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11 SPORT

Rijiju slams judiciary for publicising IB, RAW files

It's a matter of grave concern, with implications, I will react at appropriate time, says Law Min

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his campaign against the judiciary, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said it was a "matter of grave concern" that the Supreme Court Collegium put in public domain certain portions of sensitive reports of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) while reiterating the apex court's recommendation for elevation of five advocates as High Court Judges. Addressing a press conference at his Ministry's function on e-courts, Rijiju said Intelligence agency officials work in a secret manner for the nation, and they would "think twice" in future if their reports are made public, and making their reports public "will have an implication."

"Putting the sensitive or secret reports of the RAW and



Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju addresses a press conference at the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

IB in public domain is a matter of grave concern on which I will react at an appropriate time. Today is not the appropriate time," Rijiju told reporters amid a volley of questions in this regard.

This is for the first time that the Government has reacted to portions of these reports that were put in public domain

by the Supreme Court

Collegiums. Asked whether he would 'sensitise' Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud in this regard, the Law Minister said he often meets the CJI. "We are always in touch. He is the head of the judiciary, and I am the bridge between the Government and the judiciary so we have to work together. You cannot work in isolation," he said. Rijiju also referred to

certain statements and tweets by politicians and lawyers slamming him for lowering the dignity of the top court by commenting on the Collegium. He said while appointments are an administrative issue, judicial pronouncements are "totally different."

"I am not commenting, or nobody should make any kind of comment when it is a judicial order. Some people may say that certain remarks are made which compromise the independence of the judiciary. So let us be very clear. When we are talking about the appointment process — this is an administrative matter. This has nothing to do with judicial order or pronouncement," he said.

Meanwhile, noted lawyer and former Law Minister Kapil Sibal condemned Rijiju's speech on Monday in which the Law Minister had said that though judges are not elected by people but they should bear in mind that people are watching their verdicts in this age of social media. "Are all your controversial statements meant to strengthen the judiciary? You might believe it. We lawyers don't," said Sibal.

The Supreme Court Collegium on January 19, reiterated its recommendation for appointing five judges, rejecting the intelligence agencies reports against them.

Rahul tries to deflect Digvijaya's self-goal

Indian Army doesn't need to prove anything on surgical strikes: RaGa

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday tried to douse yet another controversy triggered by senior party leader Digvijaya Singh who questioned India's 'surgical strikes' against Pakistan. The BJP accused the Congress of insulting the armed forces in their hatred of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Terming Digvijaya Singh's views 'ridiculous', Rahul said, "The party completely disagreed with his statement. The Indian Army does not need to prove anything. The Armed Forces do their job exceptionally well." Rahul was talking to reporters enroute Srinagar.

Singh on Monday had accused the BJP Government at the Centre of "spreading lies" about surgical strikes.

"They (Centre) talk about surgical strikes and that they have killed so many of them but there is no proof. All they do is spread lies," he said.

After his comments, the BJP hit out at the Congress.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Bollywood actor Urmila Matondkar during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Jammu district on Tuesday. PTI

Truth has nasty habit of coming out, says Rahul on BBC documentary

Jammu: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday gave thumbs down to the Centre's decision to virtually ban a BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots titled 'India: The Modi Question.' The Government on Friday had directed social media platforms Twitter and YouTube to block links to the documentary. Responding to a question during the press conference in Jhajjar Kotli Gandhi said, "If you read our scriptures, if you read the Bhagavad Gita or the Upanishads, you will see that it is written in it that the truth cannot be hidden. The truth always comes out."

CAPSULE

3 INDIAN FILMS EARN OSCAR NOMINATIONS

Los Angeles: 'Naatu Naatu', the hit dance track from SS Rajamouli's blockbuster 'RRR', on Tuesday continued its winning march by earning a coveted nomination for the Original Song at the Oscars 2023 where Indian documentaries 'All That Breathes' and 'Elephant Whispers' walked away with nods in Documentary Feature and Documentary Short categories. 'The Last Show', India's official entry in the International Feature category, however, failed to make the cut in the final five. 'Naatu Naatu' will compete with 'Applause' from from 'Tell It Like a Woman', 'Hold My Hand' from 'Top Gun: Maverick', 'Lift Me Up' from 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' and 'This Is a Life' from 'Everything Everywhere All at Once.'

EGYPTIAN PRES EL-SISI BEGINS INDIA VISIT

New Delhi: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi arrived here on Tuesday for a three-day State visit focused on enhancing bilateral ties in a range of areas, including agriculture, digital domain and trade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sisi will hold wide-ranging talks on Wednesday.

PADMA BHUSHAN BV DOSHI NO MORE

Ahmedabad: Well-known architect and Padma Bhushan recipient Balkrishna Doshi, who worked with legends like Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, died at 95 at his home here on Tuesday.

Late report on 2 unruly flyers lands AI in soup



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Air India for not reporting on time against two unruly passengers on a Paris-Delhi flight (AI-142) of December 6, 2022.

According to the DGCA, apart from not reporting the incident on time, the airline also delayed referring the matter to its Internal Committee. This is the second time in less than a week that the DGCA has taken enforcement action against the airline in connection with unruly passenger behaviour.

Meanwhile Air India on Tuesday said it has closed the internal probe into the urination case and will assist the flight's Pilot-in-Command with an appeal against the suspension of his licence by DGCA.

MCD fails to elect Mayor again as House adjourned



AAP and BJP leaders during the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, at the Civic Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday. The election has been postponed again after the AAP and BJP members exchanged heated arguments. PTI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) could not elect its Mayor for the second time on Tuesday as its proceedings were adjourned sine die following a ruckus between AAP and BJP Councillors.

This was the second attempt of the MCD to elect its first single Mayor in 10 years

following the unification of its three divisions last year.

The House was adjourned soon after members took oaths amid sloganeering by both the AAP and BJP Councillors. The adjournment prompted Councillors, 13 MLAs and three Rajya Sabha MPs of the AAP to sit on a "dharna" for nearly four hours against the BJP.

We should've been consulted on panel, say wrestlers



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's top wrestlers are unhappy with the Union Sports Ministry for not consulting them before forming the oversight committee that will probe molestation and corruption charges against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is also a six-time BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced on Monday that a five-member oversight committee, headed by legendary boxer M C Mary Kom, will probe the charges against the WFI boss and also manage the day-to-day affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India.

'Pathaan' sets advance booking record

SRK's comeback film set to break KGF2 record, revive industry, say insiders

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Beating back boycott calls, Shah Rukh Khan starrer 'Pathaan' is set for the biggest opening for any Hindi film with 4.19 lakh tickets sold till Tuesday and 80 per cent occupancy on day one, even for early morning shows beginning at 6 AM or 7 AM, say industry insiders.

The film, which releases across 5,000 screens on Wednesday, could well signal a happy 2023 for an industry



grappling with crippling losses following the Covid pandemic and a string of box office duds. The ticket surge is being seen in multiplexes, single screen theatres and also in the South.

"The film is going to take a historic start at the box office with opening day collections of ₹45 crore to ₹50 crore. The box office revival will begin with 'Pathaan', especially looking at its advance booking. This is

very rare. And tomorrow is a working day," trade analyst Taran Adarsh told PTI.

"This film is going to break the advance booking of 'KGF 2' and will do a business of ₹45 crore to ₹50 crore," agreed Rajendra Singh Jyala, chief programming officer at multiplex chain INOX.

"We have 7 AM shows at Inox and almost 80 per cent of it is full. The early morning shows are happening in cities

like Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Kolkata and a few others," Jyala told PTI.

The Yash Raj Films production, which marks Shah Rukh's return as a hero after 2018's 'Zero', will get a five-day extended opening weekend as it releases the day before Republic Day.

The advances of 'Pathaan' have exceeded all expectation, added Kamal Gianchandani, president of the Multiplex Association of India.

"It's a foregone conclusion that tomorrow's opening would be the biggest for any Hindi film," he said.

There have been early morning shows before but the excitement for 'Pathaan' is unprecedented with cinema halls in various cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon, opening for a 6 AM or a 7 AM show, he said.

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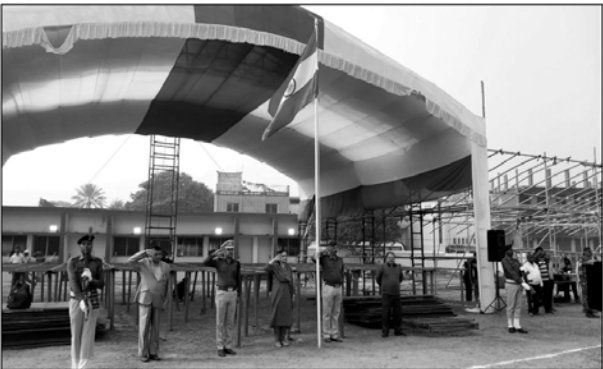
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Alert sounded in view of Republic Day celebrations



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The police have tightened security arrangements across Kolhan division in view of the Republic Day celebrations on January 26. Though Intelligence reports have not specified any particular threat perception, a gen-

eral alert has been sounded across the division. However, concern over the recent spurt in criminal activities in the city over a thousand police personnel have been posted in and around the city and at all vital installations.

"High profile security arrangements have been

made this time. The recent murders in the city are also one of the prime reasons for the additional deployment of security forces. JAP commandos have been deployed to thwart any untoward incident. Moreover, all the key installations in the city will also be under the hawk-eyed vigil of the police," said a senior district official.

The police and administrative machineries are gearing up to security arrangements after putting the police stations in all these three districts under Kolhan on high alert.

Significantly, the district police authority are taking extra attention while deployment of forces in the strategic location keeping the naxal-sponsored violence at West Singhbhum recently.

East Singhbhum district

DC INSPECTS FINAL REHEARSAL OF REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

Jamshedpur As the Steel City gears up to celebrate Republic Day, senior officials of the district inspected final preparations at Gopal Maidan.

As the full dress rehearsal of the parade for the district level function was going on, Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav and Senior

Superintendent of Police Prabhat Kumar, visited the venue and inspected the parade.

After inspecting the parade, the Deputy Commissioner took the salute of the march past. On this occasion, she said that the contingents involved in the parade performed well,

there are some shortcomings for which she gave instructions to rectify them. Officials informed that ground preparation, labeling and other works are in progress. The district level function will be celebrated grandly in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

It is noteworthy that 7

units of paramilitary and police forces are participating in this year's parade, including 1 unit JAP-6, 2 units District Police Force, 1 unit Home Guard, 1 unit Auxiliary Police and 1-1 unit boys/girls. NCC included. St Mary's school team will be there as the band party.

Republic Day celebration anywhere.

The police official pointed out that the separate teams of police and paramilitary forces will remain mobile and ready to respond to any emergency. "The moment we get information about a naxal act in any of the spots, the special operation will be launched immediately," he said.

The preparedness for a peaceful Republic Day celebration is on at the East Singhbhum district also. Senior superintendent of police Prabhat Kumar said that police and paramilitary forces are being deployed at a number of locations in Ghatshila sub-division so that the people living in the rebel-infested areas can celebrate the national festival fearlessly.

SAIL Ranchi units celebrate SAIL Day at Ispat Bhawan

PNS : RANCHI

SAIL Ranchi units celebrated SAIL Day with great fanfare and traditional gaiety on Tuesday at Ispat Bhawan Ranchi. The participation of employees and their families and ex-employees was overwhelming, especially as it was the first celebration of the post covid era. Jagdish Arora, ED(CET); Nirvik Banerjee, ED (RDCIS); Sanjeev Kumar, ED (HRD) and Ashish Chakraborty, ED (SSO) graced the occasion. The program started with a welcome address by P Mala Hemrom, CGM (P&A) addressed to all employees, their families and Ex-

Employees. Subsequently, Long Service Awards were Distributed to 6 employees from MTI, 2 from CET and 1 from SSO. After this, scholarships prizes were presented to the children of SAIL employees. Following this, an oath was administered to all SAIL employees by the EDs for good health and Balloons were flown collectively to mark the start of the celebrations. A 5 Km RUN in Shyamali Colony was Organized for 10 different categories comprising not only children but employees, spouses and Ex-employees. The top positions were won by JP Moylan, DC Pathak, Vijay



Kumar, Seema, Anshuman, Prabha, Dinesh, Rishika & Ishika. The SAIL Units Sports Committee comprises S

Goswami, CGM(Iron), GMS shanta Kumar, Sri S. Bharti, Sri RP Sahay contributed to the success of the programme.

UCO BANK POSTS HIGHEST EVER QUARTERLY NET PROFIT

PNS : RANCHI

UCO Bank has posted net profit of Rs.652.97 Crore for the Q3FY23 as against Rs.310.39 Crore for Q3FY22 registering y-o-y growth of 110.37 per cent which is the highest ever quarterly net profit in 80 years history of the Bank. Net profit for nine months ended December-22 rose to Rs1,281 Crore which is also the highest ever nine months net profit. Net Interest Income (NII) for Q3FY23 increased to Rs.1,951.87 Crore as against Rs. 1,762.61 Crore for Q3FY22 registering y-o-y growth of 10.74 per cent fuelled by healthy growth in loan book and improved yield on advances. NII for Q3FY22 includes an exceptional interest income due to recovery in the account of M/s Air India. If recovery from this account is excluded, the growth in NII shall come to 25 per cent approximately on y-o-y basis for Q3FY23. Net Interest Margin (NIM) for Q3FY23 stood at 2.99 per cent from 2.84 per cent for Q2FY23 showing steady improvement. However, NIM for Q3FY22 was 3.03 per cent which was propelled by recovery in the account of M/s Air India, otherwise NIM for Q3FY22 would have been at 2.69 per cent. Other income for Q3FY23 increased to Rs.823.46 Crore as against Rs.719.15 Crore for Q3FY22 registering y-o-y growth of 14.51 per cent aided by robust recovery in written off accounts and commission from third party products.

17-year-old boy seriously injured in IED blast

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In yet another incident of IED blast triggered by suspected Maoists, a 17-year-old boy was seriously injured in an IED blast at Goelkera police station area of West Singhbhum district.

The blast is considered to be a plot of CPI-Maoist rebels against the police and paramilitary forces that took place while the victim was negotiating a trail on foot to his home at Kutumba village in Goelkera.

After the teenager was injured, the police took him to Goelkera Community Health Centre to be referred to the Chaibasa Sadar Hospital for

better treatment.

The boy has sustained grievous injuries throughout his legs and also in other parts of his body. The IED blast in Goelkera took place after a series of such blasts occurred at Tumbabaka, a forest stretch under the Tonto police station area in West Singhbhum district during the past fortnight, causing as many as 10 CRPF and CoBRA jawans to get injured. According to police, Naxals belonging to the outlawed outfit CPI-Maoist have planted IEDs in the jungles under Tonto and Goelkera police station areas to prevent any anti-insurgency operation by the police and

paramilitary forces.

According to the senior police officer, a large number of rebels have held themselves up in numerous hills. He revealed that as there is overgrowth of shrubs and branches of trees everywhere due to the rains in the past, searching through these areas becomes more and more challenging.

Manoharpur block, an area considered to be one of the rebel hotbeds in the state. The search operation in the vicinity of Tirulposi is still on with the jawans of CRPF, CoBRA, Jharkhand Jaguar and district police participating in it vigorously.

126th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Celebrated at AISECT University

AVINASH ANJAN : HAZARIBAG

The 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was celebrated by the NSS of AISECT University, Hazaribag. The program was started by garlanding the picture of Netaji. On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor of the University Dr. PK Nayak said that Subhash Chandra Bose was the only leader from the country who got the title of Netaji. His sacrifice and sacrifice for the country cannot be forgotten. On the other hand, Dr. Munish Govind, the registrar of the university, referring to the Azad Hind Fauj, said that the role of the Azad Hind Fauj run by Netaji was important in the independence of the country. He said that the youth need to follow the thoughts, ideas and vision of



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. NSS officer Dr. Rudra Narayan described Netaji's philosophy of life as an excellent example of sacrifice and struggle for the motherland. CS & IT Dean Dr. Vinod Kumar and SNK Upadhyay also expressed their views on this occasion and described Netaji as a source of inspiration for the youth. Vote of thanks was done by Dean Admin Dr. SR Rath. On the occasion NSS

Officer Priti Vyas, HR Rajkumar Tiwari, Uma Kumari, Uday Ranjan, Kumari Seema, Dr. Soni Mehta along with many other professors and students were present. An essay and poster competition was also organized during the programme, in which hundreds of students took part. Nishi Sharma of Fine Arts Third Semester got first position in Poster Competition and Alpana Kumari Kumari of BCA First Semester in Essay Competition. Santosh Kumar, Ashish Kumar, Jaiprakash Singh, Rahul Kumar, Nitish Kumar, Muskan Kumari, Priyanka Kumari, Shruti Raj, Rohit Kumar, Rahul Gupta, Aman Shah, Chetan Kumar, Jessica Thakur, Abhishek Kumar Gupta, Purushottam Shah, Mujibur Rahman participated in these competitions. Hundreds of students including Saddam

DC and SP inspect parade rehearsal

VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA

The final rehearsal of the parade to be held on Republic Day was done in the stadium grounds of BS College. On this occasion, the parade was jointly inspected by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna and Superintendent of Police R Ramkumar. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Nadia Hindu High School, Lohardaga, NCC team, Ursuline Girls High School and guides from Kasturba Girls High School participated in the parade. A band display was also performed by the girl students of Kasturba Residential School, Senha in the rehearsal.

State Finance Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon will be the chief guest in the main program to be held at BS College Stadium on Republic Day. Flag hoisting will be done by the chief guest at 9.15 am. On this occasion

Wreaths will also be done on the statues of legends established in the district.

In the main function to be held at BS College Stadium, the flag will be hoisted by Honorable Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon as the chief guest at BS College Stadium at 9.15 am. Also tableaux will be presented by various departments after that

Prizes will also be distributed. Before this, a cultural program was organized on January 25 at 06.00 pm at Nagar Bhavan. In this, cultural programs on patriotism will be presented by the students of different schools.



