

OPINION 6
UNEARTHING THE ROOT
OF THE DISASTER**WORLD 9**
UK HOME SECY MULLS CUT IN
POST-STUDY STUDENT VISA STAY**MONEY 10**
AI OFFERS NEARLY 98 CRORE
SHARES TO STAFF

RANCHI, THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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26
January
HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

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BBC's docu fuels
unrest in varsitiesPolice, admins of
univs crack down
as students of
Jamia, Punjab
univ, JNU try to
see banned film

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The proposed screening of the controversial BBC documentary 'India: The Modi Question' became a major flashpoint between students and the police at Jamia Millia Islamia University in the national Capital on Wednesday. The police first detained four students and later many more when the students led a protest to demand their release, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) claimed.

The students of the Punjab University also organised the screening of the BBC documentary which was stalled midway after authorities intervened. In a tweet, the Congress-affiliated students wing NSUI said "@NSUICHandigarh organised a screenplay of the BBC Modi documentary at Panjab University. The state president and many students watched the truth about



Security personnel at the Jamia Millia Islamia campus during the SFI's protest against the detention of four activists over the proposed screening of a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

democracy killers."

The SFI's bid to screen the documentary at the Jamia campus comes a day after a similar event was organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru University during which students claimed that power and Internet were suspended and stones hurled at them. The campus witnessed heavy deployment of police and the anti-riot units Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel.

Secretary of SFI Delhi State committee, Pritish Menon said the police detained the protesters who had gathered there.

"We were about to begin the demonstration but they were detained before that. They were taken to the police station," Menon said.

The SFI's Jamia unit had released a poster announcing that the documentary would be screened at the MCRC lawn Gate Number 8 at 6 PM.

The police said it detained four students after the SFI announced its plan.

The university administration said the screening of the controversial documentary would not be allowed.

EAM slams Pompeo over slight to Sushma

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has deplored the derisive remarks made by former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo against Sushma Swaraj when she headed the Foreign Ministry.

Jaishankar's sharp reaction came a day after Tuesday's launch of Mike Pompeo's book in which he made disparaging references about the late Swaraj.

Writing about Swaraj, Pompeo said he never saw his counterpart Swaraj as an "important political player" but got along famously with S Jaishankar. "I have seen a passage in Secretary Pompeo's book refer-



ring to Smt Sushma Swaraj ji. I always held her in great esteem and had an exceptionally close and warm relationship with her. I deplore the disrespectful colloquialism used for her," Jaishankar said. In his latest book 'Never Give an Inch: Fighting for the America I Love' that hit the

stores on Tuesday, Pompeo describes Swaraj somewhat disparagingly, using the American slang words 'goof-ball' and 'heartland political hack' for her. Swaraj served as the External Affairs Minister from May 2014 to May 2019. She died in August 2019.

'India seen with new respect on global stage'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In her maiden Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said India is now being seen with "new respect" on the global stage.

She lauded the linguistic diversity of the country, founders of the Constitution for giving a moral framework, and commended the roles of farmers, workers, scientists and engineers whose



combined strength enables India to live up to the spirit of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan'.

Asserting that the world looked at India now with a "new respect", she pointed to the country's leadership

of G20 and said it was an ideal platform to discuss and find solutions to "most pressing" problems such as global warming and climate change that were affecting the poor the most. The President said after a series of initiatives in recent years to transform all aspects of governance and unleash the creative energies of the people, the world has started to look at India with a new sense of respect.

Padma Vibhushan for MSY, SM Krishna, Zakir Hussain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party founder late SMulayam Singh Yadav, former External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, and tabla maestro Zakir Hussain are among the six people listed for this year's Padma Vibhushan awards.

Others who will be bestowed the highest civilian honor are: Balkishna Doshi from Gujarat (posthumously), Dilip Mahalanabis (posthumously) who worked in relief camps during the Bangladesh war and US-based scientist and engineer Srinivas Varadhan.

No one has been named for the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.

In the Padma Awards announced ahead of Republic Day 2023, President Droupadi Murmu also listed out nine names for Padma Bhushan and 91 for Padma Shri Awards.

The nine Padma Bhushan awardees include: Industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla, Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's wife and writer Sudha Murthy, Kannada writer SL Bhyrappa, and singer Vani Jayaram. Telangana's spiritual gurus Swami Chinna Jeeyar Kamlesh D Patel and writer and educationist Kapil Kapoor from Delhi as well, and singer Suman Kalyapur from Maharashtra were also awarded Padma Bhushan.

74th Republic Day

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CM unveils schemes worth Rs 1095.57

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Chief Minister Hemant Soren, MP Rajmahal Vijay Hansda, MLAs Nalin Soren, Basant Soren and others during the inaugural programme of development-oriented and welfare schemes, in Dumka on Wednesday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

Government's schemes land on the ground. Implementation of plans should be fast. Plans should be completed on time. For this, continuous monitoring of the schemes is necessary. In this series, I myself am going to the districts and meeting with the headquarters and district officials to get information about the ground reality of the schemes," said Chief Minister Hemant Soren while addressing the inauguration ceremony of a multipurpose convention center equipped with modern facilities in Dumka on

Wednesday. On this occasion, the CM inaugurated 110 schemes - laid foundation stones, distributed assets among the beneficiaries and gave appointment letters to the candidates.

The CM said that district level plans should be reviewed in the districts. This will definitely bring better results. It is the responsibility of the senior officer sitting at the headquarters to regularly monitor the district level schemes. If all the officers will fulfill their responsibilities honestly then we will be able to give a better and orderly system. This will benefit the state and the people living here. The Chief

Minister said that the government has started a new practice in the state to solve the problems of the people by organizing camps at the panchayat level. The success of the scheme can be gauged from the fact that lakhs of people were given the benefits of government schemes at their doorsteps. The CM said that Dumka is the sub-capital of Jharkhand along with being the focal point of the Santhal Parganas division. This district is moving forward by creating its own identity in many fields. In this episode, the convention center is another big gift for here. This center is like a complete package in a

sense, where many programs including cultural, seminars, conferences can be organized. It is equipped with modern facilities and a multi-purpose center, where many facilities are available under one roof. The arrangement of this center should be maintained, special attention will be needed for this. The CM said that it has been seen many times in small towns and rural areas, one has to approach big hotels or big cities. But, due to the presence of the Convention Center, now the programs here will be organized in this city and district, in which more and more people actually associated with the program will get a chance to participate. The Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 110 schemes at a cost of Rs 10 billion 95 crore 60 lakh 57 thousand 890. In this, 24 schemes worth Rs 2 billion 38 crore 61 lakh 11 thousand 500 were inaugurated and foundation stones of 86 schemes worth Rs 8 billion 56 crore 99 lakh 46 thousand 390 were laid. On this occasion, the CM inaugurated Convention Center equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and ITI building at Shikaripara built at a cost of about Rs 32 crore. Important schemes for which foundation stones were laid



Chief Minister Hemant Soren distributes assets among beneficiaries during the inaugural programme of development-oriented and welfare schemes, in Dumka on Wednesday. PNS

include 9 high-level bridges, construction of 45 health sub-centres, 12 roads, strengthening and widening of 10 roads, 4 check dams, Jama-Jarmundi water supply scheme, Kathikund-Shikaripara water supply scheme and Dumka airport. Includes construction of boundary wall of additional land acquired for

The Chief Minister distributed assets, loans and grants amounting to Rs 1 billion 59 crore 37 lakh 77 thousand 231 among 88777 beneficiaries of various welfare schemes of the government. On this occasion, appointment letters were

given to 103 candidates for various departments by the Chief Minister. This year Dumka district has been declared as Kala-azar free district. In such a situation, nutrition kits were distributed among the frontline workers fighting against Kala-azar. On this occasion, MP Vijay Hansda, MLAs Nalin Soren and Basant Soren, Zilla Parishad President, Deputy Inspector General of Police Sudarshan Prasad Mandal, Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla and Superintendent of Police Amber Lakda were present along with many officials of the district.

Hardik's men, Kiwis reach Ranchi for first T20 match

JSCA to host first match of three match series

PNS : RANCHI

Hardik Pandya's young Indian side will gear up to face the Kiwis in a three-match T20I series starting on January 27, at Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) stadium at HEC Township. The Indian side which is on high note after registering 3-0 win against New Zealand in three match ODI series, the T20 series Indian side will see a lot of fresh faces with Hardik Pandya at the helm of India's T20 reboot.

The excitement is abuzz for the clash in Ranchi, with tickets fast selling out. The Indian and Kiwis teach on Wednesday evening reached the state capital. The teams have been housed at Radisson Blu, from there the two teams on Thursday morning will go to JSCA stadium for a practice match. The stadium is located just 7 KM away from Birsa Munda airport and the railway station is just 10 KM away from the Ranchi cricket ground.

Tickets have been fast selling out with fans going



crazy to catch a glimpse of their favourite stars in action. Fans can purchase a maximum of 4 tickets of single or assorted categories. Online tickets are for only home delivery. The tickets have been priced at Rs 1000 to Rs 10000. The price of tickets at Amitabh Choudhary Pavilion (North Pavilion) Premium Terrace is Rs 2200, Corporate Box Rs 4500 (With Hospitality), Hospitality Box Rs 5500 (With Hospitality), Corporate Lounge Rs 8000 (With Hospitality), Presidents' Enclosure Rs 10000 (With Hospitality), MS Dhoni Pavilion (South Pavilion) Luxury Parlour East Rs 6000 (With Hospitality).

The match will be played at JSCA Stadium on January 27 from 7.30 pm. The second T20 match of the series will be played in

Lucknow on January 29 and the third match in Ahmedabad on February 1. JSCA Stadium has proved lucky for the Indian team. So far three T20 matches have been held here and Team India has won all three. The first T20 match between India and Sri Lanka was played here on 12 February 2016, in which India won by 69 runs. On 7 October 2017, India defeated Australia by nine wickets in the second T20 match by Duckworth-Lewis method. On 19 November 2021, India defeated New Zealand by seven wickets.

JSCA has completed its preparations for organizing this match. The practice pitch has been prepared for the practice match of the teams. At the same time, the floodlights were also checked last night. The entire field has been examined. Adequate security arrangements have also been made there. From the entry of the people to the security of the players, inspection has been done.

DC directs to provide benefits of Ayushman Yojna to beneficiaries

PNS : RANCHI

In a move to provide benefits of Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojna (ABJAY) to maximum people, a meeting was organized on Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ranchi, Rahul Kumar Sinha. Deputy Development Commissioner Ranchi, Dinesh Kumar Yadav, Civil Surgeon, Dr Vinod Kumar, District Supply Officer, Albert Billung, District Coordinator, Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, Ashish Jha and CSC Manager were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, while discussing the action plan to cover the eligible people in the district with Ayushman card, the DC gave necessary guidelines to the officials to ensure the

benefits of Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana to the eligible people. He said to make sure to make Ayushman cards of pink and green ration card holders in the district.

