

OPINION 6

THE UNSUNG FREEDOM
FIGHTERS

WORLD 9

US PLEDGES \$1 BILLION
INVESTMENTS IN NEPAL

MONEY 10

LIC SAYS IT HAS EXPOSURE OF OVER
₹36K CRORE TO ADANI GROUP

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JANUARY 31, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Adani, BBC to heat up Budget Session

Opp to corner Govt also on price rise, job, PLA incursion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the raging controversies over Hindenburg expose of Adani Group, alleged Chinese incursions, and blocking of the controversial BBC documentary, the Budget Session of Parliament beginning on Tuesday is likely to be a stormy one.

In addition to these issues, the Opposition has decided to corner the Government over the issues of unemployment and price rise and raise demand for holding nationwide caste-based economic census.

The Budget Session will begin with the maiden address of President Droupadi Murmu to the joint sitting of both Houses in the Central Hall of the existing Parliament. The speculation to hold the Session in the new Parliament Building was scotched by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who took to social media to state that the Budget Session will start in the existing Parliament.

Sources said the last touch-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi and other leaders during an all-party meeting ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

es in the new building will be completed in another fortnight. Then a decision to conduct the sessions in the new building may be taken.

The Government will present the Economic Survey on January 31 and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget for the financial year 2023-24 on February 1, 2023. The first phase of the Budget Session will run till February 13, and the second phase from March 13 to April 6. There will be 27 meetings during the Budget Session.

The Government's priority will be to seek approval on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address and the Finance Bill.

After an all-party meeting, the Government said it is open to discuss every issue "under rules" during the Budget Session and sought the support of the Opposition in running the proceedings smoothly.

Deputy Leader of the House Rajnath Singh, Parliament Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal, MoS, Parliamentary Affairs Arjuna Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan were among those present for the meeting held at the Parliament House Complex.

Joshi said the Government has always been positive about discussing every topic but maintained that it should be

held under the rules and with the Chair's permission.

Most of the top leaders from the Opposition parties, including DMK leader, TR, Balu, TMC leaders, Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, TRS leaders K Keshava Rao and Nama Nageswara Rao were in attendance. Congress leaders were, however, not present in the meeting as Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Party in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury were held up due to the ongoing "Bharat Jodo Yatra" that culminated in Srinagar on Monday.

While the Congress is roping in other Opposition parties, like Shiv Sena, to discuss the larger issue of China and Adani group related expose, parties like Trinamool Congress and the Left, have expressed their intention to corner the Government on issues related to inflation, unemployment, economy, Centre-State relations, etc. Shiv Sena faction-led by Uddhav Thackeray has decided to ask for a SEBI investigation into alleged stock manipulation by the Adani group and "overexposure" of LIC and SBI funds in shares of the group companies.

Continued on Page 2

61 killed as Taliban blows himself up at Pak mosque



Security officials and rescue workers gather at the site of suicide bombing inside a mosque in Peshawar on Monday

AP | PTI

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

A Taliban suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque packed with worshippers during afternoon prayers on Monday in the high-security zone in Pakistan's restive northwestern Peshawar city, killing at least 61 people and wounding more than 150 others, mostly policemen.

The powerful blast occurred inside the mosque in the Police Lines area around 1.40 pm when worshippers,

which included personnel of the police, army and bomb disposal squad were offering the Zuhr (afternoon) prayers.

The bomber who was present in the front row blew himself up, causing the roof to collapse on the worshippers, officials said.

Capital City Police Officer Muhammad Ijaz Khan said 61 people have been killed in the blast. He said that 300 to 400 police officials were present in the area at the time of the blast. "It is apparent that a security

lapse occurred," he told the media. At least five sub-inspectors and the mosque's prayer leader Maulana Sahibzada Noorul Amin were among the dead.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), known as the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the suicide attack, saying it was part of a revenge attack for slain Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan commander Umar Khalid Khurasani, who was killed in Afghanistan in August last.

"We are currently focused on the rescue operation. Our first priority is to safely retrieve the people buried under the debris," in-charge Rescue operation Bilal Faizi said.

The bomber entered the highly secured mosque inside police lines where four layers of security were in place. Provincial Police chief Moazzam Jah Ansari said they are investigating the blast and how the bomber entered the highly fortified mosque.

Continued on Page 2

Gorakhnath temple attacker gets death

AGENCIES ■ GORAKHPUR

Ahmed Murtaza, convicted in the Gorakhnath temple attack case in Gorakhpur, was sentenced to death by a special NIA court on Monday.

Murtaza was convicted by the court on charges of the UAPA, waging war against the country and murderous attack. He was present in the court, when the sentence was announced.

Earlier on Saturday, the NIA court had convicted Ahmed Murtaza.

It may be recalled that on April 4, 2022, Murtaza tried to forcibly enter the Gorakhnath temple premises on April 3, 2022 and attacked the security personnel deployed there with a sickle, injuring two PAC constables.

Murtaza attacked PAC constable Anil Kumar Paswan and tried to snatch weapons from him. When other security personnel came to the rescue, Murtaza attacked them too.

After this, he started raising religious slogans while



waving arms. Murtaza, a chemical engineer from IIT, was arrested by other security personnel and locals after a brief chase as he tried to flee from the spot. The police arrested him and sent him to jail.

During the investigation, weapons, laptops and material written in Urdu were recovered from him.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Sanjay Verma had filed the chargesheet in the case. The ATS produced Ahmed Murtaza in the special court on April 25, 2022 in this case and also obtained remand.

A lawyer was engaged for Murtaza at the expense of the Government.

Adani group's slump unabated for third day; ₹5.5 lakh cr lost

UAE royals come to Adani rescue, invest \$400 mn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty recovered after two sessions of heavy selling and closed higher in a highly volatile trade on Monday, but bloodbath continued on most of the Adani group counters and its scripts fell for the third day running on.

The market which remained in the negative territory throughout the day staged sharp recovery thanks to brisk buying in IT, oil and financial stocks.

Shares of Adani group firms have faced heavy drubbing since Tuesday's close last week, after US-based short seller Hindenburg Research made damaging allegations against the conglomerate.

However, Adani's embattled group clutched on to a



USD 400-million investment by Abu Dhabi's International Holding Co in its flagship firm's share sale to restore confidence in the conglomerate.

The 30-share Sensex recovered 169.51 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 59,500.41 as 17 of its constituents ended in the green. During the day, it rose by 313.34 points or 0.52 per cent to 59,644.24.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 44.60 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 17,648.95 as 29 of its stocks advanced. The

index moved in a range of 17,709.15 to 17,405.55 during the day. Shares of Adani group firms closed on a mixed note with flagship Adani Enterprises climbing 4.21 per cent.

However, Adani Transmission dropped 14.91 per cent, Adani Green by 20 per cent, Adani Total Gas by 20 per cent, Adani Power by 5 per cent, and Adani Wilmar by 5 per cent, a day after the group released a 413-page response to allegations of wrongdoing brought by a US-based short

seller Hindenburg Research.

Since Tuesday's close last week, shares of Adani Total Gas tanked 39.57 per cent, Adani Transmission tumbled 37.95 per cent, Adani Green Energy declined 37.93 per cent, Ambuja Cements went lower by 22.28 per cent and Adani Ports fell 21.55 per cent on the BSE.

In three days, shares of Adani-owned ACC tanked 18.47 per cent, Adani Enterprises fell 16.38 per cent, Adani Wilmar dipped 14.25 per cent, Adani Power (14.24 per cent) and NDTV (14.22 per cent). The group firms have collectively lost over ₹5.56 lakh crore in market valuation between January 24 and 30.

On Friday, the Adani group stocks fell up to 20 per cent after Hindenburg Research made damaging allegations. Banking counters and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have also faced the heat amid concerns over their exposure to the Adani group firms.

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Related report on P10

Apex Court to hear pleas against anti-conversion laws in States on Feb 3

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would hear on February 3 a batch of pleas challenging controversial State laws regulating religious conversions due to interfaith marriages.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala noted that a transfer plea was mentioned in the morning. "We can list it, issue notice and hear it together. The transfer petition will also be numbered by then. The Attorney General can also examine. We will hear all on Friday," the bench said.

Attorney General R Venkataramani submitted that these are State legislations that have been challenged before the apex court and the High Courts concerned should hear the cases. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had challenged the locus standi of activist Teesta Setelwad's NGO.



The apex court had, on January 6, 2021, agreed to examine certain new and controversial laws of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand regulating religious conversions due to interfaith marriages.

The Uttar Pradesh law relates to not only interfaith marriages but all religious conversions and lays down elaborate procedures for anyone who wishes to convert to another religion.

The Uttarakhand law entails a two-year jail term for those found guilty of religious conversion through "force or allurement".

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

57 J&K SCHOOLS, ROADS NAMED AFTER MARTYRS

Jammu: J&K administration has named 57 schools and roads after martyrs and eminent personalities, including Makhan Lal Bindroo, the Kashmiri Pandit owner of a pharmacy in Srinagar, and DSP Mohammad Ayoub Pandit, who was lynched at Jamia Masjid in 2017.

JAIL RAPPED FOR DAILY CALL BY UMAR, SHARJEEL

New Delhi: A Delhi court slammed Tihar jail authorities for allowing daily call facilities to Northeast Delhi riots accused. It asked to provide inmates telephone call facility for five minutes, thrice a week, to seven accused, including Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid.

P3

KERALA REPORTS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Kottayam: African Swine Fever was confirmed at two private farms in Uzhavoor Panchayat near here.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday invited like-minded Opposition parties to stand up together against the RSS and BJP to save the liberal and secular ethos of the country.

Rahul, who donned a Kashmiri pheran during a public rally at the Sher-e-Kashmir stadium, braved heavy snowfall and incessant rain while launching a blistering attack against the ruling party at the Centre.

Surrounded by the Opposition leaders, invited by the Congress party at the closing ceremony of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul said the aim of his Bharat Jodo Yatra was to save the liberal and secular ethos of



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a public rally at the end of the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Srinagar on Monday

PTI

the country which, he claimed, was facing an assault from the BJP and the RSS.

"I have not done this (yatra) for myself or for the Congress but for the people of

Continued on Page 2

SC to hear BBC docu ban on Mon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on next Monday will hear pleas challenging the Centre's decision to block the BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Senior journalist N Ram, advocate Prashant Bhushan and TMC MP Mahua Moitra have filed public interest litigations on this regard. Lawyers ML Sharma and CU Singh too have approached the apex court on this matter.

After hearing the submissions, the bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala decided to post all the PILs on February 6.

"People were being arrested. Please list it urgently," ML Sharma submitted. "You can

speak to social media from elsewhere. It will be listed on Monday," the bench said. The petitions said that Centre's decision to block the documentary, alleging it was "malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional".

Meanwhile, reacting to the news report on this Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said these kinds of petitions waste the time of the courts.

"This is how they waste the precious time of Hon'ble Supreme Court where thousands of common citizens are waiting and seeking dates for Justice," Tweeted Rijiju.

Moitra responded in her counter tweet: "All the king's men.... Couldn't put Humpty together again." She also told the Law Minister to concentrate on the long pending appointments in the courts.

Asaram Bapu convicted of raping disciple

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

More than nine years after a former disciple of Asaram Bapu lodged a case of rape against him during her earlier stay in his ashram, a court in Gandhinagar on Monday convicted the self-styled godman and is likely to pronounce the sentence on Tuesday.

Sessions court judge DK Soni acquitted six other accused, including Asaram's wife Laxmiben, their daughter, and four disciples who were accused of aiding and abetting the crime, for want of evidence, the prosecution said.

Asaram's lawyer said the session court's order will be challenged in the Gujarat High Court.

Continued on Page 2

Disputed land belongs to Sen, not varsity: Didi

Mamata hands over land State records to Sen

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The ongoing conflict between Amartya Sen and the Visva-Bharati University (Shantiniketan) over the ownership of 13 decibels of land on Monday blew into a full-fledged political battle between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP with Bengal Chief Minister Mamata expressing solidarity with him before handing him over the “original land records” claiming the disputed land actually belonged to the Sens and not the University.



only Bengal but the entire country and the world proud by your contribution ... I am really very hurt at the way they have cast aspersions at you ... But please remain assured that you are not alone.

“We all are with you and will be by your side,” Mamata who on Monday noon visited Sen at his residence “Pratichi” in Bolpur Shantiniketan some 100 miles from Kolkata told him.

A dirty war of words had ensued between the two sides with Visva-Bharati Vice-Chancellor Vidyut Chakrabarty



earlier alleging that the Nobel Laureate economist had usurped 13 decibels of land from the central University.

In the course of his allegations the Vice Chancellor — who has often been criticised by the TMC and the Left students unions for trying to saffronise the campus — also told a gathering of students that Sen had actually not a Nobel Laureate because Economics never came within the realm of Nobel Prize and that the Prize that he flaunted was actually given to him in memory of Alfred Nobel.

Sen had refused to enter into that controversy saying “he may have better information about the matter.” In its two successive notices the University asked Sen “to return the 13 decibel land to the University.” The economist however told the media that he did not want to rush to the court and that his lawyers had already sent the University, appropriate reply to the letters thus sent to him.

The Chief Minister handed over the original land records to Sen before telling the media persons that she “had been keeping silent all these days because I did not want to comment without evidence in my hand ... now I have collected all the records from the land department ... they show that the Government had in fact leased them 1.38 acres of land and not 1.25 acres as claimed by the University ... I have asked the District Magistrate to authenticate the records that I handed over to Amartya da ... now let me see

how they react.” Banerjee also said that she did not immediately want to disclose the legal steps that his government was likely to take regarding the matter.

Banerjee’s pro-Sen stand tends to follow his support of her prime ministerial candidature, experts said. Early this month speaking to the media persons, Sen had said that Banerjee had the capabilities to become the Prime Minister though it would be difficult for her to take the large number of political parties along with her.

On the alleged attempt to saffronise the campus Banerjee said that the Vice Chancellor should concentrate on preserving Rabindranath Tagore’s heritage and promote his values.

“Though I do not want to name anyone I have no doubt that some people are using their top positions to bring the University founded by Tagore to disrepute by trying to saffronise the campus ... by suspending the students ... and by

humiliating reputed men ... I think the authorities should desist from doing this,” Banerjee said. Earlier, reacting to the controversy, State BJP leadership had said that a man of Sen’s status should desist from usurping lands.

“He has earned so much and yet he cannot keep himself from illegally taking a few decibels of land ... if he has taken it he should return it to save his own honour and if not he should produce his records,” BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh said.

Sen had earlier claimed that most of the lands had been purchased by his father on market price and some of the lands were leased to the family.

Asutosh Sen who was a professor of Chemistry in Dhaka University, a Development Commissioner in Delhi and a Chairman of West Bengal Public Service Commission. Asutosh was close to Tagore and as a child Amartya Sen had received the blessings of the Poet Laureate.

Eyebrows raised as Mamata provides Z+ cover to Amartya

Kolkata: In what the critics called “more of a political move than security necessity,” Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday impromptu declared Z+ security for Nobel Laureate economist Amartya Sen who has been having land related issues with the Visva-Bharati (Shantiniketan) University.

The Chief Minister who visited Pratichi the residence of Sen at Shaniniketan, some 100 miles from Kolkata directed the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to “provide Z+ category security to Professor Sen.” She told the top officials “there should not be any security lapse in this regard,” asking them to “set up a police camp outside the house of the economist.” Though the Opposition BJP would not speak immediately

over the issue some of their senior leaders wondered whether such decisions could be taken impromptu.

“Was there any genuine security threat ... was there any police intelligence report regarding Professor Sen’s security ... did he ask for it ... was a meeting held before such order was issued suddenly by the Chief Minister even as she was sitting in his drawing room ... this is bizarre because there is a difference between providing two-three security personnel and ordering a Z+ Security network ... it entails spending of tax-payers’ money ... the Government cannot pay the DA to its employees and here such unnecessary and expensive security paraphernalia is being ordered,” a BJP State committee member said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra was to save country from assault...

From Page1
The public rally at the Sher-e-Kashmir saw thin attendance due to overnight snow-fall across different parts of Kashmir valley.

Before attending the public rally, Rahul also visited Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters along with his sister Priyanka Gandhi on Maulana Azad Road where party President Mallikarjun Kharge unfurled the National

flag. During the rally Rahul also challenged the BJP top brass to undertake a yatra like his in Jammu and Kashmir, saying they will never do it as they are scared.

“I can guarantee you that no BJP leader can walk like this in Jammu and Kashmir. They will not do it, not because they won’t be allowed to but because they are scared,” he said. Rahul said he was advised against walking the Jammu

and Kashmir lap on the grounds that he might be attacked. “I thought it over and then decided that I will walk in my home and with my people (in J&K). Why not give them (his enemies) a chance to change the colour of my shirt, let them make it red, Rahul said.

“The people of Kashmir did not give me hand grenades, only their hearts full of love,” he said. Recalling the moments when he was informed about the assassination of his grandmother and father -- former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi -- over phone calls, the former Congress president said the inciters of violence will never understand that pain.

“Those who incite violence - like Modiji, Amit Shahji, the BJP and the RSS - will never understand this pain. The family of an Army man will understand, the fam-

ily of the CRPF personnel who were killed in Pulwama will understand, Kashmiris will understand that pain when one gets that call. “The aim of the yatra is to end the phone calls announcing the deaths of loved ones -- be it a soldier, a CRPF jawan or any Kashmiri,” he added.

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar asked Rahul to undertake another yatra from west to east of the country. “On this last function of the yatra, I congratulate Rahul on behalf of myself, my father and my party. This yatra has been successful. This yatra has shown that there are people in the country who like the BJP but there are also those who like the other idea which is of brotherhood,” he said.

“I request Rahul to undertake a yatra from west to east. I would like to walk with him,”

Abdullah added.PDP president Mufti said the country sees a ray of hope in Rahul. Addressing the rally senior CPI leader D Raja urged all secular parties of the country to unite.

“We all fought together for the independence of the country and liberated the country from the British Raj. All secular parties must come together to liberate the country from BJP Raj,” he said.

RSP leader Premchandran declared his party’s solidarity with the Congress leader. “A historic movement was undertaken. Rahul has proved that he is the right leader to fight against these divisive forces,” he said.


During the course of the yatra, Rahul addressed 12 public meetings, over 100 corner meetings, 13 press conferences. He had over 275 planned walking interactions and more than 100 sitting interactions.



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Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital) Uttarakhand
फ़ोन :- ०५१-3086/५५, ०५१-३१०५ / विमिन - २६४२/२०२२-२०२३ रिजका - ३० जनवरी, २०२३
E-Tender Notice no.: 33/UCDF/Purchase/2022-23. Date-30.01.2023
Following E-tenders are invited by the undersigned, in two bid system for to its member milk unions from reputed manufactures/authorized dealers upto 5 PM on 13.02.2023 which will be opened on 14.02.2023 at 11AM.
1- Supply of various marketing packing material like 3 layer milk poly, dahi cup Paner/Khova Pouch, Aluminium lids for Cup, pet jar, Aluminium can and lid etc.
2- RFP of selection of management partner for bio-cng plant.
Tender documents may be downloaded/uploaded from E-tender portal <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>
Managing Director




New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://tender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
(1) **23/SPE/PE (PH-I)/ET/ 2022-23** **Proposal for Empanelment of Agencies for Carrying Out Dog Sterilization and Immunization of Stray Dogs in NOIDA.** **Rs. 9000000.00**
The above tenders can be uploaded from dated 31.01.2023 to 21.02.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre Bid Meeting 07.02.2023 At 3.00 PM (Dy. GM/Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health) 1st Floor Integrated Command Control Center, Sector-94, Noida. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 22.02.2023 at 11.00 AM.
Dy. GM/Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health) NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount In Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Lakshmi Devi/ Amit Kumar/ LBGHZ000002009640	Flat No-654, 6th Floor, Block (Ganga) Type Mig-1, Tower- Ganga, Mahagun Puram, NH 24, Village Mehrauli, Ghaziabad/ January 25, 2023	September 26, 2022 Rs. 24,66,390/-	Delhi


The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : January 31, 2023
Place: Delhi
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited




SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount In Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manoj Kumar Grover/ Anjali/ LBZMO00002009140	Flat No.G-11, 7th Floor Palm Heights Galaxy Developers, Sec-125 New Sunny Enclave Behind Air Force Naval Housing Society Mohali Punjab/ January 25, 2023	August 22, 2022 Rs. 39,28,959/-	Mohali/ Gurgaon
2.	Manoj Kumar Grover/ Anjali/ LBZMO00002009640	Flat No.G-12, 7th Floor Palm Heights Galaxy Developers, Sec-125 New Sunny Enclave Behind Air Force Naval Housing Society Mohali Punjab/ January 25, 2023	August 22, 2022 Rs. 39,28,911/-	Mohali/ Gurgaon


The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : January 31, 2023
Place: Gurgaon
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited




PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that MR. VIJAY PAL & MRS. SANTRADEVI (Joint owners of Residential Plot area measuring 380 (320*70) Sq. Yds, out of Kharsa No.166, Situated at Village Vinay Nagar, Tehsil Kheda, Distt. Bhopal, UP vide Sale Deed dated 07.05.2014 executed by Mr. Rajbeer Singh in favour of Mr. Vijaypal in respect of the said property (area measuring 320 Sq. Yds), duly regd. as Doc No.1584, Book No.1, Volume No.1225, Pages 311-332, dated 07.05.2014. SR-Kheda, And Original. Sale Deed dated 02.02.2008 executed by Mr. Rajbeer Singh in favour of Mrs. Santra Devi in respect of the said property (area measuring 70 Sq. Yds), duly regd. as Doc No.402, Book No.1, Volume No.236, Pages 281-290, dated 04.02.2009. SR-Kheda has been lost. Mr. PRAMOD KUMAR to the aforesaid property and F.R LR No. 8447/2023 has been registered on 20.01.2023 with Crime Branch Delhi Police. If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate
SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No.7, Basement, Plot No. C-78, Sector 2, Noida UP 201301. E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 7011172764, 8130208837



Apex Court to hear pleas...
From page1
The allurements can be in the form of cash, employment or material benefits. The petitions said these legislations violate articles 21 and 25 of the Constitution as those empower the State to suppress an individual's personal liberty and freedom to practise the religion of his choice. Questioning the locus standi of activist Setalwad's NGO, "Citizens for Justice and Peace", in challeng-



ing State laws regarding religious conversions due to inter-faith marriages, the the Centre alleged that the NGO allows its name to be used "at the behest of some selected political interest". The centre also submitted that the NGO was is guilty of collecting huge funds by exploiting the agonies of riot-affected people. "I State and submit that the petitioner here-in purports to act in public interest, in which it selectively



PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client i.e. ICICI Bank Limited that (1) Mrs. Indu Chopra, (2) Mr. Ravi Khanna, (3) Mr. Ravi Khanna, (4) Mr. Sunil Khanna (as legal heirs of deceased Mrs. Krishna Khanna & Mr. Om Prakash Khanna), (5) Mrs. Neeru Khanna (by virtue of her relationship deed for 1/5th share after demise of late Mr. Anil Khanna) are joint owners of Society Flat bearing No. A-121, on Second Floor, situated at HPI Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd. built on Plot No. 17, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi, the said property, and have inherited the property after the death of Mrs. Krishna Khanna, who acquired the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 29.03.2016. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/nomination/transfer, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Unit No. 21, Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, Noida-201301 Ph: 011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

Budget Session...