LEOPARD KEEPS EVERYONE GUESSING IN GARHWA

M F AHMAD : DALTONGANJ

All fingers are crossed over the way the leopard is behaving. It is avoiding cage and revisiting its kill also. Leopards are generally a re visitor to its kill but here this leopard is unmindful of its kill left by it.

Sources said just one human kill and all patience will break loose on the streets of Garhwa. The last human kill was on December 28.

Sources said intense forest patrol has kept the leopard off attacking human being but small animals are just not luckier enough.

The principal chief conservator of forests and chief wild life warden Jharkhand Shashikar Samanta has issued an office order in regard to the leopard which is valid upto only January



Man animal conflict expert Nawab Shafath Ali Khan and team camouflaging a cage. PNS

31. The count down to its expiry has already begun and no one knows what the leopard's fate will be. The two member team of Sanjay

Dubri tiger reserve in MP is working on the cages so as to attract the leopard to the cage.

Meanwhile locals are advised to keep their small animal like goats etc inside the house. Man animal conflict expert of Hyderabad Nawab Shafath Ali Khan said what we find here is that villagers just keep their cows, calves, goats outside their houses which a leopard will never miss to attack.

Conservator of forest Garhwa Dileep Kumar Yadav said we are using local tunes to make people remain indoors soon after 5 in the evening as it is a great risk to be any walking down on the road since leopard makes sudden attack.

Yadav said we are going to add two more cages to our fleet of 4 automatic cages in a day or two. End

Micro-enterprise Tool Distribution Camp by TSF

PANKAJ KUMAR : DHANBAD

The Jharia division of Tata Steel Foundation distributed 27 sewing machines, one Xerox machine and eight handcars (thelas) among 36 beneficiaries in 10 villages in the Jamadoba area on Tuesday.

The distribution was carried out in the presence of Sujit Jha, Sr Manager, Security, Jharia Division Tata Steel, Santosh Mahato, Regional Secretary, Rashtriya Colliery Mazdoor Union, Ravi

Kumar, Manager, Security, Jamadoba Group, Jharia Division, Tata Steel and Rajesh Kumar Unit Lead, Tata Steel Foundation, Jharia Division.

The aim of this initiative was to increase the household income level of the beneficiaries in the area by Rs 5 thousand a month. Tata Steel Foundation will bear 75 per cent of the cost of these machines with the remaining 25 per cent to be paid by the beneficiary.

Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), Jharia

division, has been providing continuous support for the promotion of alternative livelihood sources across different villages of Jamadoba group, where local communities are largely engaged in mining and mining related occupation. Based on the insights of a survey conducted by the Foundation and through community engagement, micro enterprise has been identified as a key sector for an alternative source of livelihood in Jamadoba group, informed divisional spokesperson Rajesh Thakur.

Overwhelming response to blood donation camp at RSB



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The blood donation camp organised at Excel Plant of RSB witnessed an overwhelming response. A total of 501 units of blood were collected in the camp. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Seraikela District Arwa Rajkamal, ADC Subodh Kumar, CO Manoj Kumar and other dignitaries comprising vice chairman and managing director of the company SK Behera, Nalini Behera, Sangeeta Behera, Plant Head officers and employees of the company including Vishwajit Jena and HR Head Jaya Singh were present.

While the people associated with the Blood Bank expressed happiness over the success of the camp and widespread blood donation, Arwa Rajkamal met all the blood donors and got to know their spirit and also encouraged them for this noble cause. He said that

the passion of the management, officers and employees of RSB towards blood donation and other social work is indeed inspiring.

Appreciating the work being done by the company, he expressed hope that the company would take positive steps in the development of the state in future also.

SK Behera also praised the spirit of the employees on the occasion and thanked the district administration for their positive cooperation.

RSB Group has been playing an important role in all areas of social concern. Since its inception, it has been playing an important role in conducting blood donation programmes and increasing awareness about it. Blood donation camps are organised at regular intervals in all the plants of RSB. Blood donation programs were organised regularly even during the Corona period.

Security beefed up in C'garh ahead of R-Day function

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

As India celebrates the 74th Republic Day on Thursday, Chhattisgarh Governor Anusuiya Uike will hoist the tricolour in Raipur while Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will do so at Lalbagh in Jagdalpur.

On Tuesday, a full-dress final rehearsal for the Republic Day was done in Raipur in the presence of Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, Raipur Collector Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and the Governor's Security Officer Ashok Kumar.

This year's parade in Jagdalpur will be led by DSP Anil Kurre. He will march



with 14 contingents under his command. Cabinet Ministers and

senior legislators have been assigned to be Chief Guests in different district head-

quarters.

At the events, schoolchildren will present

Cabinet Ministers and senior legislators have been assigned to be Chief Guests in different district headquarters

cultural programmes and tableaux related to government departments will be showcased.

C'garh Jr Doctors suspend strike after CM's assurance



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Junior Doctors working with government medical colleges and hospitals across Chhattisgarh on Tuesday suspended their strike which they launched seeking a hike in scholarship.

The, Indian Medical Association, Raipur unit, President Dr Rakesh Gupta and senior Congress leaders urged the striking doctors to

end their strike as it entered the sixth day.

They said the strike was causing inconvenience on the patients.

Gupta assured them a one-to-one meeting with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The strike was suspended for the talks.

A delegation of Junior Doctors Association Raipur met Baghel late in the evening to discuss their demands. Health and Family

Welfare Minister T.S. Singh Deo was present.

Baghel discussed all the issues raised by the doctors. He sought suggestions for a positive solution to the persistent issues. After reading the doctors' memorandum, he assured them prompt action on their demands.

Gupta said the Chief Minister and Health Minister have promised to resolve the various issues positively.

Ashok Agrawal is new IRCS Chairman



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Retired IAS officer Ashok Agrawal on Tuesday

took charge as Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society's (IRCS) in Chhattisgarh.

As per the new rules, the Chairman has to be elected and a Management Committee be constituted, an official communication said.

The President of the IRCS, Chhattisgarh, has appointed Agrawal as the Chairman of the Management Committee till elections are held.

Agrawal recently retired as the Chief Information Commissioner, Chhattisgarh.

C'garh police launch probe into ransom demand from Jindal



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police have lodged a case against a prisoner for sending a letter demanding a ransom of 5 million pounds (Rs 50.16 crore)

from industrialist and former Congress MP Naveen Jindal, who owns a steel plant in Raigarh.

The ransom letter which also warned of dire consequences was delivered by post on January 18 at the Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) factory in Patrapali village in Raigarh, a FIR said.

The management immediately approached the police.

A case was registered following a complaint by the steel plant management, Raigarh Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjay Mahadeva told The Pioneer.

Everyone must strengthen democratic values: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said everyone must learn to strengthen democratic values and traditions.

He was extending greetings with the people on the occasion of the National Voters Day on January 25. State and district level events will be held to mark the day.

In his message, Baghel said the day makes everyone aware of the need to strengthen democratic values and traditions, an official



communication said.

He said that India is one of the largest democracies in the world. So, each citizen has the primary responsibility and plays his or her part to strengthen democracy.

The power of vote should be used with full responsibility and with-

out fear, he said. He urged all youths completing 18 years of age to register themselves as voters.

Governor Anusuiya Uike will be chief guest at a function at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University in Raipur on January 25.

Govt teacher suspend for immoral act in Korba

STAFF REPORTER ■
KORBA

A government school teacher-cum-hostel superintendent was suspended for allegedly indulging in an immoral act with a woman in a pre-metric tribal boys' hostel in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Korba District Education Officer suspended Pradeep Kumar Toppo, who was an Assistant Teacher (LB) in a primary school in Chandauti village, an official order said on Tuesday. Toppo is also Superintendent of the tribal boys' hostel. The action followed a report by the Block Education Officer about the incident that occurred on Sunday night. The students locked them up when they were inside a room and alerted the police.

Facing dearth of issues, BJP fans hatred: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday accused the BJP of spreading communal hatred because it lacked issues to rake up in Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh.

So, it has taken up the issue of religious conversion and was also fanning communal hatred in the



state, he told reporters.

Speaking before leaving for Tilda-Nevra, Baghel charged the BJP with creating situations that could lead to riots.

In a recent incident, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) tried to evoke communal hatred while all those booked over religious conversion in Bastar's Narayanpur were BJP leaders, he said.

The BJP is opposing the enforcement of the National Security Act (NSA) in the state, he said.

At the same time, he said that his government has won the hearts of farmers.

The paddy procurement in the state has risen to 105 lakh tonnes. This was a mere 50 lakh tonnes during the BJP regime.

ADPO Sohan Sahu to get Union Home Minister Medal

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Governor Anusuiya Uike will confer the Union Home Minister Medal for excellent police training to Assistant District Prosecution Officer (ADPO) Sohan Sahu on Republic Day (January 26).

On Republic Day, police officers and staff are honoured for courage, bravery, distinguished service, excellent work as well as training.

Sahu will be the first Public Prosecution Officer in Chhattisgarh to get a medal for police training, an official communication



said.

Sahu is an ADPO of the 2010 batch. He is posted with the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy, Chhattisgarh. He trains police officers in various disciplines of law.

UBI holds outreach programme in C'garh



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Union Bank of India organized an outreach camp on Monday and Tuesday in Durg, Bhilai and Raipur to build confidence among its customers.

The camp was led by Regional Head Kavita Shrivastava and General Manager from Mumbai Amrendra Jha. The Deputy

General Manager and mentor for Raipur Region, Om Prakash Balodi, was present.

Jha and Balodi told customers about the importance of the camp and detailed the steps taken by the bank to promote MSME, retail, goal loan and Current Account-Saving Account (CASA).

A total of 65 branches were functional across 13 districts in Chhattisgarh, they said.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, MUNGELI
DISTT-MUNGELI (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(THIRD- Call)

NIT No. : 21/SAC/22-23, Gr.No. 01 & 02 Dated : 23-01-2023
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 09-02-2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST):-

Group No.01 Name of Work : RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER AND 2 NO. G-TYPE QUARTER, 01 NO. F-TYPE QUARTER WITH BOUNDARY WALL AT GOVERNMENT LAND SITUATED IN VILLAGE DHARAMPURA OF MUNGELI.
System Tender NO. 121363, Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 162.71 Lakhs

Group No.02 Name of Work- CONSTRUCTIONS OF CANAL FROM R.D. 7140 M. TO 12600 M. AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF 23 NO. STRUCTURES AND CEMENT CONCRETE LINING FROM R.D. 7140 M. TO 12600 M. OF HALF RIVER DIVERSION SCHEME & RENOVATION OF TEMRI TANK.
System Tender No. 121364, Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 464.97 Lakhs (As per S.O.R. 01-08-2010 and As amendment dated 01.08.2014)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 30-01-2023 at 17:31 Hours.(IST) onwards.

NOTE :-All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MANIYARI W.R. DIVISION MUNGELI
DISTT-MUNGELI(C.G.)

G- 97885/5

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.
Back Office: Usha Pride, 2nd floor,Vidhan Sabha Road,Mowa, Raipur. Chattisgarh - 492001.
Phone No. 0771-4904363, Mob: 8521916063, 9329101793, Website:www.lichousing.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) Whereas, the Authorized Officer of LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD had taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.bankeauctions.com

Last date of Tender/ Sealed bid: 25/02/2023. Before 5 PM						
E-auction Date: 27/02/2023 from 12.00 PM to 3.00 PM, Website For E-auction: https://bankeauctions.com						
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrowers & Loan Ac. No.	Property Description	Date of Demand Notice	Inspection Date & Time	A- Reserve Price B- EMD (Rs) C- Increment Amt.	Bank details EMD
1)	Loan No. 121200001242 DHIRAJ GAUTAM	Plot nos. - C1, C2, C3 Sainaman Residency, Gotiyardihi, Abhanpur, Raipur, CG plot Area -3696 sq ft	10.02.2022	24.02.2023 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM	A- Rs. 1580000/- B- Rs. 158000/- C- Rs. 10000/-	Beneficiary Name- LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Beneficiary Branch Name -AXIS BANK, CENTRALISED COLLECTION HUB, Account Number - HFLECRBPNY01242 IFSC Code- UTIB0CCH274
2)	Loan No. 121200001170 Ms Lalita Parakh/ Sachin dev Parakh	Plot nos. - T1,T2,T6,T7 Sainaman Residency, Gotiyardihi, Abhanpur, Raipur, CG plot Area -4500 sq ft	10.02.2022	24.02.2023 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM	A- Rs. 2050000/- B- Rs. 205000/- C- Rs. 10000/-	Beneficiary Name- LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Beneficiary Branch Name -AXIS BANK, CENTRALISED COLLECTION HUB, Account Number - HFLECRBPNY01170 IFSC Code- UTIB0CCH274
3)	Loan No. 120600005859 &120600007696, Mr Arun Kumar Agrawal/ Ms Kavita, Agrawal/ Mr Daya Ram Agrawal.	Flat No-A-402, Forth floor, euphoria apartment, Mowa, Raipur CG Area 1979 Sq ft (Carpet)	20.01.2022	22.02.2023 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM	A- Rs. 9600000/- B- Rs. 960000/- C- Rs. 10000/-	Beneficiary Name- LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Beneficiary Branch Name -AXIS BANK, CENTRALISED COLLECTION HUB, Account Number - HFLECRBPNY05859 IFSC Code- UTIB0CCH274
4)	Loan No. 120600002436, Ms Mukti lata Tiharu/ Shalendra Kumar Tiharu.	Plot Nos. 25 and 26, Block C, Tilak Vihar, Saloni, abhanpur, Raipur CG plot area 3000 sq ft	27.05.2019	23.02.2023 11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM	A- Rs. 1200000/- B- Rs. 120000/- C- Rs. 10000/-	Beneficiary Name- LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Beneficiary Branch Name -AXIS BANK, CENTRALISED COLLECTION HUB, Account Number - HFLECRBPNY02436 IFSC Code- UTIB0CCH274

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets/properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules there under) LIC HFL invites OFFERS EITHER in sealed covers or in Online mode to purchase the said properties on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. E-auctions is being held on "As is where is Basis, As is what is basis", Whatever there is and without Any Recourse Basis; and will be conducted Online, the E-auction will be conducted through LIC- Housing Finance approved E-auction service Provider "M/S C1 INDIA PVT LTD". 2. THE Interested bidders should register their names at portal <https://bankeauctions.com> and get their user id and password free of cost prospective bidder may email online training on E-auction from the service provider M/S C1 INDIA PVT LTD, contact person: Mr. Danish Khan, contact no. 9826804343, 9111444797, E-mail Id: mpecg@c1india.com, 3. For detailed terms & conditions of the sale notice and full description of the properties please refer to the website of approved e-auctions Service provider "M/S C1 INDIA PVT LTD" at <https://bankeauctions.com>;

Date: 25.01.2023, Place: Raipur

Authorised Officer
LIC Housing Finance Ltd

US distances itself from BBC’s docu on Modi

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

The US has distanced itself from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)’s controversial documentary series on Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying it is “not familiar” with the documentary. However, the US said it is familiar with the shared values that connect Washington and New Delhi as two thriving and vibrant democracies.

Responding to questions raised by a Pakistani journalist, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price on late Monday told reporters that Washington shares an “exceptionally deep partnership” with New Delhi based on values that are common to both the US and Indian democracies.

When the journalist pressed further on the BBC documentary, Price said: “I’m not familiar with the (BBC) documentary (on 2002 Gujarat riots) you’re referring to. I am very familiar with the shared values that connect the United States and India as two thriving, vibrant democracies.”

“When we have concerns about actions that are taken in India, we’ve voiced those. We’ve had an occasion to do that. But we want first and foremost to reinforce those values that are at the heart of our relationship,” Price said, with the Biden



Administration, like the British Government, distancing itself from such a documentary. Price said there are several elements that bolster Washington’s global strategic partnership with New Delhi, which include political, economic and through people-to-people ties.

“What I will say broadly is that there are a number of elements that undergird the global strategic partnership that we have with our Indian partners. There are close political ties. There are economic ties. There are exceptionally deep people-to-people ties between the US and India,” he added.

“But one of those additional elements are the values that we share, the values that are common to American democracy and to Indian democracy.

India, of course, is the world’s largest democracy. It’s a vibrant democracy. And again, we look to everything that ties us together, and we look to reinforce all of those elements that tie us together,” Price told reporters at his daily news conference. The Indian government has condemned the BBC’s

controversial documentary, which has not been screened in India, as a “propaganda piece” with a questionable agenda behind it.

“We think that this is a propaganda piece, designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible,” Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said last week.

Last week, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended Prime Minister Modi over the BBC documentary, asserting that he “did not agree with the characterisation” of his Indian counterpart. Several members of the Indian diaspora in the UK have sent complaints to the BBC over the characterisation of the Indian leader in the series.

Meanwhile, the US has reaffirmed that the pace, the scope and the character of any dialogue between India and Pakistan is a matter for the two countries, asserting that Washington has always supported talks between the two neighbours to ensure peace in South Asia.

Responding to a question raised by a Pakistani journalist on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent remarks seeking peace talks with India, Price said even though the United States wants to see regional stability in South Asia, its relationships with Pakistan and India “stand on their own”.

Cong disrespectful to Armed forces: BJP

Prasad raps Rahul for dismissing Digvijaya’s comment on surgical strikes as his personal opinion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming that Rahul Gandhi’s ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ is turning out to be a “Bharat todo yatra”, the BJP on Tuesday slammed the former Congress president for dismissing his party colleague Digvijaya Singh’s controversial comments on surgical strikes as his “personal opinion” and asked the Opposition party to make its stand clear on the issues of terrorism and national security.

Latching on to former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister’s Digvijaya Singh for raising questions on surgical strikes during the ongoing ‘Bharat Jodo yatra’ passing by Jammu & Kashmir, the BJP alleged that Congress has been “disrespectful” to the armed forces and been making “insulting” remarks against them in the past.

Addressing a press conference here senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad asked as why Rahul could not convince Digvijaya who he said been with him since the beginning of the ‘Yatra’ from Kanya Kumari his party’s view on the issue and “Why did Rahul Gandhi take so long to publicly declare his respect for the armed forces”.