Sinha directed to make Ayushman cards of eligible people through Common Service Center at Panchayat level in the meeting. He said that the ration dealers of the Public Distribution System should send the card holders to the nearest Pragma Kendras so that their Ayushman cards can be made. While working in camp mode at the Panchayat level, he instructed Sahiya to go door-to-door and inform them and bring them to the nearby Pragma Kendra. He also directed to speed up the e-KYC work by Sahiya in making Ayushman cards.

Governor calls for conscience vote during elections

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais on Wednesday urged the voters to use their conscience while exercising their franchise. Bais said voters should choose their public representatives with their conscience and wisdom. Voters, while exercising their right to vote, should stay away from any type of temptations like caste, religion, community and language etc. and exercise their vote on the basis of their conscience and their conscience. Every citizen of the country should be aware and understand his responsibility towards the nation. Every eligible citizen who is above 18 years of age should register his/her name in the voter's list by showing that he/she is aware. The Governor said this while



addressing students at the state-level programme organised by the Election Commission in Jharkhand to commemorate the National Voters' Day.

The Governor said that National Voters' Day also reflects the importance of voters in a democracy. Democracy is incomplete without the participation of voters. Being the world's largest democracy, this day has special importance in making voters aware in

India and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process. The Governor was the chief guest in the program organized at Aryabhata Auditorium on the occasion of National Voters' Day on Wednesday.

The Governor said that the Election Commission of India has been committed to continuously strengthen the world's largest democracy since its inception. The theme of National Voters' Day this year has been kept

by the Election Commission of India - 'Vote like nothing, we will cast our vote'. The strength of democracy depends only on the vigilance and awareness of the voters. In a democracy, just being a voter is not an achievement, there is a huge responsibility on the voters and the voter ID card makes you realize your responsibility continuously.

The Governor also said that several people receive benefits under government-run schemes; however, despite taking the benefits, many don't understand their duty of voting in elections. He said that lawmakers have discussed the possibility of ending the benefits of such people, but I believe that instead of punishing them, they should be made aware of their responsibilities and their importance.

26 जनवरी 2023, देश का 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

SATYANAND BHOKTA
Labour, Employment and Skill development Minister
Government of Jharkhand

26 जनवरी 2023, देश का 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

RAMESHWAR ORAON
Finance cum Food Supply Minister
Government of Jharkhand

74वां गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

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Affiliated to Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi
Courses : D.Pharmacy, B.Pharmacy
Gyan Jyoti Paramedical & Nursing College
Affiliated to Jharkhand State Paramedical Council, Ranchi & VBU Hazaribag
Courses : BPT, B.Sc.MLT, DMLT, OT Asst., X-Ray Tech., DOA, D.Dentist
Gyan Jyoti College of Nursing
Courses : ANM, GNM

Shambhu Kumar
Principal

Capacity Building Programme at SBPS

ACBP on Financial Literacy and use of Digital Tools organised by CBSE was conducted in the premises of Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi. The resource person for the session was Debashis Bandyopadhyay. More than 120 teachers from the lead collaborator school and the member schools of the hub attended the session. School Head Personnel and Admin Dr. Pradip Varma praised the efforts of the school for conducting the session. Principal Paramjit Kaur said that it is important to sensitize the teachers about financial literacy and use of digital tools as they help us to plan for a strong and secure future and the teachers have definitely benefited from this session.

26 जनवरी 2023, देश का 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

NALIN SOREN
JMM MLA, Shikaripara

26 जनवरी 2023, देश का 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

चलो हम देश में अमन-चैन, शान्ति, एकता एवं उन्नति के लिए संवैधानिक मूल्यों की रक्षा के साथ संप्रदायिक ताकतों को कमजोर करने का संकल्प करें

Naman Vixel Kongari
Congress MLA,
Kolebira, Simdega, Jharkhand

एचजेडबी आरोग्यम सुपरस्पेशलिटी अस्पताल

सभी देशवासियों को 74वें गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

हमारी सुविधाएं—

काया एवं सिंधु टेन विभाग	कार्डिओलॉजी और किडनी केयर विभाग	कार्डिओलॉजी विभाग (केयरक)	रेड विकिरण विभाग
हृदी रोग (कार्डियोलॉजी) विभाग	चर्मरोग इम्यूनोलॉजी और टांग केयर	सोफ्टवेयर का इंजीनियरिंग	न्यूरोलॉजी विभाग
मेडिकल और फिजियोथेरेपी विभाग	सुरोसोनी विभाग	एडी टेन विभाग	काय वैक

एचजेडबी आरोग्यम सुपरस्पेशलिटी अस्पताल में स्वास्थ्य संबंधित सभी तरह की बीमारियों का ईलाज उपलब्ध है।

जिला परिषद् भवन, डिस्ट्रिक्ट बोर्ड चौक, हजारीबाग

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पकरी बरवाडीह, पी. बी.—नार्थ वेस्ट एवं बादम कोयला खनन परियोजनाएँ

एनटीपीसी की ओर से गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का उद्यम)

पकरी बरवाडीह कोयला खनन परियोजनाएँ, बड़कागाँव, हजारीबाग

SC verdicts to be had in 4 bhashas from today: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, the Supreme Court has decided to make available judgments into regional languages. To start with , the judgments will be translated into four languages — Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati and Odia.

Speaking at the inauguration of Delhi High Court's Online e- Inspection Software, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said on Tuesday "English is not a comprehensible language to 99.99 per cent of the citizens" in the country.

The CJI said the apex court will operationalise the part of the electronic-Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project for making available verdicts in some scheduled languages free of cost.

"We have the e-SCR (PROJECT), which now has nearly 34,000 judgments and an elastic search facility. We also now have 1,091 judgments in regional languages which will be launched tomorrow on the Republic Day," the CJI said.

"We have 21 in Odia, 14 in Marathi, four in Assamese... 17 in Kannada... 29 in Malayalam, three in Nepali, four in Punjabi, 52 already in Tamil, 28 in Telugu, and three in Urdu," he said, adding that the apex court was on "a mission" to provide its judgments in all scheduled languages.

The Chief Justice has constituted a committee headed by Justice AS Oka for translation of top court's judgments into regional languages. .

Besides Justice Oka, the committee consists of Justice Suraj Govindaraj of Karnataka High Court; Sharmistha from National Informatics Centre; - Mitesh Kapra from IIT Delhi; - Vivek Raghavan from Ek step foundation; - Supriya Shankaran from Agami.

"I have constituted a committee chaired by Justice AS Oka, a dynamic judge of the Supreme Court, and the first step taken is to ensure that the Supreme Court judgments will at least be translated in four languages; Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati and Oriya," the CJI said. There are 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution including Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani,



Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri. The verdicts, as part of the e-SCR project, are available on the apex court website, its mobile app and on the judgment portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The top court, on January 2, had announced the launch of the electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project to provide free access to its about 34,000 judgments to lawyers, law students and the common public.

"This is a free service available for lawyers across the country. Young juniors do not have to pay. There is an elastic search facility. We are improving upon the search engine by incorporating the following, distinguished and incorporated judgments in a few weeks..," the CJI had said.

Lawyers, while arguing in courts, refer to the reported judgments supporting their matters by using law journals including the 'Supreme Court Reports'.

The Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project was an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report – 'Supreme Court Reports'.

The Supreme Court has developed a search engine with the help of the National Informatics Centre comprising elastic search technique in database of e-SCR and the search facility in e-SCR provides for free text search, search within search, case type and case year search, judge search, year and volume search and bench strength search.

901 police, paramilitary personnel bag service medals on R-Day eve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday announced service medals to a total of 901 police and paramilitary personnel on the eve of the Republic Day, 2023.

"A total of 901 Police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Republic Day, 2023. The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 140, the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) to 93 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 668," the Union Home Ministry said in a statement.

Among the majority of the 140 gallantry awards, 80 personnel from Left Wing Extremism or Naxal-affected areas and 45 personnel from Jammu and Kashmir region are being awarded for their gallant action, it said.

Among the personnel receiving Gallantry Awards, 48 are from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the maximum among all the forces, 31 are from Maharashtra, 25 are from Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmir police, nine from Jharkhand, seven are each from Delhi, Chhattisgarh and BSF and the remaining from the other States/Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) of armed forces of the Union.

The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) is awarded on the grounds of Conspicuous Gallantry in saving life and property, or in preventing crime or arresting criminals. The President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) is awarded for a special distinguished record in Police Service and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) is awarded for valuable service characterized by resource and devotion to duty. No President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), the top category of bravery decorations among the police forces, has been awarded.

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan who "overpowered" his armed colleague after the latter allegedly killed four personnel at a power plant located in Bihar in 2017 has been awarded the police medal for gallantry on the occasion of 74th Republic Day.

Officials said this is one of the rare times when a PMG has been given to



a personnel who showed courage to end a fragging incident. Head constable (HC) Rajesh Singh was posted at the Nabinagar Power Generation Company Ltd (NPGCL) in Bihar's Aurangabad district on January 12, 2017 when his fellow constable Balveer Singh allegedly opened fire from his rifle and killed four colleagues.

Constable Balveer Singh reached the roof top of the new barracks in the campus and was "challenged" by Rajesh Singh, who was unarmed, the CISF said in a statement.

"Knowing that constable Balveer Singh was in a fit of rage and had a deadly assault weapon with him and it could result in loss of his life, Rajesh Singh with sheer sense of determination and to save human lives, confronted Balveer Singh and snatched the INSAS rifle and threw it, thus disarming him," the force said.

He also overpowered constable Balveer Singh and pinned him to the ground, who was later handed over to the local police, the CISF said. Rajesh Singh's "act of valour and courage" saved many precious lives, at a time when others were running to save their lives, the CISF said.

The PMG, his citation said, is being awarded for his "conspicuous gallant action, courage and devotion to duty during major indiscriminate firing incident while he was posted at CISF unit NPGCL Nabinagar at the time of incident."

The CISF unit is deployed at the NPGCL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, to provide it with anti-terror cover from Maoists and similar extremist elements.

Head constable Rajesh Singh is currently posted at the CISF unit that guards the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow.

Prez gives 6 Kirti Chakras, four conferred posthumously



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous and 15 Shaurya Chakras, including two posthumous for gallantry on the occasion of the Republic Day. Kirti Chakra is the second highest peacetime gallantry medal while Shaurya Chakra is the third highest.

Major Shubhang of Dogra Regiment was awarded Kirti Chakra for his gallant action in April last year while fighting terrorists in Budgam, Kashmir. He sustained bullet wounds in his shoulder during the encounter.

Naik Jitendra Singh of Rajput Regiment was awarded Kirti Chakra for his action while in anti-terrorist operation in Pulwama district of Kashmir in April last year. Despite getting injured, he managed to neutralize two ultras.

The seven Shaurya Chakras awardees include Major Aditya Bhadauria, Captain Arun Kumar, Captain Yudhvir Singh, Captain Rakesh T R, Naik Jasbir Singh(posthumous), Lance Naik Vikas Choudhary and Constable Mudasir Ahmed Sheikh(posthumous) of Jammu and Kashmir police. All the medals were awarded for actions in Jammu and Kashmir.

The President in all has approved 412 Gallantry awards and other defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of 74th Republic Day.

