. Hence a major desilting drive

must be undertaken. Out of an

approximate 200 km of

2023. In addition, fresh contract will be done for remaining 110 km at the earliest. The entire desilting will be completed by September 2023. Out of 18 major drains out falling into river Yamuna in Delhi stretch, trapping of 11 drains which include Magazine

Road, Sweeper Colony, Khyber Pass, Metcalf House, Tonga Stand, Moat (Vijay Ghat), Civil Military, drain 14, Tughlagabad, Kalkaji and Tehkhand has been completed.

DJB shall construct 10 MGD STP to trap the remaining flow in the Delhi Gate Drain within 12 months and

trunk/peripheral sewerage held with DJB. 90.34 Km of desiltshall be resolved by all coning will be completed by June, cerned by January 31.Sen Nursing Home Drain has been trapped into Sen Nursing Home STP as well as into the Ring Road trunk sewer. However, some marginal flow/ overflow still passes during peak hours. DJB to take measures to stop this marginal flow by desilting the drain and proper operation of Ring Road trapping by March 2023. 74 un-trapped sub-drains [44 in Najafgarh Drain and 30

in Supplementary Drain (which is sub drain of Najafgarh drain)] to be intercepted by October 2023 while two un-trapped sub-drains of Shahdara Drain to be inter-

matter of allotment of land cepted by June. 2023. Full trapping and treatment of 242 MGD wastewater of the Interceptor Sewer Project (ISP) to be completed by DJB by June. 2023. "Work of sewer network is in Progress in 573 unauthorised colonies to be completed by Dec, 2023. Out of 161 unauthorized colonies, 123 awaiting NOC/Clearance from Forest, ASI and 0 Zone will be completed within 12 months of obtaining clearances but not later than June. 2024," it said. The National Mission for

Clean Ganga (NMCG) offered to develop a bio-diversity park in the Yamuna floodplain in case Delhi Development Authority (DDA) allots a land of appropriate area to it.

# Cong seeks debate on Chinese incursion in Budget Session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress has renewed its demand for a debate on the alleged Chinese incursion across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

The party said for security interest of the nation, the Government should not shy away from talking about China in the Parliament.

The Congress on Saturday said it will seek cooperation from other Opposition parties to press for a discussion on

The [party alleged that the Modi Government did not heed to Congress' demand for a discussion in Parliament on this issue session after session and sought to know whether the government will continue to keep the country in the dark or tell the nation the truth about China's "illegal occupa-

tion".

"We demand immediate discussion on this issue in Parliament, in the forthcoming Budget session. India's territor-



stake and we should do everything possible, together to uphold it.

"Enough of 'clean chits' to China, now, the time has come for the Modi government to come clean on China," AICC Media and Publicity chief Pawan Khera said at an AICC Press

Congress claimed that recent reports say that India has patrolling points (PP) which was not the case before May 2020 and the subsequent Galwan clash where 20 bravehearts sacrificed their lives.

The Congress asks why after 17 rounds of military talks, the Modi government has not ensured the status quo ante even after almost three years of the Galwan clash? Given the fact that a senior

police official has flagged this highly sensitive issue, will the Modi government tell the India's rightful hold on our territory to China," he asked. Alleging that the docu-

ment has exposed the government's "weak-kneed approach' towards China, Khera asked the Prime Minister to spell out if he is still "afraid" of China or still "loves" the country.

# Kharge writes to Shah, demands foolproof security in Bharat Jodo Yatra in J&K

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking his intervention in ensuring adequate security to the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir. Then yatra is scheduled to end on

The request has come after the Yatra was suspended for a day in view of "security lapse":

Congress alleged that the and K Police had withdrawn security around its leader Rahul Ġandhi in the wake of surging crowds during the foot march in Qazigund.

'We are expecting a huge gathering to join the yatra over the next two days and also the function that will be held on January 30 at Srinagar. Many

senior Congress leaders and leaders of other important political parties are attending the culmination function to be held on the 30th of January. I shall be grateful if you could personally intervene in this matter and advise the concerned officials to provide adequate security till the culmination of the yatra and the function on the 30th January at Srinagar," the Congress president said in his letter to the Home minister.

He said he is writing after the "unfortunate security lapse" during the Bharat Jodo

rity officials in charge of the security detail of Rahul Gandhi, the Yatra had to be suspended, Kharge said.

"We appreciate the Jammu and Kashmir Police and welcome their statement saying



they will continue to ensure complete security till the culmi-

nation of the journey," he said. "You will appreciate the fact that a large crowd of common people has joined and walked in the Bharat Jodo Yatra every day. It is difficult for the organisers to tell exactly how many people are expected over the day as it is a spontaneous gesture of the common people to join the yatra," Kharge wrote. Kharge had earlier said

that the alleged lapse in Gandhi's security detail in J and K during the Yatra was disconcerting to say the least.

'It is government of India's prime responsibility to provide security. India has already lost two PM's and scores of leaders and we demand better security for the Yatris," he

# **ED** arrests 4 more in C'garh coal levy scam, gets 3-day remand

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four more accused on money laundering charges in the illegal coal levy scam of Chhattisgarh in which several others, including an IAS officer and deputy secretary to Chattisgarh Chief Minister, were also arrested earlier.

The arrested accused persons were produced before the PMLA Special Court at Raipur that remanded them to threeday ED custody till Monday, the agency said in a statement.

The ÉD had earlier issued a provisional attachment order attaching 'proceeds of crime' worth Rs 152.5 crore and has filed a Prosecution Complaint or chargesheet under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Recently, searches were

United Textiles Limited Regd. Office 7<sup>th</sup> K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana) CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092 Notice

Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) degulations, 2015, Notice is hereb given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled o be held on Monday. 13th February 2023 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Endec 31st December, 2022.

31st December, 2022.
Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.12.2022 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results.
The said information is also
available on Company's Website
www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of stock exchanges as www.bseindia.com.

For United Textiles Limited (Vivek Aggarwal) Whole Time Director Dated 24.01.2023 (DIN 07079208

- Basic (Amount in Rs.)

Delhi, and Pune on specific inputs following which the four accused persons were arrested, it said

Those arrested are Deepesh Taunk, a close confidant of one of the main accused in the case, Saumya Chaurasia, Deputy Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and "knowingly involved in Money Laundering" and Sandeep Kumar Nayak (Surajpur) and Shiv Shankar Nag (Korba), Mining Officers who knowingly and willingly assisted the syndicate of Suryakant Tiwari in committing extortion and acquisition of the proceeds of crime, the ED said.

Another accused arrested is Rajesh Chaudhary a common man who cheats on people by claiming to work as a middleman to settle cases.

"ED investigation has established that close family members of Sunil Agarwal (an accused arrested by ED and presently in

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform to the public at large that (1) Mrs ers of FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YARDS i.e. 83.61 SQ. METERS, OUT OF KHASRANO. 481, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF SARFABAD PARGANA & TEHSIL DADRI. DISTT. GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, (U.P), from Sale Deed dated 13.06.2022 Vide Document No 3671, is taking the financial assistance from Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd. However, Original Sale Deed dated 29.03.2006 and Original Sale Deed dated 12.07.2019 has been lost and not available and a Complaint has lodged on dated 15.10.2022 with Dairy No. 076 for loss of document. If any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest over the saic property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

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



Judicial Custody) were making desperate efforts to secure the release of Sunil Agarwal, soon after his arrest by ED on 12.10.2022. At that time, this self-acclaimed 'liaisoner', got in touch with the relatives of Sunil Agarwal," it said.

Since Rajesh Chaudhary had acquired part of the pro-ceeds of crime as revealed by investigation, on getting specific intelligence inputs, ED on its own launched an operation. Chaudhary was traced and arrested under PMLA. "During his interrogation, it was discovered that he had also creat-

THE PIONEER (1

CHANGE OF NAME

ed fake ID Cards of a ED officer and was also declaring himself as an ED employee in various KYC documents submitted to banks," it said. Meanwhile, in a separate case, the agency on Saturday

said it has attached assets worth Rs 24.13 lakh of an Andhra Pradesh-based trader who allegedly under-valued goods imported from China. The ED has attached some residential premises located in

the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh and other immovable properties of M Hari Babu, the proprietor of Bhavani Diamond Tools on money laundering charges. the tune of Rs 2 crore through Bhavani Diamond Tools, the agency added.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client VIRENDRA PRASAD is purchasing property first Floor, area a3.61 SQ. Mtrs.,property Bearing No. 485-B.Gail No. 6, Out of Khasra No. 600/92, Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi, From Shikha Bansal and mortgaging the same with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd., and Shikha Bansal Kakkar not having Originals 1. Death and Survivor Certificate of Kanwaljeet Singh, 2. succession certificate in favour of Gurdeep Singh and RenuBala, It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this oublication. I, Bibi Asma Fatma, W/o. Mohd. Kamil Hussain, R/o.B-28/7, Flat No.101, UGF, Thoker No.7, Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Asma Fatma for all future AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwaka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M:- 9899013918

PD(90255)A

#### Jaishankar: Atmanirbhar India sees huge transformation, set to be world's leading power

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$  has seen a huge transformation in the last eight to nine years and the country will be a leading power after it becomes 'atmanirbhar' (self reliant), External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Saturday.

In Pune to launch 'Bharat Marg', the Marathi translation of his book 'The India Way', the EAM said the aim was to get people to associate with the nation's foreign policy and not just listen to the "mandarins" (a term generally used for powerful bureau-

He also spoke on China and the challenges the country faces with the ambitious northern neighbour as well as India's ties with Japan and the role in the Indo-Pacific.

"There are eight chapters. I wanted people to be associated with (the country's) foreign policy. I want to involve people from other states as well, not just Delhi. I have written this book in simple language and it is an easy

two nawabs losing Awadh to the British East India Company while playing chess,



the second chapter is about globalisation and the challenges it throws up, and the third chapter is about the dogmas of Delhi that is traditionally defined and con-strained," Jaishankar said.

"The fourth is about foreign policy. Some people allege we are sitting in ivory towers and analysing the world. I feel we should not leave foreign policy to the mandarins. We should also listen to the masses. We should consider the feelings of people while formulating our foreign policy," he said.

Speaking about China, EAM said The first chapter is about neighbour which is a global power and may become a superpower in the years to

# Rare rocks for Lord Ram idol to reach Ayodhya from Nepal on Feb 2: Temple Trust official



wo rare rocks from which Two rare rocks from ......

The idol of Lord Ram will be carved out and placed in the sanctum sanctorum of Ram Temple will reach here from Nepal on Thursday, a senior functionary of the temple trust has said.

"Vishwa Hindu Parishad's national secretary Rajendra Singh Pankaj started from Mustang district of Nepal on Wednesday with the consignment of two sacred rocks and is expected to arrive in Ayodhya on Thursday," said Prakash Gupta, office in-charge of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

that are 60 million-years-old, will reach Ayodhya from Nepal on two different trucks. One rock weighs 26 tonnes and the

Idol of Lord Rama in his

child form carved from this stone will be placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Temple, which is expected to be ready by Makar Sankranti festival in January next year, officials said. The two rocks were found

in the Gandaki river at a place close to Saligrama or Muktinath (place of salvation) in Nepal's Mustang district, they said. Meanwhile, a twoday meeting of the building construction committee of the Ram Temple began in Ayodhya from Saturday.

The meeting was chaired chairman Nripendra Mishra and attended by Trust Secretary Champat Rai and Trustee Anil

# Tunes based on classical ragas to be flavour of beating retreat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Spectators at the Vijay Chowk and television viewers are in for a treat on Sunday when Indian tunes based on classical ragas will be the flavour of Beating the Retreat ceremony. Nearly 3,500 drones will also enthrall the viewers by engaging in some spectacular aerial show..

Giving details of the function, defence ministry officials said on Saturday President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Droupadi Murmu will grace the show along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the three Services chiefs at the Vijay Chowk.

As many as 29 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes will be played by the music bands of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the State Police, and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF). The ceremony will also

witness the country's biggest Drone Show, comprising of 3,500 indigenous drones. The magnificent drone show will light up the evening sky over the Raisina hills, weaving myriad forms of national figures and events through smooth synchronisation. It will depict the success of the start-up ecosystem, the technological prowess of the country's youth and pave the way for future path-breaking trends. The event will be organised by

Botlabs Dynamics.



anamorphic projection will be organised during Beating Retreat Ceremony 2023 on the façade of North and South Block.

The Ceremony will begin with the massed band's 'Agniveer' tune which will be followed by the enthralling tunes like 'Almora', 'Kedar Nath, 'Sangam Dur', 'Queen of Satpura', 'Bhagirathi', 'Konkan Sundari' by Pipes and Drums band.

Indian Air Force's band will play 'Aprajey Arjun', 'Charkha', 'Vayu Shakti', 'Swadeshi', while fascinating 'Ekla Cholo Re', 'Hum Taiyyar Hai', and 'Jai Bharati' will be played by the band of Indian

Navy.
The Indian Army's band will play 'Shankhnaad', 'Shere-Jawan', 'Bhupal', 'Agranee Bharat', 'Young India', 'Kadam

Kadam 'Drummers Call', and 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon'.

The event will come to a close with the ever-popular tune of 'Sare Jahan se Acha'.

The principal conductor of the ceremony will be Flight Lieutenant Leimapokpam Rupachandra Singh. While the Army Band will be led by Subedar Major Diggar Singh, the Naval and Air Force band commanders will be M Anthoni Raj and Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar. The conductor of the State Police and CAPF bands will be Assistant Sub Inspector Prem Singh.

The Buglers will perform under the leadership of Naib Subedar Santosh Kumar Pandey, and pipes and drums band will play under the instructions of Subedar Major Baswaraj Vagge.

'Beating the Retreat' ceremony at the Vijay Chowk on January 29th every year marks the culmination of the fourday-long Republic Day celebrations. It has emerged as an event of national pride when the Colours and Standards are paraded. The ceremony traces its

origins to the early 1950s when Major Roberts of the Indian Army indigenously developed the unique ceremony of display by the massed bands. It marks a centuries old military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat. Colours and Standards are cased and flags lowered. The ceremony creates nostalgia for the times

#### Indiabulls Enterprises Limited

purposes.