From page1
The TMC has insisted on raising the issue of censorship in the backdrop of a controversial BBC documentary on Centre-State relations during the Session. Parties like the BRS and DMK will raise the issue of conducting of Governors in States ruled by them.

The YSR Congress and RJD are also set to demand a nationwide caste-based economic census. The ruling party in Andhra Pradesh has joined the likes of the JD(U) and the RJD, both of which have demanded a caste census. YSR said his party also demanded the passage of the Women's Quota Bill for ensuring reservation for them in Parliament. Parties including the BRS, TMC and the BJD also supported the demand.

The Government has plans to bring around 36 Bills — including four related to the budgetary exercise — during the Session. As per the information received from the Bulletin of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, nine Government Bills were pending at the end of the 10th Session of the 17th Lok Sabha while 26 Bills were pending in the Rajya Sabha at the end of the Winter Session.

Besides the SEBI investigations in Adani Group, Shiv Sena deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Priyanka Chaturvedi raised the issue of the overarching role of the Governor being "reduced to politicking" and said it was a concern raised by several parties. "SEBI's investigation into charges of stock over pricing and over exposure of SBI and LIC must be concluded and discussed. Kashmiri Pandits protesting for days and the Government of India turning a blind eye needs to be discussed in the House, and 26 patrolling points on LAC being restricted should be addressed," she said after the meeting. Several Opposition parties raised the Adani issue and the conduct of governors in some States ruled by them at the all-party meeting as the Government asserted it was willing to discuss every matter allowed by rules and sought their cooperation.

Asaram Bapu convicted...

From page1
Notably, the victim's younger sister was raped and illegally confined by Asaram's son Narayan Sai. Sai was sentenced to life imprisonment by a sessions court in Surat in April 2019 in the rape case filed against him by his former disciple in 2013.

As per the FIR (First Information Report) registered at Chandkheda police station in Ahmedabad on October 6, 2013, against Asaram Bapu and six others, the self-styled godman had raped the woman disciple, who hailed from Surat, on several occasions from 2001 to 2006 when she was living at his ashram at Motera near Ahmedabad before she man-

aged to escape. A chargesheet was filed in July 2014. "The court convicted Asaram Bapu under sections 376 2 (C) for rape, 377 (unnatural offences), 342 (Wrongful detention), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 357 (assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code," said special public prosecutor RC Kodekar. The court is likely to pronounce its order on the quantum of the sentence on Tuesday, he said. The court accepted the prosecution's case against Asaram Bapu but didn't agree that six others, including Asaram's wife and daughter, abetted the crime, he added.

Pick one date from Feb 3, 4, 6 for Mayoral poll: City Govt to LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party-led (AAP)-led Delhi Government has suggested three dates — February 3, 4, and 6 for the election for the Mayor and requested Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to pick one of them.

On the other hand, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has proposed February 10 for holding elections to Mayoral post. The final decision to this effect will be taken by the Lieutenant Governor's office. As per the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, only 72 hour notice is required to call for the elections.

This is the third time that MCD's house meeting has been convened to elections to Mayoral post and six standing committee members. With the



second meeting of the newly-constituted Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on January 24 adjourned sine dine due to protest by the BJP, the AAP is now pushing for an early resumption of House proceedings. The AAP has fielded Shelly Oberoi and Ashu Thakur as their candidates for the post of mayor. The BJP has nominated Rekha Gupta. The nominees for the post of deputy

mayor are Aaley Mohammad Iqbal and Jalaj Kumar for the AAP and Kamal Bagri for the BJP. The issue of holding the mayoral elections is also pending before the Supreme Court as the AAP has filed a petition. According to AAP, the matter is listed for February 3.

The mayoral election in the national capital was stalled on January 24 for the second time this month as the MCD House

was adjourned indefinitely by the lieutenant governor-appointed presiding officer, following a ruckus created by some councillors. According to MCD officials, it was for the first time in the history of the civic body that a newly-elected House had failed to elect a mayor and deputy mayor in its two meeting.

The first meeting of the newly-elected MCD House on January 6 was also adjourned amid a ruckus by the AAP and BJP members. The AAP won 134 of the 250 wards in the MCD polls held in December. The BJP managed to win 104 wards. On January 24, the MCD House was adjourned without electing a mayor and deputy mayor following a ruckus by some councillors.

Sisodia, a senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, also accused the BJP of "running away from the election of the mayor".

Prez, PM offer floral tributes to ‘Father of Nation’ on 75th death anniversary

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The nation remembered Mahatma Gandhi on his 75th death anniversary on Monday with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi offering floral tributes to the 'Father of the Nation' at his memorial Raj Ghat. His death anniversary is observed as 'Martyrs Day'.

Meanwhile, Commuters travelling towards central Delhi from the eastern parts of the national Capital and Noida faced heavy traffic due to VIP movement towards and away from Rajghat on Monday.

According to police, those commuting via ITO, Pragati Maidan and Barapulla will face heavy traffic as these routes are completely choked. Besides VIP movement, an accident involving multiple vehicles has tled to a huge traffic jam in the area with the onlookers and school students making videos of the pile-up of vehicles. The

impact of the accident was such that all the buses, car and autorickshaw involved in the accident were damaged. Later, the traffic congestion was cleared on the stretch.

Earlier, Vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also paid homage to the Mahatma.

"I bow to Babu on his Punya Tithi and recall his profound thoughts. I also pay homage to all those who have been martyred in the service of our nation. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten and will keep strengthening our resolve to work for a developed India," Prime Minister Modi tweeted. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of Mohandas Karmchand Gandhi, affectionately known as Babu, who was assassinated on this day in 1948.

An interfaith prayer was



held at the Raj Ghat and Mahatma Gandhi's favourite devotional songs were played. A gun salute was given at the memorial where school students and people from different walks of life gathered to pay respects to Mahatma Gandhi. The father of the nation, was shot dead by Nathuram Godse on this day in 1948.

Meanwhile, the VIP movement at Rajghat led to massive traffic jams during the peak hours on Monday. "From Akshardham to Rajghat, there is heavy traffic jam. There were points when the vehicle

was at a standstill for at least 45 minutes. Since I had an important meeting to attend in Connaught Place, I had to reach on time but due to the traffic snarls, I could not make it on time," said Anil Agrawal, a commuter.

Another officer-goer said, "Even though I started my commute on time, I was stuck at Rajghat for over an hour. There was absolutely no movement on the stretch." Heavy traffic jams were also reported from Dwarka where commuters said the vehicles were moving at a snail's pace.

24 schoolchildren injured after four buses collide with three vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-four schoolchildren were injured in an accident following a collision of four buses with three other vehicles on central Delhi's Salimgarh flyover on Monday, police said.

There were 216 students in the four buses that "accidentally" collided with an autorickshaw, a car, and a motorcycle. In all, 28 people, including three members of school staff and a civilian, were injured, they said.

The buses were hired by Government Secondary School — Bhalaswa Village, Government Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya — Khajoori, and Government Boys' Secondary School — C-Block Dilshad Garden. They were on an educational tour to the zoo and Akshardham Temple, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Shweta Chauhan said.

Police received information regarding the accident around 11 am. When they reached the spot, they found a pile on of four buses, an autorickshaw, a car, and a motorcycle, Chauhan said.

Another police officer privy to the facts related to the incident said one of the bus drivers could not apply brakes in time and lost its control, leading to the collision.

Five boys from Government Secondary School — Bhalaswa Village, 10 girls from Government Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya-Khajoori, and nine boys from Government Boys' Secondary School — C-Block Dilshad Garden were injured in the accident.

Three staff members were also injured.

Norms for compassionate appointment in Delhi Police relaxed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has relaxed the norms for compassionate appointments in the Delhi Police by overruling an earlier decision of the force to reject three beneficiaries, who were overage by five or six months, and granting approval to their appointments.

The applications for the appointment of the three beneficiaries on compassionate grounds -- Rakesh Kumar for the post of constable (driver), Ajay Kumar for the post of constable (driver) and Jitendra Bhadoria for the post of constable (executive) -- were rejected by the Delhi Police on the ground of the candidates being

overage, a Raj Niwas official said.

However, the Lt Governor, exercising the power under rule 30 of the Delhi Police (Appointment and Recruitment) Rules, 1980, relaxed the prescribed age criterion and directed for the issuance of appointment letters to the three beneficiaries, the official added.

Of these three applicants, Rakesh Kumar and Ajay Kumar had appealed to the Lt Governor seeking age relaxation of 05 months each while the other beneficiary Jitendra Bhadoria had sought 06 months age relaxation. The Lt Governor while granting age relaxation underlined that the deceased police personnel have left



behind widows, old age parents, young children and unmarried daughter, and it was important and in interest of natural justice that such factors, including the families financial conditions are taken into consideration while deciding cases of compassionate appointment.

The LG while deciding these applications also noted that a large number of posts reserved for appointment on compassionate ground were lying vacant. LG was informed

that 115 posts of Constable (Executive) and 28 posts of Constable (Driver) were vacant against whom the LG allowed these 03 appointments.

Late Devender (Constable), brother of applicant Rakesh Kumar, died on 07.01.2015 at a young age of 25 years leaving behind dependent old aged parents and brother (Rakesh Kumar).

Late Dharampal, Ex. ASI (Exe), father of applicant Ajay Kumar, died on 14.12.2019 leaving behind a dependent widow and a son (Ajay Kumar).

Late Raghubir Singh, Ex. ASI, father of applicant Jitendra Bhadoria died on 21.03.2020 leaving behind a dependent widow, an unmarried daughter and a son (Jitendra Bhadoria).

Pending promotions of 139 Govt doctors from Grade-II to Grade-I approved

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the promotions of 139 doctors working at various Delhi Government hospitals from Grade-II to Grade-I.

According to officials of Raj Niwas, the promotions of these doctors (non-teaching specialists), who became eligible after completing four years of service, had been "pending since 2020/2021".

Initially appointed by the UPSC in 2014/2015, these doctors have been working at



Delhi government-run healthcare facilities such as Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital and Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital.

They are specialists in various disciplines, including

obstetrics and gynaecology, ENT (ear nose throat), paediatrics, medicine, ophthalmology, pulmonology and anaesthesia, among others, the officials said.

Saxena has approved the promotion of these doctors from Grade-II to Grade-I, they said. Ever since taking over, Saxena has been insisting on providing better service conditions and facilities to medical professionals working in government hospitals and had undertaken to "ensure due promotions to them at the earliest," a senior official said.

Tackling pollution made easy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said his Government would now be able to tackle pollution in a more appropriate manner with the launch of the real-time source apportionment 'supersite'.

Kejriwal inaugurated the real-time source apportionment supersite at Rouse Avenue and a mobile van.

"The real-time source apportionment supersite will share details of sources of pollution on an hourly basis as well as forecast for the next three days. The mobile van will go to a particular place and the data collected will be analysed at the supersite.

"Right now, we are launching one mobile van but soon, we will launch more. Through these mobile vans, we will be able to identify pollution hotspots and make targeted interventions," he said.

By getting information about the real-time pollution sources, the Government will be able to tackle the problem in a more accurate way, the chief minister added.

Explaining himself further, Kejriwal said the real-time data showed that at 8 am, pollution due to outside sources and vehicular pollution was at 35 per cent each while biomass burning was 29 per cent. At 10 am, pollution due to outside sources



declined to 29 per cent, biomass burning to zero per cent and vehicular pollution to 35 per cent. As much as 35 per cent of the pollution was caused by source outside of Delhi. Biomass burning was responsible for 26 percent of the pollution, vehicles were responsible for 35 percent of the pollution. At 9 am today, around 29 percent of the pollution was caused by source outside of Delhi. The percentage of pollution due to biomass burning remained the same, while vehicles were responsible for 26 percent of the pollution.

"Biomass burning sees a rise during winters. Security guards, drivers resort to burning biomass in order to keep themselves warm. This increases during the winter months," he said while reiterating that the real-time data would help tackle

pollution. The Government had to rely on old data on pollution earlier, Kejriwal said. He cited how steps to tackle pollution were based on years-old studies and said, "Those have no relevance. The real-time apportionment study has shown that the sources of pollution change on an hourly basis," he said.

The real-time source apportionment study is a joint venture of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur and TERI. "We have been working on setting this up for the last three-four years but our efforts did not bear fruit. But we have been able to put it together in less time," he said.

The AAP government has taken several steps to reduce pollution in the national capital, the chief minister said.

"We introduced the Electric Vehicle Policy in 2020 and electric vehicle sales are the highest in Delhi. We have procured several new buses and, by 2025, 80 per cent of Delhi's bus fleet will be electric. We have a tree transplantation policy and Delhi's tree cover has risen to 23.6 per cent — higher than the national average of 20 per cent.

"All these efforts have ensured that this year, Delhi saw only three severe air quality days," he said.

BJP slams CM for seeking 1.3K MGD water from Centre

Kejriwal's promise of round-the-clock water to Delhiites a bluff: Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Monday slammed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for requesting the Centre to give 1,300 MGD water to the city, calling his "promise" of round-the-clock water to the city residents a "bluff".

"Even when Kejriwal made this promise, he knew it was not possible due to scarcity of water in Delhi.

"But he promised it anyway, just as he made other false promises and bluffs, to win the



election," Leader of opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, said in a press conference.

"No immediate reaction was available from AAP government on the allegation.

Delhi Chief Minister on Sunday urged the Centre to provide 1,300 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to Delhi saying it will help ensure round-the-clock water supply to the city households.

Delhi's requirement of

water was fixed by the Centre and other agencies way back in 1997-98 when its population was 80 lakh, and the same amount of water was being supplied to the city even though its population reached around 2.5 crore, he had said.

Bidhuri in the press conference said the central government has no source of water, and Kejriwal is only trying to create an "illusion" and mislead people into believing that it was because of the centre they were not getting water round-the-clock. In the last eight years, the demand for water in Delhi has increased to 2,200 MGD but only 900 MGD of water is locally sourced, he said.

"The Delhi government failed to take any steps to increase the water supply. All schemes made or announced by it have proved to be hollow promises," he charged.

Court pulls jail officials for allowing daily call facility to Umar, Sharjeel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday has directed Tihar prison authorities to provide inmate telephone call facility for five minutes, thrice a week, to seven accused, including Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid, in a case linked to the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

The court, however, pulled up the jail administration for "wrongly" granting the accused who were facing charges under UAPA the call facility on a daily basis for five minutes from the beginning of judicial custody, saying it must set its house in order, follow the rules and maintain consistency without any discrimination.

Khalid, Imam, Gulfisha Fatima, Shifa-ur-Rehman, Sharjeel Imam, Tasleem Ahmad and Athar Khan had filed applications for the continuation of the daily five minutes phone call facility for conversing with their families that had been revoked in September 2022.

On Monday, another accused Meeran Haider also



applied to the restoration of inmate daily phone call facilities. All accused are incarcerated in the case regarding the larger conspiracy behind the 2020 northeast Delhi riots that is being probed by the special cell of Delhi police.

"...Considering the overall situation and the conduct report, the present applications are disposed of with the directions to the jail superintendents concerned to provide the accused or applicants with the said inmate telephone call facility for five minutes for conversing with their family members thrice a week," Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said.

Other conditions of the facility, according to the prison rule and a circular, had to be followed by the jail superintendents, the judge added.

Pee-gate: 'Witnesses not deposing in prosecution favour'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The witnesses named by the Delhi Police in a case against Shankar Mishra, accused of urinating on a woman on board an Air India flight from New York to Delhi, are not deposing in the prosecution's favour, a city court observed on Monday while it reserved its order on his bail application.

Additional Sessions Judge Harjyot Singh Bhalla heard the arguments from the counsel appearing for the prosecution and the accused, and said he will pronounce the order on Mishra's bail application tomorrow.

"The witness you (Investigation agency) have named are not deposing in your favour... There is a contradiction in the complainant's statement and Ila Benarjee's (witness) statement," the judge noted during the proceedings.

Police opposed the bail application, saying "India has been defamed internationally because of the incident", to which the judge said, "It may be disgusting but that is another matter, let's not get into that."

DU body set up to probe BBC docu ruckus submits prelim report

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A committee set up to look into the January 27 ruckus at the Delhi University submitted its preliminary report on Monday and will now question students and talk to their parents as part of its detailed investigation.

The seven-member committee, headed by Chief Proctor Rajni Abbi, will investigate lapses in security and suggest ways to strengthen security on the campus.

Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh said the committee formed on Saturday submitted its first report on Monday and has begun further investigation into the matter.

A commotion erupted at Delhi University on Friday as students attempted to screen the controversial BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots, even as police and the university administration intervened to scuttle the move.

Twenty-four students affiliated with the National Students' Union of India



(NSUI) were detained from the Delhi University's Arts Faculty and a heavy police deployment was maintained in the North Campus.

Police personnel were seen dragging students away as they had gathered outside the Arts Faculty building to protest against not being allowed to screen the documentary. Inside the Arts Faculty, the university's security personnel were also seen clashing with students.

University officials had claimed then that "outsiders" were trying to screen the documentary and the police were called to maintain law and order. However, the vice chancellor said there were not many outsiders.

DU's North Campus Mughal Garden renamed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's North Campus's Mughal Garden has been renamed as

'Gautam Buddha Centenary' Garden. The garden in Delhi University does not have a Mughal design, was the rationale given by the university behind the rechristening,

which was done on January 27.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan too had on Saturday changed the name of its famed Mughal Gardens to 'Amrit Udyan.'

Man digitally stalks, harasses ex-fiance; held

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly stalking and sexually harassing his ex-fiance by creating her fake account on Instagram and posting her private pictures on his WhatsApp status with vulgar comments to defame her.

The accused, Zubair Akhtar, had also threatened the victim to share her private pictures on social media platforms because of which she even attempted suicide once.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) said they received a complaint from a 27-year-old woman, currently pursuing a fashion designing course, in which she alleged that she was being harassed by the man and because of him, she even attempted suicide.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
Department of Environment Management Services (HQ)

Public Notice
Date: 30.01.2023
Regarding Invitation of Objections/Suggestions for Declaration under Garbage Free City 3-Star (GFC) Protocol under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0

In line with Garbage Free City Star Ranking by Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, self-assessment of Municipal Corporation of Delhi under the protocol is undertaken. All wards in-charges in the MCD have submitted their self-declaration regarding declaring MCD as a 3-star city under GFC protocol. A preliminary resolution has been passed to declare MCD as 3-Star City under the same protocol. The preliminary resolution is based on city efforts and achievements in the area of Door-to-Door collection and segregation of waste, sweeping of public and commercial areas, management of litter bins, bin free city, processing of waste, user fee collection and sustainable financing, enforcement and plastic ban, drain cleaning, C&D waste management, effective citizen grievance and redressal mechanism, dumpsite remediation, bulk waste generator compliances and other areas mentioned in GFC protocol.

Thus, regarding the same MCD would like to appeal to its citizens to provide with their objections and suggestions within 7 days from the date of publication to Nodal Office (Swachh Survekshan 2023) MCD Headquarter on E-mail - "mcdswachhsurvekshan@gmail.com". MCD will adopt a final resolution to declare the city as Garbage Free 3-star city after completion of the above-mentioned timeline.

R.O. NO. 64/DPI/MCD/2022-23

Thank Modi for playing snowballs with sister in J&K: BJP to Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a sharp swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who was seen playing snow balls with his sister Priyanka Vadra in Srinagar, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said on Monday both should be thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the “changed situation in Kashmir”

The BJP also slammed the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra as politically motivated, comprising of “hatemongers”. It said the party which “divided” the nation and society is now talking of unifying them.

After a video of Congress leader Rahul playing snowballs with sister Priyanka in Srinagar on Monday went viral on social media, Thakur said, “You saw Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi playing with snowballs in Srinagar, but they forgot to thank PM Modi who abrogated Article 370 and 35A.

After 2014, the situation in Kashmir changed completely. Now there is peace & tourism has also increased.”

“This is because PM Modi took steps for the betterment of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. In Bharat Jodo Yatra, people who worked to break India were seen instead of people who united India. They should answer what Congress wants to do with such people,” the minister further added.

Rahul-led Bharat Jodo Yatra which started from Kanyakumari on September 7 concluded in Srinagar on Monday.

Earlier, addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi mentioned several participants of the Yatra and questioned their credentials. Most of them had walked with Gandhi during different parts of the foot march.



“It was a politically motivated Yatra, during the Yatra, Congress leaders did beef party on roads of Kerala, Pastor George Ponniah termed land of India as impure,” Trivedi said. He said the former Congress president’s co-travellers included Kanhaiya Kumar who was “associated with the tukde tukde gang,” and Digvijay Singh who raised questions over the surgical strike. “With these hatemongers what campaign of love of Rahul Gandhi is running,”



EC withholds by-election to Lakshadweep LS seat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday withheld the by-election to Lakshadweep Lok Sabha seat and deferred the issuance of notification for holding the bypoll after the Kerala High Court suspended conviction and sentence of sitting MP Mohammed Faizal in an attempt to murder case.

