

## CITY 3

TEAM YOGI ATTRACTS INVESTMENT  
PROPOSALS WORTH RS 9,000 CRORE

## OPINION 6

RESETTING INDIA  
EGYPT RELATIONS

## WORLD 9

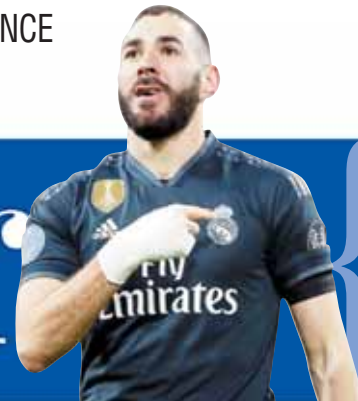
JERUSALEM, WEST BANK ON EDGE  
AFTER OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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REAL BEAT  
ATLETICO IN  
COPA DEL REY  
11 SPORTAdani-sparked bloodbath  
continues; ₹10 L cr lostSensex closes lowest  
in past three months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

Adani group stocks opened

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

Shares of Adani Total Gas plummeted 20 per cent, Adani Transmission tumbled 19.99 per cent, Adani Green Energy plunged 19.99 per cent and Adani Enterprises tanked 18.52

per cent on the BSE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"India has always been a



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

PTI

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

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

Ratle Hydroelectric Projects.

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ BANIHAL



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

PTI

celebrations.

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

was suspended.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

loads within minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

two pairs of cheetah brothers would be kept.

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

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Yogi considered  
best CM of  
country

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is way ahead of his counterparts from other states in popularity and is considered the best chief minister in the country, a latest study has revealed.

According to the Mood of the Nation survey, 39.1 per cent respondents consider Yogi Adityanath as the best performing chief minister in the country while with 16 per cent and 7.3 per cent votes respectively, the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, are the remote second and third choices of people in terms of performance.

The survey was conducted in 30 states.

A private news channel and C Voters have conducted

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Capt may get  
Maha Guv role

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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

Punjab BJP president

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Modi gave this tip to what



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

PTI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Building cave-in: Woman's body found, toll reaches 3

## SP MLA's cousin held, hunt on for another accused

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the recovery of a 42-year-old woman's body on Thursday from under the debris of the five-storey Alaya residential apartment, which came crashing down on Tuesday evening, the death toll reached three. She was identified as Shabana, who resided in floor number 2. She worked as a school teacher in Unnao. Commissioner of Police, Lucknow, SB Shiradkar said with the recovery of Shabana's body, all the victims trapped under the rubble of the ill-fated building had been traced.

Of all the 17 victims, 14 were rescued with minor injuries while three of them died. "Our team is still working in tandem with other civil administration agencies to clear the rubble. An ACP-rank officer has been deployed to ensure that belongings of the residents are handed over to them. A box has been made for each family and all the valuables, and cash are being deposited in them separately. As and when the families claim their belongings, they will be handed over the same," he said.

Meanwhile, a police spokesman said that another



With the recovery of the 42-year-old woman's body, all the victims trapped under the rubble of the ill-fated building have been traced even as teams are still working to remove the debris

Pioneer

accused, Mohammed Tariq, named in the FIR was arrested from Hazratganj on Friday. The police said Tariq is the cousin of SP MLA Shahid Manzoor. She added that Tariq's was the second arrest after Nawazish Shahid.

Tariq has been booked under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 308 (attempt to culpable homicide), 420 (fraud), 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC and Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The FIR was registered at the Hazratganj police station on Wednesday against Alaya apartment builder Nawazish Shahid, who is the son of SP MLA Shahid Manzoor, his cousin Mohammed Tariq and Fahad Yazdani.

"Prima facie, the three accused were the partners in construction of the apartment. A manhunt is on for the third accused," the deputy commissioner of police said.

The other two who died included Uzma Haider (35)

and Begum Haider (75). Uzma was the wife while Begum Haider was the mother of Samajwadi Party spokesperson Abbas Haider. The two women remained trapped under the debris for over 15 hours before being rescued alive. However, they died during treatment at the Civil Hospital. The SP leader's 6-year-old son Mustafa and father Amir Haider (87) — a senior Congress leader — were among the 14 who were rescued on the fateful day.

# Solver, CTET candidate land in STF net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of STF claimed to have nabbed a solver and an examinee of Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) from an exam centre in Lucknow on Thursday. Those arrested were identified as Shubham Yadav (examinee) of Jaunpur and Manish Kumar Kharwar (solver) of Bhahuwa in Kaimur district, Bihar. Kharwar was allegedly taking the exam on behalf of Shubham Yadav.

The STF team recovered

three counterfeit Aadhaar cards, one PAN card, two mobile phones and Rs 650 in cash. The accused were arrested from Sultan Foundation, an exam centre, in Banthra.

As per reports, the STF was working on gangs involved in rigging exams conducted for recruitment in different government departments.

On January 25, the STF team was informed that a solver would appear for CTET at the Sultan Foundation in Banthra on January 25. The

team laid a trap there and arrested Kharwar and Yadav.

Manish reportedly disclosed that he was preparing for civil services while staying in Kankarbagh (Patna) in 2016 and was looking for a part-time job. In the meantime, he met Rajeev and Surendra who offered them money to take an exam for another candidate.

Rajeev and Surendra were said to have been running a gang of solvers who would forge and tamper with the admit cards of candidates to go about their business.

Manish was offered Rs 15,000 for working as a solver and he lapped up the offer in 2019. He further confessed that he had earlier appeared as a solver for CTET (2022) in Ranchi, Lucknow and Kanpur. He said he had come to Lucknow by Patna-Kota train to appear for the exam on behalf of Shubham Yadav. He added that Rajeev and Surendra had given him a travel ticket (to and fro), an Aadhaar card in the name of Shubham Yadav and Rs 10,000 in cash.

# Government to provide jobs to talented sportspersons: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that taking inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to encourage athletes and promote sports in the country, Uttar Pradesh had made significant efforts to foster sports culture. "UP is the only state which honoured all the athletes who won medals and made the country proud," he said.

Addressing the sports talents felicitation ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow on the occasion of 74th Republic Day in the presence of Governor Anandiben Patel, Yogi Adityanath said, "The state drew inspiration from the prime minister's encouragement and support to the sports fraternity and adopted a similar approach. Our government is leaving no stone unturned to provide all necessary assets to the sportspersons to promote sports activities for them to shine nationally and internationally."

The chief minister said that the process of reserving land for sports grounds through conversion in every village, construction of open gyms, mini stadiums at the block level, and sta-

diums at the district level was going on at a war footing.

He added: "The government is working dedicatedly to provide government jobs to the talented sportspersons of the state. Two players (Lalit Upadhyay and Vijay Yadav) were given appointment letters as gazetted officers. Soon, many other players will also be benefitted." Yogi also said that the construction of the state's first sports university in the name of Major Dhyanchand was under way in Meerut.

The chief minister said that his government was giving encouragement to players through provision of Rs 6 crore for winning gold in a single game in the Olympics, Rs 4 crore for silver medal and Rs 2 crore for winning bronze medal. "In team games, Rs 3 crore is given for winning a gold medal, Rs 2 crore for silver medal and Rs 1 crore are given to the players who win bronze medal," he said.

Similarly, the government gives a monetary reward of Rs 3 crore for gold, Rs 1.5 crore for silver and Rs 75 lakh for winning bronze in the Asian Games and Rs 1.5 crore for winning a gold medal, Rs 75

lakh for silver and Rs 50 lakh for bronze in the Commonwealth Games and World Cup championships. In addition, Rs 10-10 lakhs are given to the players participating in the Olympics and Rs 5-5 lakhs in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games categories. Out of the 14 state players, four each won silver and bronze medals in the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham (England) while in the 36th National Games held in Gujarat, UP players brought laurels by winning 20 gold, 18 silver and 18 bronze medals in 18 sports events.

On the occasion, Governor Anandiben Patel said: "It is a pleasure to honour the sportspersons on the auspicious day of Basant Panchami. Defeats should not disappoint sportspersons and victories should not overwhelm you. For attaining success in any field, the most important thing is to remain disciplined."

The governor said that when the prime minister had come to lay the foundation stone of the sports university in Meerut, he had discussed with the players that they should teach the primary-secondary

schoolchildren from where they come from.

"Your talent should reach the people around you. You will benefit more than they will benefit. One player should prepare 10 players", she said.

On this occasion, Minister of State for Sports and Youth Welfare (Independent Charge) Girish Chand Yadav, Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, Additional Chief Secretary (Sports) Navneet Sehgal, were present.

## CWG MEDAL WINNERS WHO WERE HONOURED

► Divya Kakran of Muzaffarnagar (bronze /wrestling): Rs 50 lakh.

► Sarita Romit Singh (participant/athletics): Rs 5 lakh Poonam Yadav (Participant/weightlifting): Rs 5 Lakh

► Poornima Pandey (Participant/weightlifting): Rs 5 lakh

► Rohit Yadav (participant/athletics): Rs 5 lakh

► Vishwanath Yadav (participant/triathlon): Rs 5 lakh

The medal winners of the 36th National Games held in Gujarat were also honoured.

# Yogi for restoration of desecrated religious places

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday urged people to run a campaign to restore desecrated religious places on the lines of Ram temple in Ayodhya, saying that Sanatan Dharma was the national religion of India which every citizen must respect.

Participating in a restoration and restoration and consecration of idol ceremony at Neelkanth Mahadev temple located in Bhinnmal, Jalore, Rajasthan, Yogi said: "We all must rise above our personal selfishness and join this country religion so that our country is safe, our values are restored and cows are protected."

"This enthusiasm of all of you towards religion gives us a new inspiration to discharge our tasks by following the path

of religion with full strength," he added. During the programme, Chief Minister Yogi along with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also planted Rudraksh tree.

Chief Minister Yogi further remarked: "If our religious places have been desecrated during any period, then a campaign for their restoration must be launched on the lines of Ayodhya where the construction of a grand temple of Lord Ram is going on after 500 years with the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "All of you devotees contributed to the construction of this grand national temple of Lord Ram, representing national sentiment," he said.

He said that this 1,400 years old holy place of Lord Neelkanth established by Nagabhatta overwhelms every-

one. "I just had the privilege of garlanding the statue of the great poet Nagabhatta. I am happy that the resolution taken by Rao Mukti Singh for the last 15 years has been fulfilled today in the form of a grand temple. In this grand temple, devotees from all over the country, including the residents of Rajasthan, will have the privilege of visiting this holy shivalaya of Lord Neelkanth. Next year, the grand temple of Lord Ram will be ready. Prior to that, I have had the privilege of renovating this grand temple of Rajasthan. Now it is the responsibility of all of you to maintain the grandeur of this temple," Chief Minister Yogi said.

Yogi said that the country celebrated the 74th Republic Day of the country on Thursday. "Today, the country

is moving forward. In the Amrit Mahotsav year of Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made the entire countrymen take a pledge to have respect for their heritage and to preserve it. Restoration of Lord Neelkanth temple again after 1,400 years on a grand note is an example of respect for and protection of heritage," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi said that the land of Rajasthan was the focal point of coordination of religion, karma, devotion and power. "If you want to understand the real secrets of religion, then it is necessary to come to Rajasthan. Rajasthan created a new identity in the country and the world for the bravery of its people, and as a centre of devotion as yogis, saints and sages preferred it for their meditation," he added.

## CITYBRIEFS



Republic Day celebrations at City International School (above) and at PNB, Etawah Circle Office (below)

### REPUBLIC DAY

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated at RDSO with enthusiasm on Thursday. Director-General (RDSO) Sanjiv Bhutani unfurled the national flag and took salute from the RPF contingent. All senior officers of RDSO, employees, their family members and other special guests were present on the occasion.

Republic Day was also celebrated with patriotic fervour at City International School (Balaganj). Children took part in various programmes on the occasion and were administered oath to abide by their constitutional and fundamental duties. School's director Shahab Haider unfurled the national flag and urged children to become ideal citizens. The children danced to the tunes of patriotic songs and also recited poems.

Republic Day was also celebrated with patriotic fervour at Universal City Convent School in Sarojini Nagar on Thursday. The programme was inaugurated by school's director Umakant Chaudhary who unfurled the tricolour along with teachers. Chaudhary said Republic Day gives us the message of love for the country and patriotism.

Republic Day was also celebrated in the premises of the Lucknow transit campus of NIPER, Rae Bareilly on Thursday. The event com-



menced with the unfurling of the national flag by director Prof Shubhini A Saraf, who lauded the uniqueness of the Constitution and the valuable contribution of freedom fighters. She called upon everyone to ensure no gender biases in thought, word or action.

The Lucknow Public Collegiate also celebrated Republic Day with patriotic fervour. The celebrations began with a welcome address by college captain. Joint director/principal Jawaid Alam Khan unfurled the national flag. An 'Inter-House Speech Choir Competition' was organised on the occasion in which the students presented melodious poems. Several other programmes were organised on the occasion.

National flag was unfurled at Punjab National Bank, Etawah Circle Office, on the occasion of Republic Day. Circle head Syed Athar Hussain Kazmi unfurled the tricolour and highlighted the importance of Republic Day and

Constitution. He also discussed the need and importance of nationalised banks in development of the society and the country.

### CMS TABLEAU

City Montessori School won the first prize for its unique tableau at the Republic Day Parade this year. It was based on 'Sarv Dharma Sambhav' with the title 'Ishwar Allah Wahe Guru, Chahe Kaho Shri Ram, Sabka Maalik Ek Hai, Alag Alag Hain Naam.' The tableau spread the message of love, unity, respect and harmony for all the religions and highlighted the spirit of unity in diversity and 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam'. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi congratulated all the students, teachers and workers for their combined efforts.

### PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA

To keep the students of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, stress-free and confident during their examinations, the school arranged for the live telecast of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'. Thousands of students were present on the occasion. The chief guest was BJP UP president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary who encouraged the students. MLC Mukesh Sharma was the guest of honour. Chaudhary asked the students to listen to the prime minister carefully and follow his suggestions.

# 4-year-old girl killed, two injured as six houses collapse in Agra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A four-year-old girl was killed and two others were injured as six houses collapsed in Agra due to excavation work in a nearby inn, police said on Thursday. The incident comes two days after a multi-storey building collapsed killing three and injuring over a dozen people in Lucknow.