(CIN: U71290HR2019PLC077579) Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2022

Particulars	ended 31-Dec-22	ended 30-Sep-22	ended 31-Dec-21	ended 31-Dec-22	ended 31-Dec-21	ended 31-Mar-22
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from operations	25.30	32.30	56.40	88.30	159.02	209.01
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Share of Profit / (Loss), Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2.28	(0.98)	(18.00)	(12.95)	(63.22)	(94.85)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax and Share of Profit / (Loss) (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	1.51	(3.77)	(14.79)	(16.85)	(65.85)	(98.08)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1.41	30.28	(16.28)	16.24	(69.68)	(102.68)
Equity share capital	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						226.83
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each before extraordinary items from continuing operations  - Basic (Amount in Rs.)	0.08	(0.19)	(0.75)	(0.85)	(3.32)	(4.95)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	0.08	(0.19)	(0.75)	(0.85)	(3.32)	(4.95)
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each before extraordinary items from						

(0.07)(0.19)(0.25)Diluted (Amount in Rs.) 1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 January 2023

2. Key Standalone Financial Information: (Rs. in Crores) Quarter Quarter Quarter 9 months 9 months Year 31-Mar-22 31-Dec-22 30-Sep-22 31-Dec-21 31-Dec-22 31-Dec-21 Unaudited Unaudited Unaudited Unaudited Audited Total Income 180.96 Profit/(Loss) before Tax 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.indiabullsenterprises.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 : 28 January 2023

Vijay Kumar Agarwal **Executive Director & CFO** 

(0.19)

(0.25)

# 7 killed in shooting at Jerusalem synagogue

At least seven people have been killed and three others injured in a shooting incident at a synagogue in the Neve Yaakov neighbourhood of Jerusalem, police and medics have said. The shooting took place on Friday evening in the northern part of East Jerusalem, they said.

"The terrorist arrived by car at a building used as a synagogue in the neighbourhood in the northern part of East Jerusalem and opened fire," police said.

Police located and shot the gunman. A handgun apparently used in the attack was seized, they said.

Seven people were shot and killed and at least three others were wounded in a terror shooting attack, The Times of Israel newspaper said, quoting police and

Police said the terrorist a resident of East Jerusalem was shot dead after he exited the car and opened fire on the officers while trying to escape

on foot, the report said.

Magen David Adom (MDA)rescue services said its medics declared five victims dead at the scene, and another two victims were declared dead at hospitals in Jerusalem, it added.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speak-



Victims of a shooting attack are covered on the ground near a synagogue in

**Biden calls Israeli** 

**PM** after terrorist

attack in Jerusalem

Washington: US President Joe

Biden spoke with Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,

condemning what he called a

"horrific terrorist attack" out-

side a Jerusalem synagogue in

which a Palestinian gunman

President Biden, who called Netanyahu on Friday,

also offered support to Israel's

killed at least seven people.

ing after visiting the scene, called the attack "one of the most severe we have known in

years."
"Our hearts are with the families. We must act with determination and composure. I call on people not to take the law into their own hands," he was quoted as say-

ing in the report.

Defense Minister Yoav
Galant was to soon hold a special situation assessment meeting with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff, the head of Israel's internal security agency Shin Bet, and other security officials, his

# Palestinian teen wounds 2, day after 7 killed in Jerusalem

Palestinian attacker in his A early teens opened fire in east Jerusalem on Saturday, wounding two people, officials said, a day after another assailant killed seven outside a synagogue in the deadliest

attack in the city since 2008.

The shooting in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem, near the historic Old City, wounded a father and son, ages 47 and 23, paramedics said. Both were fully conscious and in moderate to serious condition in the hospital, the medics added.

Police said they shot and overpowered the 13-year-old attacker, wounding him. He was taken to a hospital, they said, and there was no further word on his condition.

Video showed police escorting a wounded young man, wearing nothing but underwear, away from the scene and onto a stretcher.

Authorities taped off the street and emergency vehicles and security forces swarmed the area as helicopters whirled overhead.

Saturday's events — just a day before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was set to arrive in the region —raised the possibility of even greater conflagration in one of the bloodiest months in Israel and the occupied West Bank in sever-

On Friday, a Palestinian gunman killed at least seven people, including a 70-year-old woman, in a Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem, an area captured by Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move not internationally recognized.

The attacks pose pivotal test for Israel's new far-right government.

Its firebrand minister of national security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, has presented himself as an enforcer of law and order and grabbed headlines for his promises to take even stronger against Palestinians.

The Israeli army said it had deployed another battalion to the West Bank on Saturday, adding hundreds more troops to a presence already on heightened alert in the occupied ter-

Prime Minister Benjamin said he would convene his Security Cabinet on Saturday night, after the end of the sabbath, to discuss a further response to the attack near the

synagogue.
Security forces launched a crackdown early Saturday, fanning out into the neighbour-hood of the 21-year-old Palestinian gunman, who was shot and killed at the scene. Police arrested 42 of his family members and neighbours for questioning in the At-Tur neighbourhood in east

## '3 dead, 4 hurt in **California shooting'**



**AP** BEVERLY CREST

t least three people were Akilled and four others were wounded in a shooting in California area early on Saturday morning.

Sgt. Frank Preciado of the Los Angeles Police Department confirmed the shooting happened just after 2:30 am in Beverly Crest, an upscale Los Angeles neighbourhood.

Of the seven people who were shot, four were standing outside. The three who were killed were in a vehicle.

Their identities were not released. Those who were injured were taken to a hospital and are in critical

Preciado said he did not have information on what led up to the shooting, or if it occurred at a residence.

This is the fourth mass shooting in California this

The shooting comes a week after a massacre at a dance hall in a Los Angeles suburb left 11 dead and nine wounded and only days after a gunman opened fire on a pair of mushroom farms south of San Francisco on Monday, fatally shooting seven people and wounding one.

The killings have dealt a blow to the state, which has some of the nation's toughest firearm laws and lowest rates of

Mali defends military ties with Russia

AP UNITED NATIONS

Mali's Foreign Minister defended the military government's cooperation with Russia on Friday and rejected three options proposed by the UN chief to reconfigure the UN peacekeeping force in the west African country where Al-Qaeda and Islamic State extremist groups are driving insecurity.

Abdoulaye Diop told the UN Security Council that security is the country's top priority and Mali will not continue to justify its partnership with Russia, which is providing training and equipment to the military. He did not mention Russia's Wagner Group, the private military contractor with ties to the Kremlin.

But Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' internal review released this week of the 17,500-strong UN mission, known as MINUSMA, noted that Mali's longstanding security partnership with France and others deteriorated over concerns about Wagner Group personnel operating in support of the Malian armed forces, which he said Russian officials have publicly acknowledged.

#### government and people following the attack. office said. Jerusalem. PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz returns to Pakistan after almost 4-month stay in UK

**PTI** ■ LAHORE

Senior Vice President of the PML-N Maryam Nawaz returned to Pakistan on Saturday to strengthen her party ahead of the crucial assembly elections, nearly four months after she flew to London to meet his father and former premier Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam, who has been appointed as the party's chief

rganiser, landed at Allama Iqbal International Airport here from Abu Dhabi after a one-hour delay in her flight due to a medical emergency on the plane."Long live Pakistan," she tweeted after her return to

She left Pakistan for London in October last year after she was acquitted in a corruption case. At the time, she had said she was "eager" to see



hadn't met since 2019. The 49-year-old senior

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, on her return to Pakistan, told Geo News that she would utilise all her energy to strengthen the party. Earlier, party spokesperson

Marriyum Aurangzeb said Maryam was returning to begin the "reorganisation of the party". Maryam is likely to have a more significant role in the political happenings of the country after her appointment as the PML-N's chief organiser earlier this month

has authorised Maryam, along with Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, to lead rallies and hold meetings ahead of the upcoming elections in Punjab.

Her elevation in the party is a clear message from Nawaz to the camp led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that she would succeed him, a PML-N leader from Punjab told the Dawn newspaper.

# Trump kicks off 2024 bid with events in early voting States campaign that left many ques-Former President Donald Trump is set to kick off his

2024 White House bid on Saturday with visits to a pair of early voting states, his first campaign events since launching his bid more than two months ago.

GOP's annual meeting before travelling to Columbia, South Carolina, where he is set to unveil his leadership team at the Statehouse.

speaker at the New Hampshire

Trump will be the keynote

The states hold two of the



contests, giving them enormous power in selecting its Trump and his allies hope

the events will offer a show of force behind the former president after a sluggish start to his tioning his commitment to running again. In recent weeks, his back-

ers have been reaching out to political operatives and elected officials to secure support for Trump's reelection at a critical juncture when other Republicans are preparing their own expected challenges.

"The gun is fired, and the campaign season has started," said Stephen Stepanek, chair of New Hampshire Republican Party and the cochair of Trump's 2016 campaign in the state.

# Myanmar's military Government enacts new political party law

Myanmar's military-controlled government has enacted a new law on registration of political parties that will make it difficult for opposition groups to mount a serious challenge to army-backed candidates in a general election set to take place later this year.

The new electoral law, published Friday in the state-run Myanma Alinn newspaper, sets minimum funding and membership levels for parties participating in the polls.

It also bans participation by parties or candidates deemed unlawful or linked to organizations declared by the military government to be terrorist

The army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, arresting her and top members of her governing won a landslide victory for a second term in a November 2020 general election.

The security forces supessed widespread opposition to the military takeover with lethal force, killing almost 2,900 civilians and arresting thousands more people who engaged in nonviolent protests. The savage crackdown triggered armed resistance in much of the country.

The military government deemed major organizations opposed to army rule to be "terrorist" groups, and communication with them was declared illegal.

The new law gives parties two months to re-register with Union Election Commission and says those that do not will be "automatically invalidated" and considered dissolved.

#### **Deeply pained to see horrific** video of beating, death of **African American youth: Biden**

PTI WASHINGTON

T TS President Joe Biden has and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beating of African American youth Tyre Nichols in Memphis city of Tennessee that ultimately resulted in his death earlier this

The release of the graphic video by the Memphis police Friday evening has increased social tension across the country. Protests in New York City were largely peaceful despite the three arrests and some minor clashes between police and protesters in the city.

The White House had a call with Mayors of several cities including those from Atlanta, Aftab Pureval, and the Cleveland Mayor Justin Morris Bibb to calm down

"Like so many, I was outraged and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beat-



Nichols' death. It is yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day," Biden said on Friday, soon after the video was released.

According to The New York Times, videos of the January 7 incident show Memphis police kicking and beating Tyre Nichols, 29, as he begs them to stop. He was on his way home on January 7. when police pulled him over for alleged reckless driving.

#### Czechs select successor to Zeman in Prez runoff

zech voters were casting ballots on the sec-Cond day of a presidential runoff election on Saturday, picking a successor to Milos Zeman

Retired army Gen. Petr Pavel and populist billionaire Andrej Babis, advanced to a second round of voting because none of the eight initial candidates received an absolute majority in the first round two weeks ago.

The polls favour Pavel, an independent candidate who came a narrow first in the opening round. Three other candidates pledged their support for Pavel ahead of the voting that started

Pavel, 61, a former chairman of NATO's military committee, is a political newcomer. He has fully endorsed the country's military and humanitarian support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

Babis, 68, is a former prime minister whose centrist ANO (YES) movement ended up in opposition after losing the 2021 general election. He is supported by Zeman, with whom he shares eurosceptic views and the habit of using antimigrant rhetoric.

Zeman was the first president elected by popular vote. His second and final five-year term expires in March. Lawmakers elected the previous two presidents, Vaclav Havel and Vaclav

# TRADEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED

CIN: L74110DL1995PLC064237

Regd. Off: S-8 & S-2, DDA SHOPPING COMPLEX, OPP. POCKET-I, MAYUR VIHAR-I, DELHI -110091 Tel.: 011-22755819 | Email Id: info@brandrealtv.in | Website: https://www.brandrealtv.in

Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Third Quarter &

Nine Months ended 31st December, 2022

(Rs. in Lacs except per share data)

	Quarte	r ended	Nine Months Ended		
Particulars	31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	31.12.2021 (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 (Unaudited)		
Total Income from Operations	(17.22)	268.51	69.53		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)		
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)		
Paid up Equity Share Capital (of Rs. 10/- each)	300.44	300.44	300.44		
Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves (As per previous acc. Year)	-	-	-		
Earnings Per Share (for continuing and discontinued operations)-					
Basic :	(1.34)	(1.03)	(0.16)		
Diluted:	(1.34)	(1.03)	(0.16)		

The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Third Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2022 filed with the BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the Third Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2022

is available on the BSE website (www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (https://www.brandrealty.in) The above un-audited financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 28th January, 2023.

For TRADEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED

KAMAL MANCHANDA (WHOLETIME DIRECTOR) DIN: 00027889

# Climate activists block main road into Netherlands city

**AP** ■ THE HAGUE

Hundreds of climate activists blocked one of the main roads into The Hague on Saturday, defying attempts to prevent their protest that have sparked concerns about restrictions on the right to demonstrate in the Netherlands.

The protesters, many waving coloured flags with the symbol of environmental group Extinction Rebellion and one holding a sign saying, in Dutch, "This is a dead end road," gathered on the A12 road near the temporary home of the Dutch parliament. Police and hundreds more demonstrators

looked on. Protesters who ignored police orders to leave the road were picked up and carried away one by one to waiting buses and driven away.

Hours after the demon-



detained. Police said in a tweet that many of the activists left voluntarily when told to by offi-Earlier this week, six Extinction Rebellion activists

suspicion of sedition linked to calls to stage the protest. A judge on Friday upheld an order banning another activist from the area for 90

were detained by authorities on

Extinction Rebellion said that he ignored the order and attended the protest. A lawyer



spokesperson Anne Kervers said the large number of participants "shows what society thinks of fossil fuel subsidies and of the intimidation and criminalisation of nonviolent climate activism.

were calling for supporters to take part in the "dangerous and disruptive blockade" of the

#### 2 dead, 2 missing as rain pounds **New Zealand's** largest city

Wellington: Police said Saturday that two people had died and two more were missing as record levels of rainfall pounded New Zealand's largest city, causing widespread disruption. Authorities declared a state of emergency for the Auckland region and the nation's new Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins, flew to the city on a military plane to assess the damage. Hipkins was sworn in to the top job on Wednesday

Prosecutors defended their after Jacinda Ardern resigned action, saying the suspects Hipkins said the rain had hit the city fast. "Aucklanders need to brace for the fact there could be more rain," he said.