“Rahul Gandhi ji, even after walking thousands of kilometers with you, why couldn’t you teach Digvijaya Singh to respect the Army?



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, in Nagrota, on Tuesday PTI Photo

This is not the first time he (Singh) has spoken against the Army. This time he did it in Kashmir, it is a matter of great shame,” said BJP leader. He lashed-out at Rahul for dismissing Digvijaya Singh’s controversial comments on surgical strikes as his “personal opinion”.

Referring to former Chief Minister raising questions on surgical strikes, Prasad said the ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ of which Digvijaya Singh is also a co-organizer “is turning-out to be a ‘Bharat todo yatra’ The BJP

leader also asked the Congress to make its stand clear on the issues of terrorism and national security. Prasad said the Congress has a habit of projecting uncomfortable views of its leaders as their personal views and asked if there is any limit to such opinion.

“The question is what is the standard of these leaders when it comes to respecting our armed forces. Indians do not seek proof of their heroics but salute them,” Prasad told reporters, noting that Singh has a history of taking controver-

Taking UP to pinnacle of development: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday urged people to put an end to divisions among them on the basis of caste, region, language and religion that have harmed Uttar Pradesh, and come together to elevate and place the State among the most prosperous States of the country.

Addressing a gathering during the ‘UP Diwas’ celebrations at Awadh Shilpgram on the occasion of the 74th Foundation Day of the state, the CM said, “As we are bringing Uttar Pradesh out of darkness and taking it to the pinnacle of development, we must also associate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ and expose the divisive forces and crack down on the corrupt.”

Highlighting the role of the state in the country’s development, the CM said Uttar Pradesh has played a significant role in creating a modern India. Uttar Pradesh became the focal point of the country’s first freedom struggle, he pointed out.

“Mangal Pandey in Barrackpore announced the launch of the freedom movement, which was led by Rani Lakshmi Bai from Jhansi, Bandhu Singh from Gorakhpur, and Dhan Singh Kotwal from Meerut. This state saw the Kakori train incident



and the Chauri-Chaura incident. This land belongs to freedom fighters and their countless sacrifices,” Yogi said. “The origin of India’s Vedic knowledge, Naimisharanya of Sitapur, is in Uttar Pradesh. Although we had everything, PM Modi gave us a sense of pride and dignity. Today, Uttar Pradesh has once again stood up with courage and is moving forward,” Yogi said.

He further pointed out that in 2017, when the double-engine government was formed in the state, former Governor Ram Naik inspired them to celebrate the Foundation Day of Uttar Pradesh.

“On this occasion, our government launched the flagship scheme of ‘One District One Product’ (ODOP). The ODOP scheme has doubled Uttar Pradesh’s exports. Before 2017, UP was known as the state of riots and the hub of criminal activities but today it is referred to as the hub of exports. This is the inspiring story of the brand new Uttar Pradesh,” Yogi said.

Pointing out that on the

occasion of UP Diwas, the Planning department has issued a Family Card, the CM said, “The dashboard for the Millet Promotion Scheme and natural farming was inaugurated by the Agriculture department. We have already provided two crore tablets and laptops to the youth here.”

“Together with the Centre, the state government is going to give the benefits of the ‘CM Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme’, which was inaugurated by Governor Anandiben Patel today, to 7.5 lakh graduated youths of the state in the next one year.”

“On this occasion, ODOP’s six beneficiary-oriented schemes and the Uttar Pradesh Notary Management website have been launched,” Yogi said.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving Uttar Pradesh the opportunity to host 11 G-20 programmes, the CM said Lucknow is one of the four cities in UP where these programmes would be held.

“Through the Global Investors Summit, to be held between February 10-12, investment worth lakhs of crores of rupees is going to come to Uttar Pradesh. Now the youths here will not have to go to other countries and different states across India for jobs. A lot of opportunities will be available here. We have to be ready to welcome investors and entrepreneurs coming to Uttar Pradesh,” Yogi said.

‘Aero India demonstrates rise of strong, self-reliant India’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said the forthcoming Aero India exhibition in Bengaluru will not only display the country’s growing prowess in the aerospace sector but will also demonstrate the rise of a strong and self-reliant “New India.”

The 14th edition of Aero India, held every two years, will be held in Bengaluru from February 13 to 17.

Reviewing the preparations for the prestigious exhibition here, Rajnath said Aero India 2023 will not just be an event, but a display of the growing prowess of the defence and aerospace sector and the rise of a strong and self-reliant



‘New India’, the defence ministry said. The defence minister urged all the stakeholders to ensure “foolproof” arrangements for the participants.

Officials said 731 exhibitors have registered for the event so far. The five-day event on the theme ‘the runway to a billion opportunities’ will be the largest-ever aero show organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in a total area of around 35,000 sq metres, the

defence ministry said. Officials said the defence ministers’ conclave, with the theme ‘shared prosperity through enhanced engagement in defence (SPEED)’, and a CEOs’ roundtable are among the marquee events being organised as part of the Aero India.

The Manthan start-up event and Bandhan ceremony, which witnesses signing of MoUs, will also be part of the event, along with a fabulous air

show on all the five days. It will showcase the paradigm shift the government has brought in the aim of organising such events, the ministry said.

The events have been restructured with focus on increasing defence exports and forging partnerships rather than merely import of weapons and equipment.

Rajnath noted the Indian defence industry is going through a transformational phase and the active participation of the private sector is the biggest catalyst to that change.

He said though Aero India is a business event, it also aims to strengthen the country’s relations with other nations.

He commended Bengaluru for successfully organising several editions of Aero India, say-

ing that the event is shaping Karnataka as an epicentre of aviation and aerospace industry. Rajnath described Karnataka as one of the leading states which contributes to the economic growth of the country.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and state government officials joined the meeting through video conferencing, while Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pandey, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence attended the meeting physically.

Navy carrying out mega war game in Indian Ocean Region

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is carrying out a mega war game in the strategically important Indian ocean region where China has substantially increased its naval imprint. The war game involves almost all operational assets like warships, submarines and aircraft there to hone its operational readiness.

The biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) is aimed at “validating and refining” the Navy’s concept of “operations” as well as to test overall combat capabilities, officials said here on Tuesday.

The TROPEX will last for three months from January to March and assets of the Indian

Army, the Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard are being deployed for the mega drills.

“As part of the exercise, all surface combatants of the Indian Navy including destroyers, frigates, corvettes as well as submarines and aircraft are put through complex maritime operational deployments to validate and refine the Navy’s concept of operations including operational logistics and interoperability with other services,” Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. He said the exercise is being conducted in different phases, both in harbour and at sea, encompassing various facets of combat operations including live weapon firings.

“Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise provides an oppor-

tunity to test the combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment,” he said.

“The maritime exercise also facilitates operational level interaction with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard, which will further strengthen interoperability and joint operations in a complex environment,” he said.

Separately, the Navy also conducted the biennial tri-services amphibious exercise (AMPHEX) 2023 at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh from January 17 to 22.

The exercise focused on joint training of elements of all three services in various facets of amphibious operations to enhance interoperability and synergy.

MD of Manipur-based firm held in Ponzi-linked money laundering case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the Managing Director of a Manipur-based company in a money laundering case linked to a Ponzi scheme through which 15,000 investors were duped of their investments to the tune of Rs 580 crore.

The ED conducted searches at eight different locations of Lamjingba Group of companies and its MD Sanasam Jacky Singh in Gurugram (Haryana), Kolkata (West Bengal) Manipur in the money laundering case and recovered Rs 34 lakh cash and various incriminating documents such as copies of property documents, list of investors, details of funds collected from the investors and foreign invest-

ments, the agency said in a statement. The ED arrested Singh on Saturday and a court later sent him to ED custody. The money laundering probe relates to a “large-scale Ponzi scheme operated by Sanasam Jacky Singh...,” it said.

“These incriminating documents are related to generation of proceeds of crime, its further diversion, transfer and end use by the accused Sanasam Jacky Singh and others,” it said.

Two bank accounts of Singh, with a balance amount of Rs 1,34,01,989, were also frozen. Further, four immovable properties (commercial buildings/lands) situated in Gurugram and Imphal, were also frozen/seized. PNS



PM Narendra Modi interacts with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Awardees 2023, in New Delhi, on Tuesday PTI Photo

WHO for action to protect kids from spurious medicines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned at the reports of death among children due to cough syrups and medicines in some countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an “urgent call to action” to the members to detect and respond to incidents of falsified medical products and protect children from contaminated medicines.

The global health agency said that over the past four months, countries reported several incidents of over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups for children with confirmed or suspected contamination with high levels of diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG). The cases are from at

least seven countries, associated with more than 300 fatalities in three of these countries, with most young children under the age of five. The WHO said the contaminants are toxic chemicals used as industrial solvents and antifreeze agents that can be fatal even in small amounts, and should never be found in medicines.

“WHO is releasing an urgent call to action to countries to prevent, detect and respond to incidents of substandard and falsified medical products,” the global health agency said. Since October last year, the WHO has issued three global medical alerts over substandard paediatric medicines and syrups.

In October 2022, it issued

an alert over Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited, Haryana, India.

The four “substandard products” were identified in the Gambia and reported to the WHO in September 2022, then in November, an alert was issued by the health agency over eight products, including Unibebi Cough Syrup, Unibebi Demam Paracetamol Drops and Unibebi Demam Paracetamol Syrup, identified in Indonesia and manufactured by PT Afi Farma.

Earlier this month, the WHO issued an alert to warn against the use of two “substandard” cough syrups man-

ufactured by Marion Biotech, India that have been linked to the deaths of 18 children in Uzbekistan.

Ambronol syrup and DOK-1 Max syrup were manufactured by Marion Biotech, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The global health organisation issued the alert saying the syrups fail to meet quality standards and contain contaminants that can prove fatal. The WHO’s medical product alerts were rapidly disseminated to the national health authorities of all 194 WHO Member States.

These medical product alerts requested the detection and removal of contaminated medicines from circulation in the markets; increased surveillance and diligence within the

supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected; immediate notification to WHO if these substandard products are discovered in-country; and otherwise inform the public of the dangers and toxic effects of the substandard medicines at issue.

It noted that since these are not isolated incidents, the WHO called on regulators and governments to detect and remove from circulation in their respective markets any substandard medical products that have been identified in the alerts as potential causes of death and disease; ensure that all medical products in their respective markets are approved for sale by competent authorities and obtainable from authorised/licensed suppliers.

‘Make WB Fin Secy party in PIL on Central funds’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was more trouble for the Mamata Banerjee Government with the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directing the petitioners to make Bengal Finance Secretary party in a PIL case related to massive financial irregularities in utilization of central funds.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by State BJP leader Jagannath Chattopadhyay the Division Bench of Chief Justice PrakashSrivastava and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj directed the petitioner to include the name of the senior IAS officer as a party in the case.

Chattopadhyay had earlier filed a PIL in which he alleged massive irregularities in utilization of central funds. In his PIL he had relied on the Comptroller and Auditor General reports according to which the State Government has failed to account for ₹2.29 lakh crore of central funds.

No proper certificate towards the whopping expenditure had been submitted the peti-



tioner alleged prompting the Court to direct the inclusion of the top officer's name as a party to the case. The CAG report was placed in March 2021.

According to Chattopadhyay most irregularities were reported in Panchayat and Rural Development (around ₹82,000 crore), UrbanDevelopment and Municipal Affairs, Education (₹36,000 crore) andHealth. The petitioner also claimed that the irregularities had takenplace in schemes related to rural housing, 100-days' work, SC-ST-OBC funds, sanitization etc. The next date of hearing has been fixed onJanuary 30.

“Out of these departments

at least two are directly under the Chief Minister and some others are held by some of her senior most ministerial colleagues ... this is apart from the Education in which the then minister is presently in jail,” Sanmoy Banerjee a State BJP leader said.

According to Banerjee the corruption took place in the form of fund misutilisation on account of tours undertaken by the Chief Minister.

“There are instances where it was seen that the funds for mid-day meal was diverted to meet the expenses of Chief Ministerial tours in company with the senior officers ... how will they explain such fund diversions ... hence no report or half-baked reports were furnished prompting the CAG to act,” the BJP leader said.

The TMC leadership have however rejected the development as “nothing but a ploy to pursue a vendetta politics of the Centre. Said TMC leader Rahul Bose “they have failed to defeat Mamata Banerjee politically ... so they are now trying to take these dirty means.”

MASS SUICIDE IN PUNE

Bodies of 7 members of family fished out of river

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking case of mass suicide, the Pune police fished out the bodies of seven members of a family from the bed of Bhima river in Daund taluka of Pune district during the last five days.

The seven members of family of one Mohan Uttam sPawar allegedly committed suicide by jumping into the water of Bhima river, after he was upset over his son's act of eloping with a married woman some days ago.

The seven members from Mohan Pawar's family — whose bodies were recovered on January 18, 20,21 and 22, 2023 — had reportedly taken a plunge into the Bhima river on the night of January 17.

The bodies recovered from the river comprised that of Pawar himself, his wife, his daughter and their three children. They were identified as Mohan Uttam Pawar, wife Sangeeta Mohan Pawar, married daughter Rani Shama, her husband Shyama Phulaware and their three male children.

The investigations by the local police have revealed Pawar was annoyed with his son Amol's decision to elope with a married woman in a relative's family. Amol is one of the two sons of Pawar, the other being Rahul. While Rahul lived in Pune, Amol lived with him in Pargaon village in Pune's neighbouring Ahmednagar district..

Having heard the news about Amol's elopement with a married woman, Sr Pawar had telephoned Rahul and told him that the latter's act would bring down the reputation of his family. However, Amol was in no mood to change his mind.

Sr Pawar had initially threatened Amol that if the latter did not sever ties with the woman he eloped with, he and other family members would commit suicide by consuming poison. Even Pawar's another son Rahul tried unsuccessfully to persuade his brother Amol.

The investigations by the police have revealed that Sr Pawar and his other family members left home in a car after 11 pm on January 17.

GIC discusses green clearance, land policies of Rly, road depts

Mins agree to expedite infra projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Group of Infrastructure Committee (GIC) chaired by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday discussed the environment clearances and land policies of the railways and road transport. It was resolved to make a comprehensive guidelines for environment and forest clearance for road, rail, and aviation related infrastructures.

The stakeholder ministries led by Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bhupender Yadav agreed to look into the issues and expedite infrastructure projects to accelerate PM Gati Shakti scheme's progress.

This was the 10th meeting of the GIC to address existing inter-ministerial issues on the implementation of various infrastructure projects, an offi-



cial statement of the government said.

Several issues were placed on the agenda for deliberation to expedite the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects. These included issues related to pending forest and environment clearances, facilitation of working permissions/approvals, and ensuring land allocation/transfer and release of funds, noted the statement.

The statement said discussions were also held on policy matters related to environment/forest/wildlife clearance, railways and power, among others. Environment clearances and land policies of the railways and MoRTH and

making comprehensive guidelines for environment and forest clearance were also discussed at length.

“The concerned officers were directed to expedite the process of clearance and implementation of the above matters, the statement said, adding that the stakeholder ministries/ departments agreed to look into various issues raised and resolve the same in order to expedite infrastructure projects,” read the statement.

MoS MoRTH and Civil Aviation Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for Power Krishan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shripad Naik, and Minister of State for Defence & Tourism Ajay Bhatt, too were present in the meeting.

Senior Officers from Road Transport and Highways Ministry, Defence Ministry, Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Railways, Commerce, Industry, Power, Civil Aviation Ministries, NHA and representatives from States attended the meeting.

BJP, RSS spent crores to ruin my image: Rahul

PTI ■ JAMMU

Thousands of crores of rupees have been pumped in by the BJP and the RSS systematically to distort my image but the truth always comes out, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Tuesday on him being derisively referred to as 'Pappu' on social media.

The Congress will teach the BJP that truth works in this country and not money, power and arrogance, Gandhi said as his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' continues in its final leg.

He was speaking to reporters in Jammu before starting his journey towards the Valley.

“Thousands of crores have been spent to distort my image. This was done systematically by the BJP and its leaders. Thousands of crores can't hide



the truth and you have witnessed it. The truth always comes out,” the 52-year-old said when asked if the Congress was spending crores of rupees to counter his 'Pappu' image.

He alleged the RSS and the BJP leaders think that anything can be achieved with money and power.

“You can demean anyone, distort anyone's image, buy any government, anything can be done with money. But that would not be truth. Truth always pushes aside money and power and this stark reality is becoming evident to the BJP leaders slowly,” he said.

SC eases ‘living will’ guidelines, removes Magistrate’s approval

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to make the guidelines on “living will” more workable and less cumbersome, the Supreme Court on Tuesday removed the condition that mandated a Magistrate's approval for withdrawal or withholding of life support to a terminally ill person. Living will is an advance medical directive on end-of-life treatment.

The Supreme Court's 2018 order on passive euthanasia wherein it recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right and an aspect of Article 21 (right to life) notwithstanding, people wanting to get a “living will” registered were facing problems due to cumbersome guidelines, prompting a reconsideration by the apex court. A five-judge Constitution bench headed



by Justice KM Joseph said the document will now be signed by the executor of the living will in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and attested before a notary or Gazetted Officer.

“The witnesses and the notary shall record their satisfaction that the document has been executed voluntarily and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion and with full understanding of all

the relevant information and consequences,” the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and Justice CT Ravikumar, said.

As per the top court's 2018 judgment, a living needed to be signed by the person making the will in the presence of two witnesses and a Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC). The top court also agreed to the suggestion that the executor shall inform and hand over a copy of the advance directive to the family physician, if any.

It also okayed the suggestion that in the event of the executor becoming terminally ill and undergoing prolonged medical treatment with no hope of recovery, the treating physician, when made aware about the Advance Directive, shall ascertain the genuineness and authenticity of the case.



Snow atop the pairs of gumboots kept in formation, after fresh snowfall, in Patnitop, Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday

PTI

Human skeleton found in Indore airport premises

PTI ■ INDORE

A human skeleton, believed to be one-year-old, has been found in the premises of the high-security Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport in Indore, police said on Tuesday.