The Kerala High Court, on January 25, had suspended the conviction and sentence of Faizal in a case of attempted murder of Mohammed Salih, son-in-law of former Union Minister P.M. Sayeed, during the 2009 Lok sabha polls. The bypoll was to be held on February 27. The by-election was announced following the disqualification of Faizal on grounds of his conviction by a sessions court in Kavaratti. He had approached the high court against the order which suspended the conviction and sentence imposed on him.

“After considering the mat-



ter and having due regard to the order passed by Honble High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam...The Election Commission of India has decided to withhold the bye election and to defer the issuance of notification for holding the bye election,” according to an EC statement. Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Faizal, submitted before a bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph that the by-election cannot go on as the high court has suspended the conviction of his client.

Faizal’s conviction had resulted in his disqualification

from the Lok Sabha. The bypoll was announced by the EC after Faizal was disqualified following his conviction in the case. Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the EC, contended before the bench, also comprising B.V. Nagarathna, that the action will be in accordance with law against the backdrop of the high court order. Singh took strong exception to the allegations made in Faizal’s petition that the poll body had acted in a malafide manner and questioned how a petition under Article 32 of the Constitution could be filed in the matter.

Jaishankar discusses UN reforms, Ukraine with UNGA president

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The urgent need for reforms in the United Nations, ongoing Ukraine conflict and developmental issues figured prominently here on Monday during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Csaba Korosi.

The UNGA president also paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Raj Ghat on the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

“Welcomed President of General Assembly Csaba Korösi, hosting him for a millet lunch. Discussed global challenges, UN reform, the Ukraine conflict & G20 agenda. Assured him of India’s fullest support in developmental progress and reformed multilateralism,” Jaishankar tweeted.

The Hungarian diplomat, who took over as President of the UNGA in September last year, arrived in India on Sunday on a three-day visit at the invitation of External



Affairs Minister Jaishankar.

Korosi said though he did not discuss cross-border terrorism with Prime Minister Narendra Modi but “we are fully aware of the fact that this is an important issue for the world.” He also said India has a vision of how this world should look like and what India’s role should look like. “We are working very hard to make it happen in the General Assembly,” the UNGA president added.

He said this after meeting the Prime Minister and Union Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Their level of support, understanding and strate-

gic push was admirable, he added. On the issue of reforms, he said the General Assembly has been so divided. There are at least five negotiating groups.

“That’s why I turned to all of them and all member states that if we take these reforms seriously and how,” Korosi said.

On the reforms in the United Nations Security Council(UNSC), he said it is one of the major drivers of the discussions. “P-5 have special powers in keeping peace and keeping security in the world. In order to encourage each other. Now veto is used to block each other,” the UNGA president said. Permanent Five of

P-5 nations of the UNSC include the US, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France.

In a lecture earlier in the day, Korosi said the “dysfunctional” system of the UN Security Council has been reflected in the “absurd” situation arising out of one of its permanent members attacking Ukraine and the global body’s failure to address it.

In an address at a think-tank, Korosi called for urgent reform of the UNSC to reflect the changing balance of global power and economic heft of various countries and criticised the slow process that was started around 17 years back to bring the changes.

India has been strongly demanding permanent membership in the UNSC considering the size of its population and role in international affairs.

Addressing a group of diplomats, strategic affairs experts and academicians at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), the UNGA president also wondered why there is still no agreement on a text to take forward the reform process.

New Delhi, Seoul review bilateral ties, discuss India’s G-20 presidency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and South Korea on Monday reviewed their bilateral ties and discussed issues relating to India’s G-20 presidency during telephonic talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Park Jin. He will visit India early March to attend the G-20 foreign ministers’ meeting.

“Appreciate the call from FM Park Jin of Republic of Korea this morning. Discussed our bilateral relations and the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relationship. Look forward to welcome him to India for the G20 Foreign Ministers’ meeting,” Jaishankar tweeted.

India is expected to host the foreign ministers of G-20 countries in the first week of March and they are set to

deliberate on ways to deal with pressing global challenges including the Ukraine conflict.

India assumed the presidency of the influential bloc G-20 at its annual summit in Bali in November with a promise of striving to ensure that the grouping acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action to deal with pressing challenges.

India is looking at March 1 and 2 for the G-20 foreign ministers’ meeting in New Delhi. India is hosting a series of events and meetings ahead of the G-20 summit later this year.

“India is taking charge of the G-20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill-effects of the pandemic,” Prime Minister

Narendra Modi said at the Bali summit.

“At such a time, the world is looking at the G-20 with hope. Today, I want to assure that India’s G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented,” he said. India officially assumed the G-20 presidency on December 1.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar on Monday held wide-ranging talks here with his Thai counterpart Don Pramudwinai with a focus on boosting bilateral ties and the unfolding situation in Myanmar.

It is understood that cooperation under the framework of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) also figured in the talks between Jaishankar and Pramudwinai.

“Pleased to meet DPM and FM Don Pramudwinai of Thailand this afternoon. Discussed our bilateral rela-

tionship and the situation in Myanmar,” Jaishankar tweeted.

On February 1, 2020, Myanmar’s military came to power after a coup after detaining Nobel laureate Suu Kyi and other leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD). The country witnessed massive protests following the coup.

In July last year, Myanmar’s military announced the execution of the four activists alleging that they were involved in “terror acts” against the administration.

Various countries and groupings, including the G7, condemned the executions. India also expressed deep concern over the executions.

Western powers have been pushing for not engaging with Myanmar’s military junta for the coup and subsequent crackdown on pro-democracy activists.

Female Maoist who killed 22 cops in Bijapur attack held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested one wanted female Maoist cadre in the 2021 Bijapur encounter case in which 22 police personnel were killed and 30 others were injured.

The case relates to an attack by armed members of CPI (Maoist) on a police party and security force personnel near Tekalgudiya village under Tarrem police station in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

The case was initially registered by Tarrem Police Station of Bijapur district as FIR No. 0/2021 and was later re-registered by NIA on June 5, 2021.

“During investigations, an input was received that one



wanted female Maoist was hiding in the Bhopalpatnam area of Bijapur district. Immediately, an NIA team from Raipur was mobilized and deployed on the operation in which the wanted female Maoist was successfully apprehended,” the NIA said in a statement.

The arrested accused Madkam Ungi alias Kamla of Muthamadgu village under Pamed police station in Bijapur was produced before the NIA Special Court in Jagdalpur. Further investigations in this case are in progress, it added.

CPM demands SC probe against Adani group after Hindenburg allegations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) on Monday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe against Adani group in the wake of sensational allegations levelled by a foreign research firm Hindenburg.

“A high-level inquiry is essential on the allegations levelled by Hindenburg Research against the Adani group, monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Supreme Court. The Economy is in dire straits with a massive rise in inequality,” party general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

The CPI(M) central committee in a statement said that the party will coordinate with

other secular Opposition parties to raise the issue in the forthcoming Budget Session of Parliament. The Left party said common man’s savings are at stake, as LIC investments in Adani group is above Rs.80,000 crore and Gautam Adani led companies got more than 40 percent of the loans from SBI and other nationalized banks.

“Till this inquiry is completed and the truth is known the interests of India and our people must be protected. Around Rs. 80,000 crores of LIC are invested in Adani companies and 40 per cent of all loans taken by the group from national banks are through the SBI. Both the LIC and the SBI are institutions where crores of Indians park their life long sav-



ings for their future security. “Since this report became public Adani groups capitalization in the stock market dropped by over \$50 billion.

This cannot lead to the ruination of people’s life long savings in these public sector institutions. The CPI(M) will coordinate with other secular oppo-



sition parties and raise his issue in the forthcoming budget session of the Parliament,” said the central committee in a statement.

ED attaches 51 properties worth ₹17.48 crore in Chattisgarh’s coal levy extortion scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 51 immovable properties worth Rs 17.48 crore in the illegal coal levy extortion scam of Chhattisgarh.

The attached properties include eight benami immovable properties worth Rs 7.57 crore which are beneficially owned by Saumya Chaurasia, Deputy Secretary to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, and remaining 43 benami properties which are beneficially controlled by kingpin of the syndicate Suryakant Tiwari, the agency said in a statement.

In this case, the ED had earlier issued a Provisional Attachment Order on December 9, 2022 attaching properties worth Rs 152.31 crore belonging to Suryakant Tiwari, IAS officer Sameer



Vishnoi, Chhattisgarh Civil Service Officer Saumya Chaurasia, Sunil Agarwal and others.

The ED has attached assets to the tune of approximately Rs 170 crore till now, it said.

The ED has initiated a money laundering investigation based on the FIR lodged on the complaint of Income Tax Department.

The agency has arrested nine accused persons all of

them are undergoing judicial custody.

“The ED investigation has established that proceeds of crime worth Rs 540 crore were acquired in this extortion racket. A systemic network of extortion was set up with the active connivance and participation of a large number of bureaucrats and higher powers. ED is investigating the entire gamut of the extortion racket,” it added.

₹2.72 cr jewellery, ₹41 lakh cash seized in Seva Vikas Cooperative bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recovered and seized gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 2.72 crore, Rs 41 lakh cash, four high end cars, digital devices and various incriminating documents during searches at 10 places in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad in a money laundering case related to bank fraud in Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank.

Searches were conducted at the residences and offices of Amar Mulchandani, former Chairman of Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank, addresses linked to Vinay Aranha of



Rosary School, Pune and Sagar Suryawanshi who have benefitted from this scam, the ED said in a statement.

ED initiated investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act based on the predicate FIR registered at

Vimantal police station in Pune against Vinay Aranha of Rosary Education Group and others for loan fraud.

Subsequently, the Joint Registrar (Audit) conducted an audit of the entire Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank and found gross fraud and misappropriation of Rs 429.6 crore spread across 126 NPA Loan accounts.

“Board of Directors led by Amar Mulchandani had violated all Banking norms and deliberately sanctioned loans to ineligible / shell entities to siphon off the funds. Based on this audit report, additional multiple FIRs were registered against the loan beneficiaries

and bank management including its former Chairman Amar Mulchandani. Subsequently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of the bank.

The ED started searches at 10 locations on January 27, 2023. At the residence of Mulchandani, the ED team accompanied by Bank officials and CRPF faced stiff resistance.

The ED team was given to understand that Amar Mulchandani was absent, and his other five family members tried to mislead the search team.

“All the family members

as part of a well planned conspiracy had obstructed the lawful search of ED and this time was used by Amar Mulchandani to erase his phones to destroy evidence. It was subsequently found that Mulchandani was hiding in a room locked from inside at the same premises,” it said.

As a result, on the complaint of ED, local police booked all the six residents under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and all of them have been arrested by the Police on the conclusion of the search proceedings of ED. They have been remanded to the jail, it added.

India, US to discuss strategic ties

NSA Doval to hold crucial talks with top American leadership

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

India and the US will discuss the entire gamut of their growing strategic ties during talks between National Security Advisor(NSA)Ajit Doval and top US leadership, including his counterpart Jake Sullivan during his visit to Washington starting Monday. He will also hold the first high-level dialogue for Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

The importance of the visit can be gauged from the fact that Doval is accompanied by chiefs of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) and the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister besides others. Officials, academicians and industry experts believe the talks could be the "next big milestone" in the India-US relationship after the India-US nuclear deal.

However, officials on both sides remained tightlipped on the details of the ambitious iCET meeting, the deliverables of which are expected to be announced after the conclusion of the meetings of the two sides at the White House on January 31. Both sides expect that the dialogue would lay the foundation for developing a trusted partner ecosystem between the corporate sectors, so that



the two countries with public-partner partnership, driven by a culture of startups, can successfully address the challenges posed by authoritarian regimes in the domain of technology and scientific research.

The iCET was first mentioned in a joint statement after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden in Tokyo in May 2022.

Doval is arriving the US with an unusually large delegation that comprises five secretary-level officials and corporate leadership from Indian companies that are doing some cutting edge research in India.

The five secretary-level officials include Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) Chairman S Somnath, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ajay Kumar Sood, Scientific Advisor

to the Defence Minister, G Sathesh Reddy; Department of Telecom Secretary K Rajaram and Director General of Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Samir V Kamat. Under iCET, the two countries have identified six areas of cooperation which would include co-development and co-production, that would gradually be expanded to QUAD, then to NATO, followed by Europe and the rest of the world. The objective is to provide cutting edge technologies to the rest of the world which are affordable.

The six areas that have been identified for cooperation as part of iCET are scientific research and development; quantum and artificial intelligence, defense innovation, space, advanced telecom which would include things like 6G and semiconductors.

Given that such an effort can be led only by the industry, the delegation on either side would comprise top leaders from the industry from these sectors. The US Chamber of Commerce is expected to hold a round table on Monday with key industry players and representatives from academia.

Officials and experts on both sides asserted that this is not a normal dialogue, but a "strategic one" which would take the relationship to an altogether new level. It is quite

often mentioned that iCET dialogue and its deliverable are the next big thing happening between India and the US after the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, and this is the reason it is being taken up by both the NSAs as agreed upon by Modi and Biden in Tokyo last year. Over the last eight months, ground works were being laid for this. Earlier this week, India's Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri was in Washington and met top officials from the Biden administration.

The launch of the ambitious iCET dialogue is seen as "an alignment of strategic, commercial and scientific approaches" in the field of technology. This is eventually likely to be mirrored in the progress made in Quad – the informal grouping of four countries, Australia, Japan, India and the United States.

The iCET dialogue, in a way, is also a recognition by the US that India has core strengths in the field of science and technology, given the path breaking research that its scientists have done, including on space science, without much help from the international community.

The two countries working in tandem with each other and developing a trusted partnership ecosystem is going to be a win-win-situation for both and also for global good. Under

iCET, India is ready to share its core technologies with the US and expects Washington to do the same. Ahead of the arrival of Doval in Washington DC for talks, Carnegie India in a paper said the iCET is one of the most innovative administrative exercises initiated between the US and India. "It is filled with promise. There is every opportunity to deliver measurable outcomes, supercharge existing efforts, and co-create new technologies and administrative architectures that regulate the same," it said.

"To this end, the NSA-level dialogue on January 31, 2023, is significant. There is a hope that both India and the United States will be able to clarify priority areas of cooperation.

"Equally, it is crucial to pay as much attention to the administrative structure that shapes, informs, and populates the iCET—both from within and outside of government," it said. The Biden administration recently said India was an important partner of choice for the United States. "India is an important partner of choice for the United States in a number of spaces, and that includes trade cooperation.

It, of course, includes security cooperation, technological cooperation as well," State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters here on Thursday last week ahead of NSA's visit.

SC upholds NCLAT order on payment of PF dues to Jet Airways' ex-staffers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback to the Jalan-Fritsch consortium, the new owners of the cash-strapped Jet Airways, the Supreme Court on Monday upheld an NCLAT order directing the payment of the provident fund and gratuity dues of the airline's former employees.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala said, "Anyone stepping in would know that there are overriding labour dues. Unpaid labour dues always take precedence. Somewhere, there has to be finality. Sorry, we will not interfere." The top court refused to entertain a plea moved by the consortium and upheld the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) order.

At the outset, senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, who appeared in the court on behalf of the consortium, said they will now have to put in an additional amount of more than Rs 200 crore and it would be difficult to revive the airline.

He said once approved, the resolution plan cannot be modified or taken back. Senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar and advocate Swarnendu Chatterjee appeared in the court on behalf of the Association of Aggrieved Workmen of Jet Airways (AAWJA), comprising 270 former employees of the airline who had resigned on or after



the carrier's insolvency commencement date. The former employees had filed a caveat before the top court, anticipating the move of the consortium.

"This order is not only a path-breaking one, but also a ray of hope for all such workmen and employees who are entangled in these types of litigations," Chatterjee told reporters after the hearing of the matter.

The appeal against the NCLAT order was filed on behalf of the consortium of Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch, the successful resolution applicants for Jet Airways (India) Limited.

The consortium has claimed that the information memorandum provided to it did not disclose any liabilities of the corporate debtor (Jet Airways) towards the provident fund and gratuity dues in full.

On October 21 last year, the NCLAT had directed the

consortium to pay the provident fund and gratuity dues of the employees of the airline.

It had directed the former resolution professional to "compute the payments to be made to workmen and employees within one month from today" and communicate the same to the Jalan-Fritsch consortium to take steps for the payment.

Allowing a batch of petitions filed by the associations of workmen, aircraft maintenance engineers, the Officers and Staff Association and others, a two-member NCLAT bench had asked the new owners of the carrier to pay the provident fund dues as admitted by the resolution professional.

The appellate tribunal had also said the workmen were entitled to the payment of their gratuity dues as on the insolvency commencement date, after adjusting any amount towards gratuity paid under the resolution plan. Jalan-Fritsch won the bid through an insolvency resolution process for Jet Airways, which had stopped operations in early 2019 due to a financial crisis.

The airline is now preparing to restart its services. According to the NCLAT order, full gratuity and provident fund have to be paid to all workmen and employees who have resigned or retired. The calculation should be done till June 20, 2019, the date of admission to insolvency.

Polling in UP's 5 Legislative Council seats held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Voting for five legislative council seats — three graduates and two teachers' constituencies — was completed on Monday. Polling for the biennial election in 39 districts of the State ended at 4 pm and counting of votes will be taken up on February 2, the chief electoral officer said.

The districts where polling took place were Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Unnao, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Budaun, Rampur, Moradabad, Amroha, Bijnor, Sambhal, Bahraich, Shravasti, Gonda, Balrampur, Basti, Siddharth Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Deoria, Kushinagar, Azamgarh,



Voters form a queue to cast their votes at a polling booth during voting for Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council elections, in Kanpur, on 30

PTI photo

Mau, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Amethi and Ambikapur Nagar. A total of 6.32 lakh people were eligible to vote in the three graduate constituencies — Gorakhpur- Faizabad, Kanpur and Bareilly-Moradabad — and out of them 3.93 lakh

were men and 2.39 lakh women.

As many as 5,392 people were eligible to vote in two teachers' constituencies — Allahabad-Jhansi and Kanpur — and out of them 3,505 were men and 1,887 women. One

observer each was deployed in every constituency by the Election Commission of India. Besides them, 594 sector magistrates and 234 zonal magistrates were also deployed. Micro-observers were deputed in all booths and videography of polling was also done. A total of 4,941 polling personnel were deployed to complete election process.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer Ratnesh Singh said that term of elected members of three graduates constituencies — Devendra Pratap Singh from Gorakhpur-Faizabad, Arun Pathak from Kanpur and Dr Jai Pal Singh from Bareilly-Moradabad — and two from teachers' constituencies — Suresh Kumar Tripathi from Jhansi and Rajbahadur Singh Chandel from Kanpur — was coming to an end on February 12.

Brawl breaks out over Khalistan referendum in Oz

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ MELBOURNE

Days after alleged Khalistani supporters vandalised three Hindu temples in Australia they clashed with pro-India demonstrators in Victoria there on Sunday during the so-called 'Punjab independence referendum.'

Two persons were injured in two separate brawls and two persons were detained, the local police said on Monday. Indian High Commissioner to Australia Manpreet Vohra called on Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews on Monday and discussed strong and growing bilateral relationship between India and Australia, violence in Melbourne on Sunday, and how to stop extremist Khalistani groups from engaging in further activities prejudicial to peace and harmony. India has already

asked Australian government to curb the anti-India activities of Khalistani separatists and also attacks on the Hindu temples in the country.

"Signals that pro-Khalistan elements are stepping up their activities in Australia, actively aided and abetted by members of proscribed terrorist organisations such as Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and other inimical agencies from outside Australia, have been evident for some time," the Indian High Commission in Canberra said in a strongly-worded statement on January 26.

Two men were treated for minor injuries by paramedics on scene as police at Federation Square broke up two brawls between crowds during voting for referendum on Sunday. The Victoria Police in a statement said it responded to two incidents throughout day, one at 12.45 pm and another at 4.30

pm (local time). The police responded quickly to "separate and disperse the crowd" by using pepper spray in the second incident "to separate fighting men".

"As a result of each incident a 34-year-old man and a 39-year-old man were arrested, and each issued with a penalty notice for riotous behaviour," it

said. According to The Age newspaper, the fracas occurred at 4.30 pm after a group of pro-India supporters waving national flags arrived at the voting site. Sikhs for Justice, the US-based separatist group spearheading a non-binding referendum, is a banned organisation in India.

Maurya's remark on Ramcharitmanas aimed at benefitting SP, BJP: Maya

Lucknow: BSP president Mayawati on Monday alleged that the recent controversy over Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya's remarks on the 'Ramcharitmanas' was aimed at benefitting his party and the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh electorally.

Maurya, a prominent OBC leader in Uttar Pradesh, kick-started a controversy on January 22 when he alleged that certain verses in the 'Ramcharitmanas' -- a popular version of the Ramayana penned by Tulsidas -- "insult" a large section of society on the basis of caste as he demanded a ban on those passages in the text. In a series of tweets, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said BJP's designs at creating new



controversies for political gains is well known, but the Samajwadi Party (SP) is also doing the same.

"The BJP's political identity of creating new controversies for narrow political and electoral interests, spreading ethnic and religious hatred, creating hysteria, and religious conversions etc are well known. But the same political colour of the SP, under the guise of the 'Ramcharitmanas', is sad and unfortunate," Mayawati said.

I will rather die than inking BJP ties, says Nitish, day after rebuff

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday asserted that he will "rather die" than realign with the BJP, stung by the saffron party's decision that there will be no alliance with the "unpopular" JD(U) leader.

Kumar made the remark while replying to questions here, from journalists, about the BJP's decision taken at its two-day state executive meeting that concluded in Darbhanga on the previous day.

"Mar jaana qabool hai lekin unke saath jaana humko kabhi qabool nahin hai, yah yaad rakhiye" (I will rather die than join hands with them, do remember this)," the septuagenarian said on the sidelines of a function organised on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary.