Earlier, hundreds of people "Calling for a criminal were stranded at Auckland offense — such as blocking a Airport overnight after the airpublic road — amounts to port stopped all flights and sedition," prosecutors said in a parts of the terminal were

#### INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U74140MH1993PTC074596)

Place: Delhi Date: 28.01.2023

						(Rs. in Crores
Particulars	Quarter ended 31 Dec 2022 Unaudited	Quarter ended 30 Sep 2022	Quarter ended 31 Dec 2021 Unaudited	Nine months ended 31 Dec 2022 Unaudited	Nine months ended 31 Dec 2021 Unaudited	Year ended 31 March 2022 Audited
		Unaudited				
Total income from operations	5.58	5.71	5.15	16.20	16.06	21.01
Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	2.56	2.97	1.35	7.35	5.17	7.37
Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	2.56	2.97	1.35	7.35	5.17	7.37
Net profit for the period after tax(after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	1.80	2.18	1.02	5.54	3.69	5.34
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	1.85	2.12	1.02	5.54	3.70	5.36
Paid-up equity share capital	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	30.20	28.36	22.99	30.20	22.99	24.66
Securities premium account	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83
Net worth	146.83	144.99	139.62	146.83	139.62	141.29
Outstanding debt	49.90	49.85	49.70	49.90	49.70	49.75
Debt equity ratio	0.34	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.35
Earnings per share before extraordinary items						
(Face Value of Rs.10 per Equity Share)						
(EPS for the quarter and nine months are not annualised)*						
-Basic (Rs)	*0.43	*0.52	*0.24	*1.33	*0.88	1.28
-Diluted (Rs)	*0.43	*0.52	*0.24	*1.33	*0.88	1.28

Note to financial results:

Date: 28 January 2023

1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 January 2023 2) The above presentation is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/ annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosure requirements) regulations, 2015. The full format of quartely / annual financial results are available on the company's website (http://indiabullsruralfinance.com)

Registered Office: One International Center, Tower-1, 4th Floor, S. B. Marg For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Elphinstone(W), Mumbai, 400013 Place : Gurugram

Vijay Kumar Agrawal

# **'Election Budget' to focus on job** creation, farm sector & rural growth

IANS NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is going to present the last full budget of the second term of the Narendra Modi government in Parliament on February 1.

As this will be the last full budget of the Modi government before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it is being said that the election glimpse will be apparent in the budget.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other opposition parties are expected to make the budget an issue in the

Looking at the preparations and record of the government regarding the budget, it is being said that the Modi government can majorly increase the total amount allocated to welfare schemes.

The BJP government,

which has been facing constant attacks from the opposition parties on the issue of unemployment, will be focusing on increasing employment opportunities in its upcoming budget.

More emphasis will be placed on increasing employment opportunities in urban and rural areas.

For this, along with basic infrastructure, a special announcement can be made for small and medium industries. The funds allocated for

the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the biggest source of employment in rural areas, will also be increased this year.

Along with farming, special announcements for agriculture and other areas related to it are expected.

The government will increase its expenditure to ensure that along with the



increase in employment in rural areas, the income of the people also increases, which will boost the economy.

The government can make important announcements in the budget to provide relief to the people from inflation.

Giving great relief to the taxpayers, along with announcing a reduction in income tax rates, the government can make

front in this budget. In view of the upcoming

Lok Sabha elections, the government can give some relief to the middle class, employed income tax payers and government employees as well as small and medium businessmen. It may be full of populist schemes and promises to woo

# Why's insurance industry largely silent on 100% FDI demand?

IANS CHENNAI

Strangely not much of noise is being heard from the Indian insurance sector on hiking the foreign direct investment (FDI) to 100 per cent from the current 74 per cent as their budget wishlist.

In the past, the sector's top executives would make a high-decibel pitch for their demand to increase the FDI

Earlier, the life insurance industry had advocated that the increase in FDI from 26 per cent to 74 per cent would bring in an additional capital of Rs 50,000 crore.

Incidentally, not many foreign partners of Indian insurance joint ventures have increased their stakes to the permissible 74 per cent and the touted amount has not

"Among the host of

expectations from the budget, the proposal to increase the FDI limit to 100 per cent in insurance is unlikely be introduced in the upcoming Budget, especially since the FDI limit has just been recently increased to 74 per cent," Anup Rau, MD and CEO, Future Generali India Insurance on the pre-budget

expectations said.

He said the industry should nevertheless have this conversation with the policy makers on allowing 100 per cent FDI. According to him, one of the challenges for the global insurers is to find a suitable local partner.

"With over 60 insurers between life and general insurance and a large number of them joint ventures, there is really an acute shortage of local partners, who either have the ability or the inclination to get into this space," Rau said.

"In my view, this is not even a demand for the sector participants. The sector currently dominated by the domestic majority players, why would they want 100 per cent FDI," Avinash Singh, Senior Research Analyst,

Services, told IANS. Singh noted: "And practically speaking, even 74 per cent has been a non-starter,

Emkay Global Financial

largely. The ones where any foreign investor would be interested in owning majority are not available as the domestic promoter wouldn't exit or go in minority.

He added: "Even the valuation of these entities are demanding. And where FDI of above 50 per cent is welcome are the struggling names where no foreign

# Adani rules out changes in price, dates of FPO; confident of share sales going through

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Saturday ruled out any changes in price or the dates of the Rs 20,000 crore follow-on share sale at the conglomerate's flagship firm despite its stocks being hammered below the offer price after a scathing report by a US short seller.

Enterprises "Adani Limited's further public offer (FPO) is going as per schedule and the announced price band. There is no change in either the schedule of the issue price," a group spokesperson said.

The FPO got subscribed just one per cent on the opening day on Friday. Against an offer of 4.55 crore shares of Adani Enterprises Ltd, only 4.7 lakh shares were subscribed, according to information available from the BSE.

Adani Enterprises fell

almost 20 per cent to below the Enterprises raised Rs 5,985 offer price of its secondary sale as all the seven listed companies of the conglomerate took a beating in the aftermath of Hindenburg Research alleging that the group was "engaged in a brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of decades".

The Group has dismissed the report as malicious and bogus aimed at torpedoing the

Adani Enterprises is selling shares in a price band of Rs 3,112 to Rs 3,276. On Friday, its share price closed at Rs 2,762.15 on the BSE. "All our stakeholders

including bankers and investors have full faith in the FPO. We are extremely confident about the success of the FPO," the spokesperson added. The FPO closes on January

On Wednesday, Adani

crore from anchor investors.

The company allotted 1.82 crore equity shares to 33 funds at Rs 3,276 apiece, taking the transaction size to Rs 5,985 crore, according to a circular uploaded on the BSE website. Foreign investors who

picked up the shares included Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, BNP Paribas Arbitrage, Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs Investment (Mauritius) Ltd, Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Pte, Nomura Singapore Ltd and Citigroup Global Markets

A slew of domestic institutional investors, including LIC, SBI Life Insurance Company, HDFC Life Insurance Company and State Bank Of India Émployees Pension Fund, also participated in the anchor book.

taxes such as GST, Customs

Duty or VAT are levied on all

"Rationalise corporate tax

(USISPF) in its submission to

the finance ministry ahead of

the annual budget presenta-

tions on February 1. It said

that the rate for foreign com-

panies, including banks be

goods or services.



10,869 crore will be used for green hydrogen projects, work at the existing airports and construction of a greenfield expressway.

An amount of Rs 4,165 crore will be utilised for repayment of debt taken by its airports, road and solar project

Adani Enterprises is India's

# tor and breeds businesses in

four core industry sectors -energy and utility, transportation and logistics, consumer, and primary industry.

The current business portfolio includes green hydrogen ecosystem, data centres, airports, digital, mining, defence and industrial

# Index provider MSCI seeks feedback on Adani Group over Hindenburg report

Index provider MSCI on **▲**Saturday said it has sought feedback on Adani group securities after a report by USbased investment research firm Hindenburg alleged stock manipulation and accounting fraud by the conglomerate.

The index provider said it s aware of the reports recentpublished regarding the Adani group and associated

'MSCI is closely monitoring publicly available information regarding the situation and the factors that may impact the eligibility of those statement. The index provider said it

welcomes timely feedback from market participants on these issues. At present, there are eight

Adani group & associates companies which are part of MSCI Standard Index. Market experts believe any

adverse feedback may lead to a reduction in weightage or even exclusion of Adani stocks from the MSCI index. This might further

increase the selling pressure faced by Adani group stocks, which took a beating for the past two trading sessions and

MSCI Global Investable lost more than Rs 4.17 lakh Market Indexes," it said in a crore in the combined market crore in the combined market valuation of listed firms. Market experts believe that

MSCI will not take any action until the feedback process is concluded. Wednesday,

Hindenburg, which specialises in activist short-selling, made allegations of market manipulation and accounting fraud against Adani Group. The report was released

just before Adani group's flagship company, Enterprises' Rs 20,000 crore share offering opened to investors. The disclosure led to shares of Adani Group took a beating on the stock exchanges.

# US industry urges FM to rationalise, simplify direct and indirect taxes in India

**PTI** WASHINGTON



इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 112 दिनांक 23.01.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित ई—निविदा जनपद टिहरी, ग्राम नौथा में एग्रो प्रोसेसिंग कलस्टर के अवशेष सिविल कार्य की निविदा जो दिनांक 03.02.2023 को आमंत्रित की गयी थी जो अब दिनांक 06.02.2023 को आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। इच्छक निविदादाता को दिनांक 04.02.2023 की सांय 05:00 बजे तक एफ०डी०आर०, स्टाम्प एवं ड्रापट मूलरूप में जमा कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। अन्यथा की स्थिति में निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा की अन्य विवरण (ड्राफ्ट एवं धरोहर राशि) एवं शर्ते दिनांक 30.01.2023 से www.uktenders.gov.in एव www.ukmandi.co.in में सांय 05:00 बजे से देखी

Ahead of the annual budget be in the form of income tax, capital gains tax or securities centric top US strate-

gic and business advocacy group has urged Union Finance end-consumers to buy any Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to simplify and rationalise rates for foreign companies," direct and indirect said the US-India Strategic taxation system in India, a move it believes would increase the confidence of global investors and yield greater foreign direct investment.

new manufacturing compatransaction tax, while indirect

Urging India to simplify capital gain tax reforms, USISPF sought harmonising holding periods and rates of different instruments.

"Reiterate India's commitment to the global tax deal," it said and urged the Union concessional tax regime to Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) from investment in securities. USISPF has also suggested tax incentives to specific sectors like renewable energy and R&D investment in the health sector.

Among the Forum's recommendations include advocating for a stable and predictable tax environment, improving the ease of doing business environment, ratio-



tax rates and tariffs. On indirect taxes, the USISPF sought clarification on customs duty exemptions provided to oil and natural gas companies, reduction in cus-

machines from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent and providing customs duty exemption on all items imported by specified research and development

> USISPF urged the finance minister to roll back the customs duty increase on nutritional products considering the importance and significance of the product and encourage the availability of scientifically designed nutritional food in India.

# LG Electronics Q4 operating profit collapses on slumping demand, rising cost

IANS SEOUL

G Electronics said its oper-Lating profit for the fourth quarter nosedived more than demand for home appliances and rising promotion cost amid global macroeconomic woes.

The tech firm said operating income for the three months ending in December fell 90.7 percent on-year to 69.3 billion won (US\$56.2 million), 74.8 percent lower than the average estimate by Yonhap Infomax, the financial data firm of Yonhap News Agency.

It reported a net loss of 212.4 billion won for the October-December period, turning from a profit of 21.3 billion won a year earlier. Sales increased 5.2 per-

cent to 21.85 trillion won. The company said pan-

THE STATE demic-driven pent-up demand for home appliances, including TVs, has lost steam, and aggressive rate hikes in major

ened consumer spending Global TV shipments are

economies to tamp down infla-

tion have significantly weak-

estimated to have dropped 3.9 percent on-year to a decade low of 202 million units last year. according to industry tracker

TrendForce.

**NTPC** net profit up nearly 5 pc at

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ctate-owned power giant NTPC on Saturday reported a nearly 5 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 4,854.36 crore for the December quarter, mainly due to higher revenue.

The company's consolidated net profit was Rs 4,626.11 crore in the quarter ended December 31, 2021, as per a BSE filing. The total income rose to

Rs 44,989.21 crore in the quarter from Rs 33,783.62 crore in the year-ago period.

The Board of Directors also decided to pay an interim dividend at the rate of 42.50 per cent (Rs 4.25 per share) on the face value of paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each for the financial year 2022-23.

The average power tariff of the company during April-December 2022 stood at Rs 4.96 per unit compared to Rs 3.95 per unit a year ago.



based thermal power plants climbed to 68.85 per cent in the third quarter from 67.72 per cent. The imported coal supply

or capacity utilisation) of coal-

The plant load factor (PLF

rose to 1.57 MMT in the quarter from 0.52 MMT in the same period a year ago. The domestic coal supply

dipped to 52.45 MMT from 54.96 MMT. The coal production from captive mines stood at 5.35 MMT in the quarter against 4 MMT in the year-ago period.

The total installed capacity of the NTPC Group (including JVs and subsidiaries) stood at 70,884 MW as on December 31, 2022.

#### reduced to bring parity and sought to rationalise tax for Direct taxes can महाप्रबन्धक (तकनीकी)

**ORISSA SPONGE IRON & STEEL LIMITED** (Formerly Orissa Sponge Iron Limited)
(An ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified Company)

CIN: L27102OR1979PLC000819

Regd. Office: OSIL House, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Kiiti Bhubaneswar – 751024 Corporate Office: A-201, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110 020 Site: P.O. Palaspanga, Dist. Keonjhar – 758 031, Odisha <u>Porissasponge.com;</u> Website: <u>www.orissasponge.com</u>, Tel: +91 11-43742000

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION The members of "Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited" ("the Company") are hereby informed that in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2021 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated December 08, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 issued by the Ministry or Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Regulation 44 and 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") and other applicable provisions including any statutor modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and as amended from time to time, a Postal Ballot Notic

he members whose e-mail address are registered with the Depository Participants/ Registrar & Share Transfer agent i.e. Skylin Financial Service Private Limited ("RTA"), as on Friday, January 27, 2023 (Cut-off Date). The dispatch of the said notice throug -mails has been completed on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The Postal Ballot Notice ("Notice") is available on the website of the Company at <u>www.orissasponge.com</u> and on the websit

"Notice"), seeking consent of the members for approval of Material Related Party Transaction has been send electronically t

the National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com embers holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the Cut-off date i.e., Friday, January 27, 2023, ma cast their vote electronically on the business item set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot dated Wednesday, January 25, 2023 rough electronic voting system (remote e-voting) of National Security Depository Limited ("NSDL").

The members are further informed that: The special business set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot is to be transacted through voting by electronic means

The remote e-voting begins at 9:00 a.m. (IST) on Monday, January 30, 2023.