The human remains were recovered during an electrical work near the boundary wall of the airport on Monday night, Sanjay Shukla, in-charge of the Aerodrome police station, said. An employee noticed the skeleton lying in a pit made for rainwater drainage after which the airport's chief security officer contacted the police, he said. “Prima facie the skeleton appears to be a year old. At this stage it is difficult to say whether the skeleton is of a man or a woman,” Shukla said.

The remains were sent for forensic examination, said the police officer.

Shukla said the area where the skeleton was found is surrounded by bushes and movement of jackals has been noticed there in the past.

A detailed investigation was underway, he added.

Pack up! Will come to power in K'taka: Cong to Bommai

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Asking Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Ministers to “pack up” with Assembly polls around, Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said his party will come to power and purify the ‘Vidhana Soudha’ with ‘Ganjala’ (cow urine), alleging that it was polluted by corruption during the BJP rule.

Also, hitting out at the ruling BJP and Bommai for leveling “false allegations” against previous Congress regime led by him, Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah challenged the Chief Minister to constitute a Supreme Court Judge led inquiry commission to probe both tenures, if his government has the guts.

“It's about 40-45 days left for your government, pack your tents and do whatever collection that is left and go. We will come with dettol to clean Vidhana Soudha. I have even got some Ganjala (cow urine) for purification....People are

wanting to get rid of this evil government,” Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, “Bommai, better, tell all you ministers to pack up soon.”

The Congress leaders' attack on the BJP government came a day after the ruling party filed a complaint with the Lokayukta against Siddaramaiah and Congress, alleging irregularities in ‘TenderSURE’ projects, during their tenure.

State Health Minister K Sudhakar, quoting a CAG report, had alleged that there were financial irregularities to the tune of Rs 35,000 crore under the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government.

Hitting back at Sudhakar's allegations, Shivakumar asked as to what BJP was doing for the last 3.5 years. “They were in power and should have ordered an inquiry and got it investigated.”

BJP has a “brand” of 40 per cent commission, and to cover up they were trying to make baseless allegations against Congress, he said.

Called for grilling in theft case, man slits throat at police station in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Summoned for questioning in connection with a case of theft, a 28-year-old man slit his throat at the Uldan police station in Jhansi district. He was identified as Pushpendra Ahirwar.

As per reports, Pushpendra visited the police station along with two friends, Ankit and Jeewan. When they were about to be questioned, Pushpendra suddenly went out, whipped out a knife and slit his throat. Police said the injured was rushed to the Jhansi Medical College hospital where he was

said to be out of danger.

As a precautionary measure, a police contingent, led by SP (City) Radhey Shyam Rai and the CO (City), was deployed in front of the hospital. “A complaint was lodged by Vinod Kumar who suspected Pushpendra's role in the theft at his house. Based on the complaint, Pushpendra was asked to report to the police station for questioning.

He visited the police station along with his friends, Ankit and Jeewan, on Monday. But he suddenly went out of the police station and slit his throat,” Rai said.

Cops arrest four in fake ED raid on Mumbai bullion shop

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police busted a gang of four persons, including a woman, that had “raided” and looted gold and cash worth over ₹2-crore, from bullion dealer from Zaveri Bazar in south Mumbai on Monday, by masquerading as Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers.

Cracking the case within 24 hours of the crime, the LT Marg police arrested three members of the gang — M. Fazal S Gilitwala (50), M.Raji Rafiq, (37) and a middle-aged woman, Vishakha Vishwas



Mudhole from Khed town in Ratnagiri.

The police also recovered a major portion of the loot from them. The investigators are looking out for the fourth member of the gang.

The incident has left traders and businessmen at Zaveri Bazar — the hub of gold jewellery business in south Mumbai — dumbfounded.

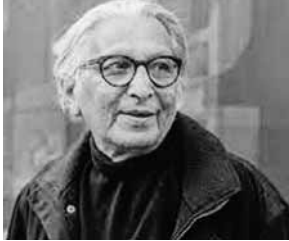
Talking to media persons here on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner of Police (II) Abhinav Deshmukh said that: “Yesterday afternoon, Gilitwala and Rafiq barged into the offices of VBL Bullions at Zaveri Bazar and assaulted one of the attendants. Claiming themselves to be from the ED, the gangsters demanded to meet the company owner, Viratbhai. Before long, started searching the office and staffers, confiscated their mobiles, and announced that “this is an ED raid” and ordered them to collect all the cash, gold and other valuables.”

Renowned architect and Padma Bhushan awardee Doshi dies at 95

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Well-known architect and Padma Bhushan recipient Balkrishna Doshi, who worked with legends like Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, died at 95 at his home here on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among those who paid rich tributes to Doshi.

“We are deeply saddened to inform you about the passing away of Balkrishna Doshi (August 26, 1927-January 24, 2023), loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather,” his family said in a



statement.

Condolences poured in from various quarters over the demise of Doshi, widely regarded as the foremost architect of modern India.

“Dr BV Doshi Ji was a brilliant architect and a remarkable institution builder. The coming

generations will get glimpses of his greatness by admiring his rich work across India. His passing away is saddening. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti,” tweeted PM Modi.

Born in 1927 in Pune, Doshi worked with architecture legends like Le Corbusier. He also worked with Louis Kahn as an associate to build the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and many other acclaimed projects.

CM Patel called Doshi the Pole Star in the world of architecture.

New politics

Rahul Gandhi has done well by dissociating the party from Singh’s comments on surgical strikes

Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh seems to relish being in news—even if that harms his own party. His recent statement there is no proof of surgical strikes exemplifies his penchant for attracting attention. Rahul Gandhi did the sensible thing by dissociating the party from Singh’s comments. Gandhi unequivocally said that Congress leaders “disagree with Digvijaya Singh’s views.” He went on to say that the armed forces do their “job exceptionally well. They don’t need to be providing proof.” The grand old party would like to believe that Gandhi’s statement would bring a closure to the issue. But the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which on Monday had condemned Singh for questioning the 2016 surgical strike, is unlikely to let his recent remarks be buried. It has already said that he “echoes Pakistan’s narrative” on the Pulwama terror attack which killed 40 CRPF personnel in 2019. It will keep raking up his remarks. Worse, Singh himself is likely to come up with statements that the BJP loves to denounce. For how Rahul Gandhi would keep disagreeing with Singh’s intemperate statements is a question that the party top brass must deliberate on. Perhaps Singh says such things to make headlines; perhaps his politics of championing the cause of Muslims has resulted in a temperament that triggers such remarks; it is, however, the GOP that gets hurt. Championing the cause of Muslims—which usually meant pandering



to the most retrograde sections of the community, and which the BJP rightly calls Muslim appeasement—was a winning proposition in the pro-Modi era. Many a political career was made just by mouthing the fashionable, ‘secular’ homilies. Intellectual elites, most of them of Left-liberal disposition, were quite accommodating towards politicians whose ‘secular credentials’ were impeccable. So, Lalu Prasad Yadav got considerable traction despite serious charges of corruption against him and the withering away of the administration in Bihar under his watch. Digvijaya Singh flourished in that era. He called the Batla House encounter on September 19, 2008, at Jamia Nagar in Delhi “fake.” This was despite the fact that in that encounter an ace Delhi Police officer was killed and the Delhi Police was under his own party’s government. In 2016, he repeated his demand for a judicial probe into the encounter. Other Congress leaders have also played the same game. In 2012, for instance, the then law minister Salman Khurshid said Congress president Sonia Gandhi “wept bitterly” when she came to know about the young Muslim boys killed in the encounter. The BJP correctly called Khurshid’s statement as a “communal ploy to get Muslim votes.” That was then. The dynamics of politics were conducive for such ploys. But that politics is well past its expiry date. The sooner Singh recognises this fact, the better for his party.



People at a stall after fresh snowfall, in Patnitop, Jammu & Kashmir

Don’t intervene

Thousands of tech employees are being laid off every day, but Govt intervention is not needed

These are bad days for tech employees. A layoffs tracking site reported last week that, on an average, over 1,600 tech employees were being given the pink slip every day this month. On Monday, the website came up with something even worse: the number had gone up to 3,000. The situation got exacerbated because Big Tech icons like Microsoft and Google also began retrenching employees. In the last calendar year, more than 1,000 companies reportedly laid off 154,336 workers. There is turmoil among tech workers. It is also evident from the increasing popularity of LinkedIn, a business and employment-focused social media platform. In 2022, it was downloaded 58.4 million times all over the world. Unsurprisingly, LinkedIn is brimming with job searches, help and counsel from friends to their retrenched friends, etc. Thankfully, the Government has not shown any intention of coercing or coaxing tech majors to go slow on layoffs. In November, of course, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had slammed Elon Musk’s decision to sack Twitter employees in India: “We condemn the way Twitter has sacked employees in India,” said Vaishnaw, adding that the employees “should have given the employees a fair time for transition.” But then liberals and the mainstream media love to criticise Musk for his unforgivable ‘crime’ of being a free speech “absolutist.” The Honourable Minister might have been trying to be fashionable when he condemned Musk.



Over a month later, Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar also talked about retrenchment in the IT sector, but his views were rational and balanced. He said that while the Government “probably cannot” intervene to stop layoffs in the IT sector, it was working to ensure these job losses are “soft landings.” He rightly pointed out that there are enough jobs for talented people. He also talked about a Rs 460-crore “reskilling” plan. That’s the correct approach; the Government can help the sector, and employees in it, by providing indirect support, one of which is reskilling. It should avoid a ham-handed approach, involving diktats to the top brass of IT majors. That may win the Government brownie points in the political arena, but would do no good to either the sector or, in the long run, to the people working there. So far, the Government has avoided such a populist stance. Hopefully, it will stay the course.

Civilian facade of Thai military

Thai Military Generals have managed to subvert civil rule by manipulating the democratic process

Thailand, the favorite destination for Indian tourists, is an instructive case for the study of civil-military relations. Control of the military by civil authority, the accepted democratic norm, is frequently challenged by the Palace, the third player even though monarchy is constitutional. An election is around the corner on 7 May with the parliamentary term ending on 23 March. Currently, a coalition led by the Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) the military which includes three Generals, all former Army Chiefs, has ruled the country since 2014. The two Generals in subordinate political positions are senior to the Prime Minister. The billionaire PM Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a military coup in 2006, was followed by his sister Yingluck becoming Prime Minister later and now his daughter Paetongtarn is carrying the flag of Pheu Thai Party (PTP). King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Rama X, barred his elder sister, who renounced royalty, from contesting elections with Thaksin’s PTP. Shinawatra according to a report in The Bangkok Post in May 2005 had made arrangements with the Palace to control the Generals.

The PPRP is led by Deputy Prime Minister, Pravit Wongsuwon, the senior most General; Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha junior most General is PM with Interior Minister Gen Anupong Paochinda. Wongsuwon last month told reporters that his party will decide whether he will be PM but he prefers “military life to political one”. He was confident his party would remain in power as part of a coalition. The Sunday China Morning Post of December 2022 reported that three of four Thais think PTP should be in power and Paetongtarn was the favorite leader to end the decade-old military rule. The National Institute of Development Administration polls showed she was 10 percentage points ahead of Prayuth and PTP ahead of PPRP and other political parties. But unless all political parties unite against the Generals’ PPRP they have no chance of defeating them.



Brad Adams, director of Human Rights Watch said that the military has made itself invulnerable by framing laws to dissolve the main opposition party, control the Election Commission, and hand-pick the Senate (which decides on government formation) to thwart the will of the people. Wongsuwon publicly stated it is not difficult for his party to form a government as the Senate is ‘controllable’. Thai Generals have taken a leaf out of neighboring absolute military rulers of Myanmar’s 2008 constitution into their 2017 constitution. Only a landslide victory by a single party like the National League of Democracy of Aung San Suu Kyi achieved in 2021 (which resulted in the coup) can undo military rule in Thailand. The 2017 constitution allows the nomination of 250 Senators (mostly Army and Police) that can dilute the verdict of the 500-strong House of elected Representatives. Rules have been so framed that the military needs only one-third of the elected house for government formation. The Generals have given a civilian façade to the military government – to put it crudely – like a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

The military (and police) in Thailand is one of the most politicized entities in this part of the universe. My Thai colleagues at Command and



THAI GENERALS HAVE TAKEN A LEAF OUT OF NEIGHBOURING ABSOLUTE MILITARY RULERS OF MYANMAR’S 2008 CONSTITUTION INTO THEIR 2017 CONSTITUTION

General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth (US) in 1975 mentioned how they made their political choices while in the Military Academy. Recently, the constitution was believed to have been amended to give the King special powers and certain special forces placed under his command. The Army Chief 2018, the son of a former coup leader, led his officers on bended knees and folded hands, to swear an oath of allegiance to the King at Army Headquarters in Bangkok. Gen Prayuth outdid him saying: “I will worship and protect monarchy”. Generals are galore – for every 212 troops one flag rank officer. In India, 21,000 soldiers make one General. The Army has prepared a 20-year Strategic Development Plan which governments are required to follow.

Although absolute monarchy ended in 1932, the constitutional monarchy prevailed with the previous monarch the most revered King who ruled for 70 years, slightly less than the term of Queen Elizabeth II. It is not clear which way the pendulum is swinging in Palace-Military relations at present. South China Morning Post reported that ‘normally the Army proposes and the King disposes of. Very strict laws exist on royal defamation under lese’ majeste – 15 years in jail under Law 112 for

expression against Monarchy. Protests for reforming monarchy erupted recently though mostly by youth who use code words to refer to their targets.

Two tragic events occurred last December – the sinking of a Thai warship with several sailors drowned; and the cardiac arrest of the Crown Princess (apparently first in the line of succession) still in a coma. The effects of the pandemic have struck a body blow to tourism, the mainstay of the economy. Fortunately, the tourist footfall in 2022 has crossed the 10mn mark.

India has strong and friendly relations with Thailand with 50,000 Indians gainfully employed from Gaggan Anand’s two Michelin Star restaurants to Gunjan Kumar’s mobile chana jor garam enterprise. Statues of Hindu gods and goddesses are dotted all over Thailand with many beautiful Tamil kovils. There are strong Buddhist links also with Thailand. The Shinawatra scion may give the Generals shivers but the ruling trio of Generals is bound to return for a third term four months from now.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, & founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUESTION OF MINDSET!

Sir — Apropos Zeeshan’s letter published in your daily on the 24th instant, Mr. Modi was exonerated of complicity in the Gujarat riots of 2002, by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Supreme Court of India. In April 2014, the apex court expressed satisfaction over the SIT’s investigations in nine cases related to the violence, and rejected a plea contesting the SIT report as ‘baseless’. For the BBC to now rake up the issue through a documentary smacked of bias and ulterior motives against a popular and honest Indian leader. Significantly, the UK PM Rishi Sunak has distanced himself from the documentary. The critics of the supposedly autonomous BBC, call it ‘Biased Broadcasting Corporation’. Whenever there is a terror attack in India, the BBC reports it as a ‘suicide mission’, whereas if it happens on British soil or if Englishmen get killed, it is called a ‘terror strike’! So much for the corporation’s autonomy and impartiality.

Even within the UK, the BBC is not held in high credibility. In August 2013, the Daily Telegraph reported a new study, which found that the BBC “exhibited a left-of-centre bias in both the amount of coverage it gives to different opinions and the way in which these voices were represented”. The BBC is still stuck in the days of the Raj, a pre-WWII era where Britain had a huge influence on global politics, which is not the case anymore with the US, India, China, and Japan taking center stage. This is not relished by the agency which is still stuck in a colonial hangover that they don’t want to get rid of. One cannot wake up a person who is pretending to be asleep!

V. Jayaraman | Chennai

NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY

Sir — 23rd Jan 2023 is National handwriting day. Good and aesthetic handwriting is an asset. But good handwriting and a good personality do not correlate (as many wrongly presume). Many great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa had very bad (illegible) writing. It is good that it is made compulsory for doc-

PAK PM goodwill gesture



Sharif’s bid to have better ties with India is appreciable. He said that Pakistan did not get anything after fighting with India. He stressed that now it wants peace with its neighbours. He also said that “my message to the Indian leader is that, let us sit together and have a serious and sincere talk to resolve our internal

tors to write in big letters or capital letters.

Though it is pleasant to have good handwriting, in this modern IT and electronic gadgets era, more (keyboard) typing is being done by humans than handwriting. Good typists (on computers) in various languages are in high demand at educational institutions, other offices, and businesses too. Setting up a computer typing institute business is also good. Typewriter machines not to be seen at all.

Madhu Nivriti PS | Secunderabad

NETAJI’S LEGACY

Sir — Appropriately and rightly so, the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose pulled away from taking part in the RSS’s program of observing his 126th birth anniversary yesterday, as the family had felt the organization’s philosophy has always been paradoxical with that of Bose’s inclusive beliefs. The RSS has intensified its vain efforts to co-opt Bose into its pantheon of saffron heroes. The Sangh Parivar’s political orientation with Subhas Chandra Bose has always been conflicting and sought to distort and falsify all that Bose stood for secularism. No doubt, Bose was a devout Hindu with a saintly streak of self-abnegation in him.

He was deeply inspired by the

and external affairs, irrespective of our burning points like Kashmir. We should live together with love and peace. Because it would be better for us to make progress and develop our countries.

On the other hand, he said that we should not waste our money on ammunition and bombs, but we should provide education and employment to our people, however this is a good invitation from Pak PM. If India accepts this invitation that would be better. Because they want to make relations with us by their choice. So we should accept it on condition that it would be terror free. I think that it would be better for both countries. And these will be for the progress of both countries.

Faizan Ahmed I Haryana

Bhagavad Gita and the preachings of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda. Yet, he was uncompromising in his protagonism of Hindu-Muslim unity. If Bose is alive today, he would have rejected outright the RSS’s agenda of turning India into a Hindu Rashtra, as it is antithetical to his ideology of secular and inclusive Indian nationalism.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

SUPREME COURT EXPOSES THE GOVT

Sir — The supreme court has rightly exposed the Government’s faulty stance in not giving a nod to some of the collegium’s recommendations based on matters unrelated to their professional duties. In one case it’s the individual’s sexual orientation and in another case, it is his political leaning, which has nothing to do with their discharge of duties, that has made their nominations to be kept in abeyance by the government. The Government should shed its prejudices over the private choices of competent individuals and should not deny their rightful due. Without a proper reason, it cannot deny the recommendations of the collegium.