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

the Dhulia Ganj area where six houses collapsed during the excavation work. "Our officials are present on the spot," the DGP said. The injured were admitted to a hospital, he said.

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

"The six houses collapsed outside the city station located at Dhuliaganj under Hariparwat police station where the excavation work of an inn (dharamshala) was going on. Three people of a

family were buried, and all have been rescued and taken to the hospital," ADM Singh said earlier.

Meanwhile, three people from Gujarat were killed and as many were injured when their car was hit by a vehicle on Lucknow-Kanpur Highway in the Unnao district, police said on Friday. The incident occurred at around 5 am on Friday morning near Kanodia petrol pump in Achalganj police station area, they said, adding that all the deceased were members of the same family with one being the father, other two his son and grandson.

# 11 teachers of primary schools feted


**Lucknow (PNS):** On the occasion of Basant Panchami, social organisation Bondhu Mahal felicitated 11 teachers of state-run primary schools for excelling at the ground level in expanding the light of knowledge among students in villages. Information Commissioner Narendra Srivastava and Additional Commissioner (Industries) Atal Rai were the chief guests while Maithlisharan ward corporator Dilip Srivastava was also present on the occasion.

"Convent and private schools always remain in the limelight because of their approach and access to the media whereas efforts of government teachers, who are the foot soldiers of primary education, go unrecognised," Srivastava said. Atal Rai, in his speech, said it is commendable that this social organisation is honouring the unsung heroes of the Education department.

Convener Sudhir Sehgal said that the selec-



tion of teachers was carried out in a transparent manner after evaluating their work. "Bondhu Mahal helps students every year and even sponsors their education. It also honours teachers for their work," he said. The teachers who were felicitated included Archana Mishra, Upma, Renu Singh, Ruhi Siddiqui, Renuka Yadav, Jaidevi, Rajshri Mahajan, Chandrakanta, Amita Sachan, Kiran, and Archana Mishra-II.



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
E-mail : [ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) – 09/ 2022 – 23**

The tender invited for the work :- Construction of ROB on Jagatsinghpur – Jaipur road in Lieu of L.C No. CP-29 (Chhapada) at road Ch.10.848km on Cuttack – Paradeep Railway Main line in the District of Jagatsinghpur under State Plan, Tender ID No.2022\_EICCL\_78844\_1 is hereby cancelled as per Government in Works Department, Odisha letter No.844 dt.17.01.2023.

**Chief Engineer**  
**World Bank Project, Odisha**

OIPR-34003/11/0067/2223

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# 60 lakh kids admitted to basic schools in 6 years

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, said that as many as 60 lakh new students had been admitted to the Basic Education Council (BEC) schools in the last six years, praising 'Operation Kayakalp' for the betterment of the council schools.

Interacting with school-children during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular annual dialogue programme 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', the chief minister said that before 2017, children were forced to come to schools barefoot while today they were coming to school in proper uniforms, carrying schoolbags containing all necessary items.

With public participation and inter-departmental coordination, infrastructure facilities have increased in the Basic Education Council schools while the curriculum has also improved leading to significant increase in the number of students getting enrolled, Chief Minister Yogi pointed out.

The chief minister said that innovative efforts like 'Skilled India Mission' would give momentum to the campaign to bring about further change in the educational scenario of the state. It is worth mentioning here that elaborate arrangements have been made to connect schoolchildren in all the districts of the state with the programme of the prime minister.

The chief minister was present along with the children in the programme organised at



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Interacting with schoolchildren during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme in Lucknow on Friday

Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey UP Sainik School, Lucknow.

The chief minister said that Captain Manoj Pandey UP Sainik School was the first Sainik School in the country after which a chain of such schools were opened in the country, and added that Uttar Pradesh would have five new Sainik Schools by next year.

Addressing the school management and parents of children going to take the Class 10 and Class 12 examination, the chief minister said that children should not be unduly pressurised to score better marks as it could have a damaging impact on them. "They should be encouraged for a healthy competition, but they should not be pressured for marks. Often, due to the stress arising out of the pressure, the children are unable to perform normally during the examination", the chief minister remarked.

On the special occasion, the chief minister also honoured the meritorious students who secured excellent positions at state and national levels in the high school and intermediate board examinations in 2021-22. A total of 1,698 meritorious students, including 825 boys and 873 girls, from various secondary boards were rewarded with Rs 1 lakh, tablets, citations and copies of the book 'Exam Warriors' authored by Prime Minister Modi.

Appreciating the talents of the meritorious students, the chief minister said that the recent results of various examinations had shown the creativity of the girls. The state government was paying special attention to the education of the girl child, the chief minister said, pointing out that the government had made provision for making education free of cost for them till graduation so that they become self-dependent. Chief Minister Yogi mentioned in this context the encouragement given to the girls under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana.

An exhibition of various models related to science was also organised by the students of basic and secondary education at the venue. The chief minister visited the exhibition and took information from the students about their models.

Meanwhile, Vidya Samiksha Kendra was inaugurated by the chief minister, as an addition to the series of initiatives in the field of systematic education at the Mid Day Meal Authority office. It is a 60-seater call centre with 18 screens, through which the dashboard is displayed using artificial intelligence. Under this Mid Day Meal Module, rejuvenation module, inspiration quality module, inspection

module, skilled assessment test module, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya module and activity module are operated. Quarterly skill assessment test will be conducted for all the students through Saral app while the report cards will be sent to all the students and parents after analysing the data obtained from the skillful assessment test.

The data obtained from the sample and spot assessment will be studied by the DIET (District Institute for Education and Training) trainee and mentor on the Nipun Lakshya app. The data of student chatbot and teacher chatbot will also be analysed in Vidya Samiksha Kendra.

Prominent among the 149 meritorious students at the state level who were honoured by the chief minister included Prince Patel from Secondary Education Council High School, Divya from

## People's representatives join children to watch 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The live telecast of the sixth edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular programme 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' organised before the examinations was seen in the presence of public representatives by students, teachers, parents in various schools in all the six Vidhan Sabha constituencies of Lucknow in which students were encouraged to remain stress-free during the examination. Bharatiya Janata Party state president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhry participated in the programme along with students, teachers and parents at City Montessori School's Rajajipuram branch. Lucknow City BJP president Mukesh Sharma was mainly present.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak attended the function at New Montessori School in Cantonment assembly constituency, BJP state general secretary (organisation) Dharampal Singh at Christ Church College in Central assembly constituency, BJP state vice-president and MLA Noida Pankaj Singh, state general secretary Govind Narayan Shukla and Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal, at City Montessori School's main branch, MLA Neeraj Bora at Bright Land College and MLC Ramchandra Pradhan at St Mary's Convent Day Inter College in Sarojini Nagar assembly constituency.

BJP state president Bhopendra Singh asked children not to get panicky before

examination because schools and teachers had expectations from them.

"Do not take any kind of stress because exams cannot evaluate your talent. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam always wanted to become a pilot but could not score properly in the interview and failed in that test. But you know what extraordinary talent he was," he said.

"Do not allow one exam to test your talent. Believe in yourself," he added.

Party media in-charge Praveen Garg said that in various programmes, programme coordinators including Trilok Singh Adhikari, Pushkar Shukla, Ramavatar Kannaujia, Anjani Srivastava, Hemant Dayal and Ishan Sharma were also present.

## Team Yogi attracts investment proposals worth Rs 9,000 crore

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Maintaining the success streak in attracting investment to the state, Team Yogi in its eighth and last roadshow organised in Chandigarh on Friday attained investment proposals worth Rs 9,000 crore.

Team Yogi reached Chandigarh under the leadership of Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Minister of State for Agriculture Baldev Singh Aulakh and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Home Guard Dharamveer Prajapati. During their visit, Team Yogi held

business to government (B2G) meetings at Hotel Taj, as a result of which investors made numerous investment proposals. About 26 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in various sectors were signed in the roadshow.

With this investment coming on the ground, more than 20,000 employment opportunities will be created in the state.

The ministers involved in the roadshow informed attendees about the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath regarding Uttar Pradesh. Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' said that Uttar Pradesh was the largest consumer state in India

and there was availability of a large number of young and skilled labour force in the state. "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state has emerged as the 'New Uttar Pradesh of New India'," he said.

Talking about the improved connectivity in the state, Minister of State for Agriculture Baldev Singh Aulakh said that connectivity had improved due to the development of expressways and airports.

While talking about the strengthened law and order, Minister Dharamveer Prajapati said that today there was law and order in Uttar Pradesh. "The

development of infrastructure and availability of 24-hour power has created a good climate for investment," he said.

Team Yogi held B2G meetings with the investors before and after the roadshow. During this, the team was divided into two groups. Both the groups held separate meetings with the investors. Investors were informed of the new industrial policy of Uttar Pradesh and the land bank present in the state. Not only this, the investors were assured of full cooperation from the Uttar Pradesh government and that their investment would be safe and protected.

After the addresses of ministers and officials in the roadshow, people representing the business world expressed their views. In this open session, on the one hand those present asked questions, and on the other, they shared their own experiences. Prakash Kaur Ahluwalia, the first woman manager of UCO Bank, said that she had an old connection with Uttar Pradesh. Not only this, she shared her experience regarding present Uttar Pradesh and the state that was 40 years back. She highlighted the many major changes that had taken place in Uttar Pradesh, stating that UP now has rule of law.

## Padma Vibhushan to MSY to silence demand for Bharat Ratna: SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

While the announcement of Padma Vibhushan for late Mulayam Singh Yadav has set the political rumour mills buzzing about the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's outreach to the Yadav community, SP leaders accepted in private that the move was 'shrewd politics' to 'silence all voices of demands for Bharat Ratna' for 'Netaji' who was the 'face of anti-communal' politics in Uttar Pradesh, a sharp contrast to the BJP whose resurgence in the state was marked with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the Rath Yatra in 1990.

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

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

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

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

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

"This is a shrewd move by the BJP. They want to ensure that the voices for Bharat Ratna for 'Netaji' were silenced and also continue their outreach to the Yadavs who are the core voters of the SP," a former SP MLA from the Yadav community said.

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

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

According to the data from the national election study conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), while 53 per cent of the Yadavs had voted for the SP in 2014, the BJP had bagged as many as 27 per cent votes - the second highest -- from the community.

## BDC member murdered

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational killing in Bulandshahr, some unknown miscreants barged into the house of a block development committee (BDC) member late Thursday night and killed her.

The victim was alone at home at the time of the incident. Her body was found lying in a pool of blood in the house on Friday morning. The assailants killed her by hitting her on the head with some heavy object.

As soon as the incident was reported, the police and forensic team reached the spot and started investigating the case.

According to information, the son of the deceased BDC member Ramvati Devi is posted in the UP Police as a sub-inspector. The husband of the deceased woman had gone to a wedding ceremony when the incident took place. When the husband returned home late at night, the door was locked. Even after making a lot of noise, the wife did not open the door. Then somehow he entered the house and saw his wife was lying in a pool of blood. He immediately informed the police about it.

As soon as the information was received, top police officers including Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok

Kumar, Superintendent of Police (City) Surendra Nath Tiwari reached the spot and questioned some people. After taking the statement from the husband of the deceased, the body was sent for post-mortem.

The son of the deceased woman is a sub-inspector and is posted in Etawah. The police are probing the motive behind the murder and who the killers are.

SSP Shlok Kumar said that the killing took place in Raina village located in Agauta area of Bulandshahr. He said the assailant would be arrested soon. All the CCTV footage of the area is being scanned. Forensic team has collected samples from the spot.

Meanwhile, a 20-year-old son of a local journalist in Pratapgarh district was bludgeoned to death with an iron rod by unidentified men, police said.

Vishal Pandey is the son of journalist Umesh Pandey who works with a Hindi newspaper. The victim, a resident of Ror village, was allegedly hit by a car and then beaten to death with an iron rod under "suspicious circumstances" in Atarsui Badli ka Purwa village, about 50 km from the district headquarters, on Wednesday night.

Police suspect old animosity between the accused and

the victim's father as the motive behind the gruesome murder. A senior police official said that the victim's family filed a complaint and a case had been registered against seven people, including former village head, Rang Bahadur.

He said that SP Satpal Antil had suspended police station in-charge Avan Dixit for laxity in duty. The victim's body was sent for post-mortem and further investigation is going on.

Meanwhile, a teenager was attacked with a knife for allegedly objecting to a man spitting on her in Khurja region of Bulandshahr. The incident occurred when the girl was on her way to college, the police said on Friday.

A senior police officer said: "The girl, Sakshi, who was heading to polytechnic, complained that the 25-year-old accused, Sonu, spit on her and after she objected to it, he stabbed her with a knife on her face.

"We have arrested the accused and registered a case against him under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code," the police officer said.

Khurja Circle Officer Dilip Singh said the girl was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she underwent treatment and was later discharged.