SCO chaired by India invites Pak in FMs' meet; no reply as yet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even as relations between the two countries are frosty, India, as the Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), has invited Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to participate in the SCO Foreign Ministers' and Chief Justices' meetings. However, Pakistan is yet to respond to the invitation extended through the Indian High Commission in Islamabad recently.

The Foreign Ministers' conclave is scheduled to take place on May 4-5 in Goa and if Bilawal Bhutto accepts the invitation it will the first such visit by a Pakistan foreign minister to India since 2011.

Then Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar had then visited India. Incidentally, the last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj in 2015. Now External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar accompanied her as Foreign Secretary.

India took over the chairmanship of the nine-member grouping last September and will host the key ministerial meetings and summit in Goa in May. New Delhi has also extended the invitation to Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. It will be there second visit to India as both the ministers are expected to take part in G-20 Foreign

Ministers' meet on March 1-2. The invitation to Pakistan comes at a time when its Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last week called for a dialogue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss all contentions issues.

However, Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad later said till Article 370 is restored in Jammu and Kashmir talks cannot be held.

Moreover, the Indian invitation came days after Bilawal Bhutto's controversial remarks against Prime Minister Modi in the United Nations session.

The SCO also includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Invites have also been sent to the foreign ministers of China and Russia along with the other Central Asian countries.

Iran is the newest member of the organization and, under India's presidency, will, for the first time, attend the grouping's meeting as a full member. Its last meeting was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

While ties are not normal between India and Pakistan, its officials have visited each other's country to participate in the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure(RATS) meetings under the aegis of the SCO.

However, Pakistan will not participate in the SCO Film Festival to be held in Mumbai later this month.

While all countries have sent entries, Pakistan is the only country that did not send any film for screening in the group's third such film festival.



UP Govt yet to announce State advisory price for sugarcane



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the current cane crushing season 2022-23 is close to halfway mark, the Uttar Pradesh government is yet to announce the state advisory price (SAP) for sugarcane. The sugar mills are paying the cane farmers as per the SAP fixed for the last cane crushing season 2021-22. "Nothing can be ruled out," said UP Cane Minister Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, deepening the suspense over the delay in announcement of a revised cane price.

He said that a meeting would be convened soon to take a formal decision on the SAP. The issue has been attaining political colours with the opposition parties including the Samajwadi Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal combine attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party government for not announcing the SAP.

Official sources indicated that SAP for sugarcane was unlikely to be announced in current crushing season. The sources said that a hike was expected in 2023-24 crushing season, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The SAP for sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh is third highest in country after Haryana and Punjab. Sugar mills started cane crushing in November and are making pay-

ment to farmers according to the SAP decided for 2021-22 season. "If the government still decides to increase SAP over next few days, it will be announced and farmers will also be paid arrears for revised rates," said a Sugar Industry and Cane Development department official.

In 2021, the UP Government had announced a hike in the SAP for sugarcane in September, over a month before the crushing season started and ahead of the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections that were held in March 2022.

The UP government had then announced an increase of Rs 25 per quintal in the SAP. After the hike, the revised SAP was Rs 350 per quintal for the early variety of sugarcane, Rs 340 per quintal for the general variety and Rs 335 per quintal rejected variety.

In December 2022, a delegation of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Apolitical), a farmers' organisation, had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow and urged him to announce the SAP for sugarcane with a hike of Rs 50 per quintal vis-a-vis the SAP of the previous season.

Rashtriya Lok Dal, which counts west UP's sugarcane farmers among its support base, has launched a 'Kisan Sandesh Abhiyan' to send letters signed by sugarcane farmers to Chief Minister demanding announcement of SAP. "There is a target to send over one lakh letters to Chief Minister and almost 10,000 letters have already been sent. The state government must clarify at which rate it is purchasing the crop from farmers," said RLD spokesperson Anil Dube.

Youth will be biggest beneficiaries of developed India, says Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday the youth will be the biggest beneficiaries of a developed India and the biggest responsibility to build it also rests on their shoulders.

Addressing National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers who will be part of the Republic Day parade, Modi said they represent the country's aspirations and dreams in the ongoing "amrit kaal".

He said there are a lot of opportunities for youngsters in the country as India is working for the future of the entire world in sectors ranging from space to environment. "The world sees a new future for itself in India's achievements," Modi added.

He said it was encouraging to see youngsters taking part in various programmes in increasing numbers.

Referring to an event on Parakram Diwas to mark Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, he said it was the first time that many children dressed up as Netaji had come to the prime minister's residence. "The mantra of 'Jai Hind' inspires one and all," he said.

The NCC and NSS link the young generations with national goals and aspirations, he said, adding that his government has been working to encourage and expand their activities. Interacting with the youth is always special for him, he added.

He noted that different challenges come up in border and coastal areas and special training is being given so that



the youth can play the role of "first responders", if needed. The prime minister said his government has been working on making border areas vibrant by boosting development and creating various facilities there.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested Deepak Ranga, the main shooter in the attack on Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali in May 2022. Ranga was nabbed from Gorakhpur early on Wednesday. He has been absconding since May.

Ranga of Surakpur village in Jhajjar district of Haryana, is a close associate of Canada-based gangster-turned-terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa and Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda, the NIA said in a statement.

"Apart from his involvement in the May RPG attack, Deepak has been involved in a number of other violent terrorist and criminal

offences, including violent killings. He has been actively receiving terror funds and logistical support from Rinda and Landa," it said.

The NIA had registered the case suo moto on September 20, 2022 after it emerged that the terrorist outfits and terror elements based abroad were operating in tandem with leaders and members of organized criminal gangs operating in northern States of the country to commit targeted killings and violent criminal acts, it said.

It had also emerged that the terror-gangster-drug smuggler network was also engaged in smuggling terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosives and IEDs across borders through a widespread inter-State network of gun runners, illegal arms and ammunition manufacturers, suppliers and explosive traffickers.

Cong, AAP question Centre's clean chit to China

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have questioned the Centre's "clean chit" to China after a new report revealed that India has lost access to 26 of 65 patrolling points in Eastern Ladakh.

"Modi Government's continued denial of illegal occupation and construction of infrastructure by the Chinese has 'endangered' our borders," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote in a tweet sharing the news report. Attacking the PM, the Congress chief said,

"Your 'clean chit' to China is costing the nation's territorial Integrity."

Kharge further said that PM Modi must take nation and Parliament into confidence over this issue. Congress has been asking the government to take concrete steps over alleged Chinese incursions in various border areas, including in the Northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. The party had accused the government of running away from a debate on Chinese issue in the recently concluded Winter Session of the Parliament.

Addressing a Republic Day function organised by the Delhi

government, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged that China is procuring more weapons to use against India with the very money it earns doing trade with us.

"We read about Chinese aggression on our borders as how the Chinese have encroached upon some of our territory near the border. Our soldiers put in all their might to fight the Chinese on the border.

It is now the duty of all citizens and all governments to stand shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers and support them. It is our duty to send a strong message to China against its

aggression. It is our duty to boycott China, look into its eyes and make it clear that we will not compromise on national security," Kejriwal said. He also lamented that over the last few years, the country has seen a rise in trade with China despite its forays on the borders.

Media reports quoting a note PD Nitya, the Superintendent of Police of Leh, Ladakh's main city said out of 65 patrolling points between Parakoram pass to Chumur India's presence is lost in 26 PPs (i.e. PP no. 5-17, 24-32, 37, due to restrictive or no patrolling by the Indian security forces.



People walk during light snowfall on the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday. Light to moderate snowfall was recorded at most places of Kashmir while the higher reaches witnessed heavy snowfall PTI Photo

Flyers entitled to 75% of ticket refund from Feb

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Air passengers will now be entitled to get 75 per cent of the ticket cost refund from the airline whose domestic flight tickets have been downgraded.

For downgrading of international tickets, the reimbursement amount will vary from 30 per cent to 75 per cent of the ticket costs, including taxes, depending on the distance covered by the particular flight. The directive comes at a time when there have been several complaints about airlines such as Air India downgrading



passengers to a lower class than the one they booked because of issues such as unserviceable seats. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday

informed that it has amended facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights, and delays in flights. "The new norms will be

effective from February 15. This step is taken to strengthen the rights of air travellers affected by the downgrading of their tickets, it said.

"The amendment will allow the passenger, who is downgraded involuntarily and is carried in a class lower than that for which the ticket is purchased, to be reimbursed by the airline.

For the downgrade of a domestic flight ticket, the passenger concerned will get 75 per cent of the cost of ticket, including taxes, from the airline. In the case of a downgrade of an international ticket, a passenger will receive 30 per cent

of the cost of ticket, including taxes, for flights flying 1,500 kilometres or less. Inclusive of taxes, the amount will be 50 per cent if the flight covers a distance between 1,500 and 3,500 kilometres," the DGCA said in a statement. "The reimbursement amount will be 75 per cent of the cost of ticket, including taxes, for flights covering more than 3,500 kilometres," it said. In December last year, DGCA had proposed that airlines should have to refund the full value of such tickets, including taxes, and also that affected passengers will be flown free of cost in the next available class.

K'taka HC okays marriage of bride aged below 18

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has held that a marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act cannot be termed void even if the bride is below 18 years of age.

A lower court had declared a marriage void under Section 11 of the Act but the High Court pointed out that this section does not include the condition of the bride being 18.

Overturning the Family Court order, the High Court Bench of Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, in their judgement, on January 12, said, "Section 11 of the Act deals with void marriages. The Act provides that any marriage solemnised after the commencement of the Act shall be void and the court may on the petition presented by either of the parties thereto, declare the same to be nullity if it contravenes the provisions of Clauses (i), (iv) and (v) of Section 5 of the Act. Thus, it is evident that clause (iii) of Section 5 of the Act, which provides that the bride has to be 18 years of age at the time of marriage, has been omitted from the purview of Section 11 of the Act."

Setting aside the trial court order passed on January 8, 2015, the High Court said, "The trial court has, however, failed to appreciate the afore-



said aspect of the matter"

Sheela from Chennapatna Taluk had approached the High Court in 2015 against the order of the Family Court.

She had married Manjunath on June 15, 2012. After the wedding, Manjunath realised that Sheela's date of birth was September 6, 1995 and she was a minor at the time of marriage. So, he filed a petition before the Family Court to declare the marriage null and void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Family Court held that on the date of marriage, Sheela was 16 years, 11 months and 8 days old and had not completed 18 years of age as was required under Clause-3 of Section-5 of the HMA. It, therefore, declared the marriage void under Section 11 of the Act.

However, her appeal before the High Court was admitted as it found that Clause-3 of Section-5 was not applicable to Section 11 which deals with void marriages.

MNM will support Congress in Erode East bypoll in TN: Kamal Haasan

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Actor Kamal Haasan-led Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) on Wednesday extended unconditional support to Congress candidate EVKS Elangovan for the February 27 Erode East by-poll, saying it was a "moment of national importance" to fight for the common cause of joining hands against "communal forces."

Elangovan, senior Congress leader and former union minister, is the candidate of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA). The bypoll was necessitated due to the recent death of sitting local legislator and his son Thirumahan Everaa.

DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin thanked Haasan for extending support to the SPA.

MLA's ₹6K per vote remark: Cong files plaint against BJP prez, Karnataka CM,

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Congress in Karnataka on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the police against BJP national president J P Nadda, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi levelling allegations of offering bribes to woo voters in the ensuing assembly polls in the State.

State Congress President D K Shivakumar, legislature party leader Siddaramaiah who are signatories of the complaint have requested the police to register a case and conduct an inquiry.

The complaint comes following an alleged announcement of ₹6,000 per vote in the assembly elections due in May, by Gokak BJP MLA Jarkiholi.

1 killed, 2 injured in group clash in Azamgarh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

One person was killed and two were critically injured when former village head Shiv Shankar alias Bhurey Singh and his henchmen opened indiscriminate fire on rival Bhim Singh and his supporters at a panchayat in Dakshin ka Pura locality in Azamgarh district.

Azamgarh's Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said that a dispute between two groups took an ugly turn during a panchayat convened to decide the beneficiaries of a government housing scheme and Bhurey

and his supporters opened indiscriminate fire.

"Himanshu Singh (32), Pradeep Singh Bhim (40) and Tavendra Singh Munna (38) suffered bullet injuries. They were rushed to the district hospital. In view of the critical condition of Himanshu, doctors referred him to a hospital in Varanasi where he died," the district police chief said.

"Five persons have been taken into custody so far. Four teams have been deputed to arrest Bhurey and his accomplices, who managed to escape after opening fire during the panchayat," the SP said.

Man throws his 4 kids into canal over spat with wife

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man has been arrested for allegedly throwing his four children into a canal following an argument with his wife, sources said on Wednesday.

The 12-year-old daughter, whom the man flung from a 30-foot high bridge, not only managed to swim to safety but also rescued two of her siblings. However, the fourth child, a five-year-old and youngest of the lot, is still missing.

The accused, Pushpendra Kumar, after a domestic dispute, dropped his wife at her father's place. On the way back home, he threw his four kids into the 15-foot-deep canal.

Body of boy missing for 22 days found in sugarcane field

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a suspected case of kidnapping and murder, the body of a 4-year-old boy, missing for the last 22 days, was found lying in a sugarcane field in Gangoh police station area of Saharanpur.

According to a police official, after getting information about a body from the villagers, they rushed to the sugarcane field in Khanpur Gurjar village under Gangoh police station of Saharanpur district on Tuesday evening and recovered the body.

UNNAO RAPE CASE

Victim seeks cancellation of Sengar's interim bail, HC calls for reply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the response of the CBI and expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is serving a life term for raping a minor girl in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in 2017, on a plea by the victim seeking cancellation of his interim bail.

Sengar has been granted interim bail to attend his daughter's wedding. His sentence has been suspended from January 27 to February 10 in the rape case and in another for which he is serving 10 years'



imprisonment for the death of the rape victim's father in custody.

The victim, who was present in court, submitted in her application that there is a threat perception to her and her family and she has received information that Sengar is allegedly likely to harm them after being released.

Bodies of 7 of family found in Pune river: 5 relatives arrested for murder

PTI ■ PUNE

An investigation into the death of seven members of a family, whose bodies were found in a riverbed in Pune, has indicated they were murdered allegedly by their rela-

tives over a previous incident involving the death of the son of one of the accused, a police official said on Wednesday.

Mohan Pawar (45), his wife Sangita Mohan (40), their daughter Rani Fulware (24), son-in-law Shyam Fulware

Antony's son quits Cong in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The resignation of Anil Antony, son of veteran Congress leader AK Antony from all party positions comes at a time when the CPI(M) and the Indian National Congress were publicly screening the controversial BBC documentary on Gujarat riots across Kerala. Anil Antony, leader of the digital wing of the Congress resigned from all positions except his primary membership of the party.

While the octogenarian Antony, former Chief Minister as well as a Union Minister refused to comment about his son's decision.

CBI unearths another 153 fake bank accounts in WB's cow smuggling case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As a part of its investigation process into the multi-crore cow smuggling case the Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday unearthed another lot of 153 fake bank accounts opened in the names of villagers who had no inkling of their presence.

All the accounts opened in the Birbhum district Cooperative Bank were frozen by the agency. Early this month the CBI had grubbed up 177 similar accounts. The Wednesday's expose take the total number of fake accounts to 330 CBI sources said adding there were possibilities of many more fake accounts getting



exposed.

On whether the accounts could be related to cow smuggling case — that has already seen Trinamool Congress national executive member and Birbhum strongman Anubrata Mondal go to jail — sources said most of the fake accounts had transactions with two rice mills linked to Mondal.

Villagers in whose names the accounts were opened and

who were interrogated regarding the transactions said they had no idea of the accounts having existed. Some villagers said that though they had accounts in their names they were so poor that their savings hardly crossed three-figure mark.

When asked as to how the accounts came into existence in their names some villagers said that they had never gone to the banks, neither shared their personal details with anyone save on the occasions when they gave away the copies of their Aadhar and Voter ID cards to local panchayat or ruling party members for the purpose of receiving wages under MNREGA.



Tourists ride a jet ski, fitted with the national flag, on the eve of Republic Day on Wednesday

PTI

Govt committed to uplift of disabled, bringing them in mainstream of society, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that the State Government is working with determination to empower the disabled and bring them into the mainstream of society and development.

On Wednesday, during the Janata Darshan programme organised at the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Auditorium of the Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur, the chief minister said, "Divyangjan need encouragement and cooperation more than sympathy. The administration and departmental officers should make sure that the appropriate resources, equipment and cer-



tificates are available on a priority basis to divyangjan."

Over 300 people came to meet the chief minister at the Janata Darshan programme. The chief minister assured them that every problem would be resolved in a quick and satisfactory manner.

Some Divyangjan came to the Janata Darshan to request a tricycle, while Divyang with

mental problems and their family members came to ask for issuance of a certificate.

After learning of their issues, the chief minister gave direction to quickly provide tricycles or motorised tricycles to the needy individuals. Along with this, he gave instructions that no obstacles of any type should stand in the way of giving certificates to people with mental disabilities.

On the requests of several visitors for financial assistance for the treatment of serious diseases, the chief minister said that funds would be provided as soon as the estimates were ready. "No one's treatment will be hampered due to lack of money," Chief Minister Yogi

asserted.

He instructed that all revenue and police-related matters be resolved with complete transparency and fairness, stressing that injustice should not be done to anyone. "If someone is encroaching on another person's property forcibly, then he should be taught a lesson according to the law," he said.

The chief minister stated that victims should be treated with compassion and should be assisted.

Along with blessing the children who had come with some complainants, the chief minister also gave them chocolates as an encouragement to study hard.

SC asks CBI, Guj why they want activist Teesta, her husband back in jail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the CBI and the Gujarat government as to why they want to send social activist Teesta Setalvad and her husband Javed Anand back in jail after they have been out for over seven years on anticipatory bail.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Abhay S Oka and BV Nagarathna said, "Question is how long can you keep someone in custody. Seven years have passed since anticipatory bail was granted. You want to send her back to custody," Advocate Rajat Nair, appearing for the CBI and the Gujarat government said some additional material needed to be placed before the court with regard to the cases and, therefore, four weeks time may be given.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for Setalvad and her



husband Anand, said in one of the proceedings in which the CBI has come in appeal, anticipatory bail was granted following which a charge sheet was filed and after that regular bail was granted to her.

He said since a regular bail was granted, the appeal of the probe agency against anticipatory bail does not survive.

Nair said this had happened in one case but there are more than one case against her and requested the court to grant him four weeks to place additional material on record.

"A bench of two judges has referred this matter to a larger bench and has framed questions which need to be decided by this court," Nair said.

SP MLA's son held for building collapse

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The son of a Samajwadi Party MLA was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the collapse of a multi-storey building in Lucknow in which two women were killed and several were injured.

Nawajish Shahid, the son of SP MLA and former Minister Shahid Manzoor, was picked up from Meerut and arrested subsequently, a police officer said.

Nawajish Shahid is among the three people named in an FIR registered in connection with the case, Mohammad Tariq and Fahad Yazdani are the other two.

Nawajish Shahid is alleged to be the owner of the land on which the building constructed by Yazdan Builders stood. Shahid Manzoor is a senior SP leader in western Uttar Pradesh and currently represents Kithore in the Assembly.

The FIR was registered at Hazratganj police station on Wednesday under IPC sections 323 (voluntary causing hurt), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 420 (fraud) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) and section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The five-storey Alaya Apartments in the Hazratganj

area in the Uttar Pradesh capital collapsed on Tuesday evening, trapping more than a dozen people under it.

Samajwadi Party spokesperson Abbas Haider's wife Uzma Haider, 30, and mother Begum Haider, 72, have died, while two more people are still feared trapped under the debris.

Fourteen have been pulled out of the debris so far and admitted to hospitals, an official said.

Govt forms panel to probe collapse

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a three-member committee headed by Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob and comprising Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Piyush Mordia and a PWD chief engineer, has been constituted to fix responsibility for the building collapse.

Senior officials said that the mandate of the committee was to fix the responsibilities involved in map-approval.



Ajmer Dargah Sharif is illuminated during the urs festival at the shrine of Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, in Ajmer on Wednesday

PTI

Cong begging regional parties for crowds for Bharat Jodo Yatra in J&K: Azad-led DAP

PTI ■ JAMMU

Alleging that the Congress is "begging" for crowds from regional parties for the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said the local leadership of the national party are misleading Rahul Gandhi on the ground reality.

The DAP's remarks came a day after Gandhi said 90 per cent of Azad's colleagues have returned to the Congress fold and now he has been left alone.

"The Congress leader is misled by the people sur-

rounding him about the facts and ground situation. The reality is that the DAP has white washed Congress in J-K," DAP general secretary and former minister R S Chib said in a statement here.

Referring to former deputy chief minister Tara Chand and former MLA Balwan Singh who returned to the Congress, Chib said they, along with former minister Manohar Lal Sharma, were expelled from the party by the DAP chairman.

"While one (Sharma) who holds the constituency later re-joined the DAP, the remaining two have no political constituency," he claimed.

Window of opportunity

India has invited Pakistan Foreign Minister for SCO meeting may not result may break the ice

India inviting Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Goa has hit the headlines. The SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting is likely to be held in the first week of May. Though officials have made it clear that the invitation sent to Bhutto Zardari is a "routine matter" as India is the current chair of SCO, it has attracted considerable interest. This is mainly because of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent conciliatory remarks vis-à-vis India and his desire to hold talks with India. He said that he had asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to facilitate the negotiations. The Pakistan Prime Minister's Office later brought in a caveat—that India must restore Jammu and Kashmir's special status—but it is widely believed that this was the result of the intervention of the deep state. It is a well-known fact that the Pakistani deep state remains wedded to the jihadist ideal of destroying India. A lot many factors ensure that the ideal is poignantly felt and zealously acted upon: revenge for the defeat in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, resulting in an inglorious surrender and dismemberment of the nation; Islamisation, which began under Zia-ul-Haq in the 1980s, and gained depth and breadth in Pakistani society and culture subsequently; birth and development of the terror factory with its various stakeholders entrenched in the Army, government, society, culture, and civil society. Even the

Oxford-educated Imran Khan ended up with the sobriquet 'Taliban Khan.' In such a socio-cultural milieu, it will always be difficult to even find, let alone have dialogue with, people in the Pakistani establishment who are sensible enough to talk sense and courageous enough to walk the talk.