Place: New Delh

Date: January 29, 2023

The remote e-voting ends at 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means is Friday, January 27, 2023.

providing above mentioned documents. The members may also refer the said Notice

The members may note that i) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting and the voting by electronic mean shall not be allowed after the date and time mentioned under point 'c' above; and ii) once the vote on member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently;

The manner of remote e-voting for the members holding shares in physical mode or dematerialized mode or who have not registered their email address with the Company/Depository Participant, is provided in the notice of the Postal Ballo as available on the Company's website www.orissasponge.com and NSDL's website www.evoting.nsdl.com Manner of registering/ updating email address:

compliances@skylinerta.com or to the Company at corporate@orissasponge.com along with signed request lette mentioning the name and address of the Member, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), self-atteste copy of the PAN card, and self-attested copy of Address proof. In case shares are held in demat mode, members are requested to register / update their e-mail addresses with the relevant Depository Participant(s)

Members holding shares in physical mode, are requested to get their email ids registered by writing to the RTA a

Alternatively, members may send a request to evoting@nsdl.co.in for procuring user id and password for e-voting b

In case of any queries, the members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at <a href="mailto rievance regarding e-voting the members may also write to Mr. Darpan Sharma at email Id: corporate@orissasponge.cc The Company has appointed Ms. Riya Luthra, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. ACS 53802, COP 24472 Managing Partner of M/s. MARG & Associates, Company Secretaries, to act as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Posta Ballot including e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. The Scrutinizer will submit her report to the Chairman any other Director / person as may be authorized by the Chairman, on or before Thursday, March 02, 2023. The results of the voting conducted by Postal Ballot along with Scrutinizer's Report will be made available on the website of the Compan at <u>www.orissasponge.com</u> and on the website of NSDL at <u>www.evoting.nsdl.com</u>. Additionally, the results will also b displayed at the Registered Office of the Company For Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited

Darpan Sharma Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

nalisation of the cost of doing business, and rationalisation of

toms duty rates for x-ray



e-Tender Notice Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) Ganga Bhawan, Dehradun invite online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below

Tender No.06/EE(P&C)/2022-23. Name of Supply- Procurement of different Tyres & Tubes for various Power House / Sites vehicles of UJVNL Ltd. Estimated cost: Rs.689836.00 (Excluding Tax)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 27.01.2023 Last date for submission of bids on website: 18.02.2023 upto 17.00 hrs For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement porta

> Executive Engineer (P&C) "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



त्रांकः 4865/अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना/2022-23 अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं में द्वितीय चरण के कार्यों हेत् उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान/उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम पंजीकृत ठेकेदारो/फर्मों से मृहरबंद नेविदायें दिनांक 13.02.2023 की सायं 03.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं . जो उसी दिन सायं 04.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों के सम्मुख अधोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा मनोनीत अधिकारी द्वारा कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता, अनुरक्षण खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून में खोली जाएंगी, निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में (राजकीय/सार्वजनिक अवकाश को छोड़कर) निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कर दिनांक 10.02.2023 साय 5.00 बजे तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र.सं.	खण्ड		धनराशि (रु.में)	का मूल्य (रु.में)	करने की अवधि	की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	कालसी	लखवाड पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	33600.00	₹1500 +GST	04 माह	डी. एवं उच्चत्तर
		सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी -जीवन संचय''	एवं शर्ते विभाग	ीय नोटिः		न्द्र पाल

धरोहर निविदा कार्य पूर्ण ठेकेदार

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Northern Region In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4

New Delhi - 110 001, Applicant

of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 n the matter of M/s Nath Brothers Exim International Limited (Cin: U52110DL1971PLC005626) having its registered office at 42/1, Hanuman Road

Notice is hereby given to the General Public

that the Company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a Private Limited Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary Genera Meeting held on Tuesday, the 27th day of December, 2022, at 11,00 A.M. to enable the Company to give effect for such conversion Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change / status of the Company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director (Northern Region), Address: B-2, Wing 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 2nd Floor, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110 003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to Nath Brothers Exim International Limited at its registered office at the addres

For and on behalf of Nath Brothers Exim International Limited (Vishwa Nath Date: 29.01.2023 Managing Directo Place: New Delhi Din: 00829358 Regd.Office: 42/1, Hanuman Road,

nentioned below.

course, I was a little bit nervous.

# AUSTRALIAN OPEN

# Aryna wins 1st Grand Slam title

**AP** MELBOURNE

self-doubt and those dreaded

thing she used to find quite dif-

a fourth chance to close out

Elena Rybakina presented itself

— and this time, Sabalenka saw

a forehand from her similarly

powerful foe sail long. That was

that. The championship

belonged to Sabalenka via a 4-

6, 6-3, 6-4 comeback victory

over Wimbledon winner

eventually. Just had to.

I (kept) telling myself, like, 'Nobody tells you that it's going ne point away from her to be easy.' You just have to first Grand Slam title, Aryna Sabalenka faultwork for it, work for it, 'til the last point," said Sabalenka, a 24ed. And then she faulted again. year-old from Belarus who is She grimaced. She yelled and turned her back to the court. now 11-0 with two titles in 2023 and will rise to No. 2 in She wiggled her shoulders and exhaled. the WTA rankings on Monday.

Clearly, this business of "I'm super happy that I was able to handle all those emowinning the Australian Open was not bound to happen withtions," she said, "and win this out a bit of a struggle Saturday The only set she has night. Sabalenka knew deep inside that would be the case. dropped all season was the opener on Saturday against She also knew that all of the effort she put in, to overcome Rybakina, who eliminated No.

double-faults, had to pay off It was telling that Sabalenka's remarks during the And so, as she wasted a second match point by flubbing post-match ceremony were directed at her coach, Anton a forehand, and a third by again missing another, Sabalenka did Dubrov, and her fitness trainer, Jason Stacy — she referred to them as "the craziest team on her best to stay calm, someficult. She hung in there until

1 Iga Swiatek in the fourth

tour."

"We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," said Sabalenka, who was appearing in her first major final and had been 0-3 in Slam semifinals until this week. "We worked so hard and you guys deserve this trophy. It's more about you than it's about me.'

Well, she had a lot to do "The last game, yeah, of with it, of course. Those serves



that produced 17 aces, helping erase the sting of seven doublefaults. Those hammered groundstrokes and relentlessly aggressive style that produced 51 winners, 20 more than Rybakina's total. And, despite her go-for-broke shotmaking,

somehow Sabalenka limited her unforced error count to 28. One more key statistic: Sabalenka managed to accrue 13 break points, converting three, including the one at 4-3 in the last set that put her ahead

She played really well today," said Rybakina, who has lost all four matches she's played against Sabalenka, all in three sets. "She was strong mentally, physically."

While the latter has long been a hallmark of her game,

even Sabalenka acknowledges that the first has been an issue.

Her most glowing strength was also her most glaring shortfall: her serve. Capable of delivering aces, she also had a well-known problem with double-faulting, leading the tour in

that category last year with nearly 400, including matches with more than 20.

After much prodding from her group, she agreed to undergo an overhaul of her mechanics last August. That, along with a commitment to trying to keep her emotions in check she used to work with a sports psychologist but no longer, saying she relies on herself

now — is really paying off.
"She didn't have great serve last year, but now she was super strong and she served well," said Rybakina, a 23-yearold who represents Kazakhstan. "For sure, I respect that. I know how much work it takes."

With seagulls squawking loudly while flying overhead at Rod Laver Arena, Rybakina and Sabalenka traded serious racket swings for nearly 2 1/2 hours.

The serves were big. So big. Rybakina's fastest arrived at 121 mph (195 kph), Sabalenka's at 119 mph (192 kph).

The points were over

quickly. So quickly: Seven of the first 13 were aces.

Sabalenka had been broken just six times in 55 service games through the course of these two weeks, but Rybakina did it twice in the opening set.

never

Sabalenka resolved to take the initiative even more, and the payoff for her high-risk, highreward attitude was too much for Rybakina to withstand over the last two sets.

Sabalenka said ahead of time that she expected to feel some jitters. Which makes perfect sense for anyone: This was the most important match

of her career. At the end, when it mattered more than ever, Sabalenka was able to steady herself. After the final point, she dropped to her back on the court and stayed down for a bit, covering her face as her eyes welled with tears.

Quite a difference from a year ago at Melbourne Park, when Sabalenka departed after 15 double-faults in a fourthround loss.

"I really feel right now that really needed those tough losses to kind of understand myself a little bit better. It was like a preparation for me," Sabalenka said at her postmatch news conference, her new trophy nearby and a glass of bubbly in her hand. "I actually feel happy that I lost

those matches, so right now I can be a different player and just a different Aryna, you

# Australian Open lookahead: Djokovic meets Tsitsipas in final

There will be a lot on the line for both players when Novak Djoković meets Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Australian Open men's final. Diokovic is trying to win a record-extending 10th title at Melbourne Park and a 22nd Grand Slam trophy overall to pull even with Rafael Nadal for the men's mark. It is his 33rd major final. Tsitsipas seeks his first Grand Slam title. And the winner will move up to No. 1 in the ATP rankings. Djokovic, a 35-year-old from Serbia, takes a 27-match Australian Open winning streak into the final, an pause a year ago when ĥe was deported from the country because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19. Tsitsipas, a 24-year-old from Greece, will be appearing in his second major final after losing to Djokovic in the 2021 French Open title match. Djokovic leads their head-tohead series 10-2, including nine consecutive victories. In the women's doubles final, Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova meet Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara.



Women's Singles Final: No. 5 Aryna Sabalenka beat No. 22 Elena Rybakina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Men's Doubles Final: Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler beat Hugo Nys and Jan Zielinski 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Junior Girls Singles Final: No. 9 Alina Korneeva beat No.

7 Mirra Andreeva 6-7 (2), 6-

Junior Boys Singles Final: No. Alexander Blockx beat Learner Tien 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (9).

Junior Girls Doubles Final: Renata Jamrichova and Federica Urgesi beat Hayu Kinoshita and Sara Saito 7-6 (5), 1-6, 10-7.

Junior Boys Doubles Final:

Learner Tien and Cooper Williams beat Alexander Blockx and Joao Fonseca 6-4, 6-4.

Women's Singles Wheelchair Final: No. 1 Diede de Groot beat No. 2 Yui Kamiji 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Quad Singles Wheelchair Final: No. 2 Sam Schroder beat No. 1 Niels Vink 6-2, 7-5. Men's Singles Wheelchair Final: No. 1 Alfie Hewett beat No. 3 Tokito Oda 6-3, 6-1.

# Aussies Hijikata, Kubler win Australian Open men's doubles

AP 📕 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The Australian pair of Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler defeated Hugo Nys and Jan Zielinski 6-4, 7-6 (4) to win the men's doubles title at the Australian Open on Saturday.

It was the first Grand Slam title for both Hijikata and Kubler - the third Australian team to win a men's doubles title in the last five Grand Slams.

The Australians entered the tournament playing for the first time as a team.

"Rinky and I definitely didn't think this was happening two weeks ago," Kubler said. "A bit of a pleasant sur-

Kubler, who has battled knee injuries, said Hijikata approached him about playing

"He (Rinky) was actually the reason we teamed up for this tournament," Kubler explained. "I wasn't sure I was going to play, then Rinky asked me and I decided to play. Two weeks later, now we've got this trophy."

Nys and Zielinski were also after their first Grand Slam title.

"Play Australians in Australia is never easy,"



Zielinksi said in an on-court interview, drawing loud applause from fans at Rod Laver Arena where the match ended just after midnight local time.

Australia has a long history of strong doubles team. This pair was the 16th all-Australian team to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title in the Open era.



Open junior titles **AP** ■ MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Alexander Blockx of Belgium beat American Learner Tien 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (9) to win the junior boys championship at the Australian

Open on Saturday.

"It was one of my hardest battles of my life," the 17-year-old Blockx said.

In the junior girls singles final, ninth-seeded Alina Korneeva beat seventh-seeded Mirra Andreeva 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7line duel between the 15-yearold Russian doubles partners.

"It's not our last battle," Korneeva said during the tro-phy presentations. "We will have a lot of good matches."

In the junior girls doubles final, Renata Jamrichova of Slovakia and Federica Urgesi of Italy beat Japan's Hayu Kinoshita and Sara Saito 7-6 (5), 1-6, 10-7.

Tien paired with fellow American Cooper Williams to beat Blockx and Brazilian Joao Fonseca 6-4, 6-4 in the junior boys doubles final on Friday.

#### Mithali roped in as WPL side Gujarat Giants' mentor

**PTI** ■ AHMEDABAD

Former India cricket captain Mithali Raj has been roped in as mentor and advisor by Women's Premier League (WPL) side Gujarat Giants ahead of the inaugural season, which will take place in March-April this year.

Mithali, the highest run-getter in women's international cricket, had retired last year from all formats after a 23-year-long career. As mentor of the side, the 40-year-old cricketer will also promote women's cricket and help develop the sport at the grassroots level in Gujarat. The Ahmedabad franchise had emerged the costliest of the five teams during the auction recently, with Adani Sportsline shelling out Rs 1289 crore. Mithali said the new BCCI initiative will help women's cricket grow steadily and encourage young players to take up cricket professionally.

"The inaugural season of the Women's Premier League is a fantastic move for women's cricket and the involvement of the Adani Group is a massive boost for the sport as well," said Mithali on Saturday.

# 'Brave, offensive and risky hockey can only stop Belgium'

PTI BHUBANESWAR

ermany head coach Andre Henning on Saturday said his side will have to put up a brave effort and play risky hockey to stop the rampaging run of Belgium in the World Cup summit clash on Sunday.

After winning a silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics, Belgium went on to win the 2018 World at the same venue here and then clinched gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. "We played against them in

Pro League in Argentina, one win and one loss. Played them here and it was a draw. Seems to be very close on an eye level. My biggest respect for Belgium with what they have achieved in the last few years. They are clearly the best team in the world at the moment,' Henning said at the pre-final press conference

"So, it will be a tough match, we will have to challenge them. All of their players are world class but we will focus on our strength and qualities." Henning feels Belgium

don't have any weakness. "It does not seem that they are vulnerable at the moment, weak or disadvantaged. They

are still very strong. But we want to challenge them, how long that go (on dominating). We will like to stop that, in a most respectful way. "We have to be brave,

offensive and play risky hockey as well. We have to bring all our qualities on the pitch. Then only we will be able to challenge a team like Belgium. Henning said his team will try to repeat their strong semi-

final performance against Australia, whom they had beaten 4-3, to challenge the defending champions on Sunday. "Against England (in quar-

terfinals) we did not play our best hockey for 55 minutes, but that was because of England mostly, they defended extremely well and they had an amazing tournament. Luckily, we played our best hockey in the last five minutes," he said. "The match against

Australia was a little bit different, because we played extremely well and strong. It was a well deserved win. We defended well, had a lot of chances. We would aim to perform like that tomorrow. We will have a chance.

"Our high press was really good against Australia. We goal down to force a win have to be good in the first line against England and Australia

and our forwards are working a lot, running metres are amaz-

ing against Australia. Running wise one of the best games ever since we have GPS running Germany came back twice in the tournament from two-

but Henning said it was not an ideal situation. "I would prefer to be not a

goal down two minutes before the end of match. So, there is something to improve," the coach said.