Kumar, the state's longest-



serving CM, reminded the BJP of the stupendous success it shared under his leadership at the hustings, including the 2010 assembly polls when the saffron party had won 91 seats, its best-ever performance.

The JD(U) supremo, who pulled the plug on alliance with the BJP in August last year, claimed that the saffron party used to get even the votes of Muslims who felt secure enough under his leadership to temporarily shun their wari-

ness of Hindutva. "On this day, Bapu was assassinated. And he was assassinated by those who had a problem with his commitment to protecting the Muslims," the socialist leader said, referring to Mahatma Gandhi's interventions during the riots that broke out around Partition and his insistence that Pakistan be paid a sum of Rs 55 crore.

Kumar also said that after having snapped ties with the BJP in 2013, when Narendra Modi took centre stage, he committed a "mistake" by realigning with the saffron party again in 2017.

Turning towards his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, the CM said, "So many cases have been lodged against his father (RJD supremo Lalu Prasad). Nothing came of it. They (BJP) put pressure on me to join hands again. Now they are trying to frame these people again in other cases".

Jagan returns to Vijayawada airport after his flight faces tech glitch

PTI ■ VIJAYAWADA

An Andhra Pradesh government plane with Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy onboard returned to the Gannavaram airport here about 24 minutes after the take-off as it faced a technical glitch, according to an official statement.

The chief minister was going to the national capital to attend a preparatory meeting for the Global Investors' Conference.

"The flight with CM and his team of officials onboard took off at 5:03 pm for their visit to Delhi. After a while, the pilot noticed a technical problem in the plane and the flight was diverted back," the statement said. The Vijayawada-Delhi flight returned to the parking bay at 5:27 pm.

The assistant sub-inspector was held following his "confession" during initial interrogation, ADG (Crime Branch) Arun Bothra said. "The accused ASI has confessed to the crime. We will bring him on remand for further interrogation to ascertain the motive," Bothra told reporters.

He also denied reports that the ASI had earlier served as a personal security officer of the deceased leader. Jharsuguda District SP Rahul Jain dismissed the policeman from service, officials said.

He was posted at Gandhi Chhak Outpost under the Brajarajgarh police station. Meanwhile, the crime branch in a statement said the case registered against ASI Das under Section 307 of the IPC and 27(1) of the Arms Act, has been converted and he is now booked under Section 302 of the IPC (punishment for murder). During investigation, the crime branch team seized from the possession of the accused one 9 mm pistol (ser-



Slain Minister Naba Kishore Das

vice revolver), three rounds of live ammunition and a mobile handset, the officials said. The viscera samples of deceased BJD leader have been preserved for further chemical examination, they added.

The minister, 60, breathed his last on Sunday evening, hours after he was shot by the policeman at Brajarajgarh, where he had gone to attend an event. The ASI is believed to be suffering from a mental disorder.

Writing Tamil paper in 10th Board exams SC to hear plea against HC order on Feb 6

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it would hear on February 6 a plea challenging the Madras High Court order which had refused to quash the guidelines for granting exemption to students from giving the Tamil language paper in class 10 board examination.

The High Court had in September 2019 said the government letter of July 18, 2016, which contained the guidelines for granting exemption to students from writing the Tamil language paper at the 10th standard board examination, cannot be quashed.

However, the High Court had directed the authorities concerned to grant exemption to students in linguistic minority schools from writing Tamil language paper in the 10th standard examination for the academic years 2020-2022.

PTI

Dalits enter TN village temple in 70 years

Tiruvannamalai: For the first time in about 70 years, Dalits offered prayers in their village temple near here on Monday following 'peace' talks facilitated by the district authorities with dominant castes.

Amid tight police security, in the presence of top district and police officials, villagers belonging to Scheduled Castes entered temple premises with garlands, flowers and others offerings to presiding deity. Amid palpable excitement, they hailed the deity with chants and offered prayers.

PTI

Goa Min refutes Shah's statement that Mhadei river water dispute resolved

PTI ■ PANAJI

Goa Minister Nilesh Cabral on Monday refuted a statement of Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the Mhadei river water dispute with Karnataka had been resolved in favour of the southern state and also backed Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

The two States have been engaged in a tussle over the sharing of water of the river for several years now and Goa has often accused Karnataka of proceeding unilaterally by ignoring pacts. Both States



have Bharatiya Janata Party governments. Addressing the BJP's 'Jana Sankalp Yatra' in

Belagavi in Karnataka on Saturday, Shah said, "I want to tell you (people) that BJP, by

resolving the long-standing dispute between both states, has given Mhadei water to Karnataka and, thereby, ensured farmers in several districts here are benefited."

Speaking to reporters here, Cabral said, "Our CM has not given any consent to divert Mhadei river water. I know he (Sawant) will never do it. I don't know what Union Home Minister Amit Shah is talking about."

He said a delegation from the State will ask about this statement when they next meet Shah. When queried on

whether he condemned what Shah said, Cabral asserted, "Of course, I condemn the statement. We are not against usage of the water within the basin but we will never allow the water to be diverted outside."

Cabral further said if the (Bharatiya Janata Party) central leadership does not support Goa on the Mhadei issue, then the state can take legal recourse to stop the diversion.

The award given by the Inter State Water Dispute Tribunal on Mhadei was for the purpose of "drinking water", Cabral, who is Public Works

Department minister in the Sawant cabinet, said. "I don't know from where this statement (of Shah) comes which speaks about water to be diverted for irrigation purpose," he added. Cabral said the delegation from Goa had gone to meet Shah some weeks ago as the Union home minister is the authority to solve disputes between two states as per the Constitution.

Goa has two options, one of which is the central leadership (of the BJP), and if they fail to listen, then the state can fight on legally, Cabral asserted.

Back to basic

SP and RJD seek to revive Mandal politics by fueling the Ramcharitmanas controversy

Comments made by certain Uttar Pradesh and Bihar politicians against Ramcharitmanas are snowballing into a major controversy. An Ayodhya pontiff, Tapasvi Chhawani Temple head priest Mahant Paramhans Das, has put a cash reward of Rs 500 for anyone who can “bring him the head of Samajwadi Party MLC Swami Prasad Maurya for the disrespect shown to Goswami Tulsidas’ Ramcharitmanas.” This has not deterred the critics of the Hindu epic narrating the story of Lord Rama. A group supporting Maurya, called the Akhil Bharatiya OBC Mahasabha, on Sunday in Vrindavan burned photocopies of the pages allegedly carrying “objectionable comments on women and Dalits” in Ramcharitmanas. The Bharatiya Janata Party has correctly said that he was rewarded for speaking against the Ramcharitmanas. Days before these incidents, the Ayodhya priest had slammed Bihar Minister Chandra Shekhar for the latter’s comment that the epic is “divisive and spreads hatred in society.” The Samajwadi Party doesn’t seem unhappy with Maurya, as it appointed him as the party’s national general secretary on Sunday, even though it officially distanced itself from his Ramcharitmanas remarks. This is a tried and tested trick every political party deploys: it allows one of its leaders to say things which may not be generally defensible, and then it distances itself from his or her remarks, calling them the ‘personal views’ of the person concerned. And there are no consequences for the leader for having made objectionable remarks. There is an idiom for such behaviour: Running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

Therefore, it is quite evident that the SP and the RJD (whose member Chandra Shekhar is) are trying to revive Mandal politics, one of whose main planks is a critical stance towards the caste system which, they claim, is embedded in the Hindu belief system. The Mandal Commission Report, whose implementation triggered the rise of OBC politics, also included several references which were not very charitable to Hinduism. Both SP and RJD—and even the RJD’s ally in Bihar, JD(U)—are the beneficiaries of Mandal. The spectacular rise of the BJP in the last decade under the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo eclipsed caste-oriented OBC politics, but only the most quixotic of Hindutva zealots would say that caste has ceased to be a reality in India. In fact, even the BJP acknowledges this fact; this is the reason that many of the elevations made by the saffron party in the last few decades have been influenced by the social engineering dogma. Mandal parties seem to be going back to basics—or, to be precise, the basic: caste. Hence the persistent demand for caste census. They know that caste is an emotive issue; and it is easier to convince people by making emotional appeals than by making reasonable arguments. The BJP has been doing the same thing, though it relies on different kinds of emotions. We must get ready for more sentimentalism in politics.



A traditional dance performance on the occasion of Assam & Arunachal Pradesh Border Festival, in Bhalukpong PTI

The Adani crisis

The serious allegation against the Adani group call for a proper investigation

After the Hindenburg Research on January 24 was published, the Adani shares started plummeting wiping off its sizable part of it \$93 billion wealth. The Research Group has alleged that the Adani group has manipulated the stock market and indulged in financial fraud. The report I dwindled investors’ confidence and the Adani shares lost 20 percent in a week. This is a serious situation that could impact the country’s economy as huge public money is riding on the Adani Group. Many banks that have lent money to the Adani group are already bearing the brunt. The government must take note of the situation and try to salvage the situation. It is too early to say whether the charges made by the Hindenburg Research of fraud and market manipulation are true or not but they definitely merit an investigation. There have been indications that not all was well with the growth of the Adani group. Its meteoric rise is one factor that raises eyebrows of the investors. Most of the companies listed by the Group are over valued, their shares selling several times their intrinsic value. If Adani Group is found to have manipulated the market then it would also mean that SEBI did not do its work properly or knew about it but did not act. That is fishy, to say the least. The Adani group has tried to debunk the report saying that the research group is all about short selling and it was contemplating legal action against it. However, Gautam Adani would do well to answer the 88 questions posed by the research group to dispel all misgivings about it. Moreover it must clean about the 34 shell companies in the Muaritus which only deal in Adani shares and are managed by Gautam Adani’s brother.

The banks that generously lent money to the Adani groups are having their stocks in the red. State-owned banks have generously lent money to Adani group with 40 per cent of their lending being done by SBI, while LIC has exposure of the tune of Rs 36,000 crores which makes them vulnerable and put the economy on risk. This is a serious situation and could snowball into a big national crisis. It could negatively impact the banking sector which is already under strain as its non-performing assets (NPA) have been rising steadily over the years. It would be nice if the Adani group comes clean on the charges posted against it, but if there have been irregularities then the law of the land should apply to him as it does to any other Indian citizen.

The unsung freedom fighters

Many people laid their lives for the independence, some are known while others still remain obscure. Hausabai is one of the those.

She was writhing in pain, pleading for him to stop but her cries went unheard. Despite this happening in front of the police station in Bhavani Nagar in Sangli, Maharashtra, the only two policemen present there did nothing to stop the violence against Hausabai Patil. Suddenly, Hausabai’s inebriated husband picked up a large stone and threatened to smash her head. When the two policemen realised that they would be hauled up if a woman was murdered in front of their station, they rushed out to intervene.

After stopping the husband from carrying out his threat, the two policemen tried to counsel him. They asked him to take his wife home and treat her with respect. But Hausabai refused to go with him. She asked her brother, who was also present, to take her back with him as she could not stand the beatings anymore. But he, too, refused. The policemen were in a quandary. Finally, after a couple of hours of counseling, much to their relief, the couple agreed to return to their village.

But this relief was to be short-lived. When the two policemen returned to their station, they were in for a shock. All the rifles and ammunition had been stolen. They realised that the whole drama had been a ploy to draw them out of the station so that the firearms could be looted.

When Hausabai participated in this act in 1943 with her comrades of the Toofan Sena, she was just 17. The Sena was the armed wing of the provisional government of Satara that had declared Independence from British rule in 1943. But neither her age nor the fact that she had a young baby, who she left behind with her family, deterred Hausabai from being an active part of the freedom struggle. Impressed with her commitment and love for the country, Sena leaders gave her several important responsibilities including intelligence gathering and being a part of a jail-break in Panjim Central jail in Goa where their comrades were



imprisoned. Hausabai had to float on a small box in the darkness of night along the Mandovi River to carry out this mission.

These were just some of many acts of bravery of Hausabai and the countless freedom fighters who put their lives on the line and undertook to free the country. Sadly, she is also one of the many who remained unrecognised as a freedom fighter for decades.

Hausabai, in fact, was lucky she received recognition in 1992 at the age of 75. There are very many others who died, unknown and unrecognised by the government. It is the stories of these valiant women, men, and children that journalist P Sainath has chronicled in his new book. Titled the ‘Last Heroes- Foot soldiers of Indian Freedom’, this well-researched book narrates the heartwarming and heart-breaking stories of Adivasis, Dalits, OBCs, Brahmins, Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus who were united in their quest for India’s freedom despite speaking different languages and belonging to different castes and religions.

The 16 stories in this

“THESE WERE JUST SOME OF MANY ACTS OF BRAVERY OF HAUSABAI AND THE COUNTLESS FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE AND UNDERTOOK TO FREE THE COUNTRY

extremely interesting and informative book published by Penguin are based on extensive interviews with these unknown freedom fighters living in Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, Punjab, Karnataka, and Rajasthan. These were carried out by Sainath over the past many years. Some of the later ones had to be done with their descendants, their relatives, the people in their villages, and historians of that era as the freedom fighters had passed away. These were also validated by the records and books of the events in which these revolutionaries were involved in.

Ironically, a majority of them do not feature among the 23,000 names in the central government’s list as freedom fighters since most of them had no official ‘proof’ required to be recognised. As a result, some of them who are still alive as well as dependents of others, remain excluded from the pension.

This is because under the 1980 Swatantrata Sainik Samman scheme, only those persons who ‘suffered’ imprisoned for a minimum of six months in mainland jails, are eligible for pension.

Consequently, those who escaped imprisonment or spent less than six months in jail became ineligible. So patriots like Demani Dei Sahar Salian, the 16-year-old Adivasi girl who led a fiery counterattack with 40 Adivasi young women only with lathis (sticks) on a British police force raiding her village in Odisha, and won, remained unrecognised as a freedom fighter by the government because she did not go to jail. This act of defiance at the risk of their lives was not considered good enough for recognition.

Numerous others have fallen through the cracks as they did not have the required copies of their arrest order, declaration of being a proclaimed offender, or orders of the property being attached, confiscated, or sold as proof of their involvement in the freedom struggle.

As India celebrates its 75th year of Independence, surely it is time to reflect on why all the ordinary people ‘who went into battle with simple faith, and with no thought of appreciation’ have been forgotten.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAKISTAN’S FAILING ECONOMY

Sir — Our beloved neighbor is going through a tough condition. On one side, the country’s financial condition is deepening day by day, with the forex kitty fluctuating between 5 to 6 billion dollars, and on another side, the rapidly growing extremism in the west. Nonetheless, the reason for its woes lies in its politicians and establishment (the army). While the nation had a GDP per capita of more than two-thirds of India’s during the ‘80s, it’s now become half of its neighbor (India). Besides, the trade ban with India, on the issue of once existed Article 370, Pakistan is importing Wheat from some far-flung countries, hence, giving a rise to its import bills. The much-fascinated CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), which was proposed to bring foreign investments, employment, and infrastructure, has only brought misery to the people, so far.


All these scenarios are well-suited for religious preachers and fanatics to prosper and prevail over their Jihadist cause, which could not end up well for India. The country (Pakistan) must concentrate on the development of civilian infrastructure, rather than building safe houses for terrorists. The government must do well for its population, instead of harboring and nurturing terrorists. Pakistan needs to engage itself with India in trade, in lieu of, exporting ammunition to Ukraine.

Jayesh Khasgiwale | Ujjain

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address to students at the sixth edition of the Pariksha Pe Charcha event is nothing but his and the BJP’s latest attempt to shed its ‘anti-Tamil’ image in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The saffron party’s strong and parochial “Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan” politics may have worked well in the northern States of India to suit its ideology and totalitarianism. But such tactical maneuvers cannot make any impact in the South, espe-

Indian Women win U19 T20



Indian princesses crowned. Indian women won the U19 T20 world cup versus England by 7 wickets. An apt description is, Indian women bowlers invaded England. England crumbled to just 68 runs. All the six Indian bowlers bowled like champions of champions, to get at least one wicket, conceding a few runs each, is a sort of record of records. Oops! Real teamwork. (Titas 2 wkts / 6 runs, Parshavi 2 /13, Archana 2/17,

Mannat 1/13, Shefali 1/ 16, Soman 1 /3). Every Indian player excelled throughout the tournament with multiple contributions.

It was a victory for teamwork. Yes! SUNSHINE days ahead for Indian women’s cricket. Congrats to Shefali and the team, for flying high. This is the first world cup win for the Indian women’s cricket team at any level(in any format).

P Vasudeva Rao Sreelekh | Secunderabad

cially in Tamil Nadu, a State steeped in hard-core Dravidian politics and takes immense pride in its linguistic, cultural, and spiritual identity and history. Thanks to the BJP’s conflicting theories, initiatives such as the Kashi Tamil Sangamam could remain mere oculus and could hardly translate into political or electoral gains for the BJP in TN. Preposterously enough, every time when Mr. Modi waxes eloquence on the Tamil language and its rich culture and tradition, his government openly bats for Hindi as a “unifying language.” Importantly, for all his encomiums on the Tamil language, they hardly find any place in budgetary allocation for its development.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

MID-AIR COLLISION

Sir — An Indian Air Force pilot was killed after two fighter jets, a Sukhoi-30MKI and a Mirage-2000, were involved in an accident in Madhya Pradesh during a routine operational flying mission.

While the Mirage crashed near Morena, the Sukhoi crashed near Bharatpur in Rajasthan about 100 km away. From the details available and the burning wreckage in Morena and Bharatpur, seasoned fighter pilots opined that it could have been a mid-air collision. They said it was likely that the Mirage went down immediately, leaving no time for the pilot to react, while the Sukhoi flew a further distance, giving the pilots time to eject safely. Of the 17 accidents involving fighter jets, six were MIG-21s, four Jaguars, three MIG-27s, and three SU-30MKs. The IAF is currently down to 31 fighter squadrons as against a sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. The loss of Sukhoi and Mirage jet fighters is a great loss for the airforce and the loss of the air force pilot and serious injuries to two other pilots is a cause of concern.

CK Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

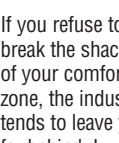
First Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru unfurled the national flag for the first time at Lal Chowk. After the completion of the Bharat Jodo Yatra Rahul Gandhi unfurled the national flag at Lal Chowk.

Congress leader — Jairam Ramesh




Trying to tarnish the image of (North Korea) by fabricating a non-existent thing is a grave provocation that cannot but trigger its reaction.

Head of the North Korean foreign ministry’s NA dept — Kwon Jong Gun



If you refuse to break the shackles of your comfort zone, the industry tends to leave you far behind. I realised this a long time back.

Actor-producer — Ravie Dubey



It’s easy to say you haven’t won this and so on. After the 1983 World Cup, the great Sachin Tendulkar had to wait for 6 World Cups to finally win one.

Indian cricketer — Ravichandran Ashwin




For me to become foreign secretary was frankly the limit of my ambition, I had never even dreamt of becoming a minister.

External Affairs Minister — S Jaishankar

FIRST COLUMN

TALE OF YATRAS TO JAMMU & KASHMIR

Rahul Gandhi should express gratitude for walking into Srinagar



SUMEET BHASIN

Before former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi embarked on his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', Murlidhar Manohar Joshi had done it, unfurling the national flag at the Lal Chowk when the Kashmir valley was infested with terrorists. The early years of 1990s in Jammu and Kashmir had seen Pakistan export terrorists unleashing mayhem in the valley.

In 1991, when Joshi led the yatra into Srinagar, the people were fleeing away from the valley. The Kashmiri Pandits bore the brunt. They became easy targets as the Jihadi terrorists carried out ethnic cleansing. In those tense moments, Joshi unfurled the national flag to send out the message to the world that the guns will not silence the national spirit of India.

His 'Ekta Yatra' also affirmed that Jammu and Kashmir will be an integral part of India, and gave a loud message to the world that the day the Bharatiya Janata Party gained the majority in Parliament the artificial barrier in the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir will be removed. In the company of Joshi during the Ekta Yatra was Narendra Modi, who had charted the way of the journey from Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir.



Anurag Thakur as the head of the youth wing of the BJP had also taken a yatra to Srinagar at a time when the valley was again in the midst of stone-pelting, and Pakistan was seeking to build an international campaign against India. The UPA government was in power in 2011 when the stone-pelters took the valley for ransom. They received money from Pakistan.

Terrorists mobilised the youth to pelt stones to hit the international headlines. In that backdrop, Thakur once more conveyed the message of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee to the world that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and no power can disrupt the full integration of the valley with the rest of the country.

Joshi and Thakur took extreme risks to assert India's territorial integrity in Jammu and Kashmir. Black money and Article 370 were twin challenges in the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India.

Modi was the architect of the Ekta Yatra of 1991. Assuming office as Prime Minister, Modi brought the agenda of the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir on top of the priority of the government. Article 370 was abrogated. Demonetisation dried the supply lines of the black money to terrorists. Stone-pelting was not seen again in the valley.

The security agencies smoked out terrorists. Many of the Pakistan exported terrorists were killed. Sleeper cells were scorched. The Jammu and Kashmir administration launched unprecedented development works. The Kashmir valley now exports vegetables to the Middle East. Cinema Halls are running film shows full to their capacities. Tourists are flowing into the valley.

Srinagar is gearing up to host a meeting of the G20. Industries are coming back to the valley. The local people are reaching out to take benefits of the Central schemes. There is new hope in the valley. Sections of the society, including scheduled tribes and scheduled castes, who were deprived of the benefits of reservation have got their rights.

In this backdrop Rahul Gandhi arrived in Srinagar. This is an abundant endorsement of the PM Modi policy on Jammu and Kashmir. He should express his gratitude to PM Modi that the peace and tranquility in the valley welcomed him. He went there as a tourist, as is being done by several people from within the country and also from abroad.

(The author is a political analyst)

Democratic mindset is rooted in our culture

Looking closely at history, we find that labeling India as 'the mother of democracy' is not an exaggeration

India's ongoing and gradual development of many systems of governance that are distributed through diverse institutions is one of its most notable features. Somadeva Sri of the 10th century correctly recognised in his seminal work Nitivakyamitra "atha dharma-marthalayaya rajyaya namah," the system of government as a provider of dharma and artha. The distinctive achievement of Indian culture is this idealisation. These mechanisms were designed to meet the requirements of her regular social life.