Such is the climate of opinion that anything reasonable attracts flak and obnoxious gets applause. Unsurprisingly, Pakistani leaders regularly indulge in loose talk and make deplorable remarks. Last month, for instance, Bilawal Bhutto called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "the butcher of Gujarat." This is not how foreign ministers talk about the heads of governments of other countries. But then in Pakistan politicians are always mindful of the reaction of the all-powerful Army, which carries out coups, installs and deposes governments. Imran Khan's rise and fall are examples of generals' intervention; they ensured that he won the election and, when he became defiant, kicked him out of power. Pakistani politicians' plight is best summarized in an old Hindi film song by Mukesh: Mujhe raat din yeh khyal hai, kahin woh nazar se gira na de... Therefore, to expect that the visit of Bilawal Bhutto (if it happens, for Islamabad may decide to send the junior foreign minister) would result in a thaw in the bilateral relations would be excessive optimism. Yet, the visit does open a window of opportunity for both nations to have meaningful dialogue.

PICTALK



A man walks with sheep during light snowfall on the outskirts of Srinagar

PTI

Kerala govt's U-turn

Despite Centre's rejection the Kerala govt wants to go ahead with the controversial Silver Line project

The Kerala Government which called off the Semi High Speed Silver Line Rail Project connecting Kasaragod in the north and Thiruvananthapuram in the south has made a U-turn from its earlier stance and has decided to approach the Centre for permission for the controversial rail route which generated massive protests across the State. While delivering the customary address to the first session of this year's Legislative Assembly on Monday, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan announced that the Detailed Project Report of Silver Line has been approved by the State Government and submitted to the Ministry of Railways for final approval. But what he did not tell in the speech was the Centre's rejection of the proposal citing issues like ecology, environment and apprehension expressed by the public. The State administration loses nothing if it sees the writing on the wall and calls off the project which has drawn widespread public ire and resistance from thousands of people who would be shunted out of their homes and farm lands for acquisition of land. The Governor's announcement that the State Government would bid seriously for the Angamali-Sabari Rail Project.



The move to go ahead with the Angamali-Sabari Rail Project for the benefit of Lord Ayyappa devotees is a retrograde and regressive measures. Hundreds of people were shocked by the announcement because the State Government has not acquired the land for the implementation of the Railway Line except installing stones along the proposed route and that too without the permission of the land owners. A cabal consisting of railway contractors, land sharks and drug peddlers are reportedly behind the initiative to lay the Sabari rail track to ensure the illegal traffic of high quality marijuana cultivated in the dense forests of the Western Ghats to the outside world, according to B V Kumar, who headed the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for years and had led many operations against drug traffickers. The Kerala Government has failed time and again to focus on infrastructure projects which are essential for the State's development. Rail journey in the State is a harrowing experience as most of the services between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasaragod are delayed by hours because of outdated signal system and worn-out tracks. The Governor's speech stands out for its rhetoric and absence of concrete proposals. The CPI(M) has disappointed the electorate which re-elected the party to power. People in the State need a better deal.

Unearthing the root of the disaster

If plundering of hill is not stopped, disasters like in Joshimath are bound to happen in the fragile ecosystem of the lower Himalayas.

The fragile Himalayan mountains of Uttarakhand in the town of Joshimath in Chamoli district, located at an altitude of 6,150 feet, is famous as a gateway to Badrinath, one of the holy shrines 'Char Dhams' as well as the Sikh pilgrimage center at Hemkund Sahib, skiing attraction of Auli and the 'Valley of Flowers' UNESCO World Heritage site, is in news for wrong reasons - it is sinking rapidly all due to human-induced causes. On January 11, 2023, 723 houses in all the nine wards of the town had developed major or minor cracks on the floors, ceilings, and walls. Consequently, 145 families have been moved to safer locations. Joshimath has a population of 23,000 and is heavily built, with hotels, resorts, and a busy market catering to tourists, pilgrims, trekkers, and army and Indo-Tibetan border Police (ITBP) personnel. It emerged as a place of strategic importance in 1962 because it leads to villages along the Indo-China border and falls en route to Barahoti, a disputed territory along the border.

As per surveys conducted by experts, Joshimath falls in Zone V, India's highest-risk seismic zonation scheme and situated between two thrusts, the Main Central Thrust (MCT) and the Vaikrita Thrust (VT) and occupies a seismically active terrain. The town is highly active in terms of slope mobility because it is built on the deposits of an old landslide which means that the slopes can be destabilized even by slight triggers. Climatically, it lies in a region that frequently receives high-intensity, focussed rainfall, is prone to extreme weather, and could trigger landslides because the slopes are precariously balanced. Alarm bells in the region had begun ringing about five decades back when it was part of erstwhile Uttar Pradesh when the government constituted a committee led by the then Garhwal Commissioner, Mahesh Chander Mishra to investigate the cause of land subsidence in the area. The committee's report of 1976 warned against heavy and unscientific construction in the town.



It was clearly indicated that "Joshimath is a deposit of sand and stone.....hence was not a suitable place for the coming up of a township. Vibrations produced by blasting and heaving traffic will also lead to disequilibrium in natural factors". Subsequently, several studies flagged similar concerns, but the alarm bells went unheard and timely warnings were ignored.

In fact, on the contrary, Joshimath continued to develop exactly against the way the Mishra committee had advised. Successive governments, however, have sanctioned bigger projects - highways, hydropower, infrastructure development, and haphazard development of townships with no regard for environmental fallout. As normally attributed, the local people and climate change are responsible for the disasters. However, in his case, the policy-led disasters are "Made in Delhi". This is apparent from the decision of sanctioning large hydropower projects by the Centre even after the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy. The armed forces and the state and local authorities, in their overenthusiasm, to have a smoother, faster, all-weather connectivity for pilgrims, and tourists, ignored the government's own recommended "best practices norms" The construction of highways and railway tracks



SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE SANCTIONED BIGGER PROJECTS - HIGHWAYS, HYDROPOWER, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND HAPHAZARD DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIPS WITH NO REGARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FALLOUT

has now become a prime cause for landslides and their occurrences have doubled over the years making the hill slopes extremely unstable. Consequently, recurring landslides have gone up leading to erosions and land shifts.

According to a report published in Current Science in 2010, "Tapovan-Vishnugad hydropower tunnel that passes just below Joshimath, which is sitting on an old glacial deposit, could be contributing factor to this phenomenon. During the construction of the tunnel, a boring machine perforated a water-bearing stratum on the left bank of the Alaknanda river near Shelong village, leading to the discharge of 60-70 million liters per day. This must have led to the gradual depletion of pore pressure within the sediment leading to aquifer compaction and settling of the ground. The role of pore pressure in determining slope stability needs to be studied further in the region. Although the officials of NTPC who are responsible for the construction and maintenance of the 520 MW hydropower project refute these allegations. However, many residents believe that the town would not be facing the current crisis if not for the hollowing of the ground beneath their feet. Moreover, construction along the Helang bypass to build an all-weather road is

also believed to have disturbed the mountain's foundation.

Similar sentiments are echoed by the members of Joshimath Bacho Sangharsh Samiti, which have been protesting against projects detrimental to Joshimath since 2004 and are currently leading protests demanding adequate relief and rehabilitation for Joshimath's residents whose houses have been damaged. They felt that water released in 2009 is a major contributor to the subsistence and the water laden with muck and some volatile chemicals, began surfacing in the town's Marwari from the February 7, 2021 flood that would have entered into the (under construction) tunnel of the Tapovan Vishnugad project and is now surfacing in Joshimath. However, there have been no scientific studies establishing links between the puncture and the subsidence in Joshimath. Refuting these allegations, the NTPC has denied any role in the ongoing crisis. The real cause of this disaster remains a sort of mystery for the authorities as well as the public.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman of the Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal. This is the first part of two-part series on the Joshimath disaster; to be continued)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BAN ON BBC DOCUMENTARY

Sir — This ban on BBC documentary deserves criticism from both angles. Let us first take the ban from BJP's perspective. What is the need for banning the documentary when NDA has been elected twice with a comfortable majority in 2014 and 2019 and the riots took place in 2002? People knew pretty well about the riots and yet they voted for Modi for two consecutive terms with an ascending majority. Unnecessarily, by banning, they are advertising something that in the normal course would have fizzled out.

Now coming from the opposition's angle, a good number of voters were born after the riots if you take the segment of 20-22 years youth. Even assuming the ban is lifted, what impact would it have when Modi followed by courts' verdicts has eclipsed the whole issue successfully, albeit under the garb of truth and nothing but the truth? Amplifying the issue will neither reduce the vote bank of the BJP nor will it increase the same for all other opposing parties. The program, if shown may or may not dent the image of Modi per se.

Let us be reconciled to the reality that we are not in an era of 'yatha Raja tatha praja' but rather 'yathaha praja tatha raja'.
D. Nagarjuna | Hyderabad

NAMING OF ISLANDS

Sir — Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi named the 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands after Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees in a ceremony on the occasion of Parakram Diwas (Day of Valor) on the day of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday. Before this earlier in 2018, Ross Islands was renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep by the prime minister during his visit to the island. Similarly, Neil Island and Havelock Island were also renamed Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep. No doubt the decision is heartening, even what will happen when in future more and more PVC awardees will be there? They will create islands to be named.

Actually, after Modi became PM his love towards all-time Congress leader

HC's judgement on abortion



The Bombay High court had delivered a landmark decision on termination of pregnancy and allowed a pregnant lady to terminate in 32 weeks treating in violation of individual liberty which has been exercised by every individual. Court had said that it would be a denial of the woman's right to dignity and her reproductive and decisional autonomy if she is not allowed to undergo medical termination of the foetus with serious abnormalities and "the decision is hers and hers alone to make, once the conditions in the statute are met. The right to choose is the mothers'. A medical board was constituted as required by the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. The medical opinion confirmed the diagnosis of anomalies and added the possibility of intel-

lectual disability to the child but said both conditions were not life-threatening. It denied the request for a medical termination of pregnancy in view of the advanced gestation period.

The woman, however, said she comes from a humble background and will not be able to provide additional care and meet the expenses of an infant born with such conditions and urged the court to intervene. The court then directed a qualified psychiatrist to assess whether a medical termination of the pregnancy at this stage would pose a physical or mental risk to the woman. The report stated that she has no major medical, obstetric, or psychiatric complications at present but considering the advanced gestational age the medical termination of pregnancy is not recommended. However, Advocate in the court pointed out that the Act does not say what is to happen if a fetal abnormality is detected late in the pregnancy and that the writ jurisdiction of the Court may be invoked. The court on January 20 allowed the termination of the pregnancy. These important decisions should be highlighted by the concerned general public.