**राजेश कुमार राय**  
अध्यक्ष




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**-- ई-निविदा/निविदा सूचना --**

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1	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान के सामने स्थित मीडियन पर अवशिष्ट पदार्थ (वेस्ट मैटीरियल) से कथंक मुद्राओं के सकल्यर्स लगाने का कार्य।	40.00	उद्यान 9918001695	03.02.2023
2	लखनऊ शहर में विभिन्न स्थानों पर बस स्टॉप हेतु साइनेज लगाये जाने का कार्य।	26.49	उद्यान 9918001695	03.02.2023
3	पारा के नरपत खेड़ा, प्राथमिक विद्यालय क्षेत्र में रंगाई-पुताई एवं बाउण्ड्रीवाल, पाथवे जोर्णाइजर का कार्य।	24.68	जोन-3 9918001645	10.02.2023
4	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना सेक्टर-1 में भवन सं.-1/235, बी-1/246, 1/300 व 1/348 से 1/450 तक वाटर लाइन बिछाने का कार्य।	8.46	जोन-1 9918001523	06.02.2023
5	कानपुर रोड व शहीद पथ के तिराहे पर पुलिस बूथ बनाने का कार्य।	8.45	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
6	शहीद पथ से अमीसी एयरपोर्ट/कानपुर की ओर क्षतिग्रस्त बाउण्ड्रीवाल का निर्माण एवं अवशेष बाउण्ड्री के उच्चीकरण व फुटपाथ का निर्माण कार्य।	8.45	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
7	शहीद पथ पर कारगिल विजय की प्रतिमा की स्थापना हेतु पैडस्टल का विकास कार्य।	8.45	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
8	शारदा नगर योजना के अंतर्गत ग्राम मदरूख में स्थित प्राइमरी स्कूल की रियेयर का कार्य।	8.44	जोन-2 7309555111	06.02.2023
9	अर्जुनगंज अण्डरपास के निकट शहीद पथ के पूर्व, दीवार व गिल तथा कर्व स्टोन, पेन्टिंग आदि का कार्य।	8.44	उद्यान 9918001695	03.02.2023
10	अर्जुनगंज अण्डरपास के निकट शहीद पथ के पश्चिम, दीवार व गिल तथा कर्व स्टोन, पेन्टिंग आदि का कार्य।	8.43	उद्यान 9918001695	03.02.2023
11	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना सेक्टर-4 स्थित बूथण्ड सं.-4/420 व 4/421 को एप्रोच दिये जाने के क्रम में भुइयन देवी मंदिर की बाउण्ड्री हटाकर सहमति के आधार पर कराये जाने वाले निर्माण कार्य।	8.41	जोन-1 9918001523	06.02.2023
12	शहीद पथ कानपुर रोड जंक्शन के दाहिने आई-लैण्ड पर गौतम बुद्ध की प्रतिमा स्थापना हेतु पैडस्टल एवं बायें आई-लैण्ड पर मोबाइल टावर, जन्मेटर के यूब कटर हेतु पिरापीट वॉल का निर्माण कार्य।	8.41	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
13	गोमती नगर योजना सेक्टर-4 में शहीद पथ की सर्विस रोड के समूख पैनैशिया हॉस्पिटल से बिजली ऑफिस तक ग्रीन बेल्ट की बाउण्ड्रीवाल की मरम्मत/पेन्टिंग का कार्य।	8.38	जोन-1 9918001523	06.02.2023
14	एयरपोर्ट रोडरी/चौराहे पर श्री लक्ष्मण जी की कांस्य प्रतिमा की स्थापना हेतु पैडस्टल का निर्माण कार्य।	8.37	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
15	सी.बी. सिटी योजना के अंतर्गत दक्षिणी भाग में साइनेज व डायरेक्शन बोर्ड लगाने का कार्य।	8.28	जोन-1 9918001523	03.02.2023
16	कानपुर रोड शहीद पथ जंक्शन पर शहीद पथ पर सर्विस लैन के मध्य डिवाइडर एवं आर.एच.एस. पिरापीट वॉल का निर्माण कार्य।	8.01	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
17	शहीद पथ पर कारगिल विजय प्रतिमा के पैडस्टल एवं आसपास के क्षेत्र का विकास कार्य।	7.90	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
18	एयरपोर्ट रोडरी/चौराहे पर श्री लक्ष्मण जी की कांस्य प्रतिमा स्थापना हेतु पैडस्टल, पाथ एवं फर्श पर ग्रेनाइट एवं मोजाइक टाइल्स लगाये जाने का कार्य।	7.80	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
19	एयरपोर्ट रोडरी/चौराहे पर फाउण्टेन एवं अन्य विकास कार्य।	7.25	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
20	कानपुर रोड शहीद पथ जंक्शन के पास शहीद पथ पर एल.एच.एस. में पिरापीट वॉल का निर्माण कार्य।	6.75	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
21	कानपुर रोड शहीद पथ जंक्शन पर पुलिस बूथ के पास टाइल्स रिलेइंग, टॉयलेट आदि विकास कार्य।	6.70	उद्यान 9918001695	01.02.2023
22	अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट स्टेडियम के आसपास क्षतिग्रस्त सड़क के सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	4.10	जोन-1 9918001523	03.02.2023

ई-निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई बदलाव अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना मात्र उपरोक्त दोनों वेबसाइट्स पर ही उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी, अतः इच्छुक निविदादाता नियमित रूप से उक्त दोनों वेबसाइट्स देखते रहें।

उपरोक्त क्रमांक-4 से 22 तक पर अंकित कार्य हेतु सामान्य निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिनके निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट "<http://www.lkdaonline.co.in>" से डाउनलोड किये जा सकेंगे।

**मुख्य अभियन्ता**



# DM unfurls national flag

PNS ■ KANPUR

On the occasion of 74th Republic Day Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Visakh G Iyer, unfurled the national flag at the Collectorate. He paid floral tributes at the bust of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He felicitated the kin of freedom fighters and extended his wishes to the gathering.

He said it is the duty of the current generation to uphold the values and work with dedication and patriotism for the growth and progress of the country. He appealed to the youth to emulate the great leaders who had sacrificed their lives so that India could be a free independent nation and from that the time the nation has never looked back and made rapid progress in every direction. Atul Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Satendra Kumar and several others were present

on the occasion .

**R-DAY AT KDA:** Vice-Chairman of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) Mr Arvind Singh while unfurling the tricolour at the KDA building on R-Day reminded the people of the Constitution. He said Indian Constitution was in fact a modern Constitution and philosophy that taught people which direction to move. He said it also motivates people to maintain esteem of an individual and unity and also promotes amity and brotherhood.

He said KDA was marching ahead on these principles and its staff and officials are working with full coordination and transparency. For this each person of KDA deserved praise, he added.

Later a cultural programme was held where large number of officials like Asutosh Srivastava, Dr Gundakesh Sharma, secretary, Shatrohan

Vaishya and others participated.

**TRICOLOUR UNFURLED AT CSAUA&T:** Registrar of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUA&T) Dr PK Upadhyaya, on the occasion of 74th Republic Day unfurled the tricolour. Later addressing the staff and students, Dr Upadhyaya said the varsity pays tributes to each and every person who had shed their blood and laid down their lives for the nation. He said it was due to their sacrifices that today India was independent and one of the fastest growing economies of the world. He appealed to the faculty to emphasise more on research work.

He said today the varsity was one of the finest farm universities of the country which had contributed by producing the finest crop varieties. He felicitated the NCC cadets.



Kanpur Development Authority V-C Arvind Singh paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on Republic Day and in (second picture) (right) Kanpur Nagar DM Visakh G Iyer salutes the tricolour after unfurling the flag at Collectorate on Republic Day.



# 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations at IFFCO

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated at IFFCO Ghiyanagar Phulpur. Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia hoisted the flag and the national anthem was sung. March past was done by IFFCO Security Guard and PAC

band in the monitoring of Col Dinesh Singh. PAC Band gave a beautiful performance on patriotic tunes which was led by Havaladar Manoj Singh.

Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia said in his message that IFFCO was established in 1967 whose main motto is the upliftment of farm-

ers. He said "IFFCO has developed the world's first Nano Urea, for which credit goes to Managing Director Dr Udai Shankar Awasth. IFFCO has also patented it, which means we can also transfer the technology. Phulpur unit has started production of Nano Urea from December 23, 2022 and is producing about 30,000 (500ml bottles) Nano Urea per day and till date the production is 7 Lakh (500 ml bottles). The production of Nano Urea will save Rs 1.5 lakh crore as subsidy to the Government of India, which can be used by the Central Government in other development works of the country.

He said that IFFCO Phulpur Unit has received the prestigious Platinum Award for Energy Efficiency and Gold Award for Environment Management.

A cultural program was organized on this occasion which was presented by the children of Om Bal Vidya Mandir and Kendriya Vidyalaya.

The program was conducted by Head of Department Finance and Accounts Santosh Kumar Singh.

At the end Vinita Kudesia, president of Mahila Chetna Club and other the members of Mahila Chetna Club organized an Anand Mela in

which arrangements were made for various dishes, which were enjoyed by the unit head, other dignitaries and members of the Ghiyanagar family. During this, Senior General Manager Giridhar Mishra, JGMs respectively Sanjay Vaish, M.D. Mishra, A.P.Rajendran, P.K.Singh, Sanjay Bhandari other dignitaries were present.

A large number of IFFCO Ghiyanagar family members were present in the Republic Day function.

## NAZARETH HOSPITAL CELEBRATES R-DAY

Nazareth Hospital celebrated the 74th Republic Day as per schedule scheduled at 09:00 am. The Guests of Honour for the occasion was Mr Rajesh Mishra, Dy Labour Commissioner Prayagraj, and Kunwar Pankaj Chief Revenue Officer Prayagraj.

The programme began with a Prayer led by Nazareth choir. Rev. Fr. Vipin D'Souza, Administrator of Nazareth Hospital, accorded a warm welcome to our Hon'ble Guests of Honour and Hospital Consultants and Doctors, along with the entire Nazareth Family, present.

# SPSEC celebrates Republic Day

PNS ■ KANPUR

Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre (SPSEC) celebrated the 74th Republic Day on its premises. The event commenced with the unfurling of the tricolour by principal Bhawna Gupta and was followed by the national anthem.

Addressing the teachers and students the principal highlighted the significance of the day and talked about India as a developing economy. She stressed on the need to inculcate good values to be good citizens of the nation. Her motivational speech emphasised on relevance of core values and inspired students to respect and abide by the Constitution of the motherland. She also urged the gathering to join hands in solidarity to build a cleaner, brighter, healthier and prosperous India.

The melodious rendition of the patriotic song by the school choir reminded one



SPSEC Principal Bhawna Gupta taking part in customary rituals on R-Day in the school.

and all about the great leaders of the past. The school captain delivered a motivational speech. The poem 'Vande Mataram' was recited which filled the ambience with patriotic fervour. A dance performance added to the flavour and spirit of freedom. The students took pride in glorifying and celebrating the national

event. To mark the significance of the pious festival of Basant Panchami, young Singhianians offered prayers and showed their reverence towards Goddess Saraswati in the morning. Administrative Manager, Surendra Yadav, Vice-Principal, Kavita Chadha and headmistress, Vandana Trivedi, were present.

PUBLIC NOTICE	
This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda <b>Lanka</b> Branch intends to accept the under mentioned property standing in the name of <b>M/s Salasar Balaji Food</b> , as a security for a loan/credit facility requested by one of its customers. In case anyone has got any right/ title/ interest / claims over the under-mentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim.If no response is received with 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free of any charge / claim / encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.	
Description of the Immoveable Property	
<b>1.E.M of Residential demarcated land situated at Plot No. 24, Municipal No. C-21/1-24 situated at Lajpat Nagar, Pisachmochan, Ward- Chetganj, Pargana- Dehat Amanat, Tehsil &amp; Dist-Varanasi in the name of M/s Salasar Balaji Food admeasuring 2234 Sq. Ft.</b>	
<b>2.E.M of Residential demarcated land situated at Plot No. 22, Municipal No. C-21/1-22 situated at Lajpat Nagar, Pisachmochan, Ward- Chetganj, Pargana- Dehat Amanat, Tehsil &amp; Dist-Varanasi in the name of M/s Shree Salasar Balaji Food admeasuring 1800 Sq. Ft.</b>	
<b>3.E.M of Residential demarcated land situated at Plot No. 23, Municipal No. C-21/1-23 situated at Lajpat Nagar, Pisachmochan, Ward- Chetganj, Pargana- Dehat Amanat, Tehsil &amp; Dist-Varanasi in the name of M/s Shree Salasar Balaji Food admeasuring 2372 Sq. Ft.</b>	
<b>Composite boundaries of the property : North - 30'-0" wide colony road, South - GGIC College, East- House of Plot no.21, West - Maldahiya Fatman Road</b>	
<b>Advocate: Mr. Neeraj Tripathi Contact: 9415269557</b>	

PUBLIC NOTICE	
This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda <b>Lanka</b> Branch intends to accept the under mentioned property standing in the name of <b>M/s Amritasha Hospitals And Trauma Center Private Limited</b> , as a security for a loan/credit facility requested by one of its customers. In case anyone has got any right/ title/ interest / claims over the under-mentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim.If no response is received with 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free of any charge / claim / encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.	
Description of the Immoveable Property	
<b>1.E.M of property admeasuring 347.45 Sq Mtr. situated at Arazi No 99/2, Mauza- Bharlai, Ward &amp; Pargana- Shivpur, Tehsil and District Varanasi in the name of Dr. Abhishek Gupta. Boundaries as per sale deed : East - Land of Anil &amp; Others, West - Land of Second Party &amp; Balkrishna, North - Pakki Road, South - Land of Second Party.</b>	
<b>2.E.M of property admeasuring 1360 Sq Ft situated at Arazi No 100/1, Mauza- Bharlai , Ward &amp; Pargana- Shivpur, Tehsil &amp; District Varanasi in the name of Mr. Abhishek Gupta Boundaries as per sale deed : East- Part of Arazi, , West- Land of First Party, North-Pakki Road. South - Land of Amritasha Hospital</b>	
<b>3.E.M of Property admeasuring 536.98 Sq Mtr. situated at Arazi No 99/2, Mauza- Bharlai. Ward &amp; Pargana - Shivpur, District Varanasi in the name of M/s Amritasha Hospitals &amp; Trauma Center Pvt Ltd. Boundaries as per sale deed : East - Land of Anil &amp; Others, West-Land of Ramlochan &amp; Others, North-Land of Rakesh Kumar Gupta, South - Part of seller</b>	
<b>4.E.M of Property admeasuring 1670.347 Sq Mtr. situated at Arazi No 99/2, Mauza- Bharlai, Ward &amp; Pargana- Shivpur, District Varanasi in the name of M/s Amritasha Hospitals &amp; Trauma Center Pvt Ltd. Boundaries as per sale deed : East- Land of Anil &amp; Others, West- Land of Chhotelal &amp; Others, North- Land of purchaser, South- Land of Akhilesh &amp; Others</b>	
<b>Advocate: Mr. Neeraj Tripathi Contact: 9415269557</b>	

PNS ■ KANPUR

Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, the technology business incubator at IIT Kanpur, announced the top three winners of the Hack & Reboot 2.0 Hackathon supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and MeitY Startup Hub. SIIC had organised a two-day final pitching round for the 13 shortlisted novel technology solutions, followed by a closing ceremony under the Hack & Reboot 2.0 Hackathon at IIT Kanpur's Outreach Centre. Based on the final pitching round, the winners had been announced marking a successful conclusion to this year's edition.