Our current democratic institutions are not the result of a single historical event, but rather of thousands of years of cultural development. The Vedic literature, the Smritis, the Epics, the Purana literature, the Sutra literature, the play, the poetry, and the different folk stories are only a few of the many materials we have to comprehend the early Indian social systems infused with democratic features.

From the Vedic era onward, various words designating this collective arrangement were continuously in use in early India.

It is also true that different thinkers defined these phrases differently, making it challenging to determine their precise sense. It goes without saying that some of these interpretations were made with the goal of misrepresenting our past. Early India's social and political life was governed by samiti, sabha, kula, gana, jati, puga, vrata, sreni, samgha, samudaya, sambhuya-samut-thana, charana, and parisat.

The Vedas frequently use "coming together" or "assembly" to refer to gatherings where both political and non-political issues were discussed. They depict a democratic committee with the authority to reinstate a deposed ruler. The renowned Vedic scholar Sayana reveals an extremely intriguing detail about the sabha "its resolution, which has been made by many, cannot be broken". The Atharvaveda makes use of the word "sansad" for gatherings that are comparable to today's Parliament.

India experienced a diverse set of self-governing systems with the development of urban centers in the post-Vedic culture, where samiti and sabha paved the way for the establishment of additional systems like gana, samgha, and sreni. The creation of numerous ganas, the republican form of government, occurred throughout this Buddhist-Jain era. Many institutions with democratic inclinations have been founded during this phase. The ideas of gana and samgha have evolved at this stage. According to Jain teachings, gana is an assembly with a conscious mind that makes decisions. According to this, gana is a number and gana-rajya is a rule based on numbers. In those days, an assembly or parliament was known as a gana, and that body's governance was known as ganarajya.

The Sanskrit grammarian Panini asserts in his seminal work Astadhyayi that the



EARLY INDIA'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE WAS GOVERNED BY SAMITI, SABHA, KULA, GANA, JATI, PUGA, VRATA, SRENI, SAMGHA, SAMUDAYA, SAMBHUYA-SAMUTTHANA, CHARANA, AND PARISAT. THE VEDAS FREQUENTLY USE 'COMING TOGETHER' OR 'ASSEMBLY' TO REFER TO GATHERINGS

(The author is Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi)



word samgha has the same meaning as gana. While Kautilya classified samgha as sastropajivin and rajasabdopajivin in the third century B.C., Panini referred to them as ayudhajiivin.

The two perspectives can be reconciled to show that there were samghas, each of which members observed the practise of military art, and each of which had a ruler who observed the practise of accepting the title of rajan word. The Majjhima Nikaya lists 16 of its era's mahajana-padas, while simultaneously using the gana and samgha in the phrase "imesa pi hi, bho gotama, samghanaganan-seyyathida vajjina mallana".

Samgha can be viewed as a group or state, while gana can be viewed as a form of government. The Santi Parva of the Mahabharata contains one of the best examinations of the characteristics and conduct of a gana as a political group. The confederacy or communal living is what makes the gana what it is (samghata vritti). The definition of sreni by thinkers like Panini, Kaiyata, Veda Vyasa, and Narada is a gathering of people engaged in a common craft or business - "eken silpena panyena va ye jivanti tesam samuhah srenih".

Sreni behaves like a self-contained entity. The term "sresthin" refers to their head or chief. These guilds have a solid reputation in the community. The policies of the local government were discussed at regular Sreni meetings. These Srenis have the authority to establish the guidelines for their own social group, and the king must consult them when deciding on any policies that affect them.

The srenis also represent a business structure with a clear area

of jurisdiction. The state assumes responsibility over these srenis by appointing bhandagarika. It is significant that different guilds had strong relationships with Tamraparni (Sri Lanka), Suvarnabhumi (Sumatra), and Baveru in addition to establishing internal commercial relations (Babylonia).

The names samgha and sreni actually represent early political structures and have been used continuously for millennia. Early India had significant advancements in the arts, manufacturing, and agriculture, which inexorably prompted the emergence of the srenis. The words sresthin, sraisthya, and sreni are frequently used in the Vedas, Brahmana scriptures, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Pali literature. Sresthin and sraisthya are terms for the head of a guild.

Ramayana depicts a fascinating scene where a procession of citizens, including gem-cutters, potters, weavers, armourers, ivory workers, renowned goldsmiths, merchants, washermen, tailors, actors, actresses, doctors, wool producers, perfume makers, and brahmanas of noble character, accompanied Bharata in search of Rama. This episode makes us reflect on how these guilds helped the society establish its own self-governing system.

Mahabharata also discussed these guilds' function and significance in maintaining the system. Buddha received the renowned Jetavana garden as a gift from a wealthy Sresthin named Anatha Pindika of Sravasti. The leaders of five crafts were given the responsibility of serving as messengers to deliver Kitti Srimegha's greeting to

his son Parakrama, according to Mahavamsa, the historical account of Ceylon. The Harsacarita of Bana recalls the group of talented painters who were invited to a princess' wedding. The Harivamsa further mentions that several royal families were present to witness the combat between Krishna and Balarama.

Numerous epigraphical examples support the same claim. Sanchi, Bharhut, Bodhgaya, Mathura, Junnar, and South Indian inscriptions, among others, chronicle presents given by a number of well-known guilds of oil millers, potters, hydraulic engine manufacturers, maize traders, bamboo workers, weavers, and many more. There are also numerous inscriptions that demonstrate the connection between the srenis and the royal power.

Thus, a strong feeling of self-governance was deeply ingrained in the founding ethos of Sreni and Samgha. The entire framework was designed to provide emerging congregations and cooperatives an institutional perspective. These social institutions had a democratic structure and served as early Indian examples of community management and social management.

When we look closely at history and try to understand the facts, we see that labeling India "the mother of democracy" is not an exaggeration. The movement to reconsider our past and shastriya tradition has gathered steam in recent years, and the results have been nothing short of astounding. One such truth is "India, the mother of democracy" and we should be proud of that.

SOME PEOPLE DELIBERATELY SPREAD WRONG NEWS ABOUT THE CHINA ISSUE.

— EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

S JAISHANKAR





SINCE MAY 2020, MODI GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THE CHINESE INCURSIONS CAN BE SUMMED UP WITH 'DDLJ' — DENY, DISTRACT, LIE AND JUSTIFY.

— CONGRESS LEADER

JAIRAM RAMESH

Budget focus likely on infra, manufacturing, jobs

India also needs to broaden its economy by creating new sectors of growth to drive employment generation

Since the majority of the economic activities are showing mixed signs amid broad economic outlooks being positive despite unprecedented geo-political upheavals and Covid related extraordinary disruptions, people have a lot of expectations from the upcoming budget. The focus is likely to be on infrastructure, manufacturing, measures to raise GDP growth, exports and generation of jobs.

However, a section of industry captains and business tycoons are said to have suggested Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to focus on measures to broaden the tax base by rationalising GST and personal income tax slabs, so that consumption could receive a boost, when inflation



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

(The author is a senior journalist)

is touching new heights across the globe, including India, and the people in general are experiencing a lot of hardship.

Thrust on infrastructure, especially railways and high-ways, appears evident from the continuous focus of the government on them. Similarly, there may be announcements for agriculture, manufacturing, defence, housing, real-estate, auto, startups, IT, exports and others, so that GDP growth rate along with job creation process may receive a big boost.

Particularly, the capital expenditure push for infrastructure, manufacturing and a few others may be on the cards. A slew of measures, including increased spending on infra, focus on private investment, sops for sectors

that create additional jobs for the youth, is expected in the budget.

Presently, the global economy is facing a double whammy of slow growth rate and rising inflation. Major countries are forced to raise interest rates to fight rising inflationary pressures, which tend to put more pressure on their economic growth. Hence, a number of financial organizations have predicted a slow growth for the global economy.

Rating agency the Standard and Poor (S&P Global) has forecast a decline in global growth from 3.1 per cent to 2.4 per cent in 2023, led by especially the USA and countries from Europe, who are also facing severe energy crises, owing to the Russia and Ukraine conflict. Aggressive

monetary tightening across the globe because of inflationary pressures is making things worse for them. The US Fed has cumulatively raised rates by 375 basis points till date.

However, it is also a fact that amid global uncertainties, India is doing reasonably well, but in the coming days exports are expected to be hit hard, which needs support from the government. Strongly spurred by the Covid pandemic, the healthcare sector is already being given very much importance by the government both at the Centre and in states. Similarly, in the automotive sector, there may be a booster for the electric vehicle segment, as the rising clamour being caused by climate change, has made it mandatory to have a very proactive

environment protection policy. There appears a clear indication that the government may announce something important for the education sector. The government is giving importance to the New Education Policy (NEP). While states largely cater to the needs of school education, the Centre also does a lot for the sector to help recover the lost ground. Earlier, the Halwa ceremony marked the final stage of the budget preparation process for Union Budget 2023-24.

Budget 2023-24 will also be delivered in paperless form like the previous two Union Budgets. All the 14 Union Budget documents, including Demand for Grants (DG), Finance Bill, etc., as prescribed by the Constitution, will be

available on the 'Union Budget Mobile App' for hassle-free access of budget documents by Members of Parliament and the general public using the simplest form of digital convenience after the completion of the Budget Speech by the Finance Minister. The representatives of the stakeholder groups are said to have made a number of suggestions for the forthcoming budget that included mechanism for green certification to help MSMEs, urban employment guarantee programme to boost employment generation in urban areas, rationalisation of income tax, creation of innovation clusters, schemes for improving domestic supply chains, reduction of taxes on electric vehicle, introduction of EV policy, measures to promote

India as a hub for green hydrogen, portable social benefit for children, a National Regulatory Authority for Water and Sanitation, coverage of unorganised workers under ESIC, a continuation of public capex, fiscal consolidation, and lower customs duties.

Moreover, India also needs to broaden its economy by creating new sectors of growth to drive employment generation. Policies should be such which bolster domestic demand, inclusion and growth prospects. The captains of industry are asking for continuity in the concessional tax regime for the manufacturing sector and help to channelise funds into the green economy, so it would be interesting to see the Govt's response in the budget.

Russian shelling kills five in tough eastern Ukraine combat

AP ■ KYIV

Russian shelling killed at least five people and wounded 13 others during the previous 24 hours, Ukrainian authorities said Monday, as the Kremlin's and Kyiv's forces remained locked in combat in eastern Ukraine ahead of renewed military pushes that are expected when the weather improves.

The casualties included a woman who was killed and three others who were wounded by the Russian shelling of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the country's northeast, according to regional Gov. Oleh Synyehubov.

Moscow's troops seized large areas of the northeastern Kharkiv region in the months following its invasion of its neighbour last February.

But Ukrainian counteroffensives that began in August snatched back Russian-occupied territory, most notably in Kharkiv. Those successes lent weight to Ukraine's arguments that its troops could deliver more stinging defeats to Russia if its Western allies provided more weaponry.

Kyiv last week won promises of tanks from the United States and Germany to help its war effort.

As Ukraine emerges from a bitter winter, attention is turning to the possibility of new offensives when the weather improves. The British Ministry of Defence noted Monday that the Kremlin never formally rescinded last September's order for a partial mobilisation of reservists that boosted troop numbers for combat in Ukraine.

It said Russia may be keeping the door open for further call-ups. "The Russian leadership highly likely continues to search for ways to meet the high number of personnel required to resource any future major offensive in Ukraine, while minimising domestic dissent," it said in a tweet.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov insisted that supplies of Western weapons won't stop Russia. "Ukraine keeps demanding new weapons and the West is encouraging those demands," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters Monday. "It's a deadlock, it results in a significant escalation and makes NATO countries increasingly involved in the conflict," Ukraine's presidential office said the eastern Donetsk region, which has been the scene of intense fighting for months, remains "invariably hard."

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Monday hinted at the prospect of more upcoming pledges, saying that "any activity aimed at strengthening Ukraine's defense powers is under consultation with our NATO partners."

Such a move could encounter some familiar political obstacles, however.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, after demurring for weeks over sending Germany's Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, looks set to dig his heels in over providing fighter jets.

Scholz, who is currently on a trip to South America, said he regretted the emergence of the fighter jet discussion.

He said in Chile on Sunday that a serious debate is necessary and not a "competition to outdo each other ... in which perhaps domestic political motives are in the foreground rather than support for Ukraine."

Military analysts say more aid for Ukraine is crucial if Kyiv is to block an expected Russian offensive in the spring and launch its own effort to push back the Russian forces.

"The pattern of delivery of Western aid has powerfully shaped the pattern of this conflict," the Institute for the Study of War, a U.S.-based think tank, said late Sunday.



NATO chief urges Seoul to send military support to Ukraine

AP ■ SEOUL

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday called for South Korea to provide direct military support to Ukraine, saying Kyiv is in urgent need of weapons to fight off the prolonged Russian invasion.

South Korea, a growing arms exporter with the large U.S.-backed military, has provided humanitarian aid and other support to Ukraine while joining U.S.-led economic sanctions against Moscow.

But the country has not directly provided arms to Ukraine, citing a long-standing policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflict.

Speaking at a forum in Seoul, Stoltenberg urged South Korea to "step up on the specific issue of military support."

He noted that several NATO members and allies, including Germany, Norway and Sweden, have changed their policies of not exporting weapons to countries in conflict to support Ukraine.

"If we believe in freedom, if we believe in democracy, if we don't want autocracy and tyranny to win, then they need weapons. That's the reality," said Stoltenberg, who arrived in South Korea on Sunday on a trip that also includes Japan.

Stoltenberg also met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday.

They discussed South Korea's commitment to support Ukraine and NATO's possible role in dissuading North Korea from its growing nuclear ambitions following an unprecedented number of ballistic missile tests in 2022, Yoon's office said.

South Korean officials didn't confirm any specific discussions about sending arms to Ukraine.

Following his meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin on Sunday, Stoltenberg mentioned U.S. Intelligence reports accusing North Korea of providing weapons to Russia to support its war in Ukraine, which he said highlights how security between the regions "is more and more interconnected."

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, South Korea has reached major deals to provide tanks, howitzers, fighter jets and other weapons systems to Poland, a NATO member.

An American official said in November that the United States has agreed to buy 100,000 artillery rounds from South Korean manufacturers to provide to Ukraine, although South Korean officials have maintained that the munition was meant to backfill depleted U.S. Stocks.

In an interview with The Associated Press this month, Yoon said that South Korean laws, as well as domestic public opinion, make it difficult for his government to arm Ukraine while it is at war.



Lavrov to participate in G20 FM's' meeting

PTI ■ MOSCOW

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will participate in the meeting of G20 foreign ministers in New Delhi on March 1-2, his deputy said on Monday.

India officially assumed the G20 presidency on December 1.

"Our foreign minister will take part in the meeting of G20 foreign ministers in New Delhi on March 1-2," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko told reporters.

As part of the group's activities, India intends to hold more than 200 meetings in 55 different locations across the country to showcase its cultural heritage, culminating in the annual G20 summit scheduled for September 9-10 in the capital, New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has previously said his country's G20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU).

Collectively, the G20 accounts for 85 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade, and two-thirds of the world population, making it the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

New US envoy to Moscow meets with Russian deputy FM



AP ■ MOSCOW

New US ambassador to Moscow Lynne Tracy on Monday met with a Russian deputy foreign minister, officials said.

Tracy arrived in Moscow last week, taking up her post amid high tensions over Russia's military actions in Ukraine and US support for Ukraine including President Joe Biden's recent decision to provide advanced battle tanks. Russia accuses Washington of engaging in a proxy war with Moscow.

A US Embassy statement did not give details of what Tracy discussed with Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov.

It said she "begins her tenure in Moscow focused on maintaining dialogue between our capitals at a time of unprecedented tension. She will also be an advocate for the safety and fair treatment of all US citizens detained in Russia."

Paul Whelan, a corporate security director and former Marine, was arrested in Russia four years ago and is serving a 16-year sentence after being convicted of espionage.

The Biden administration considers him to be wrongfully detained, but was unable to secure his release last year in a swap that freed American basketball star Brittney Griner in exchange for arms trader Viktor Bout.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that "during the conversation on some topical issues of bilateral relations, which have sharply aggravated recently due to Washington's fault,

Will Europe's ban on Russian diesel hike global fuel prices?

AP ■ FRANKFURT (GERMANY)

Europe is taking another big step toward cutting its energy ties with Russia, banning imports of diesel fuel and other products made from crude oil in Russian refineries.

The European Union ban takes effect February 5 following its embargo on coal and most oil from Russia. The 27-nation bloc is trying to sever its last uses of Russian energy and stop feeding the Kremlin's war chest as the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine nears.

The newest ban has risks: Diesel prices have already jumped since the war started on February 24, and they could rise again for the fuel that is key to the global economy.

"We're leaving money on the road to provide our services," said Hans-Dieter Sedelmeier of the family-run German bus and travel company Rast Reisen.

Most things people buy or eat are transported at some point by trucks, which mostly run on diesel. It also powers farm equipment, city buses and industrial equipment. The higher cost of diesel is built into the price of almost everything, helping push up inflation that has made life harder for people worldwide.

Here are key facts about the upcoming European embargo:

Will the embargo push up diesel prices?

That depends. Diesel, like crude oil, is sold globally, and Europe could look for new sources, such as the US, India or countries in the Middle East. If that goes smoothly, the impact on prices might be temporary and modest.

Europe has already cut Russian diesel imports almost in half, from 50 per cent of total imports before the war to 27 per cent.

US suppliers have stepped up supplies to record levels, from 34,000 barrels a day at the start of 2022 to 237,000 barrels



per day so far in January, according to S&P Global.

The EU's top energy official, Kadri Simson, says markets have had time to adjust after the ban was announced in June. Europeans also appear to have stocked up on Russian diesel before the deadline, with imports rising last month.

There is a complicating factor: The Group of Seven major democracies are talking about imposing a price cap on Russian diesel heading to other countries, just as they did on Russian crude. As with oil, the idea is to keep Russian diesel flowing to world markets but reduce Moscow's revenue.

If the cap works as advertised, global diesel flows should reshuffle, with Europe finding new suppliers and Russian diesel finding new customers, without a major loss of supply.

But it's hard to say how the cap will work without knowing where the price will be set and whether Russia will retaliate by withholding shipments.

"When Russian exports are constrained, for whatever reason, that would of course cause some trouble in this whole reshuffle process," said Hedi Grati, head of fuels and refining research for Europe at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

"Europe would be competing with other big importers, and that would cause upward pressure on pricing."

If the cap doesn't block large amounts of Russian diesel, there might be "a short-lived price spike" as the market adjusts. For one, tankers would have a longer journey to Europe from the US, Middle East or India than from Russia's Baltic Sea ports, stressing shipping capacity.

But massive new refining capacity is launching in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia later this year and in Oman in 2024. That "could further alleviate any pressure points from this divorce from Russia," Grati said.

BBC docu: Russia accuses British broadcaster of 'waging info war'

PTI ■ MOSCOW

Russia has accused the BBC of "waging an information war" on different fronts - not only against Moscow, but also against other global centres of power pursuing an independent policy, days after the British broadcaster released a controversial series on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova made the remarks on Friday when asked about the BBC's controversial documentary.

"Our Indian friends have already made a comment on this situation. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that it is yet another evidence of the BBC waging an information war on different fronts - not only against Russia, but also against other global centers of power pursuing an independent policy," Zakharova told reporters.

After a certain number of years, it turns out that the BBC is fighting even within the British establishment, being an instrument of the interests of some groups against others, she said.

"It should be treated accordingly. The BBC is not an independent television and radio corporation, but a dependent one, often neglecting the basic requirements of the journalism profession," she added.

The two-part BBC documentary, which claims it investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Prime Minister Modi was the chief minister of that state, has been trashed by the Ministry of External Affairs as a "propaganda piece" that lacked objectivity and reflected a "colonial mindset".



Ukraine: Why supply of US, German tanks echoes cold war

THE CONVERSATION ■ LONDON

The decision that Germany and the US will allow the export of M1 Abrams and Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, alongside the British Challenger 2 tanks promised in mid January is the culmination of Nato's policy to assist Ukraine and an important symbolic step in the west's response to Putin's aggression.

The export of German and US tanks to Ukraine is not without risk, both real and symbolic.

In purely military terms, well-trained, well-led and motivated Ukrainian tank crews operating the Leopard 2 or M1 Abrams will be better protected, have better firepower and be more manoeuvrable than their Russian counterparts.

Provided the Ukrainians can cope with the fact that they will need different ammunition, spare parts and possibly fuel they can make a difference, significantly enhancing Ukraine's capability to defend its territory.

If these conditions are met and if the west makes available the 300 tanks that the Ukrainian leadership demands, they can be a gamechanger. Tanks can deliver rapid gains of territory to the Ukrainians in a summer offensive.

Just as important, however, is the need to continue to supply long-range artillery to Ukraine to degrade Russia's logistical capabilities and destroy troop concentrations.

Replaying old stories

Symbolically, the presence of US and German-made tanks in Ukraine is more problematic.

Nato's cold war doctrine was largely based on the experience of German tanks in the second world war - especially during the Wehrmacht's desperate retreat across Ukraine in 1943-44 when small groups of German tanks successfully counterattacked, delaying the Soviet Red Army's advance.

The presence of Abrams and Leopard 2s in Ukraine promises to recreate the never-fought battles of the cold war with tanks and tactics designed for the clash of Nato and the Warsaw Pact armies across the German plains in the 1980s.



In the 1970s Nato and the Soviet Union faced each other across the border between East and West Germany.

Leaders in both blocs were aware of a growing discrepancy in conventional forces, a crucial component of which was the "tank gap". By the end of the decade the Soviets had 10,000 more tanks in Europe than Nato.

The newest Soviet tanks - the T-64 and the T-72 - were superior to contemporary Nato models in terms of armour, firepower and manoeuvrability.