Dr DVG Sankararao | Vizianagara

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

When the right girl comes along, I’ll get married... just a loving person, who’s intelligent.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



We strongly support the additional seats for developing countries because it is the under-representation of Africa, Asia, and Latin America which is the key problem of the (UN Security) Council today. Russia’s Foreign Minister — Sergei Lavrov

When you (Ranbir Kapoor) know that people are crazy about your film Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, which was such a good rom-com, why did you decide that you won’t do work that people would like?

Comedian — Anubhav Singh Bassi

Umran Malik is not as trained and fit as Haris Rauf. If you look at him in ODIs, in his first spell he bowls around 150

kmph but by the 7th or 8th over the speed drops to 138 kmph. The difference is the same as it is between Kohli and the rest of the batters.

Pakistan cricket Coach — Aaqib Javed

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat must be clear about what he wants, you can’t follow Savarkar & Netaji together.

Netaji’s Grand Nephew — CK Bose

FIRST COLUMN

EDUCATION REFORM IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Education must help maintain harmony in society




RAJYOGI **BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ**

If we look at the current global political scenario, we would easily realize the fact that the demand for harmony between various communities, castes and regional, linguistic and other inter-caste groups is on the top of every nation's agenda.

There has also been a heightened awareness that in the absence of harmony all energy, money, and attention are wasted either in efforts to prevent worsening of relations between various antagonistic groups or much efforts have to be made to bring to normalcy the conditions of law and order even after a brief episode of disturbance in relations between various communities or groups has occurred.

The society, as it is constituted, today, is so clearly knit that a disturbance caused by one factor in one sector sets waves of disturbance in other sectors of the society also. An act of disharmony wrought by science, technology, education, art or religious worship, in fact, by any aspect of the society's life, can upset harmony and let loose the forces of disturbance in all or most other fields as well.

Disharmony in the form of environmental degradation is the best example of recent times. It is, therefore, essential that all types of institutions and all aspects of an organized society should work in unison to create holistic harmony, else incongruous steps by one or a desynchronized tune by another can disturb the total harmony or break the rhythm of the total system.



Research has proved that education is one of the most important sectors which can contribute a lot to the well-being and smooth functioning of the society. In order to create a healthy and happy society, in which there is social, political, and economic justice and harmony, education must enlighten the educated class on the need to inculcate human values and divine qualities in their life. Presently, this element in education is neglected, as a result of which many highly educated people do not know how to live a peaceful life and how to face their problems without much mental tension.

It is found that the present system of education does not cultivate the qualities of tolerance, self-control, humility, service, co-operation, concern for the wellbeing of society, and responsibility for one's own actions. Also, students are not given a clear knowledge of the value of simplicity, honesty, justice, non-violence and fair play. The result is that even after spending so many years in a school and college or at the university, there is often a lack of gentleness, nobility, sincerity and humanism, and an inspiring goal is missing in life.

The society, therefore, may have a high percentage of literates or educated people and yet there may be commotion in legislative bodies, disobedience to orders of the highest court of the land, total disregard for law, criminal tendencies and unsocial habits. One does not need lengthy explanation to understand that it is the aforesaid factors that create disharmony.

Education would, therefore, fulfill its noble objective only if it imparts teaching in such values that create harmonious personality and helps to maintain harmony in the society and man's harmony with nature, with the environment and with the self.

(The author is a spiritual educator)

Netaji's nationalism drove the British out

But the struggle and ideas of nationalism of Netaji have been limited to a paragraph in history textbooks

On September 12, 1944, from somewhere in Burma, a speech echoed and resonated in the minds of every Indian then and even till today. Netaji, in his revolutionary tone, commented: "We have resolved to create a united and free India, therefore, we shall oppose all attempts to divide her and cut her into bits."

And after almost 78 years, a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was installed at the historic India Gate and the path leading to India Gate has been recently named as the 'Kartavya Path'. The path not only camouflages the iconic Subhas Chandra Bose and his vision of modern India, but also instills in the minds of every Indian, the primary duty to uphold the democratic principles incorporated in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. It also ignites the spirit among the countrymen that India should always be united and dream of living in a free India and in the process, dedicate their lives in the establishment of India as a country that the entire globe views as a symbol of patriotism and unity in diversity.

The sense of nationalism that Netaji bore in his heart since his childhood and the activities that he carried on for the territory of India till his last breath, make him an iconic statesman.

Netaji, since his young age, was a socially conscious individual and during his days in the Presidency College in Kolkata. He was disturbed by the poverty and hardship that were faced by the people then. It was his sense of equality for all individuals that even made him question his stay at a three storied residence when he saw many beggars not having a roof over their head. And that made him even question the system of governance that created luxuries for a few but poverty for many.

That was his sense of nationalism for India that he envisioned even before India acquired her independence from the colonial rule. Nationalism for Bose was a transparent story of freedom for every individual where no one was dominated, and each and every individual had the equal amount of respect and liberty without any power expressing authority over them. This notion of nationalism that Bose had in his mind was visible in the events where he remained a witness to.

The history on Netaji depicts a story of his travel in a tram where he saw an Englishman sitting with his feet up, while an Indian gentleman was sitting in front of him. The Indian gentleman because of the fear of the colonial dominance did not raise his voice to it. But Bose was infuriated by this act of the Englishman and as such he asked him to put his foot down as he was spoiling the clothes of the Indian gentleman. The



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR OF INDIA AJIT DOVAL STATED THAT THE BRITISH LEFT INDIA NOT BECAUSE OF MAHATMA GANDHI, BUT BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN NATIONALISM AND THE SPARK NETAJI CREATED AMONG THE SOLDIERS OF INDIAN ARMY IN THE FORM OF INA

(Bishaldeep Kakati is an advocate, Gauhati High Court; Bagmita Borthakur is Faculty of Political Science, Dispur College)



British man replied to Bose stating that the Indian can leave the seat if he had any problem with his foot being up. This made Bose very angry and seeing his rebellious nature towards establishing equality in the society, united the other Indians on the tram, and all joined Bose in the process of rebuking the Englishman.

However, Netaji's desire to establish a society free of dominance faced a setback when the Indian person who suffered from the act of the Englishman got down at the next station, so as to avoid more ugly scenes. On the one hand, it was that nationalistic approach of Bose that portrayed glimpses of Indian unity, but on the other hand, it was the clutches of dominance from which the Indians never imagined they could get out, jolted Bose briefly in his dream of establishing a free India.

Bose figured out the process of uniting a section of the Indians when he realised that it was not non-violence but armed rebellion that would prompt the British to leave India. The sense of nationalism was also visible when he in his bold voice, gave the call for 'Dilli Chalo' in his iconic Indian National Army movement as well as the immortal quote of 'You give me blood, and I will give you freedom'.

National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval, in one of his speeches relating to Bose, stated that the British left India not because of Mahatma Gandhi, but because of the rise in nationalism and the spark Netaji created among the soldiers of Indian Army in the form of INA. Such was the aura of INA that even prompted the deeply loyal British Indian Army, Navy and Air Force to join hands in the fervour and energy that was unleashed by INA.

The impact of Netaji leading the Indian National Army was so strong that it not only acted as an opposite Indian force against the British, to which the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League had fallen prey, but it also led to the British wanting his immediate detention.

A visionary ahead of his time, Netaji was not only successful in raising the notion of Nation over community, religion and tribe but he also clearly understood the concept of diplomacy and foreign relations and he rightly applied the 'Chanakya Neeti' that speaks of "Enemy of an enemy is your friend"; and this principle helped him to form alliance with Germany and Italy, against the British and as a result of which he was successful in strengthening

the concept of military force in India in the form of INA.

A pragmatic nationalist who respected divergent approaches and views, Netaji understood the soul of the Indian nation and as such, he envisioned a strong central government with a large amount of autonomy allowed to the minority communities and the provinces. Therefore, for these reasons, Netaji's birthday in India, recently has also been tagged as 'Parakram Diwas'.

Netaji's idea of nationalism revolved around the concepts of equality, liberty and justice, individual freedom and balance of power and more importantly his nationalism for India laid in the concept of establishing India as a nation with complete overhauling and recasting of the stereotypical mode of existence, leading to genuine national solidarity that would in the longer run, give India the position of glory. He also believed that a Nation has no right to exist if it has no ambition, but he also emphasised on the fact that progress of a country should be broader and for the community as a whole rather than for fulfilling selfish ends.

But the struggle and ideas of nationalism of Netaji have been limited to a paragraph in history textbooks.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THEY TALK ABOUT SURGICAL STRIKES AND THAT THEY HAVE KILLED SO MANY OF THEM BUT THERE IS NO PROOF. THE CENTRE IS RULING WITH THE HELP OF LIES.
— CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAY SINGH



THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SENIOR LEADER DIGVIJAYA SINGH ARE HIS OWN AND DO NOT REFLECT THE POSITION OF CONGRESS.
— CONGRESS COMMUNICATION INCHARGE JAIRAM RAMESH

The Third Front again divides Opposition leaders

A weakened Congress is not a threat to regional satraps but their ambition stops them from including it in their coalition

Third Front again! Before every Lok Sabha poll, the Third Front idea is floated, and the 2024 polls are no exception. Political pundits predict that there is space for the entire Opposition against Bharatiya Janata Party but not a Third Front, as it will splinter the anti-BJP votes and help the ruling dispensation. The concept was tried and tested in 1977, 1989, and 1996-98, supported by either Congress or the BJP. But they were all short-lived.

Some regional satraps led by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao are trying to build a Third Front before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It includes some influential regional leaders heading BRS, AAP, CPI-M, Trinamool Congress, and the



KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Samajwadi party. They want a coalition minus Congress to fight the BJP.

Parallely, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also currently on a Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the Opposition parties. In effect, while Rahul wants to lead the Opposition, regional leaders prefer a front minus Congress.

Many ifs and buts are there for forging a Third Front. Since the 1980s, regional forces like SP, BSP, RJD, and JD(U) have emerged and had a stronghold in their respective states. Whether these leaders would come together to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the million-dollar question. Moreover, historically, arithmetic has shown the Third Front is only possible with the support of either

the Congress or the BJP.

With its glorious past but miserable present, a weakened Congress is currently attempting to save the party. With this in view, Rahul Gandhi is being rebranded before the 2024 polls. He has undertaken a Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the secular forces.

The grand old party has invited 21 Opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party and the CPM, for the concluding ceremony in Kashmir next month.

Rao floated his Third Front idea in early 2018, arguing that the Congress and the BJP have failed to govern the country. In KCR's mind, he and not Modi or the Congress could lead the country in the right direction. He tried to

build a non-Congress, non-BJP front ahead of the 2019 general election. But it failed, with most regional leaders stopping at extending only moral support.

In a show of strength to boost his political ambitions, KCR held a mega public rally in Khammam on January 18. The rally was the first after KCR converted his regional party Telangana Rashtra Samithi to Bharat Rashtra Samithi on October 5 last year. To KCR's delight, the Election Commission has recognised the BRS as a national party.

Most of those who skipped the Congress Yarra participated in the Khammam Rally. It included Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant

Mann, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, and CPI's D Raja. KCR has also opened back-channel communication with Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, to join the alliance.

KCR is opposed to the Congress as the two parties are political rivals in Telangana. That is why he aspires to head a non-Congress, non-BJP front. Interestingly, he organised the Khammam meeting days ahead of the grand finale of the Bharat Jodo Yatra later this month in Kashmir.

KCR has never hidden his ambition for a national role while waiting to perform a hat trick in the Assembly polls later this year. He believes he is destined to become a national alternative to Modi.

However, after two consecutive terms since 2014, KCR has faced an anti-incumbency wave. Though he has finished off the Congress and the TDP in the state, to his dismay, the BJP has emerged as the main Opposition party in the state. He depends upon Dame Luck smiling at him.

A big question remains: will the Third Front aspirants manage to capture any space in national politics or match Modi's popularity with their king-size egos? Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who is realistic, believes that "there is no question of a Third Front. There should be one front that includes Congress. Then we can trounce the BJP in 2024."

The Opposition has to decide who their real rival is. Is it the BJP or the Congress?

A weakened Congress is not a threat to the regional satraps. Still, their ambition stops them from including Congress in their coalition.

Changing electoral alliances offer only recurring political quicksand. Modi will return for a third term as long as the Opposition is divided.

The fragile unity of the Third Front is often criticised. There is a saying that the Third Front leaders can only remain together for a short time and apart for a shorter time. Only after identifying their prime ministerial candidate and devising a common minimum programme could the Second Front or Third Front succeed.

The regional leaders want to do this after the polls to avoid friction.

Kyiv targets graft as Poland asks Berlin to OK Ukraine tanks

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

A high-level shakeup in the Ukrainian government cost nearly a dozen senior officials their jobs, as the country's president sought on Tuesday to root out entrenched corruption while conducting the fight against Russia's invasion.

The crackdown came as Poland formally requested permission from Germany to transfer a modest number of its Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine. Germany builds the high-tech armour and Warsaw needs Berlin's permission to send them to a non-NATO country.

In Kyiv, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office quit after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pledged to address high-level corruption allegations — including some related to specific wartime spending — that have embarrassed authorities and could slow the country's bids to join the European Union and NATO.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko asked to be relieved of his duties, according to an online copy of



a decree signed by Zelenskyy and Tymoshenko's own social media posts. Neither gave a reason for the resignation.

Deputy Defence Minister Viacheslav Shapovalov also resigned, local media reported, alleging his departure was linked to a scandal involving the purchase of food for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Deputy Prosecutor General Oleksiy Symonenko quit, too.

In all, four deputy ministers and five regional governors

were set to leave their posts, the country's cabinet secretary said on the Telegram messaging app.

The departures thinned the government's wartime ranks as Zelenskyy had already lost his Interior Minister, who oversaw Ukraine's police and emergency services, and the rest of the ministry's leadership in a helicopter crash last week.

With Western allies channelling billions of dollars to help Kyiv's fight against

Moscow, Zelenskyy had pledged to weed out corruption which some observers have described as endemic. Zelenskyy came to power in 2019 on an anti-establishment and anti-corruption platform.

Tymoshenko joined the presidential office in 2019, after working on Zelenskyy's media and creative content strategy during his presidential campaign. In his nightly video address Sunday, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's focus on the Russian invasion would not stop his government from tackling alleged corruption, even amid a war.

"I want to be clear: There will be no return to what used to be in the past," Zelenskyy said.

Tymoshenko was last year under investigation relating to his personal use of luxury cars. He was also among officials linked last September by an investigator working with the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine to the embezzlement of humanitarian aid worth more than USD 7 million earmarked for the southern Zaporizhzhia region.

He has denied all the allegations.

On Sunday, a deputy minister at the infrastructure ministry, Vasyl Lozynsky, was dismissed for being part of a network allegedly embezzling budget funds.

Oleksandr Kubrakov, the infrastructure minister, said Lozynsky was relieved of his duties after Ukraine's anti-corruption agency detained him while he was receiving a USD 400,000 bribe for helping to fix contracts related to restoring facilities battered by Russian missile strikes.

Last June, the EU agreed to put Ukraine on a path toward EU membership. To join the bloc, countries must meet a detailed host of economic and political conditions, including a commitment to the rule of law and other democratic principles.

Ukraine has long aspired to join NATO, too, but the military alliance is not about to offer an invitation, because of the country's contested borders, defense establishment shortcomings and, in part, its corruption issues.

War with China not an option: Taiwan's Prez

AP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen told Pope Francis in a letter that war with China is "not an option" and said constructive interaction with Beijing, which claims the island as part of its territory, depends on respecting self-ruled Taiwan's democracy.

Vatican City is the last European government to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan instead of Beijing, although the United States and other Western nations maintain extensive informal ties. Taiwanese leaders are uneasy about Vatican efforts to develop relations with Beijing.

Tsai, in the letter released by her office, expressed support for Vatican positions on Russia's war against Ukraine, "migrant-friendly policies" and public health.

"We identify profoundly with your views," Tsai wrote.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war and have no official relations but are linked by billions of dollars in trade and investment. The Chinese Communist Party regularly flies fighter planes and



bombers near Taiwan to enforce its stance that the island is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Tsai noted Francis's Jan. 1 message for the World Day of Peace that the "virus of war" must be cured. She quoted herself in an Oct. 10 speech rejecting armed conflict across the Taiwan Strait and calling for "peace and stability."

"Armed confrontation is absolutely not an option," Tsai wrote.

"Only by respecting the commitment of the Taiwanese people to our sovereignty, democracy and freedom can there be a foundation for

resuming constructive interaction across the Taiwan Strait," Tsai's letter said.

China stepped up efforts to pressure the island, including firing missiles into the sea, after then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the U.S. House of Representatives in August became the highest-ranking American official to visit the island in 25 years. Legislators from Britain and other countries also have visited Taiwan in a show of support for its elected government.

A former Taiwanese vice president under Tsai, Chen Chien-jen, represented the island at this month's funeral of former Pope Benedict.

'Military exercises with China, Russia normal process for SA'

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The joint naval exercises scheduled to be hosted by South Africa with Russia and China next month are part of the normal process of training of the country's defence forces, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor has said.

The minister was addressing a press conference on Monday together with her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, who was visiting the country.

The ministers were reacting to local media reports that attacked South Africa for undertaking the exercises in February at a "sensitive time" when Russia was at war with Ukraine.

Lavrov was the first to defend the drills.

"They are three sovereign countries. They don't violate any norms of international laws. They will conduct international exercises. I don't understand how they can provoke a mixed reaction," Lavrov said, suggesting that perhaps this had been instigated by the

US.

"Maybe only with our American colleagues, because they believe that only they can have exercises all over the world; not only at more than 200 military bases all over the world but at any place. Now they are actively involved in naval exercises in the Pacific and near China in the Taiwan Strait, and it does not provoke any mixed reactions.