"We have done very well in defending in our zone, that is very strong and we have

improved on that. That is something we want to do, to be kind of typical German tournament team and take steps

game by game."
Asked if his team would like to keep the ball against Belgium on Sunday, Henning said defending and counter-attacking will be the main focus.

"Hockey is now about defending, counter-attacking and the game is getting faster and faster. We have a lot of rapid players, our counter

attacks are very strong. "Germany traditionally is or was a team which like to have ball possession and we will not change this culture 100

per cent. It has to be a good mixture. So we will like to have the possession and good build up but our defending has a massive focus this year and also counter attacking."

Belgium head coach

Michel van den Heuvel said his team will have to guard against Germany's ability to have a strong finishing.

'We have been playing them a couple of times last couple of months and they have grown game by game. As a natural character, Germany is able to finish well. We had a saying in the past that we always win against German when they are in the bus.

'We also have a strong group which can handle pressure. It will be an interesting clash between two fantastic teams and fantastic individuals. It will be a good advertisement of hockey."Belgium captain Felix Denayer said the success of the side was due to the effort of the team, the support staff and togetherness of the group for a long time.

This group has been together for a long time even before 2016 (even before winning silver in Rio Olympics). Our best player is the team and that is our strength.'

# Pandya faces must-win situation against NZ

# Time for Ishan, Hooda to fire

PTI LUCKNOW

ndia will have to raise their game a few notches as the **▲**Hardik Pandya-led side faces a must-win situation to level the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, here on Sunday.

India were caught in a spin web on the Ranchi pitch and lost the opener by 21 runs on

The loss also highlighted India's bowling profligacy, especially by the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh and Umran

If tearaway pacer Malik conceded 16 runs in one over, Arshdeep leaked 27 runs in the last over, which put pressure on the India batters while

That expensive over from the young left-arm quick was the turning point as he was smashed for three sixes and a boundary

India's batters were off to an inauspicious start with the top-three managing just 15 runs. The hosts ended up scoring 155/9, which would have been a par score to defend on the wicket, as indicated by Washington Sundar after the

"150 would've been par and we would've been very happy with it," the India allrounder said.

Skipper Pandya, however, is unlikely to bring in uncapped pace bowler Mukesh Kumar for the second T20I and will probably back Arshdeep to bounce



KISHAN, HOODA UNDER **SCRUTINY** 

While Shubman Gill, who has been in red-hot form in the ODIs, has played just four T20Is and is still learning the nuances of the shortest format, the big concern will be the two key batters -- Ishan Kishan and Deepak Hooda.

Occupying the opening spot, Kishan is nowhere near the ominous form he showed while slamming a record-breaking ODI double-century against Bangladesh last

Since then, Ishan's scores in the last seven innings in both ODIs and T20Is read 37, 2, 1,

keeper-batter in the middleorder on Sunday, time is certainly running out for Hooda and Kishan.

Despite the loss on Friday, there was a huge positive for India in Washington Sundar, who not only bowled a tidy four overs of spin to take two wickets, but also emerged India's topscorer with a 28-ball 50 batting at No. 6.

With No.1-ranked T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav in terrific form, India would need someone at the top of the order to raise their game and do some big hitting, given that the Ekana Stadium here has big

The Kiwis, on the other hand, would look for another victory to secure a memorable series win in India. They will once again rely heavily on their in-form duo of Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell.

Teams (from) India: Hardik Pandya (c), Suryakumar Yadav (vc), Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi

and Mukesh Kumar. New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Devon Conway (wk), Glenn Phillips, Dane Cleaver (wk), Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Rippon, Lockie Ferguson, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tickner, Jacob Duffy, Henry Shipley and Ben

# 'Birthday girl' Shafali in pursuit of WC title for India



**PTI** POTCHEFSTROOM

Batting sensation Shafali Verma will chase history when she leads India against England in the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final here on Sunday.

For all their success at the international stage, the Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level and the young batter, who has been part of two World Cup and one Commonwealth Games final with the senior team, will look to bring the elusive title home.

The seniors have made the World Cup final on three occasions across formats only to have returned with bitter memories -- losing to Australia by 98 runs in 2005 and losing to England by 9 runs in 2017 in the ODIs, and in T20Is they went down in the 2020 final to the Aussies by 85 runs.

The youngster from Rohtak has been part of two World Cups across formats and she also witnessed another final defeat when India had settled for a silver medal in last

Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Shafali, however, does not

want to let go of the opportunity this time. 'Haan bahut finals khela hai (Yes, I've played a lot of

finals and seen it all)," Shafali, who turned 19 on Saturday, said on the eve of the final. 'It's about going out there and enjoying the game. I've told the teammates 'don't stress, just give your 100 percent without thinking of it as the

final. Just believe in yourself." "It's all past and that can-not be recreated. We are determined to bring the World Cup

this time and are trying to improve day by day," she added. India suffered one defeat in the Super Six league stage where they lost to their 'nemesis' Australia after being bowled

'We had nervous moments and couldn't sleep, thinking about whether we could make the final or not... But we have learnt from the mistakes and

out for 87.

"Now we're all very confident, clear of our roles. Everyone is enjoying each other's company and stay normal, we are not thinking

Shafali has told her teammates not to think of her as the "senior". "I may be senior to many of them but I've told them 'on the ground we all are equal' it's about keeping everyone comfortable," she said.

In the semifinal, India registered a dominating eightwicket win after their bowlers restricted a powerful New Zealand side to an under-par

Leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra led the bowling show by claiming 3/20, while Shafali went for just seven runs in her four overs, taking one wicket.

In reply, a ruthless halfcentury from the opening batter and the tournament's leading scorer, Shweta Sehrawat, saw India home. Shweta finished unbeaten on 61 as India cantered home in 14.2 overs.

Personally, Shafali is also living her father's dream. She remembered her father Sanjeev Verma's words that she would one day win the World Cup.

## **Bolt fires** business manager for fraud

amaican sprinter Usain Bolt told reporters Friday that he is baffled over how USD 12.7 million of his money has gone missing from a local private investment firm that authorities are investigating as part of a massive fraud that began more than a decade ago. Bolt also said he has fired his

business manager, adding that it was not an amicable split.

When asked if he was "broke," the retired star athlete laughed. "I'm not broke, but it's definitely put a damper on me," he said. "It was for my future. Everybody knows I have three kids. I'm still looking out for my parents, and I still want to live

Bolt's attorneys have said the athlete's account with Kingstonbased Stocks and Securities Limited dwindled from nearly USD 12.8 million to some USĎ 12,000. They had given the company until Friday to return the money or face civil and criminal action. It wasn't immediately clear whether any action had been taken as of late Friday. Attorney Linton P Gordon did not return a message seeking comment. He told the Jamaica Observer newspaper that the public should anticipate the expected and the unexpected" in the case. "There is nothing to say at

this stage, given what is happening," he was quoted as saying. "We have met with persons, and we are dealing with certain matters." Earlier this week, Jamaican Finance Minister Nigel Clarke announced that the director of the Financial Services Commission was stepping down and that the Bank of Jamaica would now be in charge of regulating the island's

# India beat South Africa 5-2 to finish joint ninth in FIH Men's WC

dominant India scored Atwice in the first and fourth quarters to beat South Africa 5-2 in a classification match and finish joint ninth in the FIH Men's World Cup here on Saturday.

earned six penalty corners in the match and scored one from them while South Africa, ranked 14th, got three PCs without converting any one of them. India had 31 circle penetrations in total while South Africa had 22. With around 60 per cent

ball possession, the home side had 14 shots at goal as against nine by South Africa.

Abhishek, who was named player of the match, opened the scoring for India in the fifth



Harmanpreet Singh struck from his drag flick in the 12th

The second quarter did not yield any goal from either side though India kept on attacking and made several circle penetration.

India, who led 2-0 at half time, had 15 circle penetration

as against eight by South Africa at the breather.

T20Is, it's been a while since he

last scored a fifty -- against

South Africa on June 14, 2022.

much success as a lower mid-

dle-order batter and averages

just 17.88 in the last 13 innings,

with the highest being the

unbeaten 41 against Sri Lanka

from 10 balls at No. 7 on

Friday lacked impact and the

rotation of strike also came

under scrutiny, especially when

the New Zealand spinners were

try out newcomer Jitesh

Sharma in the role of wicket-

While India are unlikely to

His innings of 10 runs

at the Wankhede.

Hooda, too, hasn't enjoyed

In the third quarter, Amit Rohidas was shown a yellow card and India had to play one man short for five minutes.

But once Rohidas came back, India scored a goal in the last minute of the third quarter through Shamsher Singh (45th).s

#### I'm quite tired, exhausted: Warner ahead of Test tour of India

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE)

An intense home season has Aleft star Australian opener David Warner "tired and exhausted" ahead of the upcoming four-Test series in India, beginning in Nagpur on February 9.

The 36-year-old played in multiple formats in a hectic against Zimbabwe, New Zealand, and England and Tests against West Indies and South Africa. Warner also competed in

the T20 World Cup at home besides playing half a dozen games for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL). "It's been challenging. I'm

quite tired and exhausted," Ŵarner was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz.

"A few guys have gone to the UAE League but aren't



attending the Cricket Australia awards. From my perspective, it would have been nice to have had another night at home. But it is what it is.'

Warner snapped a poor run of form with a double-century in his 100th Test. He also looked in good touch during

his 20-ball 36 not out for Sydney Thunder in the BBL Eliminator before rain played spoilsport, handing the win to Brisbane Heat.

Warner said the BBL comeback was to help out his franchise.

"You're not really trying to negate the spinning ball, it's a white ball as well," Warner

"For me, it was about coming back and trying to inject some energy into the Thunder team and trying to put my best foot forward for the team. It hasn't come off this year.

"Hopefully, next year I can come out and be fresher than I am now. It will be a long leadin to our summer (that includes the ODI World Cup in India). From a personal point of view, I'm going to have to try and work out how to stay nice and fresh," he added.



#### It was just one-off game: Washington on loss to NZ in T20I opener

PTI RANCHI

India all-rounder Washington Sundar termed their loss to New Zealand in the opening T20I here as a "one-off" defeat and backed the hosts to bounce back in the three-match series.

Chasing an competitive 177, India's top-three, including in-form Shubman Gill (7) were dismissed for just 15 runs inside 19 balls, making the task difficult for the remaining batters with the home team set-tling for 155 for 9, handing New Zealand a 21-run win, their first victory of the tour on Friday night.

New Zealand were swept

0-3 in the preceding ODI series by India before the new-look home side under Hardik Pandya took over for the T20

"I think it was just a oneoff game," said Washington, who scored a quickfire 28-ball 50, besides returning with tidy figures of 2/22.

"I don't think that just because it was spinning so much, we have to address anything. Just that one-off game. Had we got off to a flier or a better start, things would've different. been much Obviously, it did spin, and you will see such wickets here and there. "...People over here and players in our team have played on such wickets in the IPL and even in the Indian team. So, just that one-off game where certain things didn't go our

way," he added. Will you stop going to a restaurant, if you don't get your favourite biryani?

But his responses seemed "unconvincing" for a journalist,

who went on to probe further and asked whether they should "change" their top order.

This time, the youngster was at his wittiest best.

"Do you really think a change is needed? If you don't get your favourite biryani in one of the restaurants, you will never go to that restaurant?" "All of them have made so many runs. It's just one day. It happens to anyone -- even New Zealand collapsed in Raipur (108 all out in 34.3 overs in the second ODI),'

Washington said. "It did not mean they had to change their top order. It's a game where anything can happen. We will have to be patient. At the end of the day, it's a sport where both teams cannot win and all 22 players cannot perform. All of them have done well to get to this stage.

The 23-year-old backed left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who registered poor figures of 4-0-51-1 and young pace sensation Umran Malik, who conceded 16 runs in the only over he bowled during New Zealand's innings.

"He (Arshdeep) has taken so many wickets -- for India and in the IPL. We are also human beings, we also want to play the sport. When the competition is very high, and the opposition is of the highest quality such things can hap-pen," Washington said in support of his teammate.

"The way he (Malik) bowled against Sri Lanka and New Zealand (in ODIs) that's why we all know he's here. He's an X-factor, someone who bowls above 150 consistently and that's a rare quality."

## **Santner currently best spinner** in white-ball cricket, lucky to have him: Mitchell



New Zealand all-rounder Daryl Mitchell believes stand-in T20 captain Mitchell Santner is currently one of the best spinners in white-ball cricket after the left-arm tweaker's impressive outing against India

in the series opener here. Santner returned with miserly figures of 2/11 from his four overs to set up New Zealand's 21-run win over India in the first T20I of the threematch series on Friday.

Santner bowled a splendid spell and kept India under check by bowling a maiden over to Suryakumar Yadav in power-

"He is one of the best spinners in world cricket with the white ball at the moment, Mitchell, who was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 30ball unbeaten 50, said at the post-match media interaction. He picked up the wicket of

in-form Shubman Gill, who inspired India to a 3-0 sweep over the Kiwis in the preceding ODI series.

spell by him that put us in a good position to win. He has done it for a long time now, we are very lucky to have him," Mitchell said.

visitors set India a a challenging target of 177.

"It was about constantly adapting, trying to find ways to

"He (Santner) keeps proving his class. It was a very special

Put in, New Zealand got off to a fine start with opener Devon Conway smashing 52 off 35 balls, while Finn Allen made a quickfire 35 off 23 balls as the

"I thought the partnerships that Finn and Dev (Conway) did early and obviously Glenn (Phillips) and Dev as well allowed us to take the innings deeper and allowed us to put some pressure on India towards the end of the innings," Mitchell

put pressure back on their

#### Lack of tactical awareness, non-existent club culture behind India's early exit: Oltmans PTI BHUBANESWAR

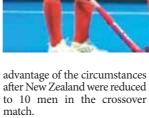
Former India men's hockey head coach Roelant Oltmans has blamed the lack of tactical awareness and a non-existent club culture for India's early exit in the ongoing edition of the FIH Men's World Cup.