If the Soviets had invaded, Nato would have been unable to stop their larger conventional forces and would - sooner rather than later, have been forced to use nuclear weapons to avoid defeat. Attempts at US-German cooperation to produce a new tank - the MBT-70 - had failed miserably in the late 1960s. In the next decade both developed their own solutions to close the tank gap.

In 1979 the West German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, accepted the new Leopard 2 into service, followed three years later by the arrival in Germany of a new American tank, the M1 Abrams.

Both were better protected, faster and had more effective guns than their predecessors. But Nato's armoured doctrine still relied on quality rather than quantity to meet the Soviet threat.

In 1984, with the new generation of Nato tanks, including the British Challenger 1, in service, Soviet tanks still outnumbered their opponents by nearly three to one.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No USCL/238 Tender ID: 2023_UAD_248155_1 Date:- 30.01.2023

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Expression of Interested parties for
"Design, Procure, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Fountains at Rudrasagar lake (Chota), Maharajwada, Ramghat, Koti teerth and Pedestrian bridge, Ujjain". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Cost of Document	Nil
Bid Purchase Start date	30.01.2023
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	20.02.2023 up to 17:00 hrs

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

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

BEFORE THE ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL OF MR. ADITH NARAYAN VIJAYARAGHAVAN (ADVOCATE), (SOLE ARBITRATOR)
Arbitration Case No. 1 of 2023[Arb. Com. (Div) O. P. No. 387 of 2022]
M/s. Ford India Private Limited,
Rep by its Authorised Representative, having its registered office at SP Koil Post, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram - 603204, Tamil Nadu and its Corporate office at Plot No. 142, Chirmes, 5th Floor, Gurgaon - 122003, Haryana.
Claimant
VS
M/s. Libra Cars Private Limited,
Represented by its Managing Director, Shop No. 2, K.H. No. 53/26, Alipur Old GT Road, Village Bakoli, Delhi - 110036.
Respondent

NOTICE THROUGH SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the afore-said arbitration case, bearing Arbitration Case No. 1 of 2023, filed against you, the Respondent above-named, came up for hearing on 19.01.2023 before the Hon'ble Arbitral Tribunal of Mr. Adith Narayan Vijayaraghavan (Advocate). The Hon'ble Arbitral Tribunal was pleased to order notice to you by way of substituted service returnable by 16.02.2023. Hence, you are hereby called upon to be present before the Hon'ble Arbitral Tribunal on the next hearing date on 16.02.2023 at 04.00 p.m., at the Madras High Court Arbitration Centre (MHCAC), Madras High Court, Chennai - 600104, either in person or through counsel, failing which, the above arbitral proceedings will be heard in your absence.
Dated at Chennai this the 31st day of January 2023.
M/s. V.V. Sivakumar,
Chethan Sagar and Gautam Balaji of Dua Associates, Advocates, Palani Centre, Ground & 3rd floor, 32, Venkatanarayana Road, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017. Counsel for the Claimant

‘Dutch, Japanese join US limits on chip tech to China’

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Japan and the Netherlands have agreed to a deal with the US to restrict China's access to materials used to make advanced computer chips, a person familiar with the agreement has said.

The person, who spoke with the Associated Press on Sunday, declined to be identified because the deal hasn't yet been formally announced. It's unclear when all three sides will unveil the agreement. The White House declined to comment.

The Biden administration in October imposed export controls to limit China's ability to access advanced chips, which it says can be used to make weapons, commit human rights abuses and improve the speed and accuracy of its military logistics. It urged allies like Japan and the Netherlands to follow suit.

China has responded angrily, saying trade curbs will disrupt supply chains and the global economic recovery.

"We hope the relevant countries will do the right thing and work together to uphold the multilateral trade regime and safeguard the stability of the



global industrial and supply chains," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said earlier this month. "This will also serve to protect their own long-term interests."

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Friday that Dutch and Japanese officials were in Washington for talks led by President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, that covered the "safety and security of emerging technolo-

gies," efforts to aid Ukraine and other issues.

"We're grateful that they were able to come to D.C. And to have these talks," Kirby said.

Kirby declined to say whether there was a deal on tighter export controls on semiconductor technology. This month, Biden met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte to push for tighter export controls.

In a press conference last

week, Rutte was asked about the talks but said they involve "such sensitive material ... high-quality technology that the Dutch government chooses to communicate about it very carefully and that means in a very limited way."

Veldhoven, Netherlands-based ASML, a leading maker of semiconductor production equipment, said Sunday that it didn't know any details about the agreement or how it would affect ASML's business.

ASML is the world's only producer of machines that use extreme ultraviolet lithography to make advanced semiconductor chips. The Dutch government has prohibited ASML from exporting that equipment to China since 2019, but the company had still been shipping lower-quality lithography systems to China. ASML has research and manufacturing centers in Beijing and Shenzhen, China, as well as a regional headquarters in Hong Kong.

U.S. Officials say China is spending heavily to develop its fledgling semiconductor producers but so far cannot make the high-end chips used in the most advanced smartphones and other devices.



Tropical storm leaves 30 dead, 20 missing in Madagascar

AP ■ ANTANARIVO (MADAGASCAR)

Flooding and landslides caused by the passage of tropical storm Cheneso across Madagascar caused 30 deaths, left 20 people missing and affected tens of thousands across the Indian Ocean island nation, according to a provisional assessment Monday. The storm made landfall in the northeast of the island last Thursday and impacted close to 89,000 people, Madagascar's National Office for Risk and Disaster Management said. Madagascar's meteorological agency said the storm, which has now passed across the country into the Mozambique Channel, saw winds gusting up to 170 km per hour (105.63 miles per hour) and unleashed torrential rains.

Colonel Faly Aritiana, of the risk and disaster office, said there had been house collapses and landslides in which people have been trapped.

"People have been reacting generally in the right way, but some people have not been taking enough note of our warnings not to cross rivers in flood because the flow is much stronger than usual," Aritiana said.

The storm has damaged infrastructure, with many roads cut by rising waters, landslides and collapsed bridges.

Nearly 33,000 people have had to leave their homes in the Boeny region, in the northwest of the island. Locals say the prices of basic foodstuffs have skyrocketed.

"Prices of vegetables and rice increased a lot after the storm" with the cost of tomatoes quadrupling, said Véronique Mamitiana, a teacher in the city of Mahajanga. "The merchants say it's because the national road is cut," she said.

US pledges USD 1 billion in investments to Nepal

Senior US diplomat meets Nepal PM



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A top US diplomat on Monday met Nepal's senior leadership, including Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda", to further consolidate bilateral ties, and pledged USD 1 billion in investments in the Himalayan nation over the next five years.

US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland arrived here in Kathmandu on Sunday on a two-day visit.

A seasoned diplomat, Nuland has held a number of high-level positions under three American presidents — Joe Biden, Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

She is the senior-most foreign dignitary to visit Nepal following Prachanda's appointment as the prime minister on December 25 last year.

Nuland met Prachanda at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar here.

During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral interests were discussed, according to sources at the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

"The meeting is expected to contribute to further consolidating the bilateral ties," sources said.

"On the occasion, the Prime Minister lauded the US government for its contributions to the development endeavours in Nepal, expressing hope that such cooperation would be further enhanced ahead," sources said.

Nuland also congratulated the Nepal Prime Minister on his appointment and wished him a successful term.

"This time we are proud and pleased to talk about all of our projects together for the future, and the US plans to invest over USD 1 billion in Nepal over the next five years in green energy to electrification, and from small to medium-sized enterprises, particularly investing under-represented groups led by women," Nuland said.

She called on Nepal Foreign Minister Bimala Rai Poudyal and "both sides discussed various matters of mutual interests on bilateral and multilateral cooperation," according to Nepal's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs. Nuland also met Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba and CPN-UML chief Sharma Oli separately.

During her meeting with Deuba, the "two touched on various issues including the US assistance to Nepal in the areas of the promotion of bilateral relations, democracy, development and good governance," Nepali Congress sources said.

"They exchanged views on further strengthening the bilateral cooperation," sources said.

Deuba, a former prime minister said the US assistance and cooperation with Nepal were highly valued.

Nuland visited cultural heritage sites at the historic Patan Durbar Square in Lalitpur district, and interacted with the media before wrapping up her visit on Monday.

"We have been long-time friends and supporters of Nepal's democracy, independence, and sovereignty," she told reporters.

"We have historic investments here in education, health, agriculture and economic growth," she added.

Blinken urges Israel-Palestinian calm as violence soars

AP ■ CAIRO

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Israel and the Palestinians on Monday to exercise restraint and ease tensions amid a spike in violence that has put the region on edge.

Speaking in Cairo, just hours ahead of a two-day visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank, Blinken said it is imperative for both sides to work to de-escalate tensions that have soared since last week in what he called "a new and horrifying surge in violence" and prompted severe responses from each.

"We will be encouraging the parties to take steps to calm things down," Blinken told reporters at a joint news conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry.



"There is no question that this is a very difficult moment."

He repeated US condemnations of militant attacks against Israelis and noted that "we deplore overall the loss of innocent civilian life."

The latest spate of violence erupted last week with an Israeli military raid on a militant stronghold in the West Bank city of Jenin last week that killed 10 people, most of them militants, and a Palestinian shooting attack in an east Jerusalem Jewish set-

tlement that killed seven Israelis.

And, on Monday, shortly before Blinken's arrival, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli forces killed a Palestinian man in the flashpoint city of Hebron, bringing the toll of Palestinians killed in January to 35.

The violence comes after months of Israeli arrest raids in the West Bank, which were launched after a wave of Palestinians attacks against Israelis in the spring of 2022 that killed 19 people.

But it has spiked this month during the first weeks of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new far-right government, which has promised to take a tough stance against the Palestinians and ramp up settlement construction.

Japan ex-soldier sues Govt, colleagues over sexual abuse

Tokyo: A former Japanese soldier who reported being sexually abused by military colleagues said Monday she has filed a damage suit against five perpetrators and the government because she feels their earlier apologies were empty. Rina Gonoji went public with her experience last year, demanding the Defense Ministry reinvestigate her case, in which she said she was repeatedly assaulted by several servicemen, causing her to give up her military career.

The military had dropped her case when she initially filed a complaint in 2021, saying there was insufficient evidence.

French PM unveils plans to tackle racism

AP ■ PARIS

Name it, act on it, sanction it. That is the focus of a new plan announced on Monday by French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne to defeat long-standing racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination of all kinds.

The four-year plan starts with educating youth with a required yearly trip to a Holocaust or other memorial site exemplifying the horrors that racism can produce, because "history alerts the present," the plan says. It includes training teachers and civil servants about discrimination and toughening the ability to punish those denounced for discrimination.

Arrest warrants will be issued to those who use freedom of expression for racist or anti-Semitic ends. Unusually, the plan includes fighting discrimination against Gypsies and Roma.

"There will be no impunity for hate," Borne said, presenting her plans, including 80 measures, at the Institute of the Arab World.

Tolerance is on the rise, "but hate has reinvented itself," she said.



"Our first challenge is to look squarely at the reality of racism and anti-Semitism and cede nothing to those who falsify history, who rewrite our past, forgetting or deforming some pages," Borne added.

France's government has had a succession of policies in recent years to grapple with racism, anti-Semitism and dis-

crimination. Still, the estimated number of victims who suffered as least one racist, anti-Semitic or xenophobic attacks was 1.2 million per year, according to the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights.

Social media and a rising far-right fearful of the disappearance of the nation's Christian roots in an increasingly

multi-cultural France have added new dimensions to the fight against racism. Generations of citizens from former colonies in mostly Muslim North Africa and west Africa have over decades given the nation a new face.

Kaltoum Gachi, a co-president of the anti-racism organization MRAP, told those attending the presentation that a 25-year-old family member named Kamel failed in his long search for a job with an automaker — until he changed his name to Kevin.

Names, addresses and looks have long been a roadblock for people with origins outside France. Regular testing in private and public places of employment will be part of the new anti-discrimination effort, though the exact method is still being devised.

Borne said her plan will also offer victims of racism and discrimination the possibility to file complaints outside a police station, and in a "partially anonymous" way. She did not elaborate.

Borne's plan dodged some sensitive areas, notably failing to directly tackle discrimination and racial profiling within the nation's powerful police force.

Birthday party shooting in South Africa kills 8, injures 3

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

South African police are investigating a weekend shooting where eight people were killed and three injured after armed men opened fire at a house birthday party in the city of Geberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth.

According to police spokeswoman Priscilla Naidu, unknown gunmen entered a residential home in Kwazakhele township and started to randomly shoot people on Sunday afternoon.

The owner of the house was among the dead and it is unclear what the motive for the shooting was, according to police.

"Preliminary investigation at this stage has revealed that between 17:15 and 17:30, the



owner of the house was celebrating his birthday when two unknown gunmen entered the yard in Makanda Street in Kwazakhele and started shooting at the guests," Naidu said.

She said seven people died on the scene while the eighth victim succumbed to their injuries at hospital.

"These victims were killed by criminals and we will not rest until we find out what happened and who was responsible for these callous and cold-blooded attacks on these unsuspecting victims," Naidu said.

Police Minister Bheki Cele and other police officials were on Monday visiting the scene of the incident and talking to local residents.

"We know everybody is hurt and angry. We would have loved to respond quickly, but we will request a little bit of space so that we do the work thoroughly, so that by the time we respond there is no speculation," Cele told reporters at the scene of the incident.

No arrests have been made but a manhunt for the suspects was underway, police said.

Third Covid booster linked with 90% reduction in deaths: Study

PTI ■ BEIJING

A third booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine was associated with a 90 per cent reduction in death in people with multiple health conditions compared to two doses, according to a study conducted in Hong Kong.

The research, published in Canadian Medical Association Journal, compared data from people aged 18 years or older with two or more chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and chronic kidney disease, who received a third dose between November 2021 and March 2022, compared to people who received only 2 doses. "We found a substantially

reduced risk of COVID-19-related death in adults with multimorbidity who received a coronavirus booster dose of BNT162b2, an mRNA vaccine, or CoronaVac, an inactivated whole-virus vaccine," said Esther Chan from The University of Hong Kong.

"These results support the effectiveness of booster doses of vaccines of two different technological platforms in lowering mortality among those with multimorbidity amid the Omicron epidemic," Chan said. As the Omicron (BA.2) variant epidemic hit Hong Kong in late 2021, the city reported the highest COVID-19 mortality rate worldwide relative to its population of 7.5 million people, the researchers said.



Lost & found
I, Yogendra Sharma S/o S.C. Sharma R/o Flat No. G.F. 41, Neelam Vihar Sahakari Aawas Samiti Ltd. Sector 14, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad (UP) declare that I, have lost the original Anashdan Praman Patra S. No. 67 dt. 11.07.1998, Avantan Patra membership no. 67 dt 11.07.1998 & Voter ID Card No. GKM8339558 named Yogendra Sharma If found/seen Please Contact-9871094490 Applicant

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of ICICI Bank that Mr. Pankaj Kohli is owner of Flat Bearing No. 118, on first floor, Category III, in the layout plan of Ravi Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. known as Ravi Apartments, built on Plot No. 01, Rocella Phase-I, Wazir Pur, New Delhi. The said property by virtue of registered Gift Deed dated 22.06.2020 registration No. 6885, executed by Mrs. Prem Lata Kohli, who was owner of the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 06.04.2021. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned property is on first floor as per Gift Deed dated 22.06.2020, and the owner Mr. Pankaj Kohli want to take loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. against the said property if any body has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Pankaj Kohli over the said property, its sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large Mrs. Pawan Tyagi W/o Mr. Neeraj Kumar Tyagi who had acquired the RESIDENTIAL HOUSE No. 77, (WITH ROOF TOP) at LAXMI NAGAR AREA MEASURING 186 SQ. YARDS i.e. 155.51 SQ. METERS, OUT OF KHASRA No. 618, SITUATED AT HARVANSI NAGAR IN THE VILLAGE GHUKHA, PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL & DISTT. GHAZIABAD (U.P.) from Mrs. Santosh W/o Late Mr. Rohitash through Gift Deed (in Blood Relation) dated 21.11.2022, vide 12547, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. However, Sale Deed dated 12.07.1987 has been lost and not available. If any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that my client Mr. Lokesh Kumar s/o Mr. Jai Prakash Sharma Purchased of Freehold Residential Plot measuring area 250 Sq. Yd. or say 209.025 Sq. Mt. Pertaining to Kharsa no. 833, situated in Banwari Nagar Village Sihani, Pragana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. above Mention Property We Mr. Vinod Tyagi s/o Mr. Raghuvir Tyagi & Mr. Mann Tyagi s/o Mr. Sanjay Tyagi are the Owner from Khatlani, above Mention Property Documents We Mr. Vinod Tyagi s/o Mr. Raghuvir Tyagi & Mr. Mann Tyagi s/o Mr. Sanjay Tyagi are Selling Through Sale deed to Mr. Lokesh Kumar s/o Mr. Jai Prakash Sharma and same Property to be loan financed by M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any person/s have any objection/s or Claim/s with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e. M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., 2/Floor, Commercial Market, Sanjay Vihar, Awas Vikas, Opp. Prachin Shri Mandir, Hapur-245101 U.P. Shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Arun Goswami (Advocate)
Ch. No. 119, 1st Floor, Main Road Tehsil Compound Distt. Ghaziabad, Mob. 9997806112

73 **South Eastern Railway** **G20**
E-TENDER NOTICE Date : 28.01.2023
NIT No. 46225261A
SMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46225261A - 28.01.2023 The details are as under.

1. Name of Work	LED Twin Beam head Light for ENUMEMU front motor coaches as per spec no RDSO/2017/EL/SPEC/0134 (Rev-2) or latest for retrofitting in existing halogen lamp type twin beam head light (Round shape-80 nos and Oval shape-63 Nos)
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 57,20,000.000
3. Quantity	143 Nos
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	18.02.2023 (11.00 Hrs.)
5. Date and Time of Opening of tender document	18.02.2023 (11.00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars, where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Note : (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in (ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 304/23

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं: 89
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE दिनांक : 30/01/2023
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVN Ltd., Lohiahead Khatima, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. : 11/EE(Civil)/Lohiahead/Khatima/2022-23.
Name of Work: "Repair of damaged and eroded concrete surface of Spiral Casting of UNIT 3 of Sharda Power House at Lohiahead, Khatima."
Estimated Cost: ₹ 13,24,133.00 + GST Extra
Date of availability of bid Document on website: From 17:00 hrs of 01.02.2023
Last Date for submission of Tender: Up to 13:00 hrs of 15.02.2023.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website, the tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com
Executive Engineer (Civil)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून
पत्रांक:- 1675/मुनि-2023 **सार्वजनिक सूचना** दिनांक 30.01.2023

नगर निगम देहरादून क्षेत्रान्तर्गत टाऊनवैडिंग कमेटी द्वारा चिन्हित 10 स्थलों पर स्मार्ट वैडिंग ज़ोन बनाये जाने की संस्तुति की गयी है। जिसमें नगरीय फेरी समिति से सम्बन्ध करते हुए वैडिंग ज़ोन में उपयोग होने वाली आधारभूत समस्त सुविधाओं यथा वैडिंग ज़ोन का सर्वे, संरचनात्मक ढांचे का निर्माण, लगने वाले स्मार्ट कार्ट की संख्या, स्मार्ट कार्ट का डिजाइन आदि सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक फर्म/व्यक्तियों से सूचना प्रकाशन की लिथि से दिनांक 23.02.2023 की अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक ई-ओआई/ प्रस्ताव नगर निगम के भूमि अनुभाग कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। प्राप्त ई-ओआई/ प्रस्तावों का परीक्षण नगर निगम द्वारा दिनांक 23.02.2023 की सायं 4:00 बजे कमेटी के समक्ष किया जायेगा।

यहां यह भी स्पष्ट करना है निर्धारित लिथि के उपरान्त किसी भी प्रकार की ई-ओआई/ प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। परीक्षणोपरान्त जिस भी व्यक्ति की ई-ओआई/ प्रस्ताव को कमेटी द्वारा चयन किया जाता है उसे उस प्रस्ताव के आधार पर वैडिंग ज़ोन विकसित किये जाने हेतु कार्यदिश दिया जा सकता है या फिर उक्त चयनित प्रस्ताव के आधार पर नगर निगम द्वारा उसे निविदा के रूप में परिवर्तित किये जाने हेतु अधिकार नगर निगम देहरादून के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।

नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम, देहरादून

UAE royals come to Adani rescue with \$400 million

Adani-Hindenburg war intensifies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's embattled group clutched on to a \$400-million investment by Abu Dhabi's International Holding Co. In its flagship firm's share sale to restore confidence in the conglomerate that saw nearly \$ 70-billion rout in value after a tiny New York short seller came out with a damning report.

Adani, 60, who was third richest man in the world till a day before Hindenburg Research came out with its report on January 24 that flagged concerns about its debt levels and alleged stock manipulation, accounting fraud and the use of tax havens, has slipped to 8th position, narrowing the gap with rival Mukesh Ambani, whom he overtook in April last year, to just \$4 billion.

His group late on Sunday night issued a 413-page response to the Hindenburg report in an attempt to restore confidence in the business empire but it could not cut much ice and stock prices of most group companies contin-



ued to fall and key dollar bonds sank to fresh lows on Monday. The US short seller dismissed charges that its report on Adani Group's malfeasance was a "calculated attack" on India, saying a "fraud" cannot be obfuscated by nationalism or a bloated response that ignored key allegations.

Hindenburg released the report on January 24 — the day on which Adani Enterprise Ltd's ₹20,000-crore follow-on share sale opened for investors. While anchor investors poured in almost ₹6,000 crore in the FPO on that day, the public subscription remained muted with just 3 per cent of the shares on offer being subscribed till Monday evening, according to information avail-

able on BSE.

The offer closes on January 31 and the retail investor portion — which is the biggest chunk of the FPO — is hardly 4 per cent subscribed.

IHC said it will invest about \$400 million in Adani Enterprises' follow-on share sale, saying it was confident in the fundamentals of the conglomerate even after the route in share value. "We see a strong potential for growth from a long-term perspective and added value to our shareholders," its CEO Syed Basar Shueb said in a statement.