"Our exercises are transparent. We together with our South African and Chinese partners have provided all the relevant information — it is

available. The practice of tri-lateral exercises is not something new. We had similar drills with the participation of Indian and China," he said.

Lavrov said the partners in the exercises were "perplexed" by "the way our Western colleagues provoke such noise around ordinary things in the life of sea powers, especially in a situation where Western countries conduct such drills much more often than we do."

Pandor said the exercises were part of a programme of military drills that the South African Defence Force has as

part of agreements with many countries worldwide.

She said nobody had questioned exercises which had been conducted by South Africa with the US and France last year.

"These are all exercises we undertake to hone the skills of our military to be able to respond to a range of situations, including disaster management, in which our military often plays a role in addressing.

"All countries conduct military exercises with friends worldwide. So there should be no compulsion on any country

that it should conduct them with any other partner. It's part of a natural course of relations between countries," Pandor said.

Pandor also said the current world order was not in favour of poor and developing countries.

"The world, particularly in the financial and economic domain, is greatly influenced by rules developed in Breton Woods institutions. These institutions do not always take account of the developmental needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries," she said.

'Serbia faces global isolation over Kosovo'

AP ■ BELGRADE

Serbia could face international isolation and economic decline if it rejects a new Western plan for normalising relations with its former wartime foe Kosovo, the Balkan country's president Aleksandar Vucic said on Monday, in what appeared to be a shift from his previous headline rhetoric.

Serbia received that warning last week during a visit by a group of US and European envoys who have stepped up efforts to defuse longtime tensions in the volatile Balkan region amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Serbia must talk, take part in dialogue and continue its European road," Vucic said.

"We would be economically and politically lost without it and, as a president, I would not agree to lead the country that is alone and isolated."

The dispute between Serbia and its former province of Kosovo has remained a source of instability in the Balkans long after the 1998-99 war, which ended with a NATO intervention that forced Serbia to pull out of the territory.

Kosovo in 2008 declared independence from Serbia, which Belgrade has refused to recognise, relying on Russia and China to help Serbia maintain its claim over the territory.

The US. And most EU



nations have recognised Kosovo, while Russia and China have not.

The new Western plan for normalising Serbia-Kosovo relations has not been officially made public.

Vucic said in his televised address that the plan stipulates that Serbia would not be against membership of Kosovo in international organizations, including the United Nations.

The US and EU want to push forward an EU-mediated dialogue that has been stalled for months because they fear Russia, a Serbia ally, could try to stir instability in the Balkans to avert attention from the war in Ukraine.

"These talks were among the toughest in the past decade," Vucic added, describing the meeting. "It was never like this."

The West wants to defeat Russia and anyone standing in the way will be "swept away," Vucic said.

Lost & found

I, Sakshi Dodeja D/o Dharam Raj Dodeja R/o B7-29, Sector-15, Rohini, North West Delhi have lost Allotment Letter dt. 21.12.2020, Payment Receipts & Payment Plan of Property no. G-32 Ground Floor, in the Orris Market 89, Sector-89, Gurugram (Hry.) on 15-01-2023 at B7-29, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi. If I find above said documents I will not misuse the same & will give to the buyer.

Public Notice- This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sushma has acquired the Entire Third Floor, with its Roof/Terrace Rights of Freehold Built-up Property bearing No. 69 A, built on Land area measuring 88.9 Sq. Yds., situated at Kirti Nagar, Delhi-110027 vide Sale Deed Dated 17.08.2020, Doc no. 4285 and Now, Mrs. Sushma is mortgaging the above said property with IndusInd Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised with in 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhwani Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Offices North, Unit No 907, 9th Floor, GD IT, Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/981822636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **Mrs. Kapila Jain W/o. Mr. Surman Kumar Jain** who is the owner of Ground Floor, (without its roof/terrace rights), Property bearing Private No. 2264-A, part of Property bearing Municipal No.2264, area measuring 40.05 Sq. Mtr., situated at Med Ganj, Ward No. 13X, Bahapur Gani Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006, vide Sale Deed dated 14.02.2022, which is registered as Document/Registration No.962, in the office of SRO-1, Delhi, and intend to mortgage the aforesaid property against the financial assistance from **IDFC First Bank Limited**. That Original/Photocopy of 1) Death Certificate of Late Mr. Kundan Lal, 2) Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Kundan Lal, 3) Death Certificate of Late Ram Bhagat, 4) Death Certificate of Late Mrs. Sumitra Devi, 5) Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Ram Bhagat, 6) Death Certificate of Late Mr. Hari Prakash Gupta, 7) Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Hari Prakash Gupta, 8) Death Certificate of Late Mr. Jai Prakash Gupta, 9) Death Certificate of Late Mrs. Kamla Gupta, 10) Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Hari Prakash Gupta & Mrs. Kamla Gupta are not available/misplaced/lost. To comply the requirements of BANK/IDFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP
136, Basement Floor, Uday Park, near Mother Dairy, New Delhi-110049
Contact# 011-40046316 & 41667327

PUBLIC NOTICE

Entire First floor, Third Floor and Fourth Floor portion of Property No.112, Block-D, Sector-08, Dwarka, Delhi

That our client **Sanjay Gupta S/o Bhagwat Swaroop Gupta**, is recorded owner of above said property having been purchased the same from M/s Shree Aash Vinayak Travels Pvt. Ltd., vide three different sale deeds dated 20.08.18, 23.03.16 & 20.02.18, and prior chain as Original Sale deed vide No.2820 dated 14.03.14 in favour of M/s Shree Aash Vinayak Travels Pvt. Ltd have been misplaced/lost for which lost document complaint lodged with Police vide LR No. LR No: 67561/2023 dated 20.01.23.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or other person/s, organization/s, company/ies, government authority/ies, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Sanjay Gupta to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any claim, charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Kumar Abhishek
Advocate
Legal Access
132A, Anarkali Complex,
Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi

Finland's top diplomat hints at joining NATO without Sweden

AP ■ HELSINKI

Finland's top diplomat appeared to suggest Tuesday that the country may have to consider joining NATO without Sweden after Turkey's president cast serious doubt on the expansion of the military alliance.

"We still have to evaluate the situation if it turns out that Sweden's application is stalling for a long time to come," Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto told Finnish broadcaster YLE.

His comment came a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Sweden not to expect support for its bid for NATO membership following weekend protests in Stockholm by an anti-Islam activist and pro-Kurdish groups.



It was the first time a leading government official in either country had appeared to raise doubts about joining the alliance together.

Haavisto later backpedalled, telling reporters in Parliament that his comment earlier

Tuesday had been "imprecise" and that Finland's ambition to join NATO jointly with Sweden remained unchanged.

He said he had spoken with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who had stressed to Haavisto that the military bloc would like to see the two Nordic nations join simultaneously.

"But of course there have been raised concerns within NATO on how the (recent) incidents in Sweden will affect the schedule," Haavisto said.

		NORTHERN RAILWAY			
NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
Name of work and its location		30-Elect-55-T-R1-22-23-E3 Electrical work for Energy efficiency & green energy works over Delhi division.			
Approx cost of the works in		Rs. 70.78 Lacs			
Address of the office		Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi			
Bid Security		Rs. 141600.00			
Date & time of submission of tender		16.02.2023, 12.00 Hrs.			
Opening of tender		16.02.2023, 12.00 Hrs.			
Website & Notice board		www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				255/23	

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client **NISHCHAL KUMAR YADAV** is owner of property i.e. Property Area Measuring 239.2sq Yards Out Of Khassa No-59, Situated At Village Shahberi Tehsil Dadri Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar UP, and mortgaging the same with Unity Small Finance Bank, Nishchal Kumar Yadav not having Originals 1. Death and survivor Certificate of Ranganil, 2. Will in favour of Sh. Yadram Singh Yadav, Sh. Bhoolle Singh Yadav, and Sh. Raghuvir Singh Yad, and 3. Registered partition deed between Sh. Yadram Singh Yadav, Sh. Bhoolle Singh Yadav, and Sh. Raghuvir Singh Yadav, it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 76B, Dwarka Court, Sector-08, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M:- 98990 139118

OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission Kahilipara, GUWAHATI-781019, Assam

Notice Inviting Tender

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom , Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal.

- GEM/2023/B/2959706 Dated: 07-01-2023 for Magnetic Whiteboard with Markers , Dusters, Alphabet.
- Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly.

Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha,
Assam

OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission KAHILIPARA, GUWAHATI-781019, Assam

Notice Inviting Tender

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom , Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal.

- Tender No GEM/2022/B/2907211 Dated 03.01.2023 for Happiness Index Implementation Programme
 - Tender GEM/202/B/2943386 Dated 04.01.2023 for supply of FLN Numeracy Kit/Math Kit (TLM).
- Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly.

Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha,
Assam

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Extract of Reviewed Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter & Nine Months ended on 31st December, 2022. (Standalone And Consolidated Financial Results under Regulation 47(1)(B) of Listing Regulations) (₹ in Lakh)

Sl No	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated		
		Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.22	30.09.22	31.12.21	31.12.22	31.12.21	31.03.22	31.12.22	31.03.22
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations.	5854.18	6102.40	6351.96	18155.59	15341.49	21607.46	5854.18	18155.59
2	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	651.03	639.97	984.53	2103.57	2118.71	3073.63	651.03	2103.57
3	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax & Exceptional Items)	539.27	545.37	894.45	1805.49	1860.70	2728.18	539.27	1805.49
4	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	539.20	540.20	894.45	1800.26	1860.70	2728.18	539.20	1800.26
5	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	395.16	409.11	664.37	1337.51	1382.10	2024.41	395.16	1337.51
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising Profit) for the period (after Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	395.16	409.11	664.37	1337.51	1382.10	2024.41	395.16	1337.51
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00
8	Reserves	9180.76	8785.60	7200.94	9180.76	7200.94	7843.25	9180.76	7843.25
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each)	3.49	3.61	5.86	11.81	12.20	17.87	3.49	11.81
	Basic & Diluted:								

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and nine monthly financial results filed with BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results is available on the website of the BSE i.e. www.bseindia.com and also on the website of the Company i.e. www.jaschindustries.com.
- The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Sonipat, 22.01.2023

sd/- (J. K. GARG)
CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

7 dead as California mourns 3rd mass killing in 8 days

AP ■ HALF MOON BAY (US)

A gunman killed seven people at two agricultural businesses in Northern California, plunging the state into mourning again in the wake of its third mass killing in eight days.

Officers arrested a suspect in Monday's shootings, 67-year-old Chunli Zhao, after they found him in his car in the parking lot of a sheriff's substation, San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said.

Seven people were found dead and an eighth injured at a farm and another location several miles away, the Sheriff's Office said. Officials believe Zhao worked at one of the facilities and that the victims were workers as well, Corpus said. Officials haven't determined a motive for the shooting.

California is still reeling from an attack on a Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park that killed 11 and cast a shadow over an important holiday for many Asian-American communities. Authorities are still seeking a motive for the Saturday shooting.

"For the second time in recent days, California communities are mourning the loss of loved ones in a senseless act



of gun violence," President Joe Biden said Tuesday morning. "Even as we await further details on these shootings, we know the scourge of gun violence across America requires stronger action."

The new year has brought six mass killings in the U.S. In fewer than three weeks, accounting for 39 deaths. Three have occurred in California since Jan. 16, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. The database tracks every mass

killing — defined as four dead not including the offender — committed in the U.S. Since 2006.

The killings occurred on the outskirts of Half Moon Bay, a city about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of San Francisco.

Half Moon Bay Vice Mayor Joaquin Jimenez said the victims included Chinese and Latino farmworkers. Some workers lived at one of the facilities and children may have witnessed the shooting, she said. Corpus said it wasn't immediately clear how the two locations were con-

nected.

The Sheriff's Office first received reports of a shooting in the afternoon and found four people dead and a fifth wounded at the first scene. Officers then found three more people fatally shot nearby, Capt. Eamonn Allen said in a news release.

About two hours later, a sheriff's deputy spotted Zhao's car parked outside a sheriff's substation in a strip mall and arrested him.

A video of the arrest showed three officers approaching a parked car with drawn weapons. Zhao got out of the car, and the officers pulled him to the ground, put him in handcuffs, and led him away. A weapon was found in his vehicle, officials said. The video was captured by Kati McHugh, a Half Moon Bay resident who witnessed the arrest.

The sheriff's department believes Zhao acted alone.

"We're still trying to understand exactly what happened and why, but it's just incredibly, incredibly tragic," said state Sen. Josh Becker, who represents the area and called it "a very close-knit" agricultural community.

Aerial television images showed police officers collecting evidence from a farm with dozens of greenhouses.

1 killed, houses damaged as earthquake jolts Nepal



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted Western Nepal on Tuesday, killing one person and damaging a number of houses in the region, officials said.

The earthquake, with epicentre in the Mela area of Bajura district in Sudurpaschim province, hit the region at 2:43 PM local time, said Lok Bijaya Adhikari, head of the Earthquake Measurement and Research Centre.

A 35-year-old woman was killed in Gaumul Rural Municipality-2 when a falling rock hit her while she was cutting grass in the nearby forest,

police said.

According to provincial police chief, the earthquake damaged a number of houses in Bajura and Bajhang districts.

Two houses were destroyed in Ward No. 7 and two other houses in Ward No. 9 of Badimalika Municipality of Bajura district, which is situated 450-km West of Kathmandu. A temple in the municipality also developed cracks, police said.

A landslide triggered by the earthquake resulted in the death of over 40 sheep, the police said, adding that one person was injured in the incident.

Monika Dahal, who is head

Remains of 60 of Nepal crash victims handed over to relatives

AP ■ KATHMANDU

Authorities in Nepal have handed to relatives the bodies of 60 of the 72 people killed in a plane crash last week, the airline said. Rescuers were still searching for two bodies at the site where a Yeti Airlines flight with 72 on board crashed on Jan. 15 at the resort town of Pokhara, 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of the capital, Kathmandu.

Among the 10 other bodies recovered, six have been identified and will be returned to relatives soon and four others still need to be identified, the airline said in a statement late Monday.

The twin-engine ATR 72-500 aircraft plummeted into a gorge as it was approaching Pokhara International Airport in the Himalayan foothills. The crash site is about 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) from the runway at an elevation of about 820 meters (2,700 feet).

While it's still not clear what caused the crash, some aviation experts say video taken from the ground of the plane's last moments indicated it went into a stall, although it's unclear why. Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority has also said the airport's instrument landing system will not be working until Feb. 26 — eight weeks after the airport began operations on Jan. 1.

Enormous challenge to conduct local polls: Lankan official

PTI ■ COLOMBO

It would be an "enormous challenge" for Sri Lanka to hold local polls in March as the country is facing a dire economic situation, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena told reporters here the government would not be able to enhance the rationed fuel quotas for vehicles to be widely used in the election process.

"We have informed both the

election commission and the Supreme Court that holding of the election would be an enormous challenge," Gunawardena said.

He said both the state power entity Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and the Central Transport Board, whose buses would be pressed into service for the election process, are in very bad shape with the loss of revenue and resources.

Gunawardena said the government would not be able to enhance the rationed fuel quo-

tas for the vehicles. Currently, petrol is rationed at 20 litres per vehicle for a week.

Sri Lanka's election commission announced on Saturday it will hold the local council polls on March 9, ending speculation that the election may be postponed again due to the prevailing economic crisis in the country.

The local election for the 340 councils in the island nation had been due from March last year but was earlier postponed by six months due to an unre-



cedented economic turmoil which triggered a political crisis and led to the ouster of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The opposition parties have been pressing for the local election, saying it will give people a chance to show displeasure over the government's handling of the economic crisis.

The government, however, has delayed the local polls and said the time is not suitable to hold the election given the ongoing economic crisis in the country.

"This is not the time for an unimportant election such as the local election," said Vajira Abeywardena, a government member.

The election process will reportedly cost Rs 10 billion

which would put additional pressure on the already lean state finances.

The opposition groups say that the government was trying to postpone the election due to fear of a defeat.

Rights group files suit in Germany against Myanmar military

AP ■ BANGKOK

A human rights group and 16 people from Myanmar have filed a criminal complaint in Germany seeking punishment of Myanmar's generals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity they alleged were committed in that country after their 2021 government takeover and during a 2017 crackdown on Muslim Rohingya.

Fortify Rights, a complainant in the case announced Tuesday in Bangkok, noted "the individuals responsible for crimes related to both have yet to be held accountable."

The federal prosecutor's office in Germany, where the legal complaint was filed last Friday, declined to comment on it. The office would have to decide whether to file an indictment before the matter can go to court, a potentially lengthy process.

The actions of Myanmar's generals are under investigation by the International Criminal



Court and in a genocide case at the International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court.

But activists seeking accountability also have filed cases in national courts in Argentina, Turkey and now Germany as well, under the concept of universal jurisdiction.

The legal principle allows prosecution for mass atrocities regardless of location or nationality when the offenses are so severe they represent crimes against the entire international community, said Matthew Smith, chief executive officer and co-founder at Fortify Rights.

"An investigation and subsequent prosecution of these crimes under German law would serve to punish those who have committed the gravest of crimes, prevent future crimes by perpetrators in Myanmar, and signal to other would-be perpetrators in Myanmar and elsewhere that accountability for atrocity crimes cannot be avoided," Fortify Rights said in a statement.

Extreme Israeli group takes root in US with fundraising bid



AP ■ JERUSALEM

An Israeli group raising funds for Jewish extremists convicted in some of the country's most notorious hate crimes is collecting tax-exempt donations from Americans, according to findings. The records in the case suggest that Israel's far right is gaining a new foothold in the United States.

The amount of money raised through a U.S. Nonprofit is not known. But the Associated Press and the Israeli investigative platform Shomrim have documented the money trail from New Jersey to imprisoned Israeli radicals who include Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin and people convicted in deadly attacks on Palestinians.

This overseas fundraising arrangement has made it easier for the Israeli group, Shlom Asiraich, to collect money from Americans, who can make their contributions through the U.S. Nonprofit with a credit card and claim a tax deduction.