Yashpal Rathn | Jalandhar

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, and recent respect towards Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or other freedom fighters is nothing, but to cover up Rashtriya SwayamSevak Sangh (RSS) which is throughout India's freedom struggle, it was subservient to the British, with its leadership prohibiting participation in mass movements. People are fully aware that RSS is the parent organization of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and without RSS, BJP is nothing on the ground. Netaji's daughter Anita Bose said the BJP and RSS do not reflect the idea of respecting all religions as preached by Netaji, who was a devout Hindu but believed in respecting other faiths.

Even that shrewd and politically minded PM Modi created Netaji Memorial (to be built on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep) and the 21 newly named islands will be a source of constant

inspiration for the young generations. Though I doubt how much respect Modi's PVC winners have, rather than just playing politics by using their great sacrifice.
Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad

HOCKEY IS THE KEY TO MEDAL TALLY

Sir — Hockey is the key that can open the lock of India's medals tally and bring back golden memories. Government, Media, and Trade-business communities have the power to uplift or pull down anything in the country. We have tremendous sports talent available in small towns and villages. We only have to discover and train them to bring out their true potential. Let us remember India's Sports Talent has immense potential.

TS Karthik | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

If a person is working for the nation, then he may think one day his RAW and IB files can be made public. It is a matter of concern... It is a serious issue.



The Law Minister
— Kiran Rijju



We know the scourge of gun violence across America requires stronger action. I once again urge

both chambers of Congress to act quickly and deliver this Assault Weapons Ban to my desk, and take action to keep American communities, schools, workplaces, and homes safe.

US President
— Joe Biden

I want every film to be a super duper hit. Now Pathaan is releasing and whatever reports we are reading about the advance booking seem fantastic I am very happy about it from the bottom of my heart.



Actor
— Ajay Devgn



India finally committing to playing day cricket the aggressive way makes them Red hot favorites to win the men's World Cup this year.

Former England skipper
— Michael Vaughan

Congress does not need any proof from the armed forces.



Congress leader
— Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

IT IS EASIER TO LIVE IN DENIAL OF REALITY

But the lesson of Gita is that we should accept reality



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

One must wonder as to why we do not want to accept reality. Why do the majority of us want to live in denial? Because it is difficult; it is easier to live in denial. It wasn't so, it would not have taken Lord Krishna to speak the entire Gita to convince Arjuna, who accepted what the Lord wanted him to do only in verse #18.73.

What was Arjuna's initial position? He didn't want to fight the inevitable war, and he gave many reasons for it. Sample some of his arguments. Arjuna didn't see the opposition Army consisting of persons who were bent upon perpetrating 'adharma' (injustice) as what they were; he saw them as relatives.(1.28) He could see only adverse consequences, nothing favourable in killing them.(1.31) He would rather die than desire either victory, kingdom or pleasures.(1.32) He was strongly of the opinion that it would be sinful to kill his relatives.(1.36) Arjuna even foresaw sacrosanct family values getting destroyed, predominance of immortality, women of the family getting corrupted resulting in illicit progeny, etc. Such an act by him was surely going to result in a long stay of hell for his side. (1.44)

How did Lord Krishna manage to bring Arjuna around to see the reality? The Lord started with the knowledge of soul, while Arjuna was seeing only material bodies. This is what most of us do too. We don't want to accept the reality of previous lives, future lives, etc. For the ignorant mass, the present life is everything. This wrong perception prevents us from seeing the truth of our existence.



We don't believe in the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is crucial for accepting reality, the system of reward and punishment, which is fate. Once we accept the reality of the soul, we begin to accept death – the most painful reality. This is where actual realism comes.

The next reality is being dutiful. Even animals are dutiful towards their progeny. We cannot be worse than them. We must accept to do whatever is necessary according to time, place and circumstances. If we are mentally prepared to do that, life becomes more meaningful. Because as human beings, being dutiful is the foremost requirement. These duties are towards ourselves, our families, our professions, etc.

We, being small, are incomplete in every sense; we need God's help 24x7. A good connection with God makes us complete, we being parts of Him. (15.7) Then nothing is beyond us. We can accept whatever the realities of our lives.

Then, comes mind control. Aren't we dictated to by our minds? Don't they define us? Therefore, God has insisted that we try to control our minds. We have to be in control, not our minds. Then, where will there be any difficulty in accepting what we must?

'Maya' may try to bemuse, confuse, and make us see everything upside down, which is liking what hurts and avoiding what helps. This is where the human species is well placed; it has all the tools to live a quality life. We just have to accept to be good in all respects, which happens by embracing the mode of goodness in all our activities, as detailed by Lord Krishna in the Gita. Gradually, we will become habituated to accept the ups and downs of life. (2.14) Acceptance makes living easy. It shows faith and hope for the future. Will we then be ready to accept what we must and go on steadily ahead? Those who can live their lives in the way explained by Lord Krishna in the Gita can look forward to a quality life, notwithstanding challenges, which loom ahead.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Pariksha Pe Charcha deals with anxiety



Making career decisions is a crucial milestone at the secondary level because it helps students build their identities

Adolescence is characterised by significant psychological, physical, and social changes. Traditionally, a coming-of-age period, it should be a celebration of life. However, it is alarming how stressed and in the mental health crisis today's pupils are.

Common sources of stress include interpersonal interactions, learning difficulties, and exam failures. Examinations, in themselves, are a cause of stress as they lead to anxiety about opting for higher education or career. Choosing a higher education and future employment is challenging due to the complex options available. The choice of a career among the many possibilities available is one of the major reasons that might cause stress and worry in youth.

Additionally, empirical data has demonstrated that late teenagers with career choice issues frequently have significant psychological issues. Therefore, it is now more crucial than ever to pinpoint the causes of the stress and worry that young people are experiencing.


The pupils' stress may be influenced by what their parents think about them and their prospects. Additionally, a youngster who is unable to express their thoughts, feelings, and plans to their parents may wind up keeping everything buried deep inside, which could be harmful to their health and wellbeing.

In fact, such questions have been raised in previous editions of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', wherein one student talked about the "huge competition in each field", how at times "they were not selected in any exam due to high competition and pressure". Questions from a societal perspective as to "what can we do for them so that great talent of our nation will not be just wasted and will be useful for the nation?" have been raised.

The Prime Minister's response has, of course, been well-documented but he has also written, "Aspire not to BECOME something but TO DO something. Normally, the desire to become something is driven by the expectations of the family, fashionable professional trends, peer pressure or fantasies about fame, money and power. It distances you from your true potential and gradually snuffs out the innate passion you are blessed with."

When parents don't approve of their child's choices, such as choosing to major in humanities rather than science, the child may experience shame, disappointment, resentment, and despair. Getting influenced by the choices made by their peers and constantly making comparisons with them could add on to their stress.

While it is good to have focus and many children may be able to decide what they want to become, it is important not to let these choices, whether to become a doctor or pilot or civil servant, define our dreams. Rather let the dreams lead you to



IN EXAM WARRIORS, PM HAS WRITTEN, "CREATE YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES. BE THE MASTER OF YOUR DESTINY. TODAY, THERE ARE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES IN FIELDS WHICH WERE UNIMAGINABLE EVEN A DECADE AGO. WHEN YOU MAKE THESE CHOICES, REMEMBER, YOUR PASSION MAKES FOR THE BEST VOCATION"

(Prachi Pandey is Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education; Tara Naorem is Principal Chief Consultant, SS, MoE)



paths determined by how you can make a difference to your family, to society and to the world at large.

Lacking clarity about one's interest areas, aptitude, work preferences, etc. and having a negative self-image could substantially increase the magnitude of stress and anxiety experienced by the students.

Swami Vivekananda exhorted us, "...each soul is a manifestation of divinity. If you have faith in all the Gods...and still have no faith in yourselves, there is no salvation for you." Thus, self-awareness is crucial, leading to identification of both strengths and weaknesses and resulting in increased confidence. This is why it is critical not simply to have a positive outlook, but rather to consciously weed out the negativity in our lives – negative thoughts, negative friends, negative information, etc. Negativity should not be removed by a false sense of superiority but by acknowledging that even our smallest strengths can help in different situations.

Life is a series of new experiences, environments, people; it is multi-faceted and a journey with many infinite destinations and possibilities. But everyone approaches it in a different way. While some are stifled by choices, others are overwhelmed by choices. At another end of the spectrum, some do not even know enough about the choices at hand. Lack of accurate understanding about numerous career options is another issue that stresses out students. This includes diverse work profiles, pay scales, potential for growth, future of certain industries, etc. One can make an informed choice only when they have all the required information. In such a case, not having access to information or

consuming content from unreliable sources (eg. making a career decision based on a random conversation with a friend) could prove to be quite harmful in these circumstances.

In Exam Warriors, PM has written, "Create your own opportunities. Be the master of your destiny. Today, there are tremendous opportunities in fields which were unimaginable even a decade ago. When you make these choices, remember your passion makes for the best vocation."

With these words as a foundation, practically, at the individual level, students can focus more of their time and energy in seeking information, having healthy conversations with friends, family, teachers, and resource persons. The cohort of adults in a child's environment can assist the students by encouraging open communication. They can guide, without being judgmental or forcing their opinions on children, and help children make decisions and become independent while selecting their subjects, colleges and universities.

Having an adult to speak with or discuss their career concerns or to ask questions and have constructive discussions could be significantly important for teenagers deliberating about their future.

Parents and teachers can also help the children by removing the taboo of going to a counselor and seeking professional help, if the need be. Having proper meetings with the parents, teacher and the child present would also be beneficial in discussing the concerns each of them might have, even concerns about resources, and come up with feasible solutions accordingly.

Such discussions could foster an environment of support, and understanding for the student. It is of utmost importance for the students to know that they are not alone in this journey, and that they will be able to figure things out gradually.

Lacking important life skills like time management, goal setting, etc., could further deteriorate their academic situation, and the student might start feeling incompetent leading to a negative self-image.

During PPC, PM Modi counseled students, "Every individual is blessed with unique abilities. These abilities are best channelled through quality time management. So, time management is nothing but ability management."

Life skills are built by taking constant care of yourself, mentally, physically and emotionally. The Prime Minister has said that "practising yoga with full awareness is the most effective way to achieve holistic development of the self.....one who plays, shines." Physical exercise, whether in the form of individual games or team sports, not only keeps us physically fit but also helps us to learn life skills, value of team-work, the art of competing with oneself and achieving a better version of your own self. It instills a sense of discipline and also increases focus.

Making career-related decisions is a crucial milestone at the secondary level because it helps students build their individual identities in society and prepare for the workforce. The process of making these decisions can be both exciting and anxiety-provoking. This is, why, in this journey, Pariksha Pe Charcha has come to play an important role.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

BJP MEANS BHAGTI JANATA PARTY. TODAY WE DEMAND THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE CALLED AGAIN AND THE MAYOR'S ELECTION SHOULD BE DONE TODAY ITSELF.