IHC is led by Sheikh Tahnoun Bin Zayed Al Nahyan — the UAE's national security adviser and brother to the president.

LIC says it has exposure of over ₹36K crore to Adani grp

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on Monday said it has an exposure of ₹36,474.78 crore to Adani group's debt and equity, and the amount is less than one per cent of the national insurer's total investments.

LIC's total assets under management stood at over ₹41.66 lakh crore as of September 2022.

The disclosure by the insurer, which is also the country's largest domestic institutional investor, comes amid Adani group stocks taking a beating on the bourses after the short-selling specialist firm Hindenburg Research in a report made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation, at the Gautam Adani-led group. The allegations have been rejected by the group.

"Our total holding in the Adani group companies under equity and debt a on date is ₹36,474.78 crore. This was ₹35,917.31 crore as of December 31, 2022. Total purchase value of these equities of the group companies, bought over the past many years, is ₹30,127 crore and the market value for the same at close of



market hours on January 27, 2023 was ₹56,142 crore," LIC said in a tweet.

Adani group has 10 listed companies.

However, the insurer did not disclose about its exposure on an individual company basis.

According to LIC, credit ratings of all Adani debt securities held by it are rated 'AA' and above which is in compliance with the Irdai investment regulations.

The Hindenburg Research report came two days before Adani Enterprises' ₹20,000 crore Follow on Public Offer

(FPO) that opened last week on January 27. The anchor investors' quota was fully subscribed on January 26.

LIC invested about ₹300 crore in buying 9,15,748 shares in the ongoing FPO as an anchor investor. LIC already had 4.23 per cent stake in the company.

In all 33 institutional investors put in ₹5,985 crore as anchor investors in Adani Enterprises' FPO.

Adani group's listed companies have lost more than \$ 70 billion in total market capitalisation since the report was published on January 24.

Sensex, Nifty close higher in volatile trade as IT, oil shares recover

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a highly volatile trade on Monday, riding on the back of a recovery in IT, oil and financial stocks after a two-day fall even as investors remained cautious ahead of the Union budget and policy announcement by the US Federal Reserve.

The 30-share Sensex recovered 169.51 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 59,500.41 as 17 of its constituents ended in the green. During the day, it rose by 313.34 points or 0.52 per cent to 59,644.24.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 44.60 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 17,648.95 as 29 of its stocks advanced. The index moved in a range of 17,709.15 to 17,405.55 during the day. Shares of Adani group firms closed on a mixed note with flagship Adani Enterprises climbing 4.21 per cent.

However, Adani Transmission dropped 14.91 per cent, Adani Green by 20 per cent, Adani Total Gas by 20 per cent, Adani Power by 5 per cent, and Adani Wilmar by 5 per cent, a day after the group released a 413-page response to



allegations of wrongdoing brought by a US-based short seller Hindenburg Research.

"The response by Adani had a mixed effect on the stock group and market. The saga is likely to continue as a hanging risk in the minds of the investors in the medium-term. Now the focus of the market will be on Budget and Fed policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Volatility continued to be the order of the day, as benchmark Sensex gyrated nearly 1000 points intra-day before staging a smart comeback in late trades on selective buying. Two big events, the interest rate decision by the US Federal Reserve and the Union Budget are keeping investors nervous," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

PNB: Keeping tab on development related to Adani Group

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab National Bank (PNB) which has about ₹7,000 crore exposure in Adani Group entities on Monday said it is keeping a close watch on situation developing following the damning disclosures by a US short seller.

The state-owned bank has total exposure of about ₹ 7,000 crore. Out of that ₹2,500 crore is related to the airport business.

"Whatever exposure we are having is backed by cash flow. Total exposure include investment of ₹42 crore and remaining credit," PNB managing director Atul Kumar Goel said while announcing quarterly numbers.

As on date there is no worry as the bank has not too much exposure keeping the size of the lender, he said, "we are



keeping a close watch on development (on Adani front) in times to come."

Adani group's listed companies have lost over \$70 billion since the January 24 report of the New York firm that flagged high debt levels at the ports-to-energy conglomerate and the alleged use of offshore entities in tax havens.

Hindenburg Research had alleged that the ports-to-energy-to-cement conglomerate had engaged in "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" for decades.

The Adani Group has denied all charges and threatened to sue the US firm.

‘Unsold housing stocks fall 10% to over 4.6 lakh units at Dec-end’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unsold housing stocks dropped 10 per cent to 4,61,600 units across nine major cities at the end of the December on better sales, PropEquity said on Monday.

According to its data, unsold housing inventories stood at 5,12,526 units at the end of the September quarter across these nine cities.

"Despite many challenges ...Home sales strongly recovered this year. It is worth noting that the demand in the industry and the positive sentiment is growing. Even with the steady rise in mortgage rates, customers were still taking loans in anticipation of appreciation of properties and as end users for the units," said Samir Jasuja, Founder and Managing Director of PropEquity, said.

In Kolkata, unsold housing



stocks fell 12 per cent to 17,715 units from 20,096 units at the end of the September quarter.

In Navi Mumbai, unsold housing inventories fell 10 per cent to 27,815 units from 30,986 units, while in Mumbai unsold stocks declined 5 per cent to 58,587 units from 61,755 units. Thane saw a 11 per cent fall in unsold stocks to 97,117 units from 1,08,854 units.

Unsold residential stocks in

Delhi-NCR fell 10 per cent to 41,693 units from 46,452 units.

Bengaluru saw a 16 per cent decline in unsold stocks to 49,246 units from 58,390 units in the September quarter, while Pune witnessed a 11 per cent fall to 65,612 units from 73,644 units.

Unsold housing stocks in Hyderabad stood at 84,545 units at the end of the December, from 93,473 units at the end of the previous quarter.

However, the PropEquity data showed that unsold housing stocks rose 2 per cent to 19,270 units at December-end from 18,876 units in the previous quarter.

Housing sales stood at 1,20,275 units across these nine cities during the October-December quarter, up 8 per cent from the previous quarter and 10 per cent from the year-ago period.

Sebi cancels registration of three stock brokers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday cancelled the registration of three entities — Kaynet Capital, Kaynet Commodities and Kaynet Finance — as stock brokers for not meeting the conditions required under intermediaries rules.

In addition, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has cancelled the registration of Kaynet Capital as depository participant. Irrespective of the cancellation of certificate of registration, the three entities would continue to be responsible for payment of outstanding fees or dues to Sebi, the regulator said.

In three separate orders, the regulator noted that the entities are not members of any stock exchange.

The membership of Kaynet Commodities was terminated



by MCX in November 2020, while membership of Kaynet Finance was terminated by NSE in February 2020.

Further, the membership of Kaynet Capital was terminated by BSE in August 2019. It has been almost 3 years since its memberships with BSE and CDSL have been terminated.

Under the Stock Brokers Regulations, one of the conditions of registration is that the

applicant is eligible to be admitted as a member of a stock exchange through which it has made the application to Sebi. Since the membership of the entities have been terminated, they no longer fulfil the conditions stipulated under the rules.

The present orders are the result of enquiry proceedings against the entities under Intermediaries Regulations.

Upgrade to 5G mobile phones to drive growth, aim 60% biz jump in 2023, says POCO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Smartphone company POCO expects an upgrade to 5G mobile phones from 4G coupled with pricing and design strategy to drive growth of the company's business by 60 per cent in this year, a top official of the company said.

POCO India Country Head Himanshu Tandon told PTI that the sub-₹10,000 smartphone segment is likely to be most impacted because of inflationary pressures and rupee depreciation, and the industry will see strong competition in the ₹20,000-₹30,000 mobile phone segment.

"I think the opportunity area for the market to grow is basically the upgrade from 4G to 5G. People upgrading from 4G to 5G smartphones is one of the critical factors that can

basically help the overall smartphone industry to grow," he said. Tandon said that POCO strategy in the year 2023 will be to keep a lean portfolio with focus on performance and design of the smartphones at aggressive pricing.

The company has plans to launch its POCO X5 Pro 5G smartphone next month embedded with Qualcomm Snapdragon 778G processor in the price range of ₹20,000-25,000. "I think the under ₹10,000 segment has been impacted more because of inflationary pressures and rupee depreciation. But at the same point of time we are seeing opportunity with regards to ₹20,000-30,000 segment. It is the segment where the real innovation is happening right now. We will see a major competition in this price range."

5G rollouts on in select pockets but backhaul infra to cost ₹3 lakh cr over 4-5 years: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom players have started rolling out 5G services in select pockets but backhaul infrastructure will cost ₹3 lakh crore over the next 4-5 years, according to ICRA.

ICRA noted consistent "healthy improvement" in operating metrics of telcos but added that debt levels continue to remain high and seen at around ₹6.3 lakh crore as on March 31, 2023.

The full scale 5G deployment across the country will entail densification of the network and thereby sizeable investments in fiberisation, it contended.

"India currently has around 35 per cent of its towers fiberised and the rating agency expects that the capex required to fiberise the adequate number of towers to provide a sturdy network base would be close to ₹3 lakh crore over the next 4-5 years," ICRA



said in a statement.

The telecom industry, it noted, has continued to report healthy improvement in operating metrics, as reflected by improvement in ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) levels and consistent growth in telephony usage.

ARPU has already crossed ₹170 mark in the first half and is likely to touch ₹180 by the end of the fiscal.

This has translated into healthy growth in industry AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) over the last few quarters.

"However, the debt levels continue to remain high and the same further increased post the conclusion of the last round of auctions," it said.

While in the core business, technology upgradation to 5G is likely to drive growth going forward, along with the upgradation of a large pool of subscribers to higher technology, the non-telco businesses, which include enterprise business, cloud services, digital services and fixed broadband services will also remain crucial for chartering a growth path for the industry.

Gadkari, Scindia to grace over 1800 global recyclers at 10th IMRC meet

New Delhi: Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) is all set to host the 10th edition of the International Indian Material Recycling Conference at Grand Hyatt Kochi, Kerala from February 2 to 4.

The meet of global recyclers will see 1800+ delegates, including 450 foreign delegates, to create a deeper insight into the need for a "Recycling Policy Framework to set up Circular Economy Park".

While Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will grace the 10th IMRC meet as the chief guest, Union Minister of Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia, NITI Aayog CEO Aayog Parameswaran Iyer, Steel Ministry Additional Secretary Ruchika Chaudhary Govil, MoEF&CC director Satyendra Kumar and other officials from BIS would be the eminent speakers at the conference.

Rupee gains 9 paise to close at 81.50 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee rose by 9 paise to close at 81.50 (provisional) against the US currency in a restricted trade on Monday, supported by a weak greenback in the overseas markets and a decline in crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened lower at 81.69 and touched a low of 81.72 against the US dollar in line with losses in the equity markets.

Later, it recovered ground and touched a high of 81.49 before settling at 81.50, shoing gains of nine paise over the previous close of 81.59 on Friday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.16 per cent to 101.76.

Global oil benchmark



Brent crude futures fell 0.25 per cent to USD 86.44 per barrel.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, a weak Dollar index and a decline in crude oil prices cushioned the downside. Further, FPO-related foreign inflows also supported the rupee at lower levels, he said.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias amid a weak tone in the domestic markets and expectations that the US Dollar may rise on safe-haven appeal," Choudhary said.

Maruti Suzuki crosses 2.5 cr cumulative sales mark in India: Suzuki Motor Corp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Japanese auto major Suzuki Motor Corporation on Monday said its subsidiary Maruti Suzuki India has crossed 2.5 crore domestic sales milestone earlier this month.

Maruti Suzuki India achieved the sales mark on January 9, 2023.

Suzuki signed a joint venture agreement with Maruti Udyog, the predecessor of Maruti Suzuki in 1982 and rolled out its first car — Maruti 800 — in December 1983.



Currently, 17 models are produced and sold in India, and Maruti Suzuki is strengthening its portfolio in the recently growing SUV models while also making efforts in popularising hybrid and CNG models, Suzuki Motor Corporation

said in a statement.

The cumulative sales of hybrid and CNG models is around 21 lakh units, it added.

"Maruti Suzuki will continue to provide products marked with safety, high reliability, and eco-friendliness, and contribute to sustainable development of the automobile industry," the Japanese auto maker noted.

Maruti Suzuki India achieved one crore sales mark in February 2012; two crore sales milestone in July 2019 and 2.5 crore sales mark in January this year.

GAIL Q3 profit drops 90% on petrochemical, natural gas marketing woes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd on Monday reported 90 per cent drop in December quarter net profit after it suffered losses in petrochemical and natural gas marketing business.

Consolidated net profit of ₹397.59 crore in October-December 2022 is compared with ₹3,800.09 crore earning in the same period a year back, according to the company's stock exchange filing.

The nation's largest gas trading and transportation company booked ₹349 crore loss in petrochemical business after it had to cut run rate due to curtailment in supply of cheaper domestic gas.

Natural gas marketing division too incurred a loss while the pre-tax profitability of the core transmission business halved.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹35,939.96 crore in October-December 2022 from ₹26,175.60 crore a year ago.

Gold falls ₹80, silver declines ₹180 on weak demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell by ₹80 to ₹56,880 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday due to weak local demand, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal closed at ₹56,960 per 10 grams.

Silver also declined by ₹180 to ₹68,795 per kg from ₹68,975 per kg.

"Spot gold prices in Delhi markets traded at ₹56,880 per 10 grams, down ₹80 per 10 grams," said an analyst at



HDFC Securities.

According to the analyst, retail demand in the Indian market remained sluggish due to high prices and some dealers offered discounts to attract customers.

In the overseas market, gold was quoting lower at \$1,923 per ounce and silver was down at \$23.66 per ounce.

Comex gold prices traded sideways to negative in Asian trading hours on Monday.

"Comex Gold prices corrected last week after price hit fresh swing high of \$ 1,949.80 on back of profit taking by short-term future traders before this week FOMC meeting, however price managed to closed up by 0.10 per cent on weekly basis," the analyst added.

THE GREATEST? DJOKER MAY HAVE SETTLED THE DEBATE

AP ■ MELBOURNE

In drawing level with Rafael Nadal's record 22 Grand Slam titles, Novak Djokovic reignited the debate about who is the greatest men's tennis player of all time.

For some, the Serb settled it with his record-extending 10th Australian Open crown.

Certainly his vanquished opponent on Rod Laver Arena thinks so.

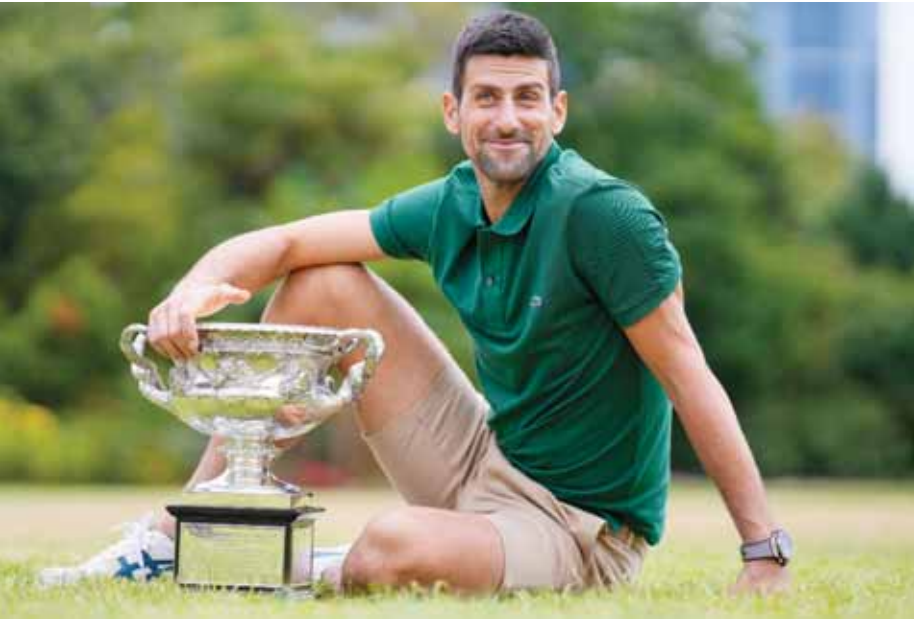
"He's the greatest that has ever held a tennis racquet, for sure," said Stefanos Tsitsipas after losing 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5).

It seems inevitable that Djokovic, who returned to world number one with his dominant victory in Sunday's final, will win more Slams.

At 35 he is a year younger than great rival Nadal and except for hamstring trouble early on in Melbourne, he appears to be in excellent physical shape.

In contrast, Nadal's battered body broke down again at the Australian Open and he limped out with defeat in the second round, his title defence over and the Spaniard in pain with a hip injury.

Roger Federer, the third of



the "Big Three" who have dominated men's tennis for the past 15 years, retired last year with 20 Grand Slam titles.

Federer will always be the "people's champion" in the eyes of many because of the graceful way he played, but it is Djokovic who looks primed to pull away with the record number of men's major crowns.

'SOAK IT IN'

Djokovic seems to thrive on pain and feed off adversity.

Two years ago he won in Australia despite tearing stomach muscles, this year it was a hamstring that did not allow him to practise between matches.

If not for Djokovic's vaccine status, which saw him deported

from Australia a year ago and prevented him competing at the US Open, he may well have already been on 23 or 24 Slam wins.

"Haha, I told you. We created a monster... Sat on my couch and enjoyed the entire show. Soak it all in," Nick Kyrgios, beaten by Djokovic in the Wimbledon final last year, tweet-

ed on Sunday.

Nadal, at 36, may be able to recover from his latest injury and even find the will to achieve another triumph on the clay of Roland Garros in May.

But he is a new dad and as the calls grow from family and friends to stop punishing his body, he could bow out sooner rather than later.

There is a theory that he could call it quits at this year's French Open.

It is his favourite tournament and a 15th title there would provide a story-book ending.

POLARISING

Djokovic only appears to be getting better with age and the "Next Gen" of young talent are still unable to get near him over five sets.

His coach, Goran Ivanisevic, believes there are a few more years at the top — and more Slams — to come.

"Definitely too, three more years," Ivanisevic told reporters after Sunday's final.

"The way he's taking care of his body, the way he approaches everything, the food, it's amazing. It's unbelievable the level."

Some tennis fans will always take convincing to accept Djokovic as the greatest, despite what the number of Grand Slam titles says.

He polarises opinion, whereas Federer and Nadal are universally loved for how they are on and off the court.

There are those who see something too calculating in the intense, brooding Djokovic.

Djokovic reclaims top spot in ATP rankings

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic reclaimed top spot in the ATP rankings released on Monday after winning his 22nd Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.

The 35-year-old Serbian rose four places to dislodge Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who missed the tournament through injury and dropped to second.

Djokovic's 10th Australian Open title means he is world number one for the 374th week since July 2011.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lost to Djokovic in straight sets in Sunday's final in Melbourne, overtook Norwegian Casper Ruud in third place, matching a career-best ranking he first achieved in August 2021.

Andrey Rublev of Russia, dominated by Djokovic in the quarter-finals, climbed to a career-best position of fifth.

The shock elimination of Djokovic's long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the second round saw the Spaniard drop four places to sixth.

Karen Khachanov's run to the semi-finals in Melbourne propelled the Russian up seven places to 13th.

India men's hockey team chief coach Reid resigns



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid on Monday resigned from his position following the host nation's disastrous outing at the just-concluded World Cup.

Reid, who was appointed India coach in April 2019, led the team to a historic bronze medal finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

The 58-year-old Australian submitted his resignation to Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, a day after the conclusion of the World Cup in Bhubaneswar, where Germany beat Belgium in a penalty shoot-out to emerge as champions.

"It is now time for me to step aside and hand over the reigns to the next management," Reid said, announcing his retirement. Reid's term was till next year's Paris Olympics.

"It has been an honour and privilege to work with the team and Hockey India and I have enjoyed every moment of this epic journey. I wish the team all the very best," he added.

Reid took the decision after HI chief Tirkey and secretary general Bholanath Singh met with the players and support staff to discuss the team's performance and strategy going forward.

Besides Reid, the team's analytical coach Greg Clark and scientific advisor Mitchell David Pemberton also tendered their

resignations on Monday morning. The trio will be serving a notice period of one month before relinquishing their duties.

Under Reid, India achieved a lot of success, including an Olympic medal after 41 years, a silver in last year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games and a third-place finish in the FIH Hockey Pro League season in 2021-22.

Reid's successful outings with India also includes the FIH Series Final title victory in 2019. The team made the Tokyo Games by winning the qualifiers in Bhubaneswar in the same year. Tirkey accepted the trio's resignations and said the country will always remain grateful for their services.

"India will always have gratitude towards Graham Reid and his team of support staff who have brought good results to the country, particularly the Olympic Games," he said.

"As all journeys move to different phases, it is now time for us to move on towards a new approach for our team."

Hosts India started the tournament as fifth in world rankings but failed to qualify for the quarterfinals, losing to lower-ranked New Zealand in a shoot-out in the cross-over match.

The home team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, eventually finished joint ninth along with Argentina after defeating Japan 8-0 and South Africa 5-2 in classification matches.

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak unsure on injury return

New Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic said on Monday he hopes to return to action in a month's time but is "not sure" how quickly his injured hamstring will heal.

The Serb also revealed that he had not had time to properly celebrate winning a record-extending 10th Melbourne title on Sunday.

Djokovic was troubled throughout the competition by his left hamstring, although it improved as the Grand Slam went on.

While the 35-year-old

paraded the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup around the gardens of Government House in Melbourne on Monday for a photoshoot, he was asked how his leg was and when he might play again.

"I'm not sure, I'm going to do some medical check-ups in the next few days," he replied. "Then I'll be able to talk about it a bit more and understand the situation."

Djokovic pulled his hamstring before the Australian Open, having won a warm-up

event in Adelaide, and was badly hampered at times at Melbourne Park, particularly in the early rounds.

At one point he did not practise between matches.

"As it stands today I am still signed in for the Dubai tournament, which is in a month's time. I hope I'll be able to come back to the courts in several weeks' time," he said on Monday.