Akinchan Kushwaha was announced as the winner of Hack & Reboot 2.0 for his innovation 'VivaFeet', while Dr Abhinav Gupta was adjudged first runner-up for POC CET-Lab (Point-Of-Care Cartridge-based Emergency Testing

Lab) and Priyaranjan Tiwari was adjudged second runner-up for NODex devices. The winners were decided following a thorough evaluation of their pitches based on the need for the solution, innovative components, the viability of the business model, and technical functionality. The awarded innovators/startups will get funding support under TIDE 2.0 programme supported by MeitY. SIIC will lend technical support, customised hand-holding, access to industry experts and mentorship support to the winners. The final pitching round saw the 13 shortlisted novel technology solutions from the domain of HealthTech and CleanTech demonstrating their pitch to a distinguished panel comprising Dr Sakhi John, Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi, Vikas Goenka, Executive Director, BNI India; Somesh Kumar Bhagat, Mentor, SIIC, Anupma Singh, CEO & Co-Founder, Interview Cracker, Sonal Agarwal BA, Deputy CFO,

Intello Labs, Prof SC Srivastava, Director, IIT Kanpur-La Trobe University Research Academy and Distinguished Visiting Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Kanpur and Prof C Amarnath, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Bombay.

All the 13 participating startups received certificates during the final pitching round. Prof SC Srivastava, Prof. Ankush Sharma, Dr Nalin Kumar Srivastava, Dr Sakhi John, Sonal Agarwal Bali, Vikas Goenka, programme team, Imran Yusuf and Zaid Khan, delivered the closing addresses during the final pitching round and encouraged the participants to apply for more such opportunities under the TIDE 2.0 Programme via SIIC.

The winning innovations catered to diverse areas of research in Healthcare and Clean Energy domains. Winner Akinchan Kushwaha developed 'VivaFeet', a smart healthcare assistant in the

form of a wearable sock that was targeted toward foot-related complications. It provided real-time monitoring of temperature, pressure and GAIT of the foot to help prevent podiatric ailments like foot ulceration and varicose veins at an early stage. It can effectively reduce recovery time and reduce the pain experienced with the help of Electrical Muscle Stimulation of the affected region.

The first runner-up, Dr Abhinav Gupta is developing POC-CET-Lab (Point-Of-Care Cartridge-based Emergency Testing Lab), which is a handheld blood analyser that uses microfluidic-based cartridges for different tests required in emergency care. It consists of a handheld analyser and test-specific microfluidic cartridges. Using a single handheld device and test-specific cartridges, multiple lab tests can be performed in any setting and at a minimal cost.

The second runner-up, Priyaranjan Tiwari's team had devel-

oped NODex devices, which is capable of taking a rapid test for asthma with a non-invasive method that is convenient for children and adults. The individual taking the test has to blow into a handheld device that will track the results. It is equipped to identify the type of asthma, track the airway inflammation over time and indicate to the doctor if the individual had been taking the medicines correctly.

Prof Ankush Sharma, Professor-in-charge, Innovation & Incubation, IIT Kanpur, congratulated the winners and said, "Health and Clean energy are two critical domains which require urgent technology interventions in India. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's initiative to support novel indigenous technology solutions in these spaces through Hackathon is a praiseworthy effort. I extend my best wishes to the winners on innovating visionary technologies contributing to India's self-sustainable status."

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited (Formerly "Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited" & "Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited") (CIN: LS1101HR2007PLC077999)						
Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2022						
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 30-Sep-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	9 months ended 31-Dec-22	9 months ended 31-Dec-21	(Rs. in Crores) Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	13.95	33.93	0.98	205.63	17.49	22.50
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(7.89)	32.06	(59.38)	174.90	(92.66)	(131.76)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items))	(7.89)	32.06	(59.38)	174.90	(92.66)	(131.76)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(7.41)	32.27	(52.21)	175.38	(92.66)	(145.77)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(12.53)	41.70	(63.89)	159.13	(21.87)	(154.88)
Equity Share Capital	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						(313.85)
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.74)	3.19	(5.20)	17.46	(9.23)	(14.51)

**Note to the financial results:**

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

2) **Key Standalone Financial Information:**

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

3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Nine months Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / nine months Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.yaari.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

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

**For and on behalf of the Board of Directors**

**Place :** Gurugram  
**Date :** 27 January 2023

**Kubeir Khera**  
**Executive Director & CEO**

PNS ■ KANPUR

The IIT Kanpur's Team Techkriti organised a mega blood donation camp on 74th Republic Day in association with Sankalp Seva Samiti, Raktarpan, 92.7 BIG FM, site partner UPMRC and coverage partner Sheel Digital Studio. The camp was held between 11 am and 4 pm at three venues – IIT Kanpur campus, Motijheel metro station and Kanpur University metro station.

The blood donation mega camp was inaugurated at Motijheel Metro Station by Arvind Singh, Project Director, Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation and Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner (Industries), Government of Uttar Pradesh. Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur at the camp hosted at IIT Kanpur's Yoga Hall.

A group of doctors from Indian Medical Association (IMA) and GSVM Medical College (Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial Medical College) moderated the process from examination to collection of blood. Over 300

people volunteered to donate blood under the initiative. The medical professionals' team commended Team Techkriti's efforts and urged people to donate blood at prescribed intervals. They also dispelled some common myths related to blood donation.

Techkriti is Asia's one of the largest technical and entrepreneurial festivals, organised by IIT Kanpur student team. It is a four-day annual inter-collegiate festival with participation in large numbers from institutions across India and abroad. Team Techkriti has been hosting blood donation camps at regular intervals on the campus and other venues in Kanpur city.

CIRCULAR: The CBSE schools have been issued circular on admission to playgroup to class one as per the National Education Policy (NEP). According to the NEP, minimum admission age for kids is three years for nursery, four years for LKG and five years for UKG.

The Board has made mandatory that a child must go through a three-year-foun-

ation before he or she enters class I at the age of six.

This has been made mandatory and all schools were advised to strictly follow the rules.

The circular has been issued after the recent meeting of CBSE held in Kanpur under coordinator Balwinder Singh. He said all CBSE schools must ensure that the age of students must be six years for class one.

The new school structure by NEP included the newly added foundational stage for the first five years of school life i.e. ages three to five years. This subsumes the first two years of primary stage. Therefore, the foundational stage comprises three years of pre-primary (Nursery, KG and Upper KG) and two years of primary.

This provision aims to curb the detrimental trend of downward extension of primary curriculum to pre-primary classes that was resulting in overload of teaching-learning content causing extreme stress and overwork to the early learners who were expected to master reading, writing and numbers

operations at pre-primary stage.

The NEP proposes to implement uniformly in state-run and privately-run schools a child centred curriculum that prepares children for rigours of formal curriculum of reading, writing, arithmetic, and in subsequent preparatory stage and this was done by providing strong foundation of a holistic, multi-faceted discovery-based learning experience that developed all aspects of learners' personality from cognitive to social, emotional, creative, and physical.

NEP also proposes to set up Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones to ensure that no child was left out of the school system, especially the girl child and children from socially marginalised and economically disadvantaged groups. Singh said it has come to light that parents were admitting children to play group at the age of two and a half years as was being practised earlier.

He advised schools that the minimum age for a student appearing for class XII must be 18 years.



# Republic Day celebrated with patriotic fervour, enthusiasm

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated in Police Lines here with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm on Thursday. The police personnel were also honoured for their excellent service.

UP Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal unfurled the tricolour in the Police Lines and conveyed the message of peace by flying balloons. He also took the salute of the parade. While speaking on the occasion he said the nation got freedom because of the sacrifice by countless martyrs and now is our responsibility to maintain its sovereignty and added that



UP Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal honouring a woman police officer on the occasion of Republic Day at the Police Lines.

we should avoid casteism because it will weaken the nation. Jaiswal said that more than five lakh youths have been given government jobs, including over one lakh recruit-

ment in the Police department, and added that about 17 crore traders have invested in the state and the investor's summit is being held because law and order situation has

now become better in the state. The minister also honoured some police personnel for their excellent service. He also honoured the 34th Vahini of PAC and armed police team of Police Lines with citation and shield for bagging the first and second positions respectively in the parade. A cultural programme was also presented and children of primary school in Benipur, members of Akhand Hind Fauj and students of St Atulanand Convent School were rewarded by the minister for securing first, second and third positions respectively. ADG Ramkumar, DJ Ajay Krishna Vishvesh, CP Mutha Ashok Jain, DC Kaushal Raj Sharma, IG K Satyanarayan, DMS Rajalingam and ACP Santosh Singh were among those present.

# Oath of national unity administered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma unfurled the national flag at his office and District Magistrate S Rajalingam unfurled the tricolour at the Collectorate here on Thursday.

The DC unfurled the national flag and administered the oath of national unity, sovereignty, secularism and strengthening the spirit of communal harmony to the officers and employees of the Commissioner. The Constitution of the country came into effect on January 26, 1950, he said and added that the nation got freedom after the sacrifice of countless freedom



DM S Rajalingam administering the oath on the occasion of the Republic Day.

fighters and martyrs. The Republic Day is a festival to uniting us and we should make efforts to make people competent in various fields, he said and added that officers and

employees should discharge their duty with sincerity and honesty. The DM Rajalingam unfurled the national flag in the Collectorate. He said India is now on the fifth position in the

world in the economy. We should take a pledge to discharge our duty with honesty keeping the development of the nation in mind, he said.

Chief Development officer Himanshu Nagpal unfurled the tricolour at Vikah Bhavan and administered the oath to maintain the freedom and dignity of the country as a responsible citizen without discrimination of religion, caste, region and language. Municipal Commissioner Pranay Singh and Vice-Chairman of VDA Abhishek Goel unfurled the national flag at their respective offices. The heads of other government departments unfurled the tricolour in their respective offices.

# BLW team members praised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) with enthusiasm at the stadium.

Principal Chief Manager, Material, Rajneesh Gupta unfurled the national flag and took the salute of parade of RPF, civil defence and Bharat Scouts and Guides. He remembered the martyrs who not only got political freedom but also social and economic freedom to the nation.

He praised the BLW team members for their efforts to make record manufacturing of 256 rail engines by December in the financial year of 2022-2023, including 251 rail engines for the railways and three diesel engines for the non-railway customers and added that the target to manufacture 150 loco sets was achieved by December 2022. Since its inception the BLW manufactured 9,645 rail engines including 8301 diesel, one dual mode, eight conversion loco from diesel to electric and 1,335 electric rail engines, he said, adding that the BLW earned a gross income more than ₹4,000 crore from the export and domestic supply. He also talked about the other achievements of BLW. A cultural programme was also organised on the occasion. PRO Rajesh Kumar proposed the vote of thanks.

The Republic Day was also celebrated at the office of Varanasi Division, NER, in Lahartara and Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey unfurled the tricolour and took the salute of the parade. The chief project manager



Principal Chief Manager, Material of BLW Rajneesh Gupta addressing officers and employees

(Gati Shakti) Kaushlesh Singh and chairperson of Mandal Mahila Kalyan Sanghathan Sujata Pandey were among those present on the occasion.

The Republic Day inspires us to express faith in the Constitution, the DRM said. A cultural programme was also held in the occasion and the DRM announced cash prize for the teams which participated in the parade. Senior divisional officer, personnel Sameer Pal proposed the vote of thanks.

Meanwhile the Department of Posts also celebrated the Republic Day and the Postmaster General Krishna Kumar Yadav unfurled the flag at Varanasi Cantt Head Post office premises and felicitated 30 postal employees. Rajan, SSPs Varanasi East Dn, Hemant Kumar, SPOs Varanasi West Dn., Ram Milan, AD-II, Brijesh Sharma, AD-I, MP Verma, Sr AO R.S Sharma, Sr Postmaster Varanasi HPO,



DRM of Varanasi Division, NER, Ramashray Pandey inspecting the parade on the occasion of the R Day.

Arvind Sharma, Postmaster Cantt HPO, Sublesh Singh, Sr Manager, IPPB Varanasi, Nikesh Pandey, Sr Manager, IPPB Gyanpur and Amit Singh, Manager, IPPB Chandauli were among those present on the occasion.

**FLAG UNFURLED:** The personnel of security forces celebrated the national festival Republic Day with great enthusiasm. The Commandant of 95th Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Anil Kumar Briksh unfurled the national flag at the office of Battalion in Pahadia here. He said the nation is progressing but also facing many challenges in the present time and the security personnel should always be ready to dedicate themselves to national service. The 11 NDRF also celebrated the Republic Day with enthusiasm. Commandant Manoj Kumar Sharma unfurled the national flag and said that the history of the country is full of glorious stories of great leaders.

## Int'l delegation visits BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A 27-member international delegation comprising representatives from Argentina, Botswana, Canada, Ukraine, Hungary, Indonesia and Japan visited Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Friday. The delegation also has six members from India. The visit was as part of BHU's global outreach under the Gen-Next Democracy Network Program of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). V-C of BHU Prof Jain said the BHU has been laying focus on enhancing varsity's international visibility and partnerships. Prof NV Chalapathi Rao, Coordinator of International Collaborations in BHU conducted an interactive meeting with the delegation on BHU - its legacy, role in contributing to India's growth and opportunities available. The delegates showed keen interest in knowing more about BHU's achievements and progress in various areas like innovation, interdisciplinary studies and research among others. The members expressed their desire to collaborate in different areas of mutual interest with BHU in the near future, Prof Rao said.

## BHU celebrates Foundation Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) celebrated its 108th Foundation Day on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami on Thursday. Addressing the varsity family at the foundation

place near trauma centre of the university here, Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain said the BHU has been contributing to the nation building and added that the foundation day is an opportunity to celebrate but at the same time, also a time to think whether we are marching ahead towards achieving the objective of the foundation or not. The V-C said it is also the time to think whether we are contributing as per the values of the founder Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya and emphasised on paying attention to make efforts to make the university an excellent institution. Various faculties, centres and institutions of

the university displayed its diversity and rich heritage through tableaux on the theme of healthy, educated and young India. It was for the first time that the tableaux were taken out after the Covid-19 pandemic on the occasion of foundation day. As many as 32 tableaux were



taken out. Awareness was also generated among people about social evils through street plays staged by students of the university. The students staged plays on various topics such as educated women, pollution free campus, research, startup, hygiene, health etc. The students also presented a cultural programme. The director of IIT-BHU Prof Pramod Kumar Jain, Rector of university Prof VK Shukla and registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh, finance officer Dr Abhay Kumar Thakur, dean of Students' Welfare Prof Anupam Kumar Nema and others were present on the occasion.