Many Israeli causes, from hospitals to universities to charities, raise money through U.S.-based arms. But having the strategy adopted by a group assisting Jewish radicals raises legal and moral questions.

It also comes against the backdrop of a new, far-right government in Israel led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, where ultranationalists and extremist lawmakers have gained unprecedented power.

Turkey condemns Quran protest in the Netherlands

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey's foreign ministry said Tuesday it summoned the Dutch ambassador following a demonstration targeting Islam's holy book, days after a similar protest in Sweden tensed relations. Edwin Wagenveld, Dutch leader of the far-right Pegida movement in the Netherlands, on Sunday tore pages out of a copy of the Quran near the Dutch parliament and stomped on the pages. Police looked on but did not intervene.

"It is about freedom of expression and I think that should be possible in the Netherlands," Wagenveld said in a video posted on the site of Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad. The Turkish foreign ministry said in its statement that it condemned the "vile attack," which it said was proof of Islamophobia, discrimination and xenophobia in Europe.

The ministry told the Dutch ambassador they expected concrete precautions to prevent and not permit similar demonstrations in the future, and that authorities take action against Wagenveld.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. that Mrs. Renu Dutt, Mrs. Neelam Khatiwala, Mr. Ashok Kumar Kapoor and Mrs. Manu Datta are joint owners of Upper Ground Floor, without roof rights, U/G, western side portion, addressing 711, Sq. Mtrs., "said floor" part of Property bearing No. D-3, out of Khazra No. 962 to 964, situated in the revenue estate of Village Nawada, Delhi State Delhi, area about known as Colony Om Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, vide intimation of registered will, dated 08.09.2016, and registered Redefinition deed dated 26.12.2022 for 1/4th share. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said floor to Mr. Manmohan Singh & his nominee who is taking a loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. on behalf of the said floor. If anybody has any objections on the ownership of above owners in respect of the said floor its sale, Mortgage, and any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4112527-28 kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of JRC First Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Madhu Chitawale is the owner of Entire Basement, Ground Floor, First Floor and Third Floor with terrace rights (upto sky limits) of Property bearing No.8-1/3, in Block-B/I, area measuring 200 Sq. Yds. Situated at Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. "the said property" by virtue of Redefinition Deed dated 29.01.2018. Registration No. 564, executed by 1-Mr. Gagan Chitawale through attorney Mrs. Kiran Narang & 2-Mrs. Shalini Sreen through attorney Mrs. Kiran Narang. All persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Madhu Chitawale want to sell Entire third floor of the said property to M. Sanesh Shrivastava and his nominee who is taking loan for purchase the said floor from JRC First Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objections on the ownership of above owner in respect of the said Property/floor, its sale, Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4112527-28 kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75**
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE/IGSU/DLI, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, ROOM NO-8, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

1	Name of work	Tender for the Balance Outdoor and Indoor Works of EI (M/s Medha make) including Supply of Signaling and Telecom Materials l.c.w "Replacement of signaling gears with Electronic Interlocking at Shakurbasti station of Delhi division on Northern Railway"
2	Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 89.57,174.59 (Eighty Nine Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred seventy four Rupees and fifty nine paise only).
3	Cost of tender form	Nil
4	Address from where tender document can be downloaded	Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in
5	Bid security Deposit	Rs 1,79,200
6	Completion period	6 (Six) months.
7	Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in from 02.02.2023 up to 11:30 hrs of 16.02.2023. Date of tender Opening: 16.02.2023 at 11:30 hrs.
8	Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in

No.: GSU_DLI_SNT_02 Date: 24.01.2023 257/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

G20 **Kind Attention Rail Passengers** **IMPORTANT NOTICE** **75**
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

In view of Republic Day Parade on 26.01.2023 (Thursday) the movement of trains over Tilak Bridge during the Parade period will remain suspended. As a result the following trains will be regulated, cancellation and diverted as under:

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON 26.01.2023	
Train No. & Name	
04913/12 Palwal - Ghaziabad-Palwal Spl.	04965 Palwal - New Delhi Special
04952 New Delhi - Ghaziabad Special	04947 Ghaziabad- New Delhi Special
DIVERSION OF TRAINS ON 26.01.2023	
Train No. & Name	Diverted Route
04444 New Delhi - Ghaziabad Special	Will be diverted to run via New Delhi-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad
04408 Shakurbasti-Palwal Special	Will be diverted to run via Patel Nagar-Delhi Safdarjung to H.Nizamuddin
04956 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad Spl.	Will be diverted to run via Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad
12423 Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.	These trains will be diverted via Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi
12313 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.	
12259 Sealdah-Bikaner Durgam Exp.	
12056 Dehradun-New Delhi Janshatabdi Exp.	
20839 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.	New Delhi
REGULATION OF TRAINS ON 26.01.2023	
Train No. & Name	Station and Duration of Regulation
20506 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Exp.	These trains may likely to be regulated at New Delhi Station till clearance of parade as per instructions received from security agencies.
14086 Sirsa-Tilak Bridge Express	
11078 Jammu Tawi-Pune Jhelum Exp.	
15128 New Delhi-Banaras Kashi Vishwanath Express.	Regulated at H.Nizamuddin
02570 New Delhi-Darbhanga Clone Spl.	Regulated at Sahibabad
12925 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Paschim Exp.	These trains may likely to be regulated at Ghaziabad Jn. till clearance of parade
12033 Kanpur Central-New Delhi Shatabdi Exp.	
12581 Banaras-New Delhi Superfast Exp.	
20801 Islampur-New Delhi Magadh Express	

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Visit RailMadad websites: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Follow us on :- **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at : www.nc.indianrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 254/2023

UJVN LIMITED (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135 - 2763508, 2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं. 70 **TENDER NOTICE** दिनांक: 23.01.2023
Office of the Executive Engineer PCM Dhalipur, Dehradun invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:
Tender No- 27/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/ 2022-23 & 28/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/ 2022-23
Name of work: 1- Special Maintenance and Repair work of Type-I residences of Dhakrani Power House Colony, Dhakrani, Dehradun
2- Cleaning works of Syphons across Power Channel Stage IV during monsoon at Asan Barrage, Kulhal, Dehradun
Estimated value of Tender: Rs. 24,98,334.59 & Rs. 23,39,485.00 respectively (excluding GST)
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website - From 17:00 Hrs of 24.01.2023
Last Date & Time for submission of tender- Up to 15:00 Hrs 14.02.2023
For fuller and further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com.
Executive Engineer(PCM)

C.G. Rajya Sahakari Matsya Mahasangh Maryadit
Head Office : Department of Fisheries Campus, Beside Telibandha Police Station, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.), Pin Code- 492006, Ph: 0771-4267693, Email: cgmatsyamahasangh@gmail.com
No.1171/MMS/Engg/2022-23 Raipur, Date: 24 /01/2023
// NOTICE INVITING TENDER //
Sealed tenders are invited from manufacturers & authorized dealers for providing & fixing in position HDPE Black / Blue Geomembrane (Virgin Quality) film of 500 micron (0.50mm) thick on pre constructed earthen ponds. Prescribed Tender Form can be obtained from this office on or before 08.02.2023 on payment of Rs. 3,000/- (Rs. Three thousand only) during office hours. The tenders shall be received in the office of the undersigned till 3.00 PM on dated 09.02.2023. There after the tenders will be opened at 4.00 PM in presence of tenderers or their representatives who may be present at that time.
Managing Director

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
PUBLIC NOTICE:
Builder Cancellation
This is to bring to your notice that ARUNDHATI KAR / DR. TANGI RAJDEV PATRO (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR0002404536 located at Villa no. 0297, Pocket B in Anant Raj Estate, Sector - 63A, Gurugram, Haryana. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.
The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated January 20, 2023 informing that ANANT RAJ LIMITED. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.
Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.
Dated: January 25, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd-

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephones: 0135-2763508, Fax: 0135- 2763508, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com
दि. सं. 75 **Tender notice** दि. 24.01.2023
Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Mohammadpur Power House, Gurukul Narsan-Hardwar invites sealed tenders from experienced firms for following works/supply for Mohammadpur Power House:-
Tender No -15,16 & 17/EE(M&G)/MPH/2022-23
Name of work - 1 Testing & Fault rectification work on 66kv switchyard equipment including procurement of 66kv spares at Mohammadpur Powerhouse.
2 - Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of 24 nos, 12 volt, 65 Ah VRLA, batteries for UPS system of Mohammadpur Power House.
3- Removal of debris from Trashpit, forebay and Trashrack of Mohammadpur Power House for one year (excluding canal closure period).
2 - Estimated Cost - Rs 7,00,500.00 (GST Extra), Rs 2,79,372.00 (GST Extra) Rs 11,17,760.00 (GST Extra) respectively
3 - Date of availability of Tender document on website - 25.01.2023 from 11:00 hrs
4 - Date of Receipt of the tender -15.02.2023 upto 16: 30 hrs
For all details, bidders are advised to visit our website www.ujvnl.com
Executive Engineer (M&G)

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephones: 0135-2763508, Fax: 0135- 2763508, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com
दि. सं. 75 **Tender notice** दि. 24.01.2023
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For all details, bidders are advised to visit our website www.ujvnl.com
Executive Engineer (M&G)

VC investment in Indian startups fell 38% in 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Venture capital (VC) investments in Indian startups plunged over 38 per cent in 2022 as economic uncertainty and market volatility affected fundraising and investment activities, GlobalData said on Tuesday.

In a statement, GlobalData said an analysis of its financial deals database reveals that “a total of 1,726 VC funding deals worth \$20.9 billion were announced in India in 2022 compared to 1,715 deals worth \$33.8 billion in 2021.”

“The ongoing economic uncertainty and market volatility continue to affect the fundraising and investment activities in India and subsequently VC investment in the country startups suffered a massive year-on-year 38.2 per cent decline in value terms during 2022,” the data and analytics company said.

Aurojyoti Bose, lead analyst at GlobalData, said India is a key Asia-Pacific market and stands just next to China in terms of VC funding deals by volume and value.

It is also among the top four markets (the US, the UK, China and India) globally.

India accounted for 5.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent share of global VC funding value and



volume, respectively, in 2022.

While the US, the UK and China registered decline in VC funding deal volume in 2022 compared to the previous year, India stood out as a notable exception and registered 0.6 per cent growth.

“Although India’s VC funding deal volume has slightly increased year-on-year, the significant drop in VC funding value seems to be a fallout of growing investor cautiousness over startup valuations. Moreover, volatile market conditions and recession fears seem to have forced many investors to preserve capital. The restrictions on travel and in-person meetings also made it more difficult for VC firms to conduct due diligence on potential investments,” Bose said.

The average size of VC funding deals, which stood at \$19.7 million in 2021 fell to \$12.1 million in 2022. The number of VC deals valued more than or equal to \$100 million announced in India stood at 42 in 2022 as compared to 86 during the previous year.

“The decrease in venture capital investment can also be attributed to the lack of companies that can generate significant returns for investors. This is a common challenge for emerging economies, and India is no exception,” Bose added.

GlobalData said historic data may change in case some deals get added to previous months because of a delay in the disclosure of information in the public domain.

Finance Min meets private sector bankers

Reviews progress of various financial inclusion schemes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday held a meeting with private sector lenders to review progress made by them under the flagship financial inclusion and social security schemes.

“Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary DFS chaired a meeting today with the representatives of Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks to review the progress made by them under various Financial Inclusion initiatives (PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PM SVANidhi, etc.),” Department of Financial Services said in a tweet.

Last week, Joshi met heads of public sector banks and urged them to achieve targets under various schemes for current financial year.

During the meeting, progress of various social secu-



rity (Jan Suraksha) schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri MUDRA and Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi), and Agri credit etc, were reviewed.

Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) has already been requested to expedite the Consumer Service Rating for all Scheduled Commercial Banks to gauge the consumer expectation and enable banks to raise their standards of services delivery to every segment.

Vistara to add 70 planes in fleet by mid-2024: CEO Vinod Kannan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Full service carrier Vistara will continue to expand and expects to have a total of 70 planes by mid-2024, its chief Vinod Kannan said on Tuesday.

The airline, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, reported an operating profit for the first time since inception in the three months ended December 2022.

By the middle of next year, Kannan said it will have a total of 70 aircraft, including 7 Boeing 787s.

Out of the total 70 planes, there will also be 10 A321s and 53 A320 neos, the Vistara CEO said at a briefing.

Among the 53 A320 neos, 10 planes will have all economy class and the rest will have three classes. Currently, the airline has a fleet of 53 aircraft.

“We will continue to expand... More international



routes (will be added),” Kannan said.

Without disclosing the exact profit figure in the December quarter, the airline also said it crossed the \$1 billion revenue mark and remained EBITDA positive in the current fiscal year.

EBITDA refers to Earnings

Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation.

“For the first time since inception, the airline reported a net profit (excluding unrealised foreign currency loss and non-operating income) for the quarter ended December 2022,” Vistara said.

Rupee falls 28 paise to 81.70 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell 28 paise to close at 81.70 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as unabated foreign fund outflow hit market sentiments.

However, a weak dollar and fall in crude prices capped the losses in the local currency, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 81.61 to a dollar against the previous close of 81.42. The local unit moved in a range of 81.43 to 81.76 during the day.

On Monday, the rupee had declined by 25 paise to close at 81.42 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.01 per cent to 102.15 amid con-



cerns over US economic growth.

The Brent crude was trading 0.41 per cent lower at \$87.83 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended almost flat at 60,978.75, up 37.08 points or 0.06 per cent. The broader NSE Nifty inched up 0.25 points to 18,118.30.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Monday as they sold shares worth ₹219.87 crore, according to exchange data.

Ex-Sebi chief Damodaran launches midcap corp governance index ATOM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Airawat Indices Pvt Ltd, a joint venture firm founded by former Sebi Chairman M Damodaran and Decimal Point Analytics, has launched a new index ATOM, comprising 30 midcap companies listed on stock exchanges.

ATOM (Airawat Touchstone MidCap Index) is a thematic index designed to serve investors seeking to invest in “well-governed mid-cap companies”, the company said in a release.

The joint venture has selected these 30 midcap com-

panies from the AMFI’s (Association of Mutual Funds in India) list of midcap 150 stocks as the starting point of its scoring methodology.

Damodaran, former Chairman of UTI and IDBI, also announced a Corporate Governance Index for midcap companies.

The methodology to select the 30 companies in ATOM captures the financial quality and corporate governance standards of the AMFI midcap universe, it said, adding the index is reconstituted every six months based on revisions AMFI makes to its list of 150



midcap companies.

Speaking at the launch of ATOM, Damodaran said: “The midcap space is conventionally thought to be risky and full of dodgy companies. However, we decided to explode this myth and found a way to systematically identify well-gov-

erned companies to create ATOM.”

He further said with the rapid growth of asset management services in India, having a handful of index providers may prove to be insufficient.

“Airawat, as a new entrant, is committed to finding new and innovative segments in the markets and creating indices around which investors can build unique portfolios,” he said.

Ashutosh Bishnoi, Advisor to Airawat and a former Board member of the Association of Mutual Funds of India, said ATOM represents the best

quality of midcap companies in India.

“On a CAGR basis, it outperformed the 150 midcap stocks over the last five years by over 500 bps and yet significantly underperformed over the last one year,” he said.

Decimal Point Analytics serves capital market institutions in Europe and the US from its offices in London, New York, Gift City, Nashik and Mumbai. Decimal Point also handles the management of over 400 indices for global index companies, the release said.

Croma Infiniti-Retail to take up rapid expansion in next FY

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tata Group-owned Infiniti Retail which operates consumer electronics store chain under the ‘Croma’ brand has drawn up ‘rapid expansion’ plan in the next financial year, the company said on Tuesday.

The company recently launched its 300th store in the city.

Croma launched around 100 new stores this year and plans rapid expansion in the next financial year. Croma has been expanding its footprint in Tier II and III towns to reach more people, the company said in a statement.

With the inauguration of the 300th store in Chennai, the company has 19 stores in Tamil Nadu.

“We are elated to have surpassed the milestone of 300 stores spanning across the top 100 plus cities of India. With our growing retail presence, our aim is to delight our cus-



tomers with a world class shopping experience, expert advice and assured lifetime service,” Croma Infiniti-Retail Ltd MD and CEO Avijit Mitra said.

“We will continue to expand our service across India with stores and croma.Com,” he said.

The company has revamped its website www.Croma.Com to enhance online shopping experience for its more than 30 million monthly traffic.

The 300th store in Sholinganallur is spread across 10,000 sq ft offering a range of products including televisions, smartphones, digital devices, home appliances among others.

Total toll collection through FASTag grew 46% to ₹50K crore in 2022: NHAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Total toll collection through FASTag on fee plazas, including state highway toll plazas, increased 46 per cent to ₹50,855 crore in 2022, state-owned NHAI said on Tuesday.

Total toll collection through FASTag on fee plazas, including state highway toll plazas, in 2021 was ₹34,778 crore.

The average daily toll collection through FASTag on NH fee plazas in December 2022 was ₹134.44 crore, and the single day highest collection touched ₹144.19 crore on December 24, 2022, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said in a statement.

Similarly, the statement said the number of FASTag transactions also witnessed a growth of about 48 per cent year-on-year in 2022.

The number of FASTag transactions in 2021 and 2022

was 219 crore and 324 crore, respectively, it added.

The statement said with 6.4 crore FASTags issued as of date, the total number of FASTag-enabled fee plazas across the country also grew to 1,181 (including 323 state highway fee plazas) in 2022 from 922 in the previous year 2021.

FASTag implementation has reduced the waiting time at NH Fee Plazas significantly.

A FASTag allows a user to pay the highway fee electronically without having to stop at the toll collection booths set up by the highway operators.

Since February 16, 2021, the government has made FASTag mandatory for all private as well as commercial vehicles.

As per the rules, vehicles that do not have a valid or functional FASTag must pay double the toll charge as a penalty.

Sensex, Nifty trim gains to close flat amid volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex trimmed barely gains to close marginally higher while Nifty settled flat in choppy trade on Tuesday as gains in auto shares were offset by selling pressure in banking and energy shares.