"Let's see, you know, I'll speak to the medical team and then take it from there," he

added.

Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic, said most players would not have played after a pre-tournament scan showed the extent of the hamstring injury.

"But not him — he is from outer space," Ivanisevic told reporters.

"His brain is working different. He gave everything, 77 therapies a day. Every day was kind of better and better."

Djokovic said there had not been time for any partying

on Sunday night to mark his latest achievement.

Asked how he had celebrated the victory, he smiled: "With the media, and with doping control!"

"It was 3:00 am when I went back to the accommodation and it was a long night, but of course a huge relief."

"Ending a tournament and the whole journey here to Australia with a Grand Slam win is always incredibly satisfying," he added.

"I didn't have yet the chance to really celebrate as much as I would like to. I guess that's going to come in Europe."

Madrid drop points in title race



AP ■ MADRID

Real Sociedad goalkeeper Alex Remiro made a string of fine saves to frustrate Real Madrid in a 0-0 draw on Sunday, leaving Barcelona five points clear at the top of La Liga.

After the Catalans beat Girona on Saturday, Madrid needed to win to stay three points behind their rivals in the title race, but Remiro ensured otherwise, keeping third-place La Real on the champions' tail.

Vinicius Junior had three good chances repelled by Remiro among other Madrid openings, as Carlo Ancelotti's side sparkled but failed to find the goal their performance

deserved.

The draw continues a mixed start to 2023 for Real Madrid, slipping further behind Barcelona in the league and losing against them in the Spanish Super Cup final, but reaching the Copa del Rey semis on Thursday with an extra-time win over Atletico Madrid.

"It was one of the best games we've played this season," Ancelotti told reporters.

"It's true Barca are doing very well, but the season is very long, January is very complicated, but the team have progressed a lot in all areas, in defence, attack, physically."

"The players are starting to improve, the injured players

(will return), so we are confident for the coming months, we can get stuck into it in the second half of the season."

Earlier Saul Niguez's cool finish made the difference for Atletico Madrid as they held on to fourth place with a narrow 1-0 win at Osasuna. Out of the Champions League and Copa del Rey, and 13 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona, Champions League qualification is Atletico's key goal in the second half of the season.

The Rojiblancos were left fuming after their quarter-final cup elimination in midweek, unhappy with the refereeing, but had nothing to complain about as they snatched victory at El Sadar.

Atletico took the lead after 74 minutes against the run of play, through midfielder Saul, on as a substitute.

The Spaniard is no longer a key figure for Diego Simeone but took his chance, reaching Rodrigo De Paul's lobbed pass and finishing clinically.

Iago Aspas's goal helped Celta Vigo earn a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao, while a 90th-minute strike by Canadian debutant Cyle Larin helped Real Valladolid beat Valencia 1-0, moving a point clear of the drop zone.

10-MAN PSG



AP ■ PARIS

On-loan Arsenal striker Folarin Balogun ran through to score a remarkable 96th-minute equaliser as Reims held 10-man Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint-Germain to a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

It looked like Neymar's strike early in the second half would be enough for PSG to take all three points despite

substitute Marco Verratti being sent off shortly after that goal.

But an impressive Reims side got the draw they richly deserved when Balogun broke away to fire home right at the death.

The result sees the club coached by 30-year-old Belgian-born Englishman Will Still extend their unbeaten run to 14 games between league and cup.

They remain in mid-table

ROCKED BY REIMS

Dortmund beat Leverkusen

AP ■ DORTMUND

Borussia Dortmund surged to within three points of Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich with a 2-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen on Sunday as Sebastian Haller made his first start since undergoing treatment for testicular cancer.

Haller, making his third Dortmund appearance since returning to the team earlier this month, was crucial in both goals.

The Ivory Coast striker let the ball run through his legs for Karim Adeyemi's first-half goal, before pressuring Leverkusen's Edmond Tapsoba into an own goal in the second period.

Leverkusen started the



match by consistently finding space around Dortmund's centre-backs as teenage midfel-

der Florian Wirtz, just back from an ACL tear, pulled the strings.

A third successive win for Dortmund to start the new year sent them up to fourth, while Leverkusen dropped to ninth after seeing their five-match winning run snapped.

Meanwhile, Schalke remain stranded at the bottom of the table after a dour 0-0 draw at home against Cologne.

One of German football's traditional heavyweights, Schalke are six points from safety having won just twice on their return to the Bundesliga this season.

They have lost 11 of their past 13 matches in all competitions.

last-16 tie against Bayern Munich now little over two weeks away.

"Overall we obviously can't be satisfied with our performance. It is not a question of being worried but we need to get back to winning ways quickly and play much more as a team than we are at the moment," coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster Amazon Prime.

"To concede a goal after 95

minutes with the number of experienced players we have -- it is damaging for us in terms of the points dropped but it is also very surprising."

Galtier fielded Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, and Neymar all together in his starting line-up for the first time since the World Cup as PSG took to the field wearing their fourth kit with players' names in Mandarin to mark the Lunar New Year.

Kyiv calls IOC 'promoter of war' Simeone fires Napoli past Roma

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian Presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak on Monday called the International Olympic Committee (IOC) a "promoter of war" after the sports body said it was considering ways for Russian athletes to compete.

"(The) IOC is a promoter of war, murder and destruction. The IOC watches with pleasure Russia destroying Ukraine and then offers Russia a platform to promote genocide and encourages their further killings," Podolyak said on Twitter.

"Obviously Russian money that buys Olympic hypocrisy doesn't have a smell of Ukrainian blood. Right, Mr. Bach?" he added referring to IOC president Thomas Bach.

The IOC has faced a backlash from Ukraine after it said last week it was looking into a



"pathway" for Russians to take part, including as neutral athletes. Russia and its ally Belarus have been sidelined from most Olympic sports since Russian forces invaded Ukraine last February.

Ukraine's President Volod-

myr Zelensky said Sunday Russia's participation in the 2024 Paris Olympics would amount to showing that "terror can allegedly be something acceptable".

As if it is possible to turn a blind eye to what Russia is

doing to Kherson, to Kharkiv, to Bakhmut and Avdiivka," Zelensky said in his nightly address, referring to cities under constant Russian attacks.

Zelensky added that he sent a letter to President Emmanuel Macron on the matter following a phone call with the French leader last week.

"We must be sure that Russia will not be able to use it (the Olympics) or any other international sporting event to promote aggression or its state chauvinism," he said.

Ukraine's Sports Minister Vadym Goutzeit has warned his country could boycott the summer Olympics next year if Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to take part.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on Thursday offered Russian and Belarusian athletes the chance to compete in this year's Asian Games.

AP ■ NAPLES

Giovanni Simeone ensured Napoli continued their march towards a first Serie A title in over three decades with the decisive goal in a 2-1 win over Roma which pushed his team 13 points clear of the chasing pack.

Substitute Simeone rifled home a wonderful finish at the end of a long passing move with four minutes remaining at the bouncing Stadio Maradona to see off a spirited Roma team who thought they had escaped with a point when Stephan El Shaarawy levelled in the 75th minute.

However Luciano Spalletti's side are now 13 points clear of Inter Milan, the closest challengers after champions AC Milan were humbled 5-2 by Sassuolo to leave their title defence in tatters.

Home fans hoping for an end to their 33-year wait for the Scudetto let out a powerful roar of joy and relief at the final whistle after coming through a hard-fought contest with fierce rivals Roma thanks to Simeone's fifth goal after coming off the bench this season.



"I tried to give everything I had. I did the best thing possible today which was get the winner. I am so happy," said Simeone. Roma can consider themselves unfor-

tunate to leave Naples with nothing after impressing despite the backroom drama involving want-away star Nicolò Zaniolo poisoning their pre-match preparation.

Jose Mourinho's team sit sixth, a point behind the Champions League positions and Milan who have been dumped down to fifth following their humiliating defeat and Lazio's 1-1 draw with Fiorentina.

"There are some matches where you lose but come away feeling better about the team. That's my feeling today," said Mourinho to DAZN.

"Sometimes football is unfair. Sometimes the team who deserves more loses."

Victor Osimhen was Napoli's other scorer, almost bringing the house down in the 17th minute when he brilliantly chested down Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's cross, took another touch with his thigh before lashing in without the ball touching the floor.

His 14th league strike of the season and a blistering opener to an enthralling encounter which ended with Napoli taking yet another step towards glory.

U-19 T20 WC TRIUMPH IS JUST THE BEGINNING: SHAFALI



PTI ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

Not content with the U-19 T20 World Cup triumph, batting sensation Shafali Verma has already set her sights on replicating the success with the senior women's team in less than two weeks' time.

She will get her chance when the Women's T20 World Cup gets underway from February 10 in South Africa, the same country where the country just won the inaugural U-19 world tournament.

Shafali, 19, has already established herself in India's senior side and wants to make the visit to South Africa even more memorable with another silverware.

"No, the big one also," Shafali said when asked if the U-19 trophy was the only one she was hoping to take back from South Africa.

"I am someone who focuses on task at hand. When I entered the Under-19s, I only focused on win-

ning the Under-19 Cup and we have won that today (Sunday).

"I will look to take this winning confidence with me and win the senior World Cup. I will try and forget this and get involved with the senior setup and gel with the team and win the World Cup," she was quoted as saying by the ICC.

India on Sunday won their maiden ICC title in women's cricket as a bunch of supremely talented teenagers lifted the inaugural U-19 World Cup with a seven-wicket victory over England.

The Shafali-led India squad managed to do what their seniors could not by clearing the final hurdle in a global event.

India first bundled out England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy.

Shafali was part of India's squad that fell at the final hurdle at the 2020

T20 World Cup, when Australia defeated the side by 85 runs in front of more than 85,000 fans at the MCG.

She said she still feels the pain from the loss.

"Melbourne was a very emotional day for me in that final game, we didn't win the game," Shafali recalled.

"When I joined the Under-19 team, I'm just thinking, 'you know, we have to win this Cup.' I'm just telling all the girls, 'We have to win this Cup, we are here for the Cup.'"

"We had lost the World Cup and it was tears of sadness. Today, they were tears of happiness because we achieved what we came here for.

"I tried controlling it but it couldn't happen. I will look at this as a big achievement and look to use this to learn something more. I will try to score more runs for India and am not going to be satisfied with this Cup. This is just the beginning."

TEAM OF THE TOURNEY

India's trophy-winning captain Shweta Sehrawat and leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra have been included in the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup team of the tournament.

Shafali was at her destructive best with the bat and her tactical best as captain throughout the tournament. She would have liked to be more consistent with the bat but the rate at which her runs came (at 193.25) made up for it. She was the third-highest run-getter in the tournament with 172 runs. Shafali also chipped in with handy overs, scalping four wickets in seven games at an economy rate of just 5.04.

Shweta shone the brightest as the Indian vice-captain started the tournament with a classy 92 not out against South Africa, setting the tone for the rest of the tournament. She eventually finished as the highest run-scorer in the tournament with

297 runs at an average of 99 and a strike rate of 139.43. Parshavi had a slow start to the tournament, picking up only two wickets in India's first three games. However, she made up for it at the business end of the tournament and finished as the second-highest wicket-taker with 11 wickets in six games.

The team of the tournament has England captain Grace Scrivens appointed as skipper, who also took the Player of the Tournament award, and is joined by compatriots, leg-spinner Hannah Baker and seam bowler Ellie Anderson.

Others who make up the team of the tournament are New Zealand batter Georgia Plimmer, Sri Lanka all-rounder Dewmi Vihanga, Bangladesh's big-hitting batter Shorna Akter, South Africa wicket-keeper Karabo Meso, Australia's pace bowler Maggie Clark and Pakistan's left-arm spinner Anosha Nasir, who is slotted in as 12th man.

I see three to four members of Women's U-19 WC squad graduating to highest level: Mithali



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India great Mithali Raj sees at least three to four members of the triumphant Women's U-19 T20 World Cup squad graduating to the senior level and potentially playing a key role in the ODI World Cup at home in 2025.

Leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, opener Shweta Sehrawat, pacer Titas Sadhu, off-break bowler Archana Devi and left-arm spinner Mannat Kashyap were among the standout performers of the U-19 side that outplayed England in the final in Potchefstroom on Sunday. Mithali, who was invited by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to interact with the cricketers ahead of the inaugural edition, feels women's cricket has finally got a platform from where the players can be fast-tracked or groomed for the future.

"The spinners and seamers have been very impressive and in both the departments we need improvement at the senior level. It's always good to have more options and build a solid pool of players.

"When you compare to the highest level, there is obviously bit of difference in terms of standards, technique and temperament at the U-19 level.

"We will have to work on them. And from what I saw in South Africa, they are really good," Mithali, who called time on a 23-year-old illustrious international career last year, said. The leading run-getter in

women's ODI cricket said the NCA in Bengaluru prepared the team well for the first ever global age-group event.

Going forward, she wants all the squad members of the victorious outfit to toil on the domestic circuit while the three or four who are ready for the higher level can be slowly drafted into the national side.

"Playing domestic cricket is very important for them and should not be neglected. WPL will also get them the required exposure.

"The next ODI World Cup is at home and we have not won a global event yet at the senior level. I am sure the BCCI is prioritising that and will keep these players in the mix," said the champion batter.

With the talent pool not as big as men's cricket, the probability of the women's U-19 players reaching international cricket increases significantly. On an average, one or two from the Men's U-19 World Cup go on to play for India but Mithali feels the number should be higher in women's cricket.

She also fondly recalled her interactions with the Shafali Verma-led squad before the start of the tournament in South Africa. "It was not much of a technical conversation. It was more about the preparation and they had lots of questions on that. Things like how to prepare because these girls are very young and there is a lot of difference in team training and personal training. I spoke about how to make the transition.

"They are very keen learners and because of the level they are at, they are very energetic as well," she said.

Mithali was also all praise for Women's U-19 head coach Nooshin Al Khadeer.

"She has worked tirelessly with this bunch of cricketers and deserves all the credit. She has done well in all her assignments whether it is with the Railways in domestic cricket and now at the India U-19 level."

Asked if Nooshin is ready to coach the senior India team, Mithali replied in the affirmative.

"Yes, of course."

Curator is right person to answer that question: Mhambrey on Ekana pitch



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey said the curator is the "right person" to describe the track prepared for the second T20I against New Zealand here.

India skipper Hardik Pandya on Sunday slammed the standard of pitches used in the ongoing series against New Zealand and called the pitch at the Ekana Cricket Stadium a "shocker".

The ball turned in the first T20I in Ranchi and it was no different on Sunday when New

Zealand were restricted to 99 for eight. India chased down the target with only one ball to spare.

"The curator is the right person to answer that question (on pitch). But definitely we knew it would be a big challenge and luckily we controlled the game.

"Anything in the range of 120-130 would have been really challenging. We did well to restrict them to 99 and it was an achievable target," Mhambrey said at the post-match press conference.

Mhambrey further said the

wicket looked challenging from the outset.

"When we saw the wicket, we realised it was on the drier side. There was a little grass covering on the middle, but there was none on both ends. When we came yesterday, it looked like it would turn and we realised it would be challenging," he said.

The former Mumbai seamer lauded the bowlers for doing a fine job in the second match.

India left out tearaway pacer Umran Malik for an extra spinner in Yuzvendra Chahal, who bagged figures of 2-1-4-1.

The other three spinners in Washington, Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, and Deepak Hooda also took one wicket each while bowling economically.

He said Chahal bowled in the powerplay as a right-hander was batting during that phase of the game on a turning wicket.

"Chahal was included because we felt an additional spinner would help us. It really did as he bowled well for us.

"You take decisions on the basis of surface and instincts. Hardik possibly felt that a leg-spinner would help in that situation since a right-hander was batting and it was turning. Possibly that is why he bowled in the powerplay," Mhambrey said.

Satwik-Chirag pull out of Thailand Open

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Commonwealth Games champion Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will miss the Thailand Open Super 300 badminton tournament after the former failed to completely recover from his hip injury suffered recently.

Satwik had sustained the injury during the India Open Super 750 tournament earlier in the month and was forced to withdraw midway from the tournament in New Delhi.

"It hasn't healed yet, so won't be playing Thailand," Chirag, one half of the world number six pair, said.

"Mostly we are targeting All England Championship now," he added.

The top seeded Indian duo, who reached the semifinals of the season-opening Malaysia Open super 1000, was scheduled to face Chinese Taipei's Su Ching Heng and Ye Hong Wei in the opening round.

The \$210,000 tournament, in fact, lost a bit of sheen with many Indian shuttlers, including former number 1 Saina Nehwal and Malvika Bansod, also pulling out of the event.

While Saina was supposed to face Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt, Bansod was scheduled to open against top seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon.



With the duo pulling out, Anupama Upadhyaya and Ashmita Chaliha are the only two women in singles event but they will face-off in an all-Indian opener.

In men's doubles, world No. 34 Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud

competing in men's singles.

While former Singapore Open champion Praneeth, who has slumped to world No. 51, will face an uphill task against second seed Lu Guang Zu of China, Sameer Verma, who is also on a comeback trail after recovering from injury, meets another Chinese in six seed Li Shi Feng.

Priyanshu Rajawat, who had reached the main draw at Indonesia Masters last week, will square off against Heo Kwang Hee of Korea, Odisha Open champion Kiran George is pitted against Chinese Taipei's Chia Hao Lee and Orleans Masters runners-up Mithun Manjunath will cross sword with fifth seed Japanese Kenta Nishimoto.

In women's doubles, Commonwealth Games bronze medalist pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will fight it out against Japan's Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto but new pairing of Shruti Mishra and N Sikki Reddy pulled out.

Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa will face China's Tan Ning and Xia Yu Ting, while Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker too are in the competition.

In mixed doubles, B Sumeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa and eighth seed Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha are also in the fray.

Panjala also decided to give it a miss, leaving Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sai Pratheek K, and PS Ravikrishna and Sankar Prasad Udayakumar in the fray now.

However, India will have a host of players, led by Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth,

Harmanpreet joins Puma India as brand ambassador

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's cricket team Captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been roped in by sports brand PUMA India as its latest brand ambassador.

As part of the partnership terms, Harmanpreet will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories through multiple activities and campaigns throughout the year.

"Not many know that I hit my first ODI century in 2013 in a pair of PUMA boots that I received as a token of support in my early years by the brand," Harmanpreet said.

"Exactly a decade now and I have been roped in as the face of PUMA. I am thrilled to join the biggest sports brand in the country with a star-studded roster."

Harmanpreet thus joins PUMA's illustrious roster, which includes batting legend Virat Kohli, champion sprinter Usain Bolt, football stars Neymar Jr and Sunil Chhetri, celebrated boxer MC Mary Kom, cricketer Harleen Deol and para-shooter Avani Lekhara.

"This is just the beginning and I am sure this association will encourage a lot of women who dream to make a career in cricket. I look forward to an exciting journey ahead," Harmanpreet said.

Mooney, Smith claim top honours in 2023 Aus Awards

IAN S ■ MELBOURNE

Batters Beth Mooney and Steve Smith capped their prolific years with the bat to bag top honours at the Australian Cricket Awards held in Sydney on Monday. Beth claimed her second Belinda Clark Award, following a season where across three formats she amassed 976 runs at an average of 65.1 and a strike rate of 102.6.

Beth, the 29-year-old left-handed opener, also took out the Women's ODI Player of the Year, which included Australia's 2022 Women's ODI World Cup triumph in New Zealand, where she scored an unbeaten 62 off 47 balls in the final. In the final Belinda Clark Medal tally, she got 129 votes, ahead

of runner-up Meg Lanning (110) and Tahlia McGrath (95) in third place.

Smith joined Michael Clarke and Ricky Ponting as the only players to win the Allan Border Medal four times, following a season in which the 33-year-old scored 1547 runs in 32 matches across all three formats at an average of 55.3.

More than half of the runs scored by Smith were in the Test arena, where he amassed 863 at an average of 71.92. In the final Allan Border Medal tally, Smith (171 votes) outpolled Travis Head (144 votes) and David Warner (141 votes).

Tahlia was voted the Women's T20I Player of the Year after an incredible 12 months in the shortest format. She averaged 62.14 with the bat



and just 12.84 with the ball across the voting period, in which the Australian team lost only one match.

Usman Khawaja took out the Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year Award, following an incredible return to

the Australian team. Khawaja scored 1020 runs in the voting period at an average of 78.46, hitting three centuries.

In addition to being the leading run-scorer in men's Test Cricket for Australia in 2022, Khawaja's off-field con-

tributions also earned him recognition with the Community Impact Award. The Australian opener's Usman Khawaja Foundation helps young people from disadvantaged communities by providing educational and cricketing opportunities.

Warner claimed his third Men's ODI Player of the Year, after scoring 552 runs at the top of the order at an average of 42.5, making four half-centuries and one hundred in 13 matches.

Marcus Stoinis took out the Men's T20 International Player of the Year for the first time, with the all-rounder striking at an incredible 168.5 within the voting period. In addition to his 347 runs at an average of 31.6, Stoinis also claimed eight wickets.

Murali Vijay calls time on international career

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Out-of-favour India player Murali Vijay on Monday announced he was retiring from international cricket.

The right-handed batter who featured in 61 Tests, 17 ODIs and nine T20 Internationals last played for the country in the Perth Test against Australia in December 2018. His Test debut was against Australia in the 2008-09 season at Nagpur as a replacement for Gautam Gambhir. He featured in first-class and List A cricket for Tamil Nadu late in 2019. As far as professional cricket is concerned, he last turned out for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League in 2020.



"Today, with immense gratitude and humility, I announce my retirement from all forms of international cricket," Vijay said in a statement on Twitter.

In 61 Tests, Vijay scored 3982 runs at an average of 38.28 with a highest score of 167. He hit 12 hundreds and 15 half-centuries. In 17 ODIs, he made 339 runs and in seven T20Is, he got 169 runs.

In the IPL, he shone for CSK and the runs he scored turned the attention on him. In the 2010 season, Vijay scored 458 runs for the Super Kings with a century and two fifties, including a blistering 127 against Rajasthan Royals in Chennai, which brought him into the national reckoning.