## Man's body found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Panic gripped Hetapatti village of Tharavai police station area of Prayagraj district after the dead body of a man was found lying in the field here on Friday morning. Tharavai police, who reached the spot on the receipt of information of the local people, along with the investigation, informed the senior police officers about the murder. The police are investigating the matter According to the local people, the deceased was identified as Sadhu Yadav, 45-year-old son of late Brijlal Yadav, resident of Hetapatti village. A black mark was found on the face of the deceased below the eye and on the neck. Sadhu Yadav was the only child of his parents. He was not married.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Jang Bahadur Yadav, who reached the spot, said that till now the reason for the murder is not clear in the investigation. Anything can be said only after the post mortem report comes. According to local sources, it is learned that Sadhu Yadav has sold some of his land a few months back. The possibility of murder is being expressed regarding the land-property. On the spot, the field unit dog squad team is engaged in the investigation.

# Meritorious students, employees lauded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 74th Republic Day was also celebrated with great enthusiasm in the educational institutions. Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain unfurled the national flag at Amphitheatre ground in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and while addressing the teachers, employees and students said we must think about the future direction in which we wish to take the university. Lauding the meritorious students and employees who were felicitated for their commendable work, he called

upon the members of university to aspire for brilliance. BHU should become synonymous with excellence, be it in the quality of education, research, or human resources. "We must work hard to achieve this," Prof Jain said. Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh unfurled the tricolour at the Central Office of the university. Finance Officer Dr Abhay Thakur, Joint Registrar, Recruitment and Assessment Cell, Dr Sunita Chandra and others were present on the occasion.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Anand Kumar Tyagi unfurled

the national flag in Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV) and addressed the students, teachers and staff. Together we have to work for the progress of our university with the participation of students, this will be a true tribute to the makers of the Constitution, he added. While unfurling the triolour in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) Prof Hareram Tripathi said the university is the confluence of Sanskrit, 'sanskriti' and 'sanskar' and recalled the contribution of freedom fighters and martyrs to free India from

the British rule. He also honoured some for their contribution in the respective fields. Registrar Kesh Lal, examination controller Dr Padmakar Mishra, Dr Satyendra Kumar Yadav and others were present.

The Sunbeam English School, Bhagwanpur also celebrated the Republic Day and its director Bharati Madhok unfurled the national flag. A cultural programme was held under which students presented dances based on patriotic songs and staged a play based on national unity. Co-director Pratima Gupta and others were present.

## R-Day celebrations at NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Nation's 74th Republic Day was celebrated with grandeur, gaiety, fervor and enthusiasm on North Central Railway (NCR) Headquarter Office, Prayagraj. The program started with flags being unfurled by General Manager Shri Satish Kumar. On this occasion, the General Manager inspected the parade of Railway Protection Force, Bharat Scout and Guides and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The General Manager also awarded 23 Railway personnel for their outstanding performance.

General Manager Satish Kumar released the tricolor balloons with the banner of Republic day. During the function, the General Manager gave heartfelt greetings to all the employees of NCR and their families on the auspicious occasion of the 74th Republic Day of our great nation. On the auspicious occasion of the 74th Republic day of our beloved country, the General Manager said "I extend my best wishes to

all members of the railway fraternity and families on the North Central Railway. Let us also recall with gratitude the role of our forefathers in creating a vibrant and vast democratic republic which has grown from strength to strength over the years. It is the occasion to review our past performances to enable us to know about our achievements and goals toward fulfillment of the dreams of our constitution-makers". North Central Railway, since its inception in 2003, has emerged as an important constituent of Indian railways. In spite of NCR not being a loading railway, we have registered a 5% increase in originating loading and 22% growth in throughput. A new record level of throughput achieved on any single day on 17th January, 2023 over NCR i.e 36141 wagons (714 trains), earlier best was 35723 wagons on 15.01.2022. The originating freight loading in our freight earnings in the current financial year till December, 2022 grew by 6.70% in comparison to the same period of last year.

## HS, Intermediate students given tablets, cheques

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The meritorious students who had secured a place in the merit list of the board examination of High School and Intermediate in the district conducted by the Uttar Pradesh

Ma d h y a m i k Shiksha Parishad, known as UP Board, in 2022, were given away tablets and cheques at a programme on Friday. In the programme held in the auditorium of the Commissioner here Chairperson of Zila Panchayat Poonam Maurya and District Magistrate S Rajalingam gave away tablets and cheques to the meritorious students who had secured place in the merit list of the board examination of High School and Intermediate in the district conducted by the UP Board in 2022. As many as 12 students



Vishwakarma while the students of the Intermediate to whom tablets and cheques were given away were Axar Kasera, Anju Tripathi, Vaibhav Verma, Khushi Singh, Amisha Patel, Sneha Patel, Sunil Prajapati, Karishma Yadav, Karan Pal, Archana Pal, Komal Verma and Rajan Kumar. The students also watched the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually.


# KVIC distributes margin money grant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has distributed margin money grant of ₹100.29 crore to 3,223 beneficiaries of four states, including Uttar Pradesh, under the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). Chairman of KVIC Manoj Kumar distributed the margin money grant of ₹100.29 crore to 3223 beneficiaries of four states, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand digitally under the PMEGP at a programme held in the office of the commission in Teliabagh here. The PMEGP is playing a leading role in realising the dream of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kumar said. The KVIC is continuously making efforts to strengthen the financial and social condition of artisans by making available tools and training through various schemes such as

Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, Charm Karigar Sashaktikaran, etc, he said. A total of 7.84 lakh units have been set up under PMEGP till the financial year 2021-2022 and employment opportunity has been made available to around 63 lakh people through these units, Kumar said. The distribution of the margin money grant of ₹100.29 crore to 3,223 beneficiaries will generate about 26,000 new employment opportunities, he added. Of Rs 100.29 crore margin money grant of ₹59.06 crore was distributed to 1,829 beneficiaries of UP, ₹25.45 crore to 856 beneficiaries of MP, ₹09.30 crore to 278 beneficiaries of Chhattisgarh, he said. Besides, margin money grant of ₹6.48 crore was distributed to 260 beneficiaries of Utrakhand. A total loan of ₹299.94 crore was approved by various banks to these beneficiaries, he said. This is a credit linked subsidy scheme for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas of the coun-

try. The KVIC is the nodal agency at the national level to implement the scheme designed by Union Ministry of MSME, with active participation of banks, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, District Industries Centres (DICs) and Coir Board for coir related activities in both rural and urban areas of the country. An entrepreneur can establish a unit of up to ₹50 lakh and ₹20 lakh in manufacturing and service sector respectively under this scheme and the government provides a grant from 15 to 25 per cent amount of the total project cost to beneficiaries of urban areas while grant from 25 to 35 percent of the total project cost to beneficiaries of rural areas, he said. UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Stamp, Court Fee and Registration department Ravindra Jaiswal, MLA Sunil Patel and member of KVIC Nagendra Raghuvanshi were present besides deputy chief executive officer of KVIC Om Prakash and director of KVIC, Varanasi division Ritesh Kumar Srivastava.

<div>  <b>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance Limited</b>                      (Formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited).                      CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639                 </div>					
<b>Registered Office:</b> Unit No.-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (west), Mumbai-400070 <b>+91 22 3802 4000</b> <b>Branch Office:</b> Office No. 211 and 212, 2nd Floor 'Titanium' Shalimar Corporate Park, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow – 226010, <b>Contact Person:</b> 1. <b>Vivek Singh- 9369338960</b> ,    2. <b>Prashant Pandey- 7054013999</b> ,    3. <b>Vishal Ketele- 9584966653</b>					
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE – SUBSEQUENT SALE					
Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (Formerly Known as DHFL) under the <b>Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002</b> for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:					
Loan Code / Branch / Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (01-12-2022)
Loan Code No. 00000943, Allahabad (Branch), Binmu B (Borrower), Shashi S (Co Borrower 1),	Dt: 26-11-2018, Rs. 9,68,974/-, (Rs. Nine lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Four Only )	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot on Gata No. 1154, Vill Ustapur Mahmoodabad Uparhar Pargana Jhunsil Tehsil Phoolpur Nr ITI College Allahabad Allahabad Uttar Pradesh 211019 Boundaries As :- North : Plot of Radha Tiwari South : Other Plot East : 20 Feet Wide Katchha Road West : Other Plot	Rs. 9,00,000 /- , (Rs. Nine lakh Only)	Rs. 90,000/- , (Rs. Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs.16,08,199.42 /- , (Rs. Sixteen lakh Eight Thousand One Hundred Ninety Nine Only and Forty Two Paise )
Loan Code No. 00000592, Gorakhpur (Branch), Kapil D Yadav (Borrower), Suman Lata Yadav (Co Borrower 1),	Dt: 12-09-2017, Rs. 13,69,365/-, (Rs. Thirteen lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Five Only)	All The piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent :- Plot Situated At Arazi No 106, Mauza-Rampur Naya Gaon, Tappa- Kasba Pargana - Haveli, Tehsil Sadar Gorakhpur Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh 273003 Boundaries As :-	Rs. 9,02,500/-, (Rs. Nine lakh Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Rs. 90,250/-, (Rs. Ninety Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Only)	Rs.27,29,112.48 /- , (Rs. Twenty Seven lakh Twenty Nine Thousand One Hundred Twenty Nine Only and Forty Eight Paise )
<b>DATE OF E-AUCTION: 14-02-2023, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M. (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 13-02-2023, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.</b>					
<b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION:</b> The sale shall be subject to the terms & conditions as described below:- 1. The asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 2. In case of single bidder, the bidder/purchaser has to bid with a minimum incremental amount of Rs. 10,000/- for property upto 3cr RP & More than 3 Cr (Property Reserve Price (RP) bid increment amount will be Rs. 1,00,000/-). 3. Auction/bidding shall only by "online electronic mode" through the website of the service provider i.e Company Name: C1 India Private Limited, Name of Representative :- <b>Mr. Dharami Krishna; Contact Number : 9948182222</b> ; Site : <a href="https://www.bankauections.com">https://www.bankauections.com</a> . 4. Care has been taken to include adequate particulars of Secured Assets in the Schedule herein above. The Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 5. The intending bidders are advised to go through the portal <a href="https://www.bankauections.com">https://www.bankauections.com</a> for detailed terms and conditions for e-Auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction sale proceedings and contact the respective Authorized Officer for the concerned property as mentioned herein above against the property. 6. Auction shall commence at one increment above the Reserve Price and bidders shall be free to bid among themselves by improving their offer with minimum incremental amount stated herein above. 7. 10% Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) DD shall be deposited on or before 13-02-2023, before 4:00 P.M. to the designated Branch in favour of <b>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance Limited</b> along with fully filled bid form and Tender/Sealed Bid/offer in the prescribed tender forms along KYC. a) Self attested true copy of Identity Card containing Photograph and Residential Address and PAN card of the intending bidder, issued by Govt. of India. Original of the document should be made available for verification by the concerned Authorized Officer. b) Intending Bidder's Mobile Number and E-Mail address. 8. The intended bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact <b>Mr. Dharami Krishna; Contact Number : 9948182222</b> , Help Line E-mail ID: <a href="mailto:https://www.bankauections.com">https://www.bankauections.com</a> and For any property related query they may contact PCHFL Authorized Officer - <b>Vivek Singh - 9369338960</b> during the office hours on any working days. 9. In case of stay of sale or Recovery proceeding by any superior court of competent jurisdiction, the auction may either be postponed/cancelled in compliance of such court order, without any further notice and the persons participating in the sale shall have no right to claim damages, compensation or cost for such postponement/cancellation etc. 10. Only those bidders holding valid user ID and Password and confirmed payment of EMD through Demand Draft shall be permitted to participate in the online e-auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Further, the Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone or cancel or adjourn or discontinue the Auction or vary the terms of the Auction at any time before conclusion of the Auction process, without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. 11. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount immediately within 24 hours (including Earnest Money Already paid) from knocking down of bid in his/her favor, in the same mode as stipulated in clause 7 above. The balance of the purchase price shall have to be paid in the same mode as stipulated in clause 7 above within 15 days of acceptance/confirmation of sale conveyed to them. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited including earnest money deposit. 12. Meagre deposit of 25 % of the Sale Price shall not entitle the successful bidder to get the sale confirmed in his favour. Sale shall be subject to terms and conditions applicable to this e-auction notice and confirmation by the secured creditor to that effect. 13. The EMD (without interest) of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on 3rd day of the closure of the e-auction sale proceedings. 14. During e-auction, in case any bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the Auction, the closing time shall automatically get extended for another 5 minutes. 15. The sale is subject to final confirmation by the PCHFL. In case if the borrower/guarantors pays the total Outstanding due to the PCHFL before the Date of Auction, then auction sale may be cancelled at the discretion of PCHFL. 16. All statutory dues/attendant charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 17. The Sale Certificate shall be issued to the highest successful bidder and in the same name in which the Bid is submitted. 18. The property is sold on "As is where" and "As is what is" basis and the Authorized Officer or the PCHFL shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the government or anyone else in respect of properties E-Auctioned. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, search results and other revenue records relating to the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. and shall satisfy themselves before submitting the Bid. 19. Properties as mentioned above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with the prior appointment of concerned Branch Manager or Authorized Officer or any other officer identified for the purpose, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. on any working day before 13-02-2023. 20. PCHFL reserves its right to accept/reject any or all of the offer(s) or bid(s) so received or cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. 21. In case there is any discrepancy found in Publication of Vemacular Version or English Version then in such case English Version will be considered for the purpose of interpretation. Bidding in the final minutes and seconds should be avoided. 22. The successful bidder shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as backup power supply etc required so that they are able to prevent such situation and continue to participate in the auction successfully. 22. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable u/s 194-I-A if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online by filing form 26QB & TDS certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government account within 15 days of e-auction.					
<b>STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR</b> The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor. <b>Place: UP / UK      Date: 28.01.2023</b>					
			<b>Sd/- (Authorized Officer)</b> <b>Piramal Capital &amp; Housing Finance Limited</b>		



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Nothing surprising

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

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



ern river waters, as per the IWT, India has the right to do limited irrigation and unlimited power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc.

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

### PICTALK



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

# Resetting India Egypt relations

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

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

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

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

Wounded memories of



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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### HATH SE HAATH JODO

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

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

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### A NATIONAL CAUSE

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

### True Patriotism



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

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

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

Sahasra Nivriti Vistlesha | Secunderabad

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

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

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

### INSPIRING BUDGET

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

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

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

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

Ishika Asodiya | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



BHOPINDER SINGH

do of Indian Cavalry elements.