— DELHI DEPUTY CM MANISH SISODIA



WE WERE SITTING IN THE HOUSE TO VOTE & WHEN THE TIME CAME, A RUCKUS BEGAN IN THE HOUSE. DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES MUST BE FOLLOWED.

— UNION MINISTER MEENAKSHI LEKHI



India should win war against cervical cancer fast

The necessary tools to stop this preventable disease and eliminate it completely are available

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.

A recent tweet by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare highlighted a new milestone achieved by India in securing the health of new mothers in the country. Sustained systemic efforts over a decade and targeted health initiatives have helped India

DR SHALINI RAJARAM

(The author is Professor and Program Lead of the MCh Gynecologic Oncology Program, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology, AIIMS Rishikesh)

bring down the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births or the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 130 in 2014-2016 to 97 in 2018-2020.

A decade back, deaths due to cancer of the uterine cervix and maternal deaths were both pegged at around 72,000 per year. However, cancer cervix has rapidly surpassed maternal mortality and has become the second common cause of cancer deaths amongst women in India. This is a distressing sign for a life-threatening disease that is almost entirely preventable. In 2020, over 120,000 women in India were reported to have cancer of the cervix, resulting in more than 77,000 deaths. Human Papilloma virus (HPV) has been established as a cause of cancer of

the cervix. More than 90 per cent of cancer cervix cases are due to high-risk HPV type. HPV, much like the influenza virus, is a ubiquitous virus and can enter the body through small abrasions in the skin and mucosa.

While most low-grade infections spontaneously resolve within two years, persistent infection results in cancer of the cervix. Early cancer can be completely asymptomatic. Hence, we may not know when a woman will develop pre-invasive or invasive cancer and a woman could be harboring a cancer for several years only discovering it at an advanced stage. Symptoms usually include irregular vaginal bleeding, post-coital vaginal bleeding and sometimes between men-

strual cycles.

Invasive cancer of the cervix can cause a foul-smelling vaginal discharge or pelvic pain and is undeniably the most dreaded form when it invades adjacent organs like the bladder and rectum.

Beyond mortality, the long-term effects of cervical cancer can severely impact the quality of life. In addition to undergoing the harrowing experience of cancer treatment and associated toxicities, cancer survivors also have to battle with long term issues such as menopausal symptoms, severe leg swelling (lower limb lymphedema), sexual dysfunction, infertility, social judgement and rejection, difficulty in social functioning, reduced self-esteem, negative body image, as well as finan-

cial issues.

Unfortunately, this cancer is mostly diagnosed in young women between 35 to 45 years of age when they are in the prime years. Only silver line is that the cancer of the cervix is almost entirely preventable. We know that it is caused by a virus and that there are effective vaccines already used globally to help prevent it. Vaccinating young girls long before they are exposed to this virus can aid primary prevention. Regular screening after the age of 30 and effective treatment through surgery or radiation, can eliminate what currently stands as the second most common cancer in women in India. Advocating the vaccine to every young girl between the age of 9-14, that they see

in their practice, and advising screening of women between 30-49 years with a high precision HPV DNA test will be the two strongest pillars in this fight against cancer cervix.

As a member of the World Health Assembly, India committed to WHO's Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative to accelerate the elimination of cancer of the cervix by 2030. The 90-70-90 target set by the initiative requires 90 per cent of girls to be fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine before the age of 15, 70 per cent of women to be screened with a high-performance test by the age of 35 and again by the age of 45, and 90 per cent of women identified with cervical cancer to receive treatment. In an endeavour to meet the commitment and

protect our girls, the Government of India must consider launching HPV vaccination funded and implemented under the immunization programme. As we celebrate the cervical cancer awareness month this January, each one of us can play a part in helping the country secure the health of its women.

Women represent the cornerstone for a family's overall health and hence investing in their health and ensuring their access to quality care goes a long way in ensuring the wellbeing and future of a society. The necessary tools to stop women from suffering and dying from this preventable disease and eliminating it completely are available; thus our girls will live to see a world free of this deadly disease.

Ukraine forces pull back from Donbas town after onslaught

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces have conducted an organised retreat from a town in the eastern region of the Donbas, an official said on Wednesday, in what is a rare but modest battlefield triumph for the Kremlin after a series of setbacks in its invasion that began almost 11 months ago.

The Ukrainian army retreated from the salt-mining town of Soledar to "preserve the lives of the personnel", Serhii Cherevatyi, a spokesperson for Ukraine's forces in the east, told The Associated Press.

The soldiers pulled back to previously prepared defensive

positions, he said.

Moscow has portrayed the battle for Soledar, which lies near the city of Bakhmut, as key to capturing the entire Donbas.

The accomplishment takes the Russian forces a step closer to Bakhmut, but military analysts say capturing Soledar is more symbolic than strategic.

Ukraine's military, which has held out in Soledar against a monthslong onslaught of superior Russian forces, has said its fierce defence of the eastern stronghold helped tie up Russian forces.

Russia claimed almost two weeks ago that it had taken Soledar, but Ukraine denied it.

Many of Russia's troops

around Soledar belong to the private Russian military contractor Wagner Group, and the fighting reportedly has been bloody.

Since its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has prioritised taking full control of the Donbas - a region made up of the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, where it has backed a separatist insurgency since 2014.

Russia has seized most of Luhansk, but about half of Donetsk remains under Ukraine's control.

Taking control of the town would potentially allow Russian forces to cut supply lines to Ukrainian forces in Bakhmut,

though the strength of Ukraine's new defensive positions was not known.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank in Washington, said earlier this month that the fall of Soledar wouldn't mark "an operationally significant development and is unlikely to presage an imminent Russian encirclement of Bakhmut".

The institute said Russian information operations have "overexaggerated the importance of Soledar," which is a small settlement. It also argued that the long and difficult battle has contributed to the exhaustion of Russian forces.

Perhaps more worrying for

Moscow, Western military help for Ukraine is now being stepped up with the delivery of tanks.

Elsewhere, Russian forces have continued to pummel Ukrainian areas, especially in the south and east.

Russian strikes wounded 10 civilians in the eastern Donetsk province on Tuesday, Pavlo Kyrylenko, the provincial governor, said.

Five were wounded when Russian shells slammed into apartment blocks, he said.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said on Wednesday that over the previous 24 hours Russian forces had launched four missile

strikes, 26 airstrikes and more than 100 attacks from rocket salvo systems.

Russian forces are concentrating their efforts on establishing control over Donetsk province, conducting offensive operations around the embattled cities of Bakhmut, Lyman and Avdiivka, and the village of Novopavlivka, according to spokesperson Oleksandr Shtupun.

In addition to Donetsk, the Russian attacks struck settlements in the country's north-eastern Kharkiv and Sumy, northern Chernihiv, easternmost Luhansk, southeastern Zaporizhzhia, and southern Kherson provinces.



Meanwhile, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Ukraine president who has gone from professional comedian to an internationally recognised wartime leader, turned 45 on Wednesday.

His wife, first lady Olena Zelenska, said that though he is the same person as when they met at 17, "Something has changed: You smile much less now."

New Zealander killed in Ukraine helped hundreds, parents say

AP ■ WELLINGTON

The parents of a New Zealand scientist who was killed in Ukraine said Wednesday he helped save hundreds of people while volunteering in the dangerous Donbas region.

Andrew Bagshaw, 47, a dual New Zealand and British citizen, was killed along with



British colleague Chris Parry, 28, while attempting to rescue an

elderly woman from the town of Soledar when their car was hit by an artillery shell, according to Bagshaw's parents, Dame Sue and Phil Bagshaw.

The Bagshaws said the deaths, which occurred some time this month, had only just been confirmed to them.

They said their son worked independently and wasn't affiliated with an aid agency. They said he helped evacuate people from dangerous areas and bring food, water and medicine to others in need. They said he even fed abandoned pets.

Soledar has seen intense military action and Russia this month claimed it had retaken the salt-mining town in a rare

recent victory in the 11-month conflict.

Bagshaw's parents said Ukrainian authorities were working with officials in New Zealand and Britain, but it could take some time to get their son's body returned from where it was being held at a children's hospital mortuary in the capital, Kyiv.

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said he'd yet to be officially briefed about the death but had received some preliminary information.

"I just want to extend my condolences to the Bagshaw family," Hipkins said. "I haven't had an opportunity to convey that to them personally yet. It's obviously a very tragic situation for them."

Hipkins said that there was very limited consular support available in Ukraine.

Andrew Bagshaw's parents told reporters their son was a humanitarian who had travelled to Ukraine in April with little more than a backpack and a travel guide.

Ukraine corruption scandal claims several top officials

AP ■ KYIV

Several senior Ukrainian officials, including front-line governors, lost their jobs in a corruption scandal plaguing President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government as it grapples with the nearly 11-month-old Russian invasion.

Ukraine's biggest government shake-up since the war began came as U.S. Officials said Washington was poised to approve supplying Kyiv with M1 Abrams tanks, with international reluctance eroding toward sending tanks to the battlefield against the Russians. Zelenskyy was elected in 2019 on an anti-establishment and anti-corruption platform in a country long gripped by graft, and the new allegations come as Western allies are channeling billions of dollars to help Kyiv fight against Moscow.

Officials in several countries, including the United States, have demanded more

accountability for the aid, given Ukraine's rampant corruption.

While Zelenskyy and his aides portray the resignations and firings as proof of their efforts to crack down, the wartime scandal could play into Moscow's political attacks on the leadership in Kyiv.

On the capital's streets, Serhii Bochkarev, a 28-year-old translator, welcomed the moves. "Corruption during war is totally unacceptable because people are giving their lives to fight Russians and to defend the motherland," he said.

The shake-up even touched Zelenskyy's office.

Its deputy head, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, prominent for his frequent battlefield updates, quit as the president pledged to address allegations of graft - including some related to military spending - that embarrassed authorities and could slow Ukraine's efforts to join the European



Union and NATO.

Tymoshenko asked to be relieved of his duties. He didn't cite a reason.

Local media said Deputy Defence Minister Viacheslav Shapovalov also resigned, in connection with a scandal involving the purchase of food for Ukraine's armed forces.

Deputy Prosecutor General Oleksiy Symonenko also quit.


In all, four deputy ministers and five governors of front-line provinces were set to leave their posts, the coun-

try's cabinet secretary said on the Telegram messaging app.

Authorities did not announce any criminal charges.

There was no immediate explanation.

The departures thinned government ranks already diminished by the deaths of the interior minister, who oversaw Ukraine's police and emergency services, and others in the ministry's leadership in a helicopter crash last week.