India lost the crossover match to New Zealand and failed to make the quarter-finals after going down 4-5 in sudden death. India's current head coach Graham Reid had also voiced concern about the lack of club culture after the Hockey India League (HIL) became defunct in

"There is no club culture in India, that is for sure. And the players need to continue playing games, that this team is lacking," Oltmans, who was at the helm of affairs of the Indian team from 2015 to 2017, told PTI in an interview. "These Indians are fantastic

hockey players, no doubt about that. But you need to know what to do at which moment of the game. If all of a sudden, you are 11 against 10, what are you going to do?" added the Dutchman, who also served as the High Performance Director of Indian hockey from 2013 to

India were unable to take



to 10 men in the crossover match. After New Zealand made it 3-3 in the fourth quarter, Nick

Ross received a yellow card in the 53rd minute and was suspended for five minutes. New Zealand defended doggedly to take the match into penalty shootout and then sudden death. "India had five minutes

before the end of the match

when a New Zealand player was

out. What were India doing at

such a moment? You need to

play tactical games, execute them properly," Oltmans, who was India head coach during the 2016 Rio Olympics, said. "The Germans scored two

goals in three minutes (against England), that is the difference, that is something India still need to work on. Oltmans was surprised that India did not have a mental-con-

ditioning coach. The Dutchman said that a psychologist was with the team at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre in Bengaluru when he was at the

"Absolutely, it (having a mental-conditioning coach) makes a difference. When I was the head coach prior to the (Rio) Olympics, I had a psychologist in my staff. It is more or less the same as having a mental-conditioning coach. "For the physical part of the

game, we have physical training, for tactical part of the game, we have tactical training, for skill training we have drag-flick trainers. But the mental aspect made a major difference and there we don't have a serious trainer. That is strange," said Oltmans.

# The pioneer Color of the pione

I started auditioning when I was about 10 and I didn't get my first job until I was 12, and two years at that age is really hard





# A NEW BUZZ IN THE BJP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advice to the party to reach out to Muslims like Shia Bohras and 'Pasmanda', the socially backward class in the community, has created a new buzz in the BJP at the ground level, write DIPAK K UPRETI, SAUGAR SEN GUPTA, BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Pormer Prime Minister Atal Bihari
Vajpayee was among the few BJP leaders who had somewhat acceptability among Muslims because he kept an unstated channel of communication open with the Muslims and genuinely tried to reach out to them. LK Advani who was largely responsible for the demolition of the Babri masjid, also tried to do a course correction during his Karachi 'Yatra' in 2006 when he visited the 'Mazar' of the founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The RSS went all out against Advani for his reverence shown to the man Parivar hated the most. Advani had to pay a heavy political price and humiliation.

The advent of the Narendra Modi era in 2014 set aside all past equations of the BJP with Muslims in the country.

In the last nine years, the ruling BJP has been accused of aggressively cultivating a 'Hindu vote bank' and making the community dispensable which according to the 2011 census constitutes 14.2 percent of the Indian population.

The BJP has roundly refuted the charge arguing that it was 'saving' Muslims from the clutches of "appeasement" and "vote bank politics" of the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, and likes of others and taking them to the path of "Vikas" that eluded them in over 70 years of national politics.

In this backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's concluding address at BJP's National Executive in Delhi on January 17 where he asked his party to vigorously approach Muslims like Shia Bohras and 'Pasmanda', the socially backward class in the community, drew more than casual interest of the observers as well as the party leaders from within.

"We have identified 60 constituencies in 10 states where Muslims are more than 30 percent. Around 5000 people from each of these constituencies who have genuinely appreciated PM Modi's development programmes would be selected and be part of scooter rallies in different states creating awareness among Muslims and taking their feedback.", says Jamal Siddiqui, BJP Minority Morcha national president.

The Morcha has appointed a 'Prabhari' for each of the Lok Sabha constituencies selected for the rallies where all key BJP leaders of the region will also be present.

He asserts that PM 'Yojnas' relating to housing, drinking water, 'Garib Kalyan' and scholarships and education, among others, have "convinced" Muslims that they were used all these

years for "vote bank politics".
Sioddiqui rejected the charges that the BJP has been inimical to Muslims and claimed that 50 percent of Muslims in Gujarat, 20 percent in UP, 22 percent in Delhi, and 20 percent in Assam are now voting for the BJP.

" Muslims voters are not captive to any party now," Siddiqui said.

The BJP leader says the party will organize scooter rallies in 60 constituencies for four months as part of its Muslim outreach. Some important constituencies Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha seat in Wayanad in Kerala, Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, and Behrampur in West Bengal.

" We will contact social workers and take the message in a door-to-door campaign and communicate with Muslims of all categories", he says.

On February 1 and 2, the Morcha will have its National Executive in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, where it would further discuss and strategize its 'Muslim Approach'.

After four months of scooter rallies in 60 Constituencies, the Muslim representatives will "gather in Delhi on the first of May and meet the Prime Minister for dialogue and take the campaign to the next leg.

The whole idea is to connect and communicate with the community and make it aware of PM's welfare programme which benefited it "away from the vote bank politics" which "kept Muslims backward" for "so long"

Muslims backward" for " so long."

Muslims in Mamata Banerjee's West Bengal are the " most poor and backward", he goes on to add.

The 'paradigm shift' in the development policies, asserts Siddiqui would leave Congress high and dry as far as minorities are concerned.

"jab tak 2029 LS elections ayenge.. Congress ki arthi lo Kandha Lagane Wala bhi nahin milega..", he hits out at the opposition party and its minority-friendly image

Senior BJP leader and former union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi pointed out that the BJP has been winning in the Muslim dominant or majority constituencies like Rampur and Azamgarh.

He maintains that under Modi's leadership, the BJP won 16 percentage of Muslim votes in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll and 20 percent in the 2019 elections.

Annulment of triple talaq has also impacted Muslim women positively, says Naqvi adding Modi's " reform, perform and transform" has done well for the community.

In several parts of the country, BJP has already started the Muslim outreach programme. For example in West Bengal, where Muslims account for nearly 30 percent of total voters, BJP leaders have started to walk Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talk.

An initial sign of the BJP's changing tack came in the form of the January 25 "solidarity march" in support of the sole Indian Secular Front MLA, Naushad Siddiqui, who is a scion of Furfura Sharief, the largest Muslim congregations of the State.

Naushad was arrested after his followers

clashed with the police in Kolkata where thousands of them had gathered to protest against an attack by the TMC goons.

Siddiqui's ISF --- in alliance with the Left Front --- had won the Bhangar Assembly seat in

BJP Minority Cell chairman Charle's Nandi's statement assumes importance as he says, "Though we represent different ideologies the brutal attack and arrest of Naushad Bhai an opposition MLA is deplorable ... the BJP demands his immediate release... we will launch a statewide protest against his arrest."

Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari too condemns the arrest of Siddiqui. He says, "apart from the BJP there is only one opposition MLA in the House we allot time to Naushad Bhai from our slot to let him speak ... we will stand by him in distress."

BJP WILL ORGANIZE
SCOOTER RALLIES IN 60
CONSTITUENCIES FOR FOUR
MONTHS AS PART OF ITS
MUSLIM OUTREACH. SOME
IMPORTANT
CONSTITUENCIES ARE:
CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL
GANDHI'S LOK SABHA SEAT
IN WAYANAD IN KERALA,
RAMPUR IN UTTAR
PRADESH, AND
BEHRAMPUR IN WEST
BENGAL



Similarly, former State BJP president Dilip Ghosh says, "Naushad Bhai too is my MLA because I am a resident of his constituency ... ISF is a democratic party ... the police have no right to arrest him like this."

The BJP's pro-ISF stance is not an end in itself. The party has a larger plans to reach out to the Muslim masses.

"We are taking an inclusive approach where the Muslims will definitely play a big role ... Muslim voters impact at least 17-18 parliamentary constituencies ... we are working accordingly," one leader said.

Another leader says how the party is in touch with the youth Muslim leaders. "Many of them are contacting us and are ready to join us ... like the one leader from Hooghly who has

come directly from the Indian Navy," says a

On whether the BJP too wants to pursue the policy of "appeasement," State BJP Yuva Morcha chief Dr. Indranil Khan says, "This is not appeasement ... In Bengal, all parties have exploited the minorities but left them deprived and poor ... the BJP will stop that exploitation"

On whether the party would soft-pedal the CAA issue, another leader Pronoy Roy says, "the Muslims are realizing that CAA will not take away their citizenship and hence they are taking a different view."

Another senior leader says that many Muslims have realized that there is a difference between CAA and NRC "as CAA will not lead to loss of citizenship they will have no problem with it," adding "panchayat elections will give us indications about our future path.

IN UP, the BJP has been actively wooing the Pasmanda Muslims. On October 22, 2022, the Uttar Pradesh unit of BJP held its first state-level Pasmanda Muslim meeting to sharpen its outreach among the socially backward Muslims, who have benefitted from government schemes like free ration and housing.

"Prime Minister had given credence to our efforts when he asked the party workers to reach out to marginalized sections of the society including Pasmanda Muslims, irrespective to the fact that they vore for BJP or not," Uttar Pradesh minister Danish Azad Ansari, who belongs to the community, said.

community, said.

The Pasmanda community has 41 "castes", including Ansari, Qureshi, Mansoori, Salmani, and Siddiqui. They are in professions such as butchers and weavers and are considered backward in social, economic, and political terms. The party claims it's working for the community's political uplift after their social and economic empowerment.

Azad said that the idea of social justice has reached 85 percent of Muslims, who constitute the Pasmanda community. In his message of outreach, Prime Minister is not only invoking Pasmanda Muslims but also opening the doors of political empowerment and social-economic upliftment for them. This is not influenced by religion but by the larger spectrum of poverty and backwardness.

and backwardness.

President of the Uttar Pradesh BJP's minority wing Basit Ali said that BJP plans to give tickets to Pasmanda Muslims in the coming urban body elections. "We have planned that people from different groups of Pasmanda Muslims will hold conferences in their societies and BJP leaders will participate in these to convey to them the party's ideology and government plans," Ali said.

He said the parties like SP, BSP, and Congress have used Muslims as their vote bank, but BJP will empower them by giving them political

But the Opposition Congress is not convinced that the BJP will ever shut its distrust and dislike of Muslims.

They are quick to point to the recent hue and cry over the screening of the Bollywood film Pathaan starring megastar Shah Rukh Khan and say it has exposed the diabolical attitude of the BJP towards minorities.

"Perhaps this is for the first time that the country is witnessing such a sharp divide in the screening of films, mainly featuring Muslim actors. Who is behind such a dirty campaign? Citizens are free to watch a movie if they like. But today the Saffron cadres have taken over the role of the Censor board. The way the entire machinery is working to create a hate narrative and divide Bollywood is a serious cause of concern and reveals the BJP's true attitude towards the minorities, particularly the Muslims," said Pranav Jha, AICC Secretary and Coordinator to the Congress President office.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in his Bharat Jodo Yatra had been talking about the palpable 'anger' among the people towards BJP and dismissed Modi's call for Muslim outreach as a deceptive move

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh told The Pioneer that Bharat Jodo Yatra has in a true sense made the BJP and RSS nervous and forced them to visit mosques and talk about reaching out to Muslims.

AICC head of Media and Publicity Pawan Kheda said with the tide turning against them, the BJP is forced to reach out to all the minorities.

Khdea asserted that the BJP's attitude towards minorities will never change. He pointed to The BJP's attempt to commercialize the holy pilgrimage centers of Jainism such as Sammed Shikharji, Palitana's Shatrunjaya hills (in Gujarat), Mount Girnar (also in Gujarat) and make them a

medium to "fill the State coffers".

"Be it Muslims or Jains, the BJP has equal antipathy for the minorities, or for that all the weaker sections of the society," he said.

"Till so long they (BJP/RSS) accused Congress of appeasement. Now what do we call their so-called course correction and attitude towards the minorities?" asked Kheda.

Congress leaders believe the Bharat Jodo Yatra and further outreach programs of the party will help in bringing together all sections of society including the minorities.

"A party which does not field any Muslim candidate in elections and gives no representation to Muslims in the organization cannot be trusted by Muslims, The BJP has risen by fooling people. The minority outreach programme is another similar attempt—this time to fool Muslims. No one is going to buy this," said a senior Congress leader.

# NEGLECT AT YOUR OWN PERIL

"Act now. Act together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases," is the theme of this year's World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Day being observed on January 30. The Day is also marked as World Leprosy Day. NTDs is an umbrella term that refers to 20 medically diverse, communicable diseases. India is home to the world's largest absolute burden of at least 11 major NTDs viz. Ascariasis, Hookworm, Trichuriasis, Dengue, Lymphatic filariasis, Trachoma, Cysticercosis, Leprosy, Cystic echinococcosis, Visceral leishmaniasis or Kala-azar and Rabies. THE HEALTH PIONEER talks to two experts in the sector, exclusively focusing on status and elimination progress in Kala-azar and Leprosy (Hansen's Disease), both mostly impacting a large number of poor in the country but often overlooked by policymakers, and so a few resources are made available to address them.

# **Right Time to take a Stab At Innovations** to Sustain Kala-azar Elimination



**DR KAVITA SINGH** Director, South Asia, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative

Earlier this month, Union Health Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya shared that Kala-azar (also known as Visceral leishmaniasis, VL)cases in India fell to 834 in 2022 from 44,533 in 2007 — a 98.7 per cent decline. India renewed its commitment of eliminating Kala azar from the country by the end of 2023. VL is an ultimately fatal disease if not treated.

Early and effective treatment has been one of the pillars of the National Kala Azar Elimination Program of India. It is important to remember that in the past we had toxic, long and painful treatments for kala azar patients. The long treatment duration often led to non-compliance and possible emergence of resistance .To provide simpler treatments it was important to ommendations for policy makers. Therefore a prospective, multicentre study was conducted by Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative and its partners NCVBDC, ICMR-RMRI, KAMRC, State Health Society Bihar and MSF in the public sector from 2012-

The Government adopted a single dose treatment with Liposomal Amphotericin B which revolutionised the kala azar treatment and helped bring the number down con-

sistently since 2014. While we celebrate this milestone, it is important to sustain the momentum towards kala azar elimination. It is important we recognise the contribution made by each and every one who worked towards reaching the last mile



policy makers who gave strategic directions to doctors, nurses, ASHAs, vector control officials and the contribution of intersectoral ministries.

Research conducted by the DNDi in India has shown that post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis, a skin condition that occurs in 3-5% of treated visceral leishmaniasis patients may be an important reservoir for transmission, as are patients co-infected with HIV and the relapse VL cases. Existing diagnostics & treatments are not optimal for these patients, reminding us that still more need to be done for sustaining progress towards elimination. An outinnovation of diagnostics and treatment is critical to meet the changing demands of disease elimination programmes.

In fact, Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) continue to pose significant health burdens on some of the most disadvantaged communities in our country. The task is to have a unifying theme of innovation in diagnostics, treatment, and prevention of NTDs to create solutions that are effective, relevant, locally feasible, and sustainable.