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

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

## SOUND BITE

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



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

No backchannel talks between Pakistan and India.

Pakistan foreign minister — Hina Rabbani Khar

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



Music Composer — AR Rehman

Keeping Players Inspired for All Three Formats is a Global Cricketing Issue.

Former South African cricketer — AB De Villiers

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



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

## Shadow boxing

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

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

However, Maurya's statement does no good to either himself, his community, his party, or the society at large. Without going into the merit of his statement, one can deduce that it does not help to point figure at a 16th century writer and ask for a ban on a book that was written some 500 years back. A time span long enough to change the languages, contexts, nuances, and morality. Banning a book or expunging the portions does not make sense, it never has. All it does is to refresh the idea. India has a long list of banned books, plays, and films. Aubrey Menen's 'Rama Retold', was banned in 1955, and EV Ramasamy Periyar's book Ramayana Retold, was banned in 1969. Ideally speaking, a writer must not hurt the sentiments of the people but the downside is if the writers always

write to conform to the prevailing norms, society would never change. Equally pathetic is the reaction of the people who would swear by Ramcharitmanas and would go to any extent to abusing and admonishing him publicly. A person has a right to differ in a civil way, if you do not agree do so in a civilized way not by calling names and demonizing the person. We have enough issues of import to talk about in public life that should get precedence over such shadow boxing matches. If Maurya wants to bring about a real change in the society, he would do well to take up issues of discrimination and mistreatment of Dalits and OBCs on priority rather than rake up issues that would only consolidate the caste lines.





FIRST COLUMN

EXPECTATIONS OF HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Budget should rationalise import duty for the healthcare sector



ANURAG KASHYAP

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


# Test of success of Bharat Jodo Yatra lies in polls

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

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

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

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



SHIVAJI SARKAR

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

# Tech can expedite justice system

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

*(The author is a public policy expert)*



economic growth.

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

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

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

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

unbiased and do not discriminate against certain groups of people.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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




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

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

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

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



SHIVAJI SARKAR

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Go First fined ₹10 lakh for leaving 55 stranded

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After Air India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Go First airline for leaving behind 55 passengers at the Bengaluru airport on January 9. A day after the incident, the DGCA had issued a notice to the airline over the incident. The passengers, who were to board flight G8 116 to Delhi, were left behind on the passenger coach. The airline apologised for the incident, which it said was "caused due to an inadvertent oversight". "Perusal of reply of M/s Go First reveals that there was improper communication, coordination between terminal coordinator (TC), commercial staff and crew regarding boarding of passengers in the aircraft. The airline failed to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch and passenger/cargo handling and therefore, enforcement action in the form



of Financial Penalty of ₹10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh only) has been imposed for violation of CAR Section 3, Series C, Part II and of Air Transport Circular 02 of 2019," the DGCA said in an order. It further stated: "It is pertinent to mention that DGCA has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section - 3, Series-C, Part-II on "Minimum Requirements for Grant of Air Operator Certificate to Operate Scheduled Air Transport Services (Passenger)," and Air Transport Circular 02 of 2019 on "Facilities/Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports." The aviation regulator had said "multiple mistakes" could be easily avoided. The DGCA had sent notice to the airline for "multiple mistakes" soon after the incident and demanded an explanation. Go First's response revealed that there was improper communication, coordination between terminal coordinator, commercial staff, and crew regarding boarding of

passengers in the aircraft, the DGCA said, adding that the airline failed to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch, and passenger/cargo handling. Flight G8 116 took off for Delhi from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport around 6.30 am on January 9 this year, as 55 passengers, who had their boarding passes, and bags checked-in, were left behind in one of the four buses that took passengers to the aircraft. The passengers were reportedly accommodated on a flight that left four hours later, at around 10 am. A day after the incident, Go First, on January 10, apologised for the inconvenience caused to the passengers due to an inadvertent oversight in the reconciliation of the flight. It also said that affected passengers will be offered one free ticket for travel on any domestic sector in the next 12 months. "The airline has initiated an inquiry into the incident and the matter is being investigated. All concerned staff (are) off the roster till the inquiry is going on," it had said. On January 24, DGCA imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for not reporting two incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard a Paris-New Delhi flight on December 6, 2022.

# BJP poll panel finalises candidates for Tripura elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Biplab Deb and North Eastern States Convenor Sambit Patra. Earlier in the day, BJP's Tripura unit core group members met at party leader and northeast in-charge Patra's residence. All members of the CEC on Friday attended the meeting at the BJP headquarters and also considered seat allocation with the alliance partners, if any, sources said. The 60-member Tripura Assembly will go to polls on February 16. The last date for filling nominations is January 30. The counting of votes will be taken up on March 2. Facing anti-incum-



bency, the BJP has a major challenge from Congress-Left alliance as well as from resurgent Trinamool Congress. In 2018, the BJP formed the government for the first time in Tripura, ending the 20-year run of the CPI(M). Like in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, the BJP leadership had, last year, changed

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

# 'Antibiotics in India, China wastewater pose health threat'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Antibiotic residues in wastewater and wastewater treatment plants in India and China—both major producers and consumers of antibiotics—may serve as hot spots for the development of antibiotic resistance in these regions, posing a potential threat to human health through exposure to different sources of water, including drinking water. These observations of the researchers from Karolinska Institute were published in The Lancet Planetary Health. The researchers also determined the relative contribution of various sources of antibiotic contamination in waterways, such as hospitals, municipalities, livestock, and pharma-



ceutical manufacturing. Bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics are a global threat that can lead to untreatable bacterial infections in animals and humans. "Our results can help decision-makers to target risk reduction measures against environmental residues of priority antibiotics and in high-risk sites, to protect human health and the environment,"

says Nada Hanna, researcher at the Department of Global Public Health at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, and the study's first author. "Allocating these resources efficiently is especially vital for resource-poor countries that produce large amounts of antibiotics." Antibiotics can enter the environment during their production, consumption and disposal. Antibiotic residues in the environment, such as in wastewater and drinking water, can contribute to the emergence and spread of resistance. As per the publication, "Antibiotic concentrations and antibiotic resistance in aquatic environments of the Western Pacific and South-East Asia Regions: a systematic review and probabilistic environmen-

tal hazard assessment", the researchers examined the levels of antibiotic residues that are likely to contribute to antibiotic resistance from different aquatic sources in the Western Pacific Region (WPR) and the South-East Asia Region (SEAR), regions as defined by the World Health Organization. These regions include China and India, which are among the world's largest producers and consumers of antibiotics. This was done by a systematic review of the literature published between 2006 and 2019, including 218 relevant reports from the WPR and 22 from the SEAR. The researchers also used a method called Probabilistic Environmental Hazard Assessment to determine

where the concentration of antibiotics is high enough to likely contribute to antibiotic resistance. Ninety-two antibiotics were detected in the WPR, and forty five in the SEAR. Antibiotic concentrations exceeding the level considered safe for resistance development (Predicted No Effect Concentrations, PNECs) were observed in wastewater, influents and effluents of wastewater treatment plants and in receiving aquatic environments. The highest risk was observed in wastewater and the influence of wastewater treatment plants. The relative impact of various contributors, such as hospital, municipal, livestock, and pharmaceutical manufacturing was also determined.



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

PTI Photo

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The three Services including the Navy, IAF and Army recently conducted the biennial amphibious exercise 'AMPHEX 2023' to hone synergy in various facets of amphibious operations, the Navy said here on Friday. The latest edition of the drill was the largest ever and took place off Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh for the first time. It was conducted from January 17 to 22 and witnessed the participation of a number of amphibious ships consisting of Large Platform Dock (LPD), Landing Ships and Landing Crafts, Marine Commandos (MARCOS), helicopters and



aircraft from the Indian Navy. Indian Army participated in the exercise with over 900 troops which included Special Forces, Artillery and Armoured vehicles. Jaguar fighters and C 130 aircraft from the IAF also participated in the exercise. The participating forces undertook complex exercises in all domains of amphibious operations over five days. The exercise culminated in a successful amphibious assault

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

# First Indo-Japan Air Force exercise 'Veer Guardian' ends

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first-ever bilateral exercise involving air forces of India and Japan, concluded in Japan on Thursday. Named 'Veer Guardian 2023', the exercise was aimed at stepping up strategic and defence ties between the two countries. Giving details of the 16-day long exercise, officials said here on Friday, Japan deployed its F-2 and F-15 aircraft, while the IAF contingent participated with the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The IAF fighter contingent was complemented by one IL-78 flight refueling aircraft and two C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift transport aircraft.



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

sions, both in visual and beyond visual range settings. Aircrew of the two participating Air Forces also flew in each other's fighter aircraft to gain a deeper understanding of each other's operating philosophies. Exercise 'Veer Guardian 2023' provided the two Air Forces with an opportunity to enhance mutual understanding. The exercise also witnessed numerous ground interactions between IAF and JASDF personnel wherein various aspects were discussed by both sides. This enabled the participating contingents to obtain an invaluable insight into each other's best practices and learn from each other's unique capabilities.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached 32 immovable and movable properties in Maharashtra and Karnataka worth over Rs 69.65 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) in a case relating to fraudulent issuance of TDS refund of Rs 263 crore from Income Tax Department by Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, Senior Tax Assistant and others. These attached assets include land, flats, luxury cars which are held in the name of Bhushan Anant Patil, Rajesh Shetty, Sarika Shetty, Kriti Verma and others. Earlier, the agency had issued freezing orders under PMLA in respect of 33 bank accounts of various entities having balances of Rs 96.23 crore and seized cash of Rs 2.85 lakh. The ED has initiated investigations under the PMLA based upon an FIR registered by CBI on the basis of written complaint of Additional Director General (Vigilance)-4 CBDT about bogus issuance of refunds for assessment Years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, while working as a Senior Tax Assistant, had access to RSA Tokens and login credentials of his supervisory authorities and he had



allegedly orchestrated the fraud in connivance with others in fraudulently generating TDS refunds exceeding Rs 263 crore and transferred in various bank accounts including the bank account of SB Enterprises (a proprietary concern of Bhushan Anant Patil). CBI has filed charge sheet against Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, Bhushan Anant Patil, Rajesh Shantaram Shetty and others for committing offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Prevention of Corruption

Act and Section 66 of Information Technology Act, the ED said in a statement. Investigation under PMLA revealed that, during the period from November 15, 2019 to November 4, 2020, as many as 12 fraudulent TDS refunds were generated by Tanaji Mandal Adhikari amounting Rs. 263,95,31,870 which were fraudulently credited in the account of SB Enterprises, it said. These Proceeds of Crime (PoC) were subsequently transferred into the bank accounts of Bhushan Anant Patil and other related persons and entities and also in shell companies. PMLA probe revealed that immovable properties in the form of lands at Lonavala, Khandala, Karjat, Pune and Udupi areas, flats at Panvel and Mumbai areas and movable assets in the form three luxury cars (BMW X7, Mercedes GLS400d, Audi Q7) have been acquired out of the proceeds of crime in their names and in the names of other related persons. On identification of these assets, a Provisional Attachment Order under PMLA was issued attaching 32 assets worth Rs 69,65,99,720, it said. Out of total Proceeds of Crime of Rs 263 crore, assets of Rs 166 crore have been seized attached provisionally, it added.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday told the Supreme Court on Friday that it will take note of the Kerala High Court order suspending the conviction of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal in an attempt to murder case, which had resulted in his disqualification from the Lok Sabha. The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Faizal challenging the Election Commission's announcement to conduct a by-election in his erstwhile Lakshadweep constituency. Soon after Faizal was disqualified following his conviction in the case, the EC had said the by-poll would be conducted on February 27. A Bench comprising Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna noted the submission of senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for poll panel, that the EC action will be in accordance with law in the light of the HC's stay on the trial court's conviction of the NCP's MP for 10 years in an attempt to murder case.



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

Without going into the allegations or pronouncing on any merits, we dispose of the writ petition recording the submission that action will be taken by the ECI in accordance with law in light of the HC order of suspension of conviction," the bench said. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Faizal, submitted before the bench that the by-election cannot go on as the high court has suspended the conviction. Faizal, in his petition, said the poll panel is proposing to fill the seat without awaiting the outcome of his plea for stay of conviction and sentence in the high court. He contended the EC's announcement was arbitrary, unlawful and mala fide.

The Supreme Court on Friday advised former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi to refrain from public spats with lawyers involved in his family dispute. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and MM Sundresh said parties are mature enough not to make such statements and asked the lawyers to sort out the issue. The apex court was hearing a petition on Modi's spat and posts in social media against former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi. "It is

# SC asks Lalit to refrain from public spats with lawyers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

nothing but an extension of the outburst of a family member. Don't take it too far. Whenever you start fighting out in public, it is always detrimental...We are not passing orders but you use your good office to ensure that remedial



measures are taken," the bench observed orally, without passing any orders. On August 1 last year, the Supreme Court appointed former apex court judge Justice R V Raveendran as a mediator to settle a family property dispute involving the former IPL head and his mother Bina Modi. Rohatgi is one of the counsels representing Bina Modi in the property dispute. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal submitted before the bench that there was an undertaking of no posts while mediation was going on. "Comments are being made while the media-

tion is going on. These should be taken down. This is a violation of the court orders," Sibal said, pointing out Modi's abusive posts against Rohatgi in social media. Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Lalit Modi, said there was no breach of the court order and this was just an angry outburst. The top court was apprised that the mediation process between the parties was underway. Modi had made a comment about Rohatgi in an Instagram post. Later, though another post, he reportedly apologised to the senior advocate.



# Jerusalem, West Bank on edge after outbreak of violence

AP ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tensions at the volatile Jerusalem holy site has trig-



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

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

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

"The Old City is empty

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

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

## Farm where 4 were killed had another shooting last summer



AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

He earned a master's degree in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland.

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

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

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

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

AP ■ KYIV

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

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

deeper into Ukrainian territory, killing at least 11 people.

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

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

Gov Pavlo Kyrylenko of the eastern Donetsk region said the Russian military used phosphorus munitions in shelling the village of Zvanivka. The village is located about 20 kilo-

meters north of Bakhmut, a city that has become the focus of a gruelling battle in recent months. The shelling also damaged apartment buildings and two schools in the nearby town of Vuhledar, Kyrylenko said.