The 30-share BSE barometer closed slightly up by 37.08 points or 0.06 per cent to 60,978.75, with 15 of its stocks ending in green and the rest in red. The index opened higher and gained over 300 points to a high of 61,266.06 in early trade.

The index, however, dropped over 400 points from the day’s high to touch a low of 60,849.12 due to selling in select counters.

The broader NSE Nifty closed flat at 18,118.30 with 29 of its shares ending in red and 21 in green. The 50-issue index touched a high of 18,201.25 and a low of 18,078.65 in the day trade.

“Mirroring robust global peers, the domestic market extended previous gains driven by auto stocks. However, due to



selling pressure in banking shares, the indices anchored close to the flatline,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Auto stocks were in focus prior to the earnings results of the sector major Maruti Suzuki India. Hopes of a soft landing of the US economy along with the anticipation of a lesser rate hike boosted global bourses, Nair said.

Among major gainers, Tata Motors rose the most by 3.26 per cent.

Maruti Suzuki India rose by 3.23 per cent after its post-

ed a two-fold jump in net profit for the December quarter on robust sales.

HCL Tech, HDFC twins, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, TCS and ITC were among the gainers.

Axis Bank declined 2.43 per cent a day after it reported its financial results. L&T, Reliance Industries, SBI, Kotak Bank, Tata Steel and Power Grid were major losers.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd said that stock markets ended almost unchanged in a volatile trading session in continuation

of the prevailing consolidation phase.

Auto and IT shares advanced while metal, realty and pharma declined.

In the broader market, BSE Midcap declined 0.3 per cent to 25,038.24 and Smallcap dropped 0.43 per cent to 28,422.45.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Metal fell by 1.21 per cent, Healthcare by 1.01 per cent, Realty by 0.95 per cent, Utilities by 0.82 per cent, Power by 0.78 per cent and capital goods by 0.75 per cent.

On the other hand, BSE Auto gained 1.17 per cent, IT by 0.66 per cent, Consumer Discretionary by 0.71 per cent and Consumer Durables by 0.51 per cent.

Asian stock markets were also higher following overnight gains in US markets on expectations that the Federal Reserve will trim its rate hikes to tamp down inflation.

Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 index gained 1.5 per cent and Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.4 per cent. Many markets in Asia were closed for the Lunar New Year holidays.

‘Family issues pose great threat to small, medium family enterprises’

Mumbai: A study released by Bharartiya Vidya Bhavan’s SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPIJMR) has found that small and medium family enterprises have less to worry about from the business side. Instead, family issues may prove to be the proverbial Achilles’ heel for such businesses.

The study, titled ‘India: State of the Family Business Report’, undertaken by SPIJMR’s Centre for Family Business & Entrepreneurship (CFBE), involved a survey of 350 family businesses across India over May-October 2022, conducted by Hansa Research.

It found that most small and medium family enterpris-

es have reported either stable or increasing trends across various parameters such as sales, market share, profitability, number of people employed, and profit margin on sales in FY 2021-22.

This would be in line with the provisional estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), which reported that the Indian economy had fully recovered to its pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20, with the real GDP growth rate estimated at 8.7% in 2021-2022.

The sentiments regarding their competitiveness in the past three years and their future expectations regarding growth and adoption of technology

remain optimistic for these small and medium family enterprises, even though expectations regarding cost increases run high.

Microenterprises reported better business performance than other small and medium enterprise peers.

Most microenterprises reported stable or increasing sales, market shares, profitability, Return on Assets, Return on Equity, and profit margins compared to medium enterprises. These enterprises also reported employing a greater or the same number of people as before.

More service sector enterprises reported improvement in business parameters such as



sales, market share, profitability, number of people employed, and profit margin on sales compared to manu-

facturing enterprises and thus outperformed them.

It is on the family side that family businesses face the most

significant challenge. While the FBs are governed by clear values and a code of conduct, there is less attention paid to critical aspects such as family governance and planning for succession.

This manifests in unclear succession timing, despite an intent to hand over the business to the next-gen family member and a reluctance to let go due to the perceived inability or lack of interest in the next-gen family members.

“Our survey reveals that despite a seemingly difficult and uncertain business environment, small and medium family businesses seem less pressurized by business developments.

In fact, family businesses will face greater headwinds from the family side than from the business side, with issues of succession and governance looming large and threatening their business performance.

Our survey also sounds a warning bell to family businesses in India- the most common form of business organization.

Family Businesses will need to put their family in order, so that they can reap the benefits of an improving business environment,” said Dr Tulsi Jayakumar, Executive Director, CFBE and author of the report.

Pointing to the difficulties of succession planning - a key

section of the survey, Dr Jayakumar added: “Management schools and consultants will need to train the senior generation family members of the importance of ‘letting go’ in order to preserve the family business they have invested so much in.

Many of the respondents among the senior gen in our survey expressed their intent to continue running the business as long as they could.

This would of course demotivate the talented and independent among the next-gen.

Transgenerational entrepreneurship can be fostered only through paying sufficient attention to family dynamics.”

RYBAKINA, KHACHANOV REACH AUS OPEN SF



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Big-serving Elena Rybakina blasted her way into the Australian Open semi-finals on Tuesday, while Karen Khachanov followed suit in the men's draw after Sebastian Korda suffered a wrist injury.

In the first quarter-final on day nine at Melbourne Park, Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina stepped up her bid for a second Grand Slam title with a ruthless 6-2, 6-4 win over Jelena Ostapenko.

She will face American third seed Jessica Pegula or two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka in the last four.

The 23-year-old Rybakina sent down 11 aces to blow former French Open champion Ostapenko off Rod Laver Arena in 79 minutes.

The 22nd seed has blasted 35 aces so far, more than any other woman at the tournament.

Ominously, she said her serve is better now than when she won Wimbledon last year.

"I gained even more power. It's my weapon on the court and of course we are trying to work on it," she said, before adding: "Always a lot to improve."

The first men's quarter-final had been warming up nicely until Korda hurt his wrist against Russia's Khachanov.

The 18th seed went through when the young American retired in the third set, down 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 3-0.

Khachanov's reward is a clash with either Greek third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas or unseeded Czech Jiri Lehecka, who play later, for a spot in Sunday's final.

Tsitsipas is the highest remaining seed in the draw after a series of shock exits.

The 22-year-old Korda, who had been attempting to emulate his father Petr's Australian Open victory in 1998, said afterwards that he could barely hold the racquet.

He said he first felt the injury while playing the Adelaide International this month, where he made the final and forced a championship point before being beaten by Novak Djokovic.

But it had not bothered him in

the opening four rounds at Melbourne Park until he hit a return in the second set.

"I had it in Adelaide and then it went away completely. Now it just came back out of nowhere," he said. "I have never had any wrist issues before."

"I knew kind of what it was right away, right when I hit the return. I kind of felt that spot that I was feeling before."

"Some forehands I couldn't even hold the racquet. Volleying was almost impossible for me, so it was a little tough."

For Khachanov it is a second consecutive Grand Slam semi-final, having reached the last four at the 2022 US Open.

Nine-time Melbourne champion Djokovic is still on the scene, with a quarter-final against Russian fifth seed Andrey Rublev on Wednesday, but otherwise the draw has opened up.

"I'm feeling good, to be honest, and really happy about the way I'm competing," said Khachanov, ranked 20th in the world.

"I'm looking forward to the semi-finals here in Australia for the first time."

Bopanna-Mirza move to mixed doubles semifinal



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The Indian team of Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza moved to the Australian Open mixed doubles semifinals without moving a sinew as they got a walk over from Jelena Ostapenko and David Vega Hernandez here on Tuesday.

The Indian team has not yet dropped a set in the mixed team competition.

They now await the winner of the quarterfinal between the pairs of third seeded Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski and Taylor Townsend and Jamie Murray.

Bopanna and his partner Mathew Ebden, seeded 10th, had made a first round exit from the men's doubles event, while Mirza and her Kazakh partner Anna Danilina had lost in the women's doubles second round.

Ramkumar Ramanathan and his Mexican partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni had also made first round exits.

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and N Sriram Balaji had reached the second round before bowing out.

No Indian featured in men's singles competition.

Kyrgios targets March return

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Nick Kyrgios's knee surgery was a "great success" with the temperamental Australian targeting a return for the Indian Wells ATP Masters in March, his manager said on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old went under the knife in Canberra on Monday after pulling out of the Australian Open on the eve of the tournament, saying he was "devastated" to miss his home Grand Slam.

"The surgery was a great success," his manager Daniel Horsfall told the Melbourne Age newspaper.

"We couldn't have been more pleased with the outcome of it. Now we will be pushing ahead for a speedy recovery and are aiming to see everyone at Indian Wells."

Kyrgios, considered an outside chance of winning the Australian Open, had surgery to repair a small tear in his left lateral meniscus.

Korda says could barely hold racquet

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Sebastian Korda said he could barely hold the racquet before retiring in the Australian Open quarter-finals Tuesday, but despite the disappointment is confident of "really big things" ahead.

He said he first felt the injury while playing the Adelaide International this month, where he made the final and forced a championship point before being beaten by Novak Djokovic.

But it had not bothered him in the opening four rounds at Melbourne Park until he hit a return in the second set.

"I had it in Adelaide and then it went away completely. Now it just came back out of nowhere," he said. "I have never had any wrist issues before."



"I knew kind of what it was right away, right when I hit the return. I kind of felt that spot

that I was feeling before. "Some forehands I couldn't even hold the racquet. Volleying

was almost impossible for me, so it was a little tough."

Despite the pain of defeat, it was a hugely successful Australian Open for Korda, who made a Grand Slam quarter-final for the first time.

Along the way he stunned two-time losing finalist and seventh seed Daniil Medvedev and world number 10 Hubert Hurkacz.

"There is a lot of positives. I mean, way more positives than even negatives," he said.

"Today was tough, but hopefully it's nothing serious and I can take care of it so I don't have it in the future."

"Still a great tournament. My first quarter-final in a Grand Slam. You know, I'm going to go forward with my head high and keep working."

Ten-man Inter slip to defeat against Empoli



AP N MILAN

Inter Milan missed the chance to go second in Serie A when they slipped to a 1-0 defeat at home to Empoli on Monday.

Inter, who had won their last nine league games against Empoli, began the day in third but their hopes of climbing above city rivals AC Milan into second were hampered five minutes before half-time when Milan Skriniar was dismissed for a second yellow card.

The Slovak defender, who has been linked with a move to Paris Saint-Germain, was booked for obstruction in the 25th minute before being shown the red card for a nasty tackle.

The only goal came after 66 minutes when Nedim Bajrami provided the assist for 19-year-

old Tommaso Baldanzi to fire home off his left foot for his third goal of the season.

Inter battled hard to retrieve the game with Simone Inzaghi throwing both Edin Dzeko and Romelu Lukaku into the fray.

They came close on several occasions and had a header rebound off the bar but less than a week after lifting the Italian Super Cup in style with a 3-0 win over AC Milan, Inter may have kissed goodbye to the Scudetto.

Inter remain third, a point behind AC Milan who play at Lazio on Tuesday, and level on points with Roma.

Napoli are the runaway leaders, 12 points clear at the top.

In Monday's other game Bologna were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom side Cremonese.

Kane sinks Fulham to become Spurs' joint record scorer

AP ■ LONDON

Antonio Conte vowed to "win something" with Harry Kane after the striker became Tottenham's joint record scorer as his 266th goal for the club sealed a vital 1-0 win against Fulham on Monday.

England captain Kane netted on the stroke of half-time with a clinical strike from the edge of the penalty area at Craven Cottage.

Jimmy Greaves' Tottenham record had stood since 1970, but Kane's first goal in his last three appearances gave him a share of the historic milestone.

Kane played despite being ill with a fever and Tottenham boss Conte admitted he is desperate to reward the selfless star with silverware. Without a major trophy for club and country, Kane has been linked with Manchester United.

But Conte said: "Today he was amazing. I think he scored a fantastic goal, the execution, to control the ball, then to kick it in that way, only a world-class striker can score this goal."

"About the spirit that I spoke before, I want to underline Harry played with a fever and he was not so good, but he wanted to play because he understood the moment."

"He understood he is a point of reference for us. For sure, I would like to help him and me, also his team-mates, to try to do something important,



to win something with Tottenham because he loves Tottenham. "Tottenham is in his heart and it should be good if together we were able to win something, because then it is important to have this record, but I think it could be more important if you win a trophy."

Kane could break Greaves' record in Tottenham's next match in the FA Cup fourth round at second tier Preston on Saturday. It is only a matter of time before Kane takes sole possession of Tottenham's most hallowed record.

That remarkable achievement would have seemed impossible during a difficult start to his career that featured several failed loan spells before he finally emerged as a star.

Greaves, who died aged 81 in 2021, is regarded as one of the most natural goal scorers in football history. A member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning squad, who netted 44 times for his country, Greaves is the highest scorer in English top-flight history with 357 goals.

For Kane to be alongside such a legendary player is a tribute to his predatory instincts and his perseverance.

The 29-year-old is now one short of becoming the third player to net 200 Premier League goals, after Alan Shearer (260) and Wayne Rooney (208).

Kane also drew level with Rooney as England's joint record goalscorer after bagging his

FOREST WILL ATTACK MAN UTD: COOPER

AP ■ LONDON

Nottingham Forest boss Steve Cooper said on Monday his side will take the attack to Manchester United in this week's League Cup semi-finals. Cooper's side host United in the first leg on Wednesday, then travel to Old Trafford for the decisive second leg one week later.

With Forest regarded as under-dogs against star-studded United, it would be easily for Cooper to adopt a defensive game-plan in the hope of nicking a narrow victory.

But Cooper said he would tell his players to go on the offensive at the City Ground.

"It's not been an easy ride for sure to get to the semi-final, and we've treated it like every

other game, one we want to do well in and win," Cooper told reporters.

"It's a semi-final, we really want to commit to it, we really want to attack it. Obviously it's Man United, it's over two legs, incredibly tough games - but ones we want to have no regrets about."

"We're in the semi-final of an important cup. I think we should go into it thinking they don't come along very often, so treat it like it might be the last one."

"There's a real good feeling about the semi-final in the city, the stadium will obviously be the atmosphere that it's been every single game so far this season, which has been incredible, and we should really embrace that."

53rd international goal in the World Cup quarter-final defeat against France in December. Thanks to Kane's 18th goal in all competitions this season, fifth placed Tottenham closed the gap on fourth placed Manchester United to three points.

It was a much-needed result after successive defeats against Manchester City and Arsenal damaged Tottenham's bid to qualify for next season's Cham-

pions League via a top four finish. Conte's team had conceded 21 goals in their previous 10 league matches.

So, while Kane rightly took the spotlight, Conte was just as pleased by his players' defensive resilience. "It was a big win. I had a good answer from my players. I asked them for solidity of the last season and the will and desire to fight and to be resilient," Conte said.

Santos set to be named Poland coach

AP ■ WARSAW

Polish Football Association (PZPN) president Cezary Kulesza hinted on Monday that former Portugal boss Fernando Santos would be named their new coach.

The PZPN will hold a press conference on Tuesday to announce a new man in charge with Santos heavily linked with the role.

"See you tomorrow at the press conference at the national stadium," Kulesza said on Twitter in a message with a photo of himself alongside Santos attached.

Kulesza also retweeted a congratulatory message from Polish Sports Minister Kamil Bortniczuk.

"Fernando Santos is a coach with a very good resume... successes... and work experience with huge stars," Bortniczuk



said on Twitter.

Former England and Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard had also been linked with the position.

Santos, 68, will succeed Czeslaw Michniewicz, who was

sacked last month following a last-16 appearance at the World Cup in Qatar.

Poland finished second in their group, beating Saudi Arabia, drawing with Mexico and losing to eventual champions Argentina.

In the last 16 for the first time in 36 years, they went out after a tame 3-1 defeat at the hands of eventual runners-up France.

Santos was previously Portugal coach, but quit last month following the team's shock World Cup quarter-final loss to Morocco.

Appointed coach of Portugal in September 2014, Santos won the country's first major title at Euro 2016 and followed it up with the 2019 Nations League.

However, his time in charge also saw last 16 exits at the 2018 World Cup and Euro 2020.

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe became the first Paris Saint-Germain player to score five times in one match as the Ligue 1 giants crushed sixth-tier amateur minnows Pays de Cassel 7-0 in the French Cup on Monday.

Mbappe, who scored a hat-trick in France's defeat by Argentina in the World Cup final just over a month ago, netted a hat-trick in the first half here as PSG led 4-0 at the break against their regional league opponents.

He struck twice more after the restart, with Neymar and Carlos Soler scoring PSG's other goals in the last-32 tie.

The Qatar-owned club, who have won the French Cup 14 times, more than any other team, will now play away to bitter rivals Marseille in the last 16 early next month. That match is scheduled



for the week beginning February 6, just a week before PSG host Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie. "Once we scored the first goal it became harder for our opponents," PSG boss Christophe Galtier told reporters.

"The opponents we'll face over the next weeks are of a different quality," he added. Mbappe was given the captain's armband while Neymar also started, but Lionel Messi was rested, allowed to sit out this tie played before a full house at the 38,000-seat Stade Bollaert-Delelis in Lens.

Pays de Cassel are a tiny club representing a handful of villages inland from the port town of Dunkirk in France's far north, but their remarkable run to this stage of the tournament stoked the interest of the whole region.

They performed admirably in the early stages against the

Ligue 1 leaders, but their resistance was broken just before the half-hour mark when Mbappe turned in a Nuno Mendes cut-back, the ball taking a crucial deflection on its way in.

Mbappe then set up Neymar for the Brazilian to score his first goal since the World Cup, before the France star lobbed in his team's third and then completed a 12-minute hat-trick from a Vitinha pass.

Mbappe's fourth, and PSG's fifth, followed a goalkeeping mistake in the 56th minute.

Neymar set up Soler to backheel in for 6-0 before Mbappe completed the rout, his fifth of the game allowing him to equal the all-time record for most French Cup goals.

He has now scored 29 times in the competition, as many as former Marseille great Jean-Pierre Papin.