DNDi is continuing to find affordable, safe and easy treatment that will help sustain the elimination and feel an oral drug is the only way to sustain the elimination. We are continuing drug development of a new oral molecule, for VL which is presently in a phase of elimination including the 2 clinical trial. When we treatment tool, keeps chang-

develop drugs for such diseases, it is challenging to interest pharma companies and partners wherein affordability and availability in developing nations are the end goals. Therefore, our efforts have been towards open science, partnering with research insti-tutes taking in-kind support of pharma companies and seeking funding from various sources. So it's a very unique model of doing drug R&D. With our frugal drug discovery and development model ery and development model we have been successful in engaging Indian and International Pharma companies to be the market authorization holders in the last two

The National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control includes some of these diseases which are caused by mosquitoes or sandflies, while the Ministry of Health has additional programs focused on leprosy and soil transmitted helminthiasis. The National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control presently has a kala-azar and lymphatic filariasis (LF), both are on the elimination radar of the government, with VL being 2023 and LF being 2030. So there's a lot of implementation hap-pening with a lot of Government and also international support. .However, we need to remember that when a disease goes through a distinct programmatic phase, the requirement of the tools, whether it's a diagnostic or

ing. So investment s for these resources is the wish list of people who work in this space as we move towards sustaining elimination of VL. As we progress, it is

important to focus on optimal drugs and diagnostics that can help sustain the disease out of bay and are futuristic. As the number of cases go down, health professionals will be out of practice and so would be the availability of drugs at Primary Health care Centers. Looking into these aspects, DNDi is developing Centres of Excellence in two districts of Bihar for the management of complicated c leishmaniasis cases where we sionals in complicated diagnostic procedures and treatment regimens.

Continued vigilance will be required to sustain the gains achieved through kalaazar elimination efforts. Investing in the development of new drugs as well as diagnostics are important areas. Innovative vector control and surveillance strategies and intersectoral ministries continued contribution is crucial to sustain the elimination phase. This will also necessitate proportionate investments in research and development for new tools, training of health workers, and housing infrastructure, continued WASH advancement and quality of primary care. Commitment to eliminating the scourge of kala-azar must

# Leprosy: Reach those Out of Reach





Dermatologist, Vice Dean, FMCC.

reprosy, a neglected tropical ■s e d b y Mycobacterium leprae, is at least 4,000 years old, making it one of the oldest diseases known to humanity. The transmission occurs through respiratory droplets. Overall, the risk of getting Hansen's disease for any adult around the world is very low. That's because more than 95% of all people have natural immunity to the disease. Prolonged, close contact with someone with untreated leprosy over many months is needed to catch the disease. Due to the slow-growing nature of the bacteria and the long time it takes to develop signs of the disease, it is often very difficult to find the source of infection. When the disease occurs, it mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the

known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT), available for free across the world. If left untreated, it could lead to disabilities in a small proportion of patients. Visible deformities are one of the leading causes of stigma affecting health-seeking behaviour and social inclusion.

In India and the rest of the world, there has been a tremendous decline in the number of leprosy patients over the past four decades. This was possible due to various elimination programs launched by WHO and the national programs of respective countries. However, one of the major challenges faced by India and other countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Ethiopia,

occurrence of new leprosy cases. These countries reported more than 1,000 new cases of Hansen's disease to WHO in 2021-22; Brazil(22,476), Indonesia(12,316), Ethiopia (3,010), Nepal (2,418) Nigeria(1000). Leprosy is endemic in several states and union territories of India, with the annual case detection rate of 4.56 per 10 000 population. The prevalence rate of leprosy is 0.4 per 10,000 population in India. The WHO epidemiological report of 2020-2021 mentions that out of 1,40,546 new cases reported globally, 6 1 6 7 8 (4 3. 8 %) are contributed by India. Maharashtra alone recorded more than 12,000 cases during the same time period. Of the new cases detected during 2 upper respiratory tract, and the eyes. Leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics where children less indicate that despite the successful implementation of MDT, the transmission of leprosy in India

than 14 years of age, and 2.41% had visible deformities. The rate of visible deformities was 1.1 per million population.

However, there has been a massive drop in detection due to pandemic. One of the important factors for it could be the hurried declaration that India had reached the leprosy "elimination" target in 2005, which led to a false sense of security, loss of focus, and to erosion of expertise among program planners and healthcare professionals.

According to National

Sample Survey and situational analysis done in 2015 by National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), India, the major issues to be addressed by detection, hidden caseloads, low awareness regarding leprosy in the community, and the lack of quality monitoring. In addition, in India, there are more than 3 million people with leprosy deformities needing attention and care. The postelimination annual NCDR was far higher than what is expected in certain states and blocks compared to the national average. It is very high in a few states such as Chhattisgarh (16.2/100,000 population), Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha. High NCDR appears to be due to continued transmission of the disease, evidenced by >50% multibacillary cases and more than 9% child leprosy rate in new cases detected in states/union territories (UTs) of India. These trends

is still a matter of concern. After 40 years of strategies

based almost entirely on early diagnosis and treatment with MDT, it is clear that there is a need to find additional tools to interrupt transmission, while continuing the efforts for vigorous new case finding. Targets Under Sustainable

Development Goals are 2021-

22 are: • Reduce the prevalence rate from 0.2 to < 0.6/ million · Rate of child case with zero disability to be sustained • Reduce the rate of Grade 2 deformity (visible deformity) from 1.2/million to < 1/million Under Sustainable Development Government of India is com-2030. The State Government is targeted to eradicate Leprosy by 2025-26. World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January every year. This international day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to l e prosy-related stigma and discrimination.

This year's theme is "Act Now. End Leprosy" calls attention to three key messages: 1. Elimination is possible: We have the power and tools to stop transmission and defeat this disease. 2. Act now: We need the resources and commitment to end leprosy. Prioritize leprosy elimination. 3. Reach the unreached: Leprosy is preventable and treatable. Suffering from leprosy is needless.

# Docs Fight for Their better Treatment

Last few days have seen the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), India, raising a pitch for their demands that range from formation of the Indian Medical Service in line with the Union Public Service Commission, enactment of the Central Protection Act, giving allowance and bond-free medical education, among other demands. THE HEALTH PIONEER brings the report

On National Doctor's Day on July 1, last year Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the contribution of doctors in saving lives from the Coronavirus pandemic when it was at its peak and swept the country. He asserted, "India saved the lives of lakhs of its people and a big credit for that goes to doctors, healthcare and frontline workers."

However, action speaks more than words, say doctors in the government hospitals as they feel that not much has been done at the ground level as many of their long pending demands are yet to see the light of the day.

Now under the umbrella of the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), India, recently they enlisted ten demands including the formation of the Indian Medical Service in line with the Union Public Service Commission, enactment of Central Protection Act, giving allowance and bond-free medical education, among other demands. FORDA

FORDA General Secretary Dr Sarvesh Kumar Pandey said that merely showering praises is not enough while leaving the doctors to fend on their own to grapple with many challenges while FORDA president Dr Aviral Mathur said that their demands have been pending for years yet no action has



been taken to address them. We urge the government to address the issues at the earliest. We find many healthcare workers are often assaulted. We demand that the Central Protection Act should be made," said Mathur.

"Nursing students and nurses are provided risk hazards allowances but doctors are not. We should be given risk hazards allowances," he added. The other demands included creation of permanent posts for doctors, provision of at least six months duration in ad-hoc posts, amendment of residency scheme, provision of uniform stipend for resident doctors, timely conduction of NEET PG exam and constitution of apex body which can conduct exams.

The other demands included creation of permanent posts for doctors, provision of at least six months duration in ad-hoc posts, amendment of residency scheme, provision of uniform stipend for resident doctors and timely conduction of NEET PG exam, among oth-

Dr Pandey said that the doctors' body will invite other medical associations to build more momentum for their demands. "We will invite organisations to disscus these issues. We will invite IMA, FAIMA, DMA and Delhi-AIIMS RDA, All India

Medical Association and other major associations. Around the first week of February, we expect that we meet these organisations and raise these issues collectively to the government," he said. One may recall that the

Prime Minister during his address to the nation on the Doctor's Day last year had also expressed gratitude to all medicos on behalf of 130 crore Indians. "The way our doctors have served the country is an inspiration in itself...Today, when the country is fighting such a big war against Corona, doctors have saved millions of lives by working hard day and night,"

# Ukraine crisis: Wagner recruits a new twist

 $T_{\text{just a month away from}}^{\text{he Russia-Ukraine war is}}$  one year and but there is no sign of resolution as both Kyiv and Moscow are not ready to blink first for a successful negotiation. The top global governance bodies, like the UN, are simply issuing warnings and imposing sanctions on Russia.

But for somebody like the headstrong Vladimir Putin, these sanctions make no sense; what matters to him is nothing but the fulfillment of his agenda: Rewriting the history and redesigning the geography of the Russian Federation.

What has complicated the situation is the world community's support to Volodymyr Zelenskyy's military resistance to Russian attacks and the sustained supply of weapons to Ukraine. And the consequence is the war getting bloodier.

With the arrival of the 14 Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, the conflict has taken a new turn for worse. Under pressure from its Western allies, German Chancellor Ola Scholz agreed to send these tanks, considered to be one of the best for the European war fields.

Initially, Berlin was not ready to send such heavy weapons to Ukraine. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), at present it has more than 300 such battle tanks that Kyiv has been repeatedly demanding for.

Meanwhile, the US has announced it will send 30 MI Abrams tanks to the Ukrainian battlefield immediately.

Now, Russia has all the excuses to rant about global conspiracies to hit the nation on all fronts. Sergei Nechayev, the Russian Ambassador to Germany, was among the first one to take on Scholz, saying, "Berlin's decision signifies the unequivocal refusal of the Federal Republic of Germany to recognise historical responsibility to our people for the terrible, timeless crimes of Nazism."

The statement coming from the high office also high-



The turret of a destroyed tank is pictured outside Kalynivske, Ukraine, on Saturday, Jan 28

lighted that the supply of these dangerous battle gears would put an end to post-war reconciliation between the Russians and the Germans. Further, Nechayev stated that this step of Germany would take the conflict to a new level of confrontation.

Now Putin's new nightmare has just began. Thus he launched a new wave of bombing raids over Ukraine. And surprisingly, this time the bombers have come from Russia's Arctic bases. The Russian Army has fired more than 30 missiles at various targets across Ukraine.

The latest barrage of Russian drone and missile attacks killed and wounded many. Defence analysts say that Moscow has probably component of the Ukraine transnational criminal organ-

decided to go for spoiling attacks across the frontline war zones as a diversionary tactic. Its main purpose is to disperse Ukrainian defence forces as far as possible. In fact, such war efforts would seriously impair frontline forces in the opposite camp and distract them from the main war zones.

The involvement of the Wagner Army by Russia in the Ukraine war fields is again raising eyebrows in the West. According to the US National Security Council, almost 80 per cent of its troops are drawn from prisons all across Russia.

The Ministry of Defence of the UK reports that the Wagner Group now commands nearly 50,000 troops in Ukraine. These forces have become a key

invasion. Some other reports say it recruits forces from experienced and retired soldiers. And many of them are from Russia's special forces and elite regiments. Many say the Wagner Group, though registered as a Private Military Company (PMC) and a Russian paramilitary organisation, in reality is none other than a network of mercenaries

Although mercenary forces are completely illegal in Russia, the Wagner Group recruits openly across the country and currently operates from its new headquarters in St Petersburg.

and a de facto army of

President Putin.

Meanwhile, the US is planning to designate it as a isation which will also allow Washington to apply stricter sanctions against the group which is already operating in the Central African Republic, Syria and Libya, to name a few.

Sources say the Wagner soldiers deployed in Ukraine at present are largely taken from prisons. Indeed it is becoming a potential source of tension between the regular Russian Army personnel and the Wagner cadres as they come in conflict with each other during their operations in Ukraine.

Simply, Putin's own de facto army is fighting against the national forces of Russia. It's bad news for the Russian Federation as this could mount discord among the regular soldiers who have been fighting and sacrificing their lives in

many frontline and covert battles all across Ukrainian battlefields just to secure more lands and bring back glory to their motherland.

Russia can't come out of the Ukraine imbroglio as Putin is playing on the deeply entrenched imagination that Ukraine is an integral part of their larger empire. Ukraine is central to Russia's identity and vision for

Russia has deep economic, political and cultural bonds with Ukraine which has been existing for centuries. Further, Ukraine's current capital city Kyiv was once termed the "Mother of Russian

the nation in the outer world.

Cities" on a par with Moscow and St Petersburg. A survey conducted in 2001 shows that approximately 8 million ethnic Russians are living in Ukraine mostly in South and Eastern oblasts.

Thus Moscow, particularthe regime under Putin, thinks it fit to protect and occupy the entire oil rich Donbas and Crimea (which was taken over by Russia in 2014). So the history and politics of the Ukraine war goes back cen-

Much more than that Ukraine is a prestige issue for both Russia and NATO led by the US. Since the fall of the USSR, NATO and its eastward expansion has been directly termed as encircling of the Russian Federation by Putin. So why will Putin allow NATO to expand its wing over Ukraine? Instead, he prefers to occupy his neighbour in the name of protecting ethnic Russians and also to propel his global posture as the only leader who could rightly denounce the diktats from Washington and largely, the existing global liberal order.
Finally, what Putin does in

the coming months would have a serious impact on the future of the international political order. His bellicosity might prove to be costly for the entire Europe and for the rest of the world.

And the sending of the new weapons to Ukraine by the NATO allies especially by Germany and the US would simply add fuel to the fire.

Knowing fully well that to justify the war, the Russian strongman is already stoking a dark and ugly form of ultranationalism, the latest responses from Berlin and Washington should have been very cautious. If the war continues further, we all would be clearly witnessing a 'Zeitenwende' that is an epochal tectonic shift in the current global power calculus.

It's already under way. Be (The writer is the Head of

the Department of Arts and

Humanities at Geeta University,

involvement of the Wagner **Army by Russia** in the Ukraine war fields is again raising eyebrows in the West. **According to** the US National Security Council, almost 80 per cent of its troops are drawn from prisons all across Russia



MAKHAN SAIKIA

#### PERSPECTIVE -

# US' real-time advice to Ukrainian troops

having trouble firing his 155 mm howitzer gun. So, he turned to a team of Americans on the other end of his phone line for help.

"What do I do?" he asked the US military team member, far away at a base in southeastern Poland. "What are my options?"

Using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms, a rapidly growing group of US and allied troops and contractors is providing real-time maintenance advice usually speaking through interpreters — to Ukrainian troops on the battlefield.

In a quick response, the US team member told the Ukrainian to remove the gun's breech at the rear of the howitzer and manually prime the firing pin so the gun could fire. He did it and it worked.

The exchange is part of an expanding US military help line aimed at providing repair advice to Ukrainian forces in the heat of battle. As the US and other allies send more and increasingly complex and high-tech weapons to Ukraine, demands are spiking. And since no US or other NATO nations will send troops into the country to provide handson assistance — due to worries about being drawn into a direct conflict with Russia - they've turned to virtual chatrooms.