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

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



Power Plant, damaging apartment buildings, gas pipelines, power lines and a bakery, officials said. Separately Friday, Russian

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

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

sion of the four subjects."

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

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

## FROM PAGE 1

### ADANI-SPARKED BLOODBATH CONTINUES; `10 L CR LOST

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

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

Among sectoral indices, utilities tanked 7.34 per cent, power tumbled 6.79 per cent while oil & gas (5.75 per cent), energy (5.22 per cent), telecommunication (3.79 per cent), commodities (3.27 per cent), bankex (3.06 per cent) and financial services (2.48 per cent) also declined. FMCG, healthcare and auto ended in the green. Banking counters and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) also faced heavy drubbing amid concerns over their exposure to the Adani group firms.

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

The Adani Group on Thursday said it is examining legal options to take "punitive action" against Hindenburg Research for its "reckless" attempt to sabotage a mega share sale at the conglomerate's flagship firm -- a statement that the US activist investor responded by saying it stands by its report that alleged "brazen" market manipulation and accounting fraud by the group.

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

### MODIFY INDUS WATER PACT, INDIA TELLS PAK

"The initiation of two simultaneous processes on the same questions and the potential of their inconsistent or contradictory outcomes create an unprecedented and legally untenable situation, which risks endangering IWT itself. The World Bank acknowledged this itself in 2016, and took a decision to "pause" the initiation of two parallel processes and requested India and Pakistan to seek an amicable way out," sources said.

They said despite repeated efforts by India to find a mutually agreeable way forward, Pakistan refused to discuss the issue during the five meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission from 2017 to 2022. At Pakistan's continuing insistence, the World Bank has recently initiated actions on both the neutral expert and Court of Arbitration processes, they said.

India and Pakistan signed the treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact. The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding the use of waters of several rivers.

It gives control over the waters of the three "eastern rivers" -- the Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej -- to India and control over the waters of the three "western rivers" -- the Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum -- to Pakistan. India has about 20 per cent of the total water carried by the Indus system, while Pakistan has 80 per cent.

The treaty allows India to put the western river waters to limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation, navigation, floating of property, fish culture, etc. It lays down detailed regulations for India in building projects over the western rivers. The IWT is considered one of the most successful water-sharing endeavours in the world today.

The notice will open up the process for making changes to

the treaty for the first time since it was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960, by then Pakistan president Mohammad Ayub Khan, then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and WAB III of the World Bank.

The notice was issued in line with Article XII (3) of the treaty, which states: "The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments."

While explaining India's move, the people noted that in 2015, Pakistan requested the World Bank to appoint a "neutral expert" to examine its technical objections to India's Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects. In 2016, Pakistan unilaterally retracted this request and proposed a "court of arbitration" should adjudicate on the objections. This unilateral action by Pakistan contravened the "graded mechanism of dispute settlement" envisaged by Article IX of the Indus Waters Treaty, the Indian side contended. India then made a separate request to the World Bank for the matter to be referred to a neutral expert.

At the time of independence in 1947, the boundary between India and Pakistan was drawn across the Indus Basin, leaving Pakistan as the lower riparian state. A dispute arose because some important irrigation works, including one at Madhopur on Ravi river and another at Ferozepur on Sutlej river, on which the irrigation canal supplies in Pakistan's Punjab province were completely dependent, were left in Indian territory.

The treaty includes a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange regarding their use of rivers, known as the Permanent Indus Commission, which has a commissioner for each country. According to the World Bank, the pact also has distinct procedures to handle issues - "questions" are handled by the commission, "differences" are resolved by a neutral expert, and "disputes" are referred to the court of arbitration, a seven-member arbitral tribunal.

The World Bank's role is "limited and procedural". Its role in "differences" and "disputes" is limited to designating individuals to fulfill roles as a neutral expert or in the court of arbitration proceedings when requested by either or both sides.

### NO SCREEN ONCE A WEEK: MODI'S PARIKSHA MANTRA

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

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

Students should concentrate on their studies like a batsman focuses on the ball thrown to him, ignoring the shouts for fours and sixes from the crowd, he added.

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

Underlining the need for students to expand their horizons, Modi advised parents to give their children some money after Class 10 and 12 exams to travel to a few places and ask them to write about it. "Students should be encouraged to go and meet people from different strata of society. Students should not be bound by many restrictions. We should allow them to expand their horizons," he said. The Prime Minister advised teachers to welcome students who ask questions. "When a student asks questions, that means he or she is inquisitive. This is a good sign," he said. The Ministry of Education said a record 38 lakh students registered this year for participation in "Pariksha Pe Charcha".

The number of registrations is at least 15 lakh more than last year, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The first edition of the Prime Minister's interactive programme with school and college students was held on February 16, 2018.

### RAHUL'S YATRA HALTS IN J&K, CONG SLAMS SECURITY BREACH

As both the leaders were walking along with several others, some of the overenthusiastic residents breached the outer security cordon and tried to come close and meet Rahul after which the yatra was suspended. In the absence of an outer security cordon and adequate security personnel, Rahul was advised by his security staff to avoid marching further.

Initially, Rahul was keen to continue the march, but his security officers escorted him to safety in a four wheeler to prevent any mishap. Later, Rahul arrived at the Dak Bungalow, Khanabal in South Kashmir district of Anantnag and made a brief statement. He told reporters, "I had to cancel my walk for the day because police arrangements unfortunately completely collapsed."

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

"It's the Jammu and Kashmir administration's responsibility to provide security... I hope security will now be ensured for the remaining days of the yatra," Rahul, who started his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kanyakumari in September with a plan to end it in Srinagar on January 30, said.

"I had to call off my walk because I can't go against my security people," the Congress leader said.

Former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in a separate tweet corroborated the Congress' version. "I'm witness to this. The outer ring of the cordon which was maintained by J&K Police simply vanished within minutes of Rahul Gandhi starting to walk. We had just crossed into Kashmir from Jammu and were looking forward to the 11 KM walk but unfortunately it had to be cancelled," he tweeted.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh added that Rahul's security team is holding discussions with the J&K administration to ensure that everything goes off smoothly for the next few days. As the Congress party leaders launched a massive campaign the social media handle of the J&K Police, Kashmir zone posted a series of tweets claiming, "JKP was not consulted before taking any decision on discontinuation of Yatra after conducting a 1 km yatra by organisers. Rest of the yatra continued peacefully. There was no security lapse at all. We will provide fool-proof security". The police said, "Only authorised persons as identified by organisers & frisked crowd were allowed inside towards the route of Yatra. Organisers & managers of BJJ did not intimate about the large gathering from Banihal joining the Yatra, which thronged the starting point".

Referring to the security arrangement, J&K Police tweeted, "Full security arrangements were in place including 15 Coys of CAPFs and 10 Coys of JKP, comprising of ROPs and QRTs, route domination, lateral deployment and SFs were deployed for high-ridge and other deployments". The Government is acutely mindful of the security concerns and all arrangements have been made to ensure the best possible security for the ongoing Bharat Jodo yatra: RK Goyal, Addl Chief Secy (FC), Home Dept J&K, said on Rahul's security breach.

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### 12 MORE NAMIBIAN CHEETAHS TO JOIN 'FRIENDS' IN KUNO

Prolonged quarantine could be taking a toll on the health of these big cats, who are slated to join the eight cheetahs imported from Namibia and released into the KNP in Sheopur district

mid-September, as per the experts. Experts said that a delegation from South Africa visited the KNP in early September to see arrangements at the wildlife sanctuary for housing the world's fastest land mammals.

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

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

### YOGI CONSIDERED BEST CM OF COUNTRY

The Mood of the Nation survey to know the public rating of the performances of the state governments. In this survey, people were asked questions regarding the best performing chief minister and the quality of governance in different states of the country. The survey was conducted for 30 chief ministers of the country, and Yogi Adityanath emerged as the most popular choice in terms of performance with 39.1 per cent people voting in his favour. According to the survey, while Yogi's popularity is on the rise because of his work, the popularity of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has declined significantly (6 per cent) as compared to August 2022, when he emerged as the choice of 22 per cent people. Similarly, the popularity of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is rated number three with 7.3 per cent votes, has also dropped by about one per cent as compared to August 2022.

The survey conducted in January 2023 further reveals that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the National Democratic Alliance are likely to win 70 seats in UP with 49.3 per cent votes while the opposition parties including Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party will get 10 seats if Lok Sabha elections are held today in the state. It is worth mentioning here that during the Lok Sabha polls in 2019, NDA won 64 seats in UP whereas SP got five, BSP 10 and Congress only one seat.

The popularity of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who took charge of UP in 2017, is increasing across the country. In the last six years of the Yogi government, a lot of work has been done in the state vis-à-vis infrastructure development, including rail, road and waterway connectivity, uninterrupted power supply as well as law and order.

Today Uttar Pradesh has become the number one state in the country in terms of expressways. UP is the top state in the country in terms of good governance. Apart from this, UP has surprised everyone by becoming the second state in the country in terms of ease of doing business. In this sequence, Yogi Adityanath has drawn the attention of entrepreneurs from across the country towards Uttar Pradesh by bringing 25 industry-friendly policies.

### CAPT MAY GET MAHA GUV ROLE

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

It has been learnt that BJP, which had high expectations with Capt Amarinder, was not expecting much from the former chief minister, especially after the performance during Assembly polls. Capt Amarinder, who lost to a first-timer in his home segment in 2022 polls, failed to give much leverage to BJP. However, the political veteran has a considerable support base in Punjab, on which it would be banking by giving him a suitable post.



# INDIA FALL SHORT IN RANCHI

PTI ■ RANCHI

Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell conjured up fluent and fiery half-centuries before the spinners choked the hosts as New Zealand outplayed India by 21 runs in the opening T20I to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series here on Friday.

Asked to take first strike, opener Conway continued his purple patch with a 35-ball 52, while Mitchell smashed a 30-ball unbeaten 59, which included a last-over thrashing of Arshdeep Singh for 27 runs, to power the Black Caps to a challenging 176 for six.

The Kiwi bowlers, led by Mitchell Santner (2/11) and Michael Bracewell (2/31), then spun a web around the home batters, restrict India to 155 for 9 in 20 overs.

India had a disastrous start to their chase with both Ishan Kishan (4) and Rahul Tripathi (0) sent back to the pavillion by the third over.

While Ishan was bamboozled by Bracewell, pacer Jacob Duffy (1/27) induced a fine edge off Rahul's blade. Shubman Gill (7) too perished

soon after being deceived by Santner as India slumped to 15 for three.

Suryakumar Yadav (47), however, looked in good touch as he picked up two boundaries before picking one off his hips for a six off Lockie Ferguson (1/22).

Santner then bowled a maiden as India reached 33 for three in the powerplay overs.

With the pitch offering grip and turn, New Zealand spinners controlled the proceedings keeping it flat and mixing the length even as Hardik unleashed a drive over extra cover to ease the pressure.

Suryakumar too brought out his range of sweep shots to keep the scoreboard ticking. When Blair Tickner was introduced, he played a square cut and then sent another one through backward point for successive fours as India reached 74 for 3 in 10 overs.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi was then sent inside out over extra cover for a maximum but New Zealand struck twice in next five balls to remove both the set batters.

While Surya chipped one



off Sodhi to Finn Allen at long on, Hardik was caught and bowled by Bracewell as it all

went downhill after that with India slipping to 85 for five. Deepak Hooda smacked

one over the rope before being stumped. Santner then ran out Shivam Mavi. Ferguson

bowled a wicket maiden, removing Kuldeep. Washington Sundar

**Suryakumar Yadav (47), looked in good touch as he picked up two boundaries before picking one off his hips for a six off Lockie Ferguson (1/22)**

smashed a fighting 28-ball 50 but it was too late.

Earlier, Indian bowlers struggled to get their line and length, allowing New Zealand to get off to a good start.

Allen (35) smashed Hardik for successive boundaries, while a juicy half volley from Arshdeep was hit straight to the boundary.

Conway, who had scored 138 in the third ODI in Indore, also punished the left-arm pacer for a widish ball as New Zealand put up 23 in two overs.

Sundar, however, got a lot of purchase from the wicket and soon saw the back of

Allen and Mark Chapman (0) in the space of five deliveries to reduce New Zealand to 43 for 2.

Conway, however, kept it going with two fours and a six off Umran Malik, who bled 16 runs in his only over.

Hardik brought himself back and tried to mix his bowling, using more cutters and slower deliveries as New Zealand reached 79 for 2 in 10 overs.

Conway used the slog sweep and his feet to pick up boundaries off Kuldeep and Hooda as New Zealand crossed the 100-mark in the 13th over.

Kuldeep then struck with a googly as Glenn Phillips went for a slog, only to be holed out by Surya at deep midwicket.

Daryl Mitchell then joined Conway and, after surviving two video referrals for a caught behind and an LBW, blasted Hardik for two maximums.

Conway, on the other hand, completed his fifty in the 16th over but was sent packing soon by Arshdeep with Hooda taking the catch at long-off.

## India beat NZ by 8 wickets to enter U-19 Women's WC final



PTI ■ POCHEFSTROOM

Opener Shweta Sherawat smashed an unbeaten fifty after Parshavi Chopra's triple strike

India restricted New Zealand to 107 for nine with Parshavi (3/20) leading a disciplined bowling effort after skipper Shafali Verma won the toss and elected to bowl in the first semifinals.

The 16-year-old leg-spinner broke the backbone of the Kiwi batting line-up with three successive wickets to leave them at 74 for 5 in 13th over.

Titas Sadhu, Mannat Kashyap, Shafali and Archana Devi also scalped one wicket each.

For NZ, Georgia Plimmer (35), Isabella Gaze (26) and Izzy Sharp (13) and Kayley Knight (12) reached double figures as they struggled to score runs at the Senwes Park.

Chasing 108, the women in blue romped home comfortably after Sehrawat produced a scintillating 45-ball unconquered knock which was studded with 10 hits to the fence.

Following the early exit of Shafali (10), who has not performed as per expectations in the tournament, Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari (22) added 62 runs to take them to the threshold of victory.

Sehrawat and Gongadi Trisha (5) then completed the job with the former bringing up the winning runs with a four off Browning as India scored 110 for 2 in 14.2 overs.



## India's campaign ends in Indonesia Masters

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Lakshya Sen's impressive run in the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament ended with a quarter-final loss to Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie here on Friday.

World No. 12 Sen squandered an opening-game advantage to go down 21-15, 10-21, 13-21 to home favourite Christie, ranked third, in a 62-minute men's singles match.

Later in the day, new women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 13-21, 18-21 to Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the quarter-finals to bring down the curtain on India's campaign.

Coming into the match with a 1-0 head-to-head record, Commonwealth Games champion Sen showed his prowess as he opened up a 8-5 lead and maintained it at the break.

Christie knocked off the three-point deficit after resumption and made it 15-15 before the Indian reeled off six straight points to pocket the opening game.

After the change of sides, Sen lost his grip on the match as Christie looked like a different player, zooming to 11-2 in a jiffy before levelling the match.

Christie made a good start in the decider, galloping to a 5-1 lead. Sen produced four points on the trot but he was left with too much to do.

The Indonesian ensured there was no hiccup as he marched to a 11-6 lead and maintained a healthy distance from his opponent to eventually seal the contest with a four-point burst.

Sen had reached the second round at India Open last week.

## Surya will bring about global revolution in T20 cricket: Ponting



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting has called India middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav a trailblazer, who could inspire a new breed of players to emulate his style of play and take T20 cricket to 'another level' globally.

Suryakumar, 32, was recently named the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year after he became only the second batter in the world to score 1000-plus runs in a calendar year in the shortest format of the game.

Surya scored two centuries and nine half-tens on way to amassing 1,164 runs in 2022, only second behind Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan who leads the charts with 1,326 runs in 2021.

"I think innovation-wise, skill-wise, I haven't seen a better player (than Suryakumar) in the game," Ponting told ICC on Friday.

"What it's going to do as well, a lot of other players are going to try and do the things he's doing and it's going to add another level of skill to the T20 game all around the world. "Someone said during the IPL this year (2022), there are going to be guys who are going to try and do exactly the same as what Surya's doing, and that's going to be great for the game," added the Australian great.

Surya's 1,100-plus runs last year came in 31 T20Is at an astonishing strike rate of 187.43 and an average of 46.56, which also propelled him to the top of the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings.

Ponting also called the India cricketer as the greatest innovator in the shortest version, comparing his style of batting with South African white-ball specialist AB de Villiers and former Australian wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist.

"He's probably doing it

better than anyone's ever done it right now. We talk about players that can score 360 degrees ... some of the shots he's hitting back behind the wicket-keeper and over fine leg are just remarkable."

Ponting said he noticed Surya's innate talent a few years back in the IPL where he was making flicking the ball over deep-backward square look so easy.

The former skipper added that the batter had taken his stroke-play to another level and is playing some really audacious shots like flicking short balls for sixes over the wicket-keeper's head.

"Five or six years ago, he started doing that (innovating) a lot in the IPL. He was very good at flicking the ball over deep-backward square and getting the ball over fine-leg," Ponting said.

"Surya's now been able to hit short balls on the way up and flick short balls over the keeper's head and they're going for six, not just for four."

Ponting said that initially he thought Suryakumar would never touch such heights, but his work ethics and strenuous regimen have resulted in his success.

The cricketer scored the third-most runs at the T20 World Cup -- 239 -- in Australia, which was only behind Virat Kohli (296) and the Dutchman Max O'Dowd (242).

## Lara takes up new West Indies role

AP ■ MIAMI

Former West Indies batting star and captain Brian Lara has agreed to take on a role as 'performance mentor' with the West Indies teams and academy, Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced on

Thursday. CWI said that Lara's new role will be to 'support the various head coaches in providing players with tactical advice and improving their game sense'.

Lara will work alongside Jimmy Adams, the CWI's Director of Cricket, on strategy and planning

for major tournaments.

"Having spent time with the players and coaches in Australia and in discussions with CWI, I really believe that I can help the players with their mental approach to the game and with their tactics to be more successful," Lara said.

## Saurashtra, Andhra advance to Ranji quarters; Mumbai & Maharashtra out

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Saurashtra, despite a loss in the final round game to Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh on Friday advanced to the knockout stage of the Ranji Trophy from Group B after the Mumbai-Maharashtra game ended in an exciting draw.

Though Saurashtra, Andhra and Maharashtra finished equal on 26 points after the seven rounds of the league phase, the first two teams entered the quarterfinals while Maharashtra missed out because it did not gain any bonus point.

Andhra, which had been on 19 points before the final round match against Assam, routed their opponent by an innings to gain a bonus point which helped them pip Maharashtra.

Mumbai, which was in the reckoning but needed to win or secure a first innings lead to

grab three points and reach 26 points, managed only 1 after a tie with Maharashtra on the first innings score of 374 in the final round match.

In Chennai, left-arm spinner S Ajith Ram came up with a six-wicket haul to propel Tamil Nadu to a 59-run win over Saurashtra.

Needing 266 for victory, the visiting team was bowled out for 206 in 68.2 overs as Harvik Desai's marathon knock of 101 (205 balls, 10 fours, 3 sixes) went in vain.

Elsewhere, Hyderabad succumbed to a nine-wicket defeat to Delhi to end a dismal season with six straight defeats after a draw against TN in the opening game. Hyderabad will be relegated to the Plate group next season.

**MP, PUNJAB ADVANCE**  
**Ahmedabad:** Defending champions Madhya Pradesh and Punjab qualified for the quar-



ter-finals after finishing in the top two positions in Group D following a draw in their respective matches.

While holders MP folded

for 331 to concede a first-innings lead to Tripura, Punjab didn't get to bat as Vidarbha ended their first innings on the fourth day at 273 for six follow-

ing loss of play due to bad weather.

The draw, however, wouldn't hurt MP as they finished at the top of Group D table with

33 points from seven matches. Punjab (27) and Railways (22) ended at second and third spots respectively.

On day four, medium pacer Rana Dutta completed a five-wicket haul as Tripura dismissed holders Madhya Pradesh for 331 in their first innings to grab three points on the basis of first-innings lead.

The 33-year-old emerged as the most successful bowler as MP could add another 172 runs to their overnight score of 159 for 2 to hand Tripura a crucial 31-run first-innings lead.

**ODISHA THRASH BENGAL**  
**Kolkata:** Odisha created a big upset, defeating Bengal by seven wickets on the final day of their Group A match, with pace bowler Sunil Roul wrecking the hosts' batting lineup by taking six wickets.

Though Bengal had secured a quarter-final berth in the previous round itself, the

loss on Friday at the Eden Gardens ahead of the knockout round would have dampened their spirits somewhat.

Uttarakhand became the second team behind Bengal (32 points) to move into the quarter-finals after their match against Haryana ended in a draw. Uttarakhand earned three points, owing to their first-innings lead to take their tally to 29 points.

Bengal will take on Jharkhand in the first quarter-final, while Uttarakhand will play Karnataka on January 31.

Odisha first dismissed Bengal for 276 in 79 overs, thanks to 24-year-old Roul's six-wicket haul. The visitors' batters then returned for the second innings to quickly overhaul the 112-run winning target in the 23rd over.

**JHARKHAND IN LAST 8**  
**Puducherry:** Jharkhand became the second team

behind Karnataka to sail into the quarter-finals from Group C after the match between Kerala and Puducherry ended in a draw and Services thrashed Rajasthan by 183 runs.

While Karnataka had already secured a last-eight berth following the penultimate round of Ranji matches, Jharkhand had to wait till the last day of the seventh and final round of group matches, which concluded on Friday, to know their fate.

On Thursday, Jharkhand had lost to Karnataka by nine wickets and their players would have been edgy all day long on Friday as their fate was to be decided by the Kerala-Puducherry and Services-Rajasthan matches.

Luckily for Jharkhand, both results went in their favour and they will take on Bengal in the quarter-finals, while Group C toppers Karnataka will play Uttarakhand in the last-eight.



# NOVAK IS GOING FOR 10

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

AP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Of course, I'm not as fresh



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

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

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

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

initially refusing to go quietly.

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

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

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

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

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

next two sets with minimal resistance.

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

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



## Tsitsipas in dreamland after reaching maiden Australian Open final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

Open semi-final at the fourth attempt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Sabalenka, Rybakina promise power-packed final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Two of the biggest hitters in women's tennis go toe-to-toe when Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina clash in Saturday's Australian Open final in Melbourne.

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

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

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

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

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

Jelena Ostapenko and Victoria Azarenka followed on the back of Rybakina's dominant serve, which has smacked down 45 aces so far, more than any other.

Rybakina's graceful power appears effortless at times, emanating from clean ball-striking and immaculate timing.

Sabalenka is more brutal,

her muscles generating spin and driving the ball through the court.

It is a trait Sabalenka has always possessed but was often stymied by her fractious nerves.

But not this year as she finally won a Slam semi-final at the fourth attempt against the unseeded Pole Magda Linette.

Sabalenka has turned it around by working tirelessly last year with her coaches, a sports psychologist and a biomechanical specialist.

"I was trying to do less screaming after some bad points or some errors," Sabalenka said. "I was just trying to hold myself, stay calm, just think about the next point. 'I'm still screaming 'Cmon!' and all that stuff. Just less negative emotions."

Sabalenka is now so confident of handling her emotions — demonstrated as she smoothly fought back from 2-0 down in the first set against Linette — that she has dispensed with her sports psychologist.

Rybakina, the 22nd seed, will be full of confidence heading into her second major final in the past seven months.

She's lost only one set during the Australian Open fortnight, and that was against last year's runner-up Danielle Collins.

But if her first serve deserts her, Rybakina can come under pressure, as happened against the combative Azarenka in the semi-finals when she was broken three times.

## Title eludes Sania in last Grand Slam

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Trailblazing Indian tennis star Sania Mirza capped off her glorious Grand Slam career with a runners-up finish alongside best friend Rohan Bopanna in the Australian Open mixed doubles final here on Friday.

Pairing up with her first-ever mixed doubles partner Bopanna, the unseeded Indian duo went down 6-7(2), 2-6 to the Brazilian pair of Luisa Stefani and Rafael Mataos in the final at the Rod Laver Arena.

"If I cry, these are happy tears. That's just a disclaimer. I'm still going to play a couple of more tournaments but my journey of my professional career started in Melbourne," an emotional Sania said as she struggled to hold back tears.

"Rohan was my first-ever mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and we won the nationals, it was 22 year ago and I couldn't think of a better person, he's my best friend and one of my best partners to finish my career," Sania said, thanking Bopanna, who has one French Open mixed doubles title to his credit.

The 36-year-old, who earlier announced that the WTA event in Dubai next month will be her swansong, is India's most accomplished woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.

She had won the mixed doubles titles at the 2009 Australian Open and the 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi and the 2014 US Open with Brazilian Bruno Soares.

The Rod Laver Arena has been a happy hunting ground for the Hyderabad. She has a women's doubles and mixed doubles title each and has finished runner up four times at the Australian Open.

"It started in 2005 when I played Serena Williams in the third round as an 18-year-old



and that was scarily enough 18 years ago. I have had the privilege to come back here again and again, win some tournaments here and play some great finals amongst you all.

"Rod Laver Arena has really been special in my life and I couldn't think of a better arena to finish my career at in a Grand Slam," Sania said.

The presence of her son Ishaan, alongside family and friends made the occasion sweeter.

"I never thought I'd be able to play in front of my child in a Grand Slam final, so it's truly special for me, to have my four-year-old here and my parents here, and Rohan's wife, my trainers, my family in Australia who made me feel like home away from home."

"Cara Black who is my best friend and one of my first partners, it's been truly special I wouldn't be able to achieve anything without you all," Sania said.

## Real defeat Atletico to reach Copa del Rey semis

AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema and Vinicius Junior's extra-time strikes earned Real Madrid a 3-1 win over rivals Atletico Madrid on Thursday to reach the Copa del Rey semi-finals.

The Brazilian winger's goal was a particularly sweet one for him after a crude effigy with his shirt on was hung from a bridge near Real Madrid's training ground before the game.

The spiky, gripping derby clash turned against Diego Simeone's side in the additional period when defender Stefan Savic was sent off. Atletico took the lead through Alvaro Morata after 19 minutes but Rodrygo's sensational slam run past three defenders and slick finish pulled Madrid level with 11 minutes remaining.

After Savic's 99th minute red card, Benzema tucked home from Marco Asensio's pass and Vinicius netted at the death to send Los Blancos through to the

final four for the first time since 2019. "Today we had a very difficult game but with the character and the players that we have, we were able to turn it around," Benzema told Teledeporte.

"Suffering is not good -- we have to score the goals earlier."

The build-up to the derby was tainted by the Vinicius effigy being strung up overnight, which the club described as "a disgusting act of racism, xenophobia and hatred."

"(Vinicius) really wanted to play and he had a very good game," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told a news conference.

"I think the goal was his reward for his great work. What happened is very regrettable." Madrid fans had planned to sing Vinicius' name in support in the 20th minute, matching his shirt number, but were stunned into silence by Morata's goal moments before.

Atletico, hitting their best form of the season, conjured a



brilliant move to break the deadlock, with Morata tapping home after Koke's dink allowed Nahuel Molina to stroke a first-time cross to the back post.

Madrid improved significantly after the break and Rodrygo levelled with 11 minutes to go with his jinking solo effort and subtle near-post finish, taking the clash to extra-time.

Atletico defender Savic foolishly handed Madrid the edge when he was sent off for two yellow cards in two minutes.

With an extra man Madrid capitalised, Benzema striking lethally after 104 minutes when Vinicius miskicked Marco Asensio's cross and the ball travelled through to the striker.

Madrid, who last won the Copa del Rey in 2014, kept Atletico at bay in the final 15 minutes before Vinicius dribbled through and fired home to clinch the victory — celebrating with a now customary dance routine.

Despite their improving performances, the rest of Atletico's season is looking barren, given they were eliminated from European football and are 13 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona, having played a game more.

"We are out of Europe and now the cup, the team has the second half of the season ahead of them to try and qualify for the Champions League, that's the objective the club needs," said Simeone, who cast some doubt on his future.

The Argentine coach has been at the club since 2011 and has a contract until 2024.

"After that, calmly, we will look at what is convenient for everyone," he continued. "Being at Atletico gives me enormous joy, I will give 1000 percent until the day that I leave."

Earlier Athletic Bilbao won 3-1 at Valencia to join record 31-time winners Barcelona and Osasuna in Monday's semi-final draw.



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