The US soldier and other team members and leaders stationed at a base in Poland spoke last week to two reporters who were traveling with Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he visit-

On the front lines in ed the facility. Because of the Ukraine, a soldier was sensitivity of the operation, the troops there spoke on condition of anonymity under guidelines set by the US military. Reporters also agreed not to reveal the name or location

The team includes about 20 soldiers now, supplemented by civilians and contractors, but the military number may dip a bit, as more civilians come on board. And they expect it will continue to evolve as new sophisticated weapons are delivered to the Ukrainians, and new chatrooms set up to

calls from right there on the firing line, so there'll be outgoing or incoming fire at the same time you're trying to help the forward maintainers troubleshoot the best they can," said a US soldier who is part of the maintenance team. Sometimes, he said, the chat has to wait a bit until troops can get to a

safer location. officer, is that Ukrainian troops are pushing the weapons to them long after a US service

of the base or take photos. Fixing a howitzer, the repair team said, has been a fre-

quent request from Ukrainian troops on the front lines. The need for help with weapons as been growing. Just a few months ago, there were just a bit more than 50 members of what they call the remote maintenance team. That will surge to 150 in the coming weeks, and the number of encrypted chat lines has more than tripled — from about 11 last fall to 38 now.

"A lot of the times we'll get

A key problem, said one their limits — firing them at unprecedented rates and using



In this file photo, Ukrainian soldiers prepare a US-supplied M777 howitzer to fire at Russian positions in Kherson region, Ukraine, on Jan 9, 2023

member would turn them in to be repaired or retired.

Holding up his tablet, the US soldier showed photos of the barrel of a howitzer, its interior ridges nearly worn completely away

"They're using these systems in ways that we didn't necessarily anticipate," said the officer, pointing to the tablet. We're actually learning from them by seeing how much abuse these weapon systems can take, and where's the break-

The Ukrainian troops are often reluctant to send the weapons back out of the country for repairs. They'd rather do it themselves, and in nearly all cases — US officials estimated 99 per cent of the time — the Ukrainians do the repair and continue on.

Many of the chats are regularly scheduled with depot workers in Ukraine — like the one they call "Coffee Cup Guy," because his chat has a coffee

cup emoji. Other times they involve troops on the battlefield whose gun just blew apart, or whose vehicle stalled.

Sometimes video chats aren't possible.

"A lot of times if they're on the front line, they won't do a video because sometimes (cell service) is a little spotty," said a US maintainer. "They'll take pictures and send it to us through the chats and we sit there and diagnose it."

There were times, he said,

when they'll get a picture of a broken howitzer, and the Ukrainian will say, "This Triple just blew up — what do we

And, in what he said was a remarkable new skill, the Ukrainians can now put the split weapon back together. They couldn't do titanium welding before, they can do it now," said the US soldier, adding that "something that was two days ago blown up is now back in play."

Doling out advice over the chats means the US experts have to diagnose the problem when something goes wrong, figure out how to fix it, then translate the steps into Ukrainian

As they look to the future, they are planning to get some commercial, off-the-shelf translation goggles. That way, when they talk to each other they can skip the interpreters and just see the translation as they speak, making conversations easier and faster.

They also are hoping to build their diagnostic capabilities as the weapons systems get more complex, and expand the types and amount of spare parts they keep on hand. For example, they said the Patriot missile system the US is sending to Ukraine will be a challenge, requiring more expertise in diagnosing and repairing problems.

The expanse of weapons and equipment they're handling and questions they're fielding were even too complicated for a digital spreadsheet - forcing the team to go lowtech. One wall in their maintenance office is lined with an array of old-fashioned, colorcoded Post-it notes, to help them track the weapons and maintenance needs.

The team in Poland is part of an ever expanding logistical network that stretches across Europe. As more nations send their own versions of weapon systems, they are setting up teams to provide repair support in a variety of locations.

The nations and the manufacturing companies quickly put together manuals and technical data that can be translated and sent to the Ukrainians. They then set up stocks of spare parts and get them to locations near Ukraine's borders, where they can be sent to the battlefield. Just days before Milley visited the base, Ukrainians traveled to the Poland facility for parts. The visit gave US soldiers a chance to meet someone from their chatrooms faceto-face and swap military patches. "In the next video chat we had he was wearing our patches in his video," the US

soldier said. The hub for the growing logistical effort is at Lucius D Clay Kaserne, the US Army

base in Wiesbaden, Germany. There, in cubicles filling an expansive room, the international coalition coordinates the campaign to locate and identify far-flung equipment, weapons and spare parts in other countries that are needed in Ukraine. They then plan out deliveries — by sea, air and ground routes - to border locations where everything is loaded onto trucks or trains and moved to the war zone.

At least 17 nations have representatives in what's called the International Donor Coordination Center. And as the amount and types of equipment grow, the center is working to better meld the donations from the US and other nations.

"As we send more additional advanced equipment, like Strykers, like Bradleys, like tanks, of course that sustainment activity will have to increase," said Douglas Bush, assistant Army secretary for

acquisition. "I think the challenge is recognised. I think the Army knows how to do it."







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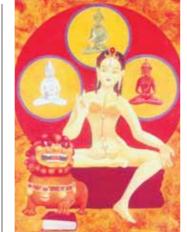




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

The week is favourable for financial gains. Be prepared since there will be business and professional travel. There may be some obstacles in your path, this could be a delay in booking and reservation or financial constraint. You oversee the situation. There will be new possibilities to advance your career. You will feel gloomy this week and will need to recharge. You may receive a love proposal or even a marriage proposal. Married couples should be more concerned about one other. There will be attraction, and they will have a happy relationship. You must review your spending at the end of the week

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, you will live the king-size life. You care about the family and go out of your way to make them happy. There is joy in the family, and the children will cooperate with you. Many family concerns will be discussed, and your part will be critical. You are emotionally satisfied. Lady Luck will be on your side. There will be a substantial income, and you intend to build a house or develop your business. Children may study abroad or be invited to an interview for a career. However, towards the end of the week, you must be cautious of your rivals. There is a potential they will plan against you. It is all because of envy. It is best to avoid illegal and controversial issues.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

When things do not go your way, there is always a ray of hope. This week brings rejection, misery, loneliness, and betrayal. As horrible as it may sound, if there is no suffering, there is no challenge, and life is ultimately meaningless. Such difficulties often provide opportunities to learn from your mistakes and become stronger. By mid-week, you strive to find the solution on your own, to rise above your desires and emotions, which are no longer useful in your trip. If someone has deceived you and you believe you can ever love again, confront that entirely. Expect your heart to emerge from the darkness even more capable of loving than before. Behind every cloud is a sun waiting to be revealed to all.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You will get preoccupied with attending to their visitors and hospitalising them. Your siblings and friends will demand your attention and time this week. You will be full of creative energy and will appreciate this phase of your life. You will be content by mid-week. At home, there is peace and harmony, the children are doing well, the health is good, and the finances are in better shape. The environment is filled with good energy. However, the end of the week is not so great. There might be some bad energy affecting your relationship with your partner. Your health may suffer as a result. So be cautious; prevention is better than

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you are gifted with your natural strength. Your objectives are clear, and you are motivated to attain them. You are well-known for your communication abilities, which you will excel at this week. Because of your established strength, you will feel confident and energised. Those in business will earn significantly. There will be substantial financial returns and timely payment. This week brings pleasant partnerships and friendships, as well as assistance from your family. Destiny will be on your side. Lovers must be patient. Introspection is the subject for you, but you do not need to be secretive or repress your feelings; rather, open yourself to new situations and behave more maturely.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White **Lucky day** Tuesday



#### **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

You require some rest and relaxation. Enjoy your newfound strength and tranquillity. Some of you may need to heal your body and mind after an illness or accident. You may also be placed in a circumstance in which an answer and the truth will be revealed. Such impasses are difficult to resolve and might result in a prolonged period of uncertainty and stagnation. However, the week will conclude on a very favorable note. You are likely to explore a new project that demands speed and courage. It will be time to act and realize your goals. Seize the opportunity and channel its energy to your benefit.

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Magenta **Lucky day** Friday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week will witness a dramatic shift. A pay raise, promotion, or other form of recognition is on the horizon. Your goals are clear, and you go forward in life with targeted objectives. This is the time to maximise the impact of your efforts. There is an abundance of prosperity by the mid-week, and you feel enthusiastic, creative, compassionate, and generous. You will be concerned about others. You like helping others. Though there is enough financial bliss, you are also looking for spiritual fulfilment. Those in business must communicate more effectively with their colleagues and partners. Those working in private organisations will be allowed to advance and transfer to desired positions. This is the moment to recognise and capitalise on your abilities.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, the number 7 is significant in your life. This number will have a positive impact on several aspects of life. There is a possibility of a relationship breakdown. You are afraid of failing. But by addressing your anxieties and using them to your advantage, you will become even stronger and more prepared to meet the next challenge in your way. Now is the moment to move on with your dreams, toss aside your fears, and to allow nothing to stand in your way. If you feel you haven't done your best, or if what you've accomplished isn't as spectacular as you planned, reconsider your ideas and try something new. By the end of the week, you may have more money, more income, or a lucrative offer.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Look for the spark of divinity within yourself that you could not recognize or recognise before. You will have faith in both your own and greater forces. Within yourself, you sense divine inspiration and strength. On the spiritual level, you are given true freedom and authority. So, it is preferable to let go of old ways of thinking and be gifted with new eyes. This is the time when your inner voice will become active in your life and your buried goals and ambitions will have a chance to come true. There are signs of a new connection beginning, one that is full of potential and may eventually lead to genuine love and happiness. Allow the power of love to flow from your heart. So, relax and enjoy the bliss.

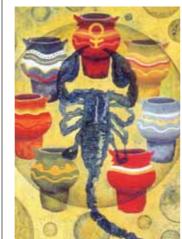
Lucky number 2 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

There is a mental fight to solve the challenge. You are worried about your children this week, or you are concerned about their progress. You may be concerned about your children's future schooling or marriage. The results are delayed. Someone in the family's health, your mother's, may disturb you. She wants attention. The cards imply hormonal or psychological issues for women. So, for mental balance, it is best to participate in yoga courses or meditate. It not only increases your mental power but also provides you the courage to tackle the problem. The end of the week marks the start of a new era in your life. You finish the emotional dharma and make ome wise life decisions.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple Laucky day Friday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, the most essential manifestation of your personality is desire with purity. You confront your innermost desires and most irrational anxieties, and instead of rejecting them, you elegantly integrate them into yourself and become stronger. You are confident in your abilities and skills to achieve the desired results. With your abilities, you have control over everything: theory and practice, logic, and emotion, thought and action. Your objectives are clear, and you remind others that a wish alone will not alter anything, but a determination may. A desire to create is meaningless without accompanied by the skill to achieve. So go out into the world, focus your attention on whatever objective you want to achieve, and then step back and watch as everything falls back into place under your leadership.

Lucky number 13 Lucký colour Brown Lucky day Saturday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You are so preoccupied with what you desire that you have no time to think about your life. When you look at the other side of your life, you will notice that there is a lot of love in it. But if you're not careful, it might slip away. A majority of disappointments in life come from those who desire more yet already have all they need. The answer to overcome disappointment is simply to see all the wonderful that currently exists in your life and to thank God for it every day. By midweek, you will notice significant deviations from the normal order in your life. There is the potential of two different beings uniting to function as one. It might be a relationship, friendship, or partnership, and all kinds of compromises.

Lucky number 7 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Saturday

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have developed keen interest in spirituality. I spend an hour every day Ldoing yoga, pranayama, and meditation. I have been studying philosophical books. I want to fast-track my spiritual evolution. I have realised that raising Kundalini level is the key to spiritual awakening." Somebody visiting me informed. "Are you pursuing your path under the guidance of a Guru?" I asked. "No. I don't have a Guru. But I have someone in mind, whom I wish to have my Guru." He answered.

I am afraid, pursuing any occult practise without due guidance by a realised Guru is fraught with danger. Awakening of kundalini power does raise the energy level in a being. That, however, will be eventually driven by your thought process - which again is another form of energy - according as is inherently oriented. So, with a preconditioned thought process at the drive, trying to awaken kundalini awakening could prove counterproductive. It could even derail you as has happened in large number of cases. If you think that spirituality is about developing psychic power, then you are mistaken. It is rather a process to give a qualitative turn your life. That will not happen without redefining your thought

Invariably one's mind is so much cluttered with past imprints and habit tendencies that it hardly leaves space to absorb fresh educative inputs. And spirituality is about realising hard truths of life, often at variance with usual approach to life, which calls for fresh learning. That will happen only when you break the barriers created by your preconditioned mind. Also, there are good number of people proclaiming themselves to be a Guru, some of them seemingly have a wide following. Their words may be intellectually appealing. That, however, doesn't qualify him to be your Guru. If you have the sincere urge to have a Guru, he will appear and take you within his care, if your mental frequency matches with his. An enlightened Guru will first prepare you for the process by putting you through a process to transcend your mental and emotional limitations. Only a purified mind could realise truths of life. Also, if you think of fast tracking your spiritual evolution, then it is your egotistical statement. Spirituality begins where ego ends and will progressively evolve. You can't time it.

# First, purify your mind



"Do you think I am not fit to pursue spirituality?" The fellow countered. Well, you carry the seed potential of spirituality as would clear linkage of the lagna, 5th and 9th cusps imply. But given the state of your mind, you don't seem to be prepared for it. "What is wrong with my thought process? Will you kindly enlighten?" The fellow asked.

Fiery Aries as the lagna, you seem to be aggressive, impulsive, irritable, commanding, and impatient, living in a demanding mode. You jump into action without applying proper forethought, often inviting frustrating experiences. Rahu in the lagna makes you erratic, and with Mercury close by, you seem to have a restive mind. You won't like playing second fiddle to others, even if he is your superior. Moon in Gemini sign opposite mischievous Neptune speaks of a vacillating mind. You may be stuck to your illusionary perceptions and not open to look beyond for a reality check. You fail to acknowledge truth on its first appearance, and rather continue following your selfbeliefs till pushed to the wall. Also, you wish to live on your own exclusive terms, not realising that life may not necessarily move to your asking. You prefer yes persons. When somebody offers a contrarian view, it becomes difficult to digest. You immediately get put off and go wild on him. Even more because Mars opposite Uranus makes you temperamental. Jupiter placed adverse to Mercury and Rahu accounts for your insensible reasoning and judgment. If that would not be enough, the Sun opposite Saturn brings in nagging tendency, always trying to put the blame on others, rather than trying to figure out one's own fault lines.

If you could address the limitations of your mind, that by itself will mean significant spiritual growth, as it may help turn life into a beautiful experience individually and collectively. For, you will have access to the full landscape of mind, which will let you look at things with an open mind without any preconditioning whatsoever. It will enable you to see things in the right perspective to pick up the most appropriate lead, and with obvious consequences. Also, the ground will be laid down to even realise truth, the final call of spirituality.

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