SRF LIMITED

Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091

Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003

Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900

E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert.No.	Dist.No.	Lost Shares
1	J 0000863	JAI PARKASH GOEL	20328 122776 463930-33 1129190 90159020	1872501-525 5197374-85 24022352-87 309736302-837 12078055-079	25 12 36 536 25
2	A 0003947	ANDREW JOSEPH SIKKANDADAS PAUL (Deceased) MRS. MARY CELINE PAUL (LEGAL-HEIR)	96420-21 975150	4117647-721 18545506-655	75 150
3	A 0005354	ASHOK MANGALDAS MODY (Deceased) MS. ALPA ASHOK MODY (Before Marriage) MRS. ALPA RAJESH MALL (After Marriage)	32861 71292 102637 90152089 1127903 1214 60167 67122 71124 77369 80919 84992 85172 92547 93023 96887-88 975165 10078369	2233301-325 3483234-244 4292198-215 10453030-049 309174334-629 1156531-540 2900179-189 3405436-445 3481059-069 3581480-83 3628040-50 3715623-30 3718576-86 1167501-510 3378491-497 4133766-852 18546591-661 3608410-420	25 11 18 20 296 10 11 10 11 4 11 8 11 10 7 87 71 11
4	A 0004499	ARUNA UMMAT	90191567 90249630-31 90257215-16	14991200-49 9068906-005 9068806-905	50 100 100
5	SRF0121016	SUDHA AMBWANI SUNIL AMBWANI	17108-09 39509 147960 344085-89 493085-89 1124178 28107 32576 132985 325026-30 474026-30 90164710-11 1129692	1786026-75 2414376-425 5883551-600 16601837-922 24621629-714 307857234-8521 2098126-150 2224601-25 5497708-32 16209203-288 24228995-9080 12653280-354 309904002-1689	50 50 50 86 86 1288 25 25 25 86 86 75 1288
6	S 0009675	SNEHA PRABHA MITTAL	132912-13 976244	5495284-358 18579581-730	75 150
7	M 0005397	MADIPALLI ANNAPURNA DEVI	1125950 397172-74 546172-74 90208410-12 573246-57	308412194-3033 17538843-917 25558635-709 15640665-814 26239046-482	840 75 75 150 437
8	M 0005272	MOSES SUTHANTHIRADAS PAUL (Deceased) MRS. MARY CELINE PAUL (LEGAL-HEIR)	20904 140214 334061-65 483061-65 90034770-71 90170022 33977	1889201-225 5705420-31 16397510-77 24417302-69 7409954-10001 12915325-74 12613510-64	25 12 68 68 48 50 8
9	SRF0158562	BHARAT BHUSHAN BHAGAT	69298 131490 90027121-22 90163760-61 1128036 97475-76 975196 1123910	3449845-52 5462620-35 7111178-257 12613510-64 309237050-785 4149086-151 18547297-429 307752690-3485	8 16 80 55 736 63 133 796
10	SRF0105575	ASHISH SUKTHANKAR SHAILA SUKTHANKAR	1125950 397172-74 546172-74 90208410-12 573246-57	308412194-3033 17538843-917 25558635-709 15640665-814 26239046-482	840 75 75 150 437
11	SRF0118613	ARCHANA SARAN	20904 140214 334061-65 483061-65 90034770-71 90170022 33977	1889201-225 5705420-31 16397510-77 24417302-69 7409954-10001 12915325-74 12613510-64	25 12 68 68 48 50 8
12	R 0001868	RACHEL VARGHESE	69298 131490 90027121-22 90163760-61 1128036 97475-76 975196 1123910	3449845-52 5462620-35 7111178-257 12613510-64 309237050-785 4149086-151 18547297-429 307752690-3485	8 16 80 55 736 63 133 796
13	M 0002741	MAHMOOD EBRAHIM LADHABHOY (Deceased) MR. SHIRAZ EBRAHIM LADHABHOY (LEGAL-HEIR)	1125950 397172-74 546172-74 90208410-12 573246-57	308412194-3033 17538843-917 25558635-709 15640665-814 26239046-482	840 75 75 150 437
14	B 0000900	B S RAJPUROHIT	20904 140214 334061-65 483061-65 90034770-71 90170022 33977	1889201-225 5705420-31 16397510-77 24417302-69 7409954-10001 12915325-74 12613510-64	25 12 68 68 48 50 8

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram
Date: 25-01-2023



NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

SHMM/ETD/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against tender no. 44225339. The details are as under:

1	Description of Item	"DRIVER DISPLAY UNIT (DDU) AS PER CLW SPEC."
2	Quantity	10 Nos.
3	Tender due on	21.02.2023 11:00 Hrs
4	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (1) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in E-tender system. **(2)** For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. **(3)** No manual offers are acceptable.

No.: 16/44225339/ETD/GZB Dated: 21.01.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 266/23

SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run the following **Special Train** in view of **811th Urs Fair-2023** as per schedule given below:-

09655/09656 Ajmer Jn. - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Ajmer Jn. Express Special Train				
Train No.: 09655		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No.: 09656	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
----	05:45	AJMER JN.	22:15	----
11:35	---	DELHI SARAI ROHILLA	----	15:00

DAYS OF RUN: 09655 from Ajmer Jn. and 09656 from Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 29.01.2023 (Sunday).

STOPPAGES: Madar Jn., Kishangarh, Phulera Jn., Ringas Jn., Rewari, Gurgaon & Delhi Cantt Stations

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad App.



NORTHERN RAILWAY

visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE Please join us on 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

In reversal, US poised to approve M1 Abrams tanks for Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In what would be a reversal, the Biden administration is poised to approve sending M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, U.S. Officials said Tuesday, as international reluctance to send tanks to the battlefield against the Russians begins to erode.

A decision to send a bit more than 30 tanks could be announced as soon as Wednesday, though it could take months for the tanks to be delivered.

U.S. Officials said details are still being worked out.

One official said the tanks would be bought under an upcoming Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative package, which provides longer-range funding for weapons and equipment to be purchased from commercial vendors.

The U.S. Announcement is expected in coordination with an announcement by Germany that it will approve Poland's request



to transfer German-made Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, according to one official.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not yet been made public.

By agreeing to send the Abrams at an as-yet unspecified time under the assistance initiative, the administration is able to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's demand for an American commitment without having to send the tanks immediately.

Much of the aid sent so far in the 11-month-old war has been through a separate program drawing on Pentagon stocks to get weapons more quickly to Ukraine. But even under that programme, it would take months to get tanks to Ukraine and to get Ukrainian forces trained on them.

It wasn't clear Tuesday how soon the U.S. Will start training Ukrainian troops on the Abrams and roughly how soon they can get to the battlefield.

Until now, the U.S. Has resisted providing its own M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, citing extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehi-

cles.

Washington believes it would be more productive to send German Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian troops would need less training than on the more difficult Abrams.

Just last week, Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl told reporters that the Abrams is a complicated, expensive, difficult to maintain and hard to train on piece of equipment. One thing Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has been very focused on, he said, "is that we should not be providing the Ukrainians systems they can't repair, they can't sustain, and that they, over the long term, can't afford, because it's not helpful."

A U.S. Official familiar with White House thinking said the administration's initial hesitancy was based on concerns about the requisite training and the sustainment of the tanks.

The official added that the administration believes that such plans are now in place, but it could take time to implement them.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said he had nothing to announce on any U.S. Decision regarding Abrams tanks.

But he said, "anytime that we've provided Ukraine with a type of system, we've provided the training and sustainment capabilities with that."

After US offer, Germany unleashes Leopard tanks for Ukraine

AP ■ BERLIN

After weeks of hesitation that saw growing impatience among Germany's allies, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced Wednesday that his government would provide Ukraine with Leopard 2 battle tanks and approve requests by other countries to do the same.

In a statement, the German government said it would initially provide Ukraine with one company of Leopard 2 A6 tanks, which comprises 14 vehicles, from its own stocks.

The goal is for Germany and its allies to provide Ukraine with a total of two battalions, or 88 tanks.

"This decision follows our well-known line of supporting Ukraine to the best of our ability," Scholz said after a Cabinet meeting in Berlin.

Germany was "acting in close coordination" with its international allies, he added.

The long-awaited decision came after US officials said Tuesday that a preliminary agreement had been struck for the United States to send M1 Abrams tanks to help Ukraine's troops push back Russian forces that remain entrenched in the country's east almost a year after Moscow's invasion and war.

Scholz had insisted that any decision to provide Ukraine with powerful Leopard 2 tanks would need to be taken in conjunction with Germany's allies, chiefly the United States. By getting Washington to commit some of its own tanks, Berlin hopes to share the risk of any backlash from Russia.

PTI man held for public censuring of Pak Govt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistani authorities on Wednesday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party senior leader Fawad Chaudhry, hours after he publicly censured the government for scheming to arrest party chairman Imran Khan.

Fawad, a close aide of ousted prime minister Khan, was taken into custody from his residence in Lahore after a case was registered against him at Kohsar Police Station on the complaint of the Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

"This imported government has gone berserk," PTI leader Farrukh Habib tweeted.

An official PTI Twitter account also posted videos, showing a convoy of police vehicles which the party



claimed was carrying Chaudhry after his arrest.

The arrest of Fawad, 52, came amidst rumours that the government may arrest PTI chief and former premier Khan.

Fawad's arrest comes after he, along with scores of party workers, gathered outside Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore, claiming to avert the government's alleged plan to arrest the party chief.

The arrest of Fawad further

deepens political fault lines in Pakistan where the Khan-led opposition is demanding snap polls.

General elections in Pakistan are due after August. However, Khan is demanding snap polls.

"He (Chaudhry) was taken away from outside his house at 5:30 am in four cars that did not have any number plates," Faisal Chaudhry, the PTI leader's brother, was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper

PTI ■ LONDON

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman is said to be on a collision course with the country's education department over plans to cut the period of stay allowed for overseas students under a post-study visa route, according to a UK media report on Wednesday.

The new Graduate Visa route, which allows foreign graduates - including Indians - the chance to stay on to job hunt and gain work experience for up to two years without the requirement of a specific job offer, is expected to be cut under Braverman's proposed review.

According to 'The Times', the Indian-origin home secretary has drawn up a plan to "reform" the Graduate Visa route requiring students to



obtain a work visa by getting a skilled job or leave the UK after six months. The newspaper refers to leaked advice to say that the UK Department for Education (DfE) is attempting to block the changes as they fear it would harm the UK's attractiveness to international students.

A government source who backs Braverman's plan said the Graduate Visa was being increasingly used by students on short courses at 'less respectable universities'.

"It's being used as a backdoor immigration route," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.

The DfE, however, argues that the two-year Graduate

Visa, often referred to as the UK's post-study offer, was aligned with most of Britain's main competitors, with only the US offering a one-year

South Korea, Japan grapple with heavy snow chaos, delays



PTI ■ SEOUL

Frigid winter weather gripped East Asia for the second straight day on Wednesday, causing several deaths and multiple injuries in Japan and a scramble for flights out of South Korea's resort island of Jeju following delays by snowstorms.

Heavy snow and record cold temperatures brought widespread disruptions in Japan.

South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety didn't

immediately report any major damage or injuries from sub-zero temperatures and icy conditions that have affected most of the country since Tuesday.

But at least eight roads and 10 sea routes remained closed as of Wednesday afternoon. About 140 homes in capital Seoul and nearby regions reported busted water pressure pumps or pipes as temperatures dipped to around minus 15 to minus 20 degrees Celsius (5 degrees to minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit) across the mainland.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian after attempted stabbing

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, Palestinian officials said, the latest death in a surge of violence. The Israeli military said the Palestinian tried to stab a soldier.

The violence comes amid tensions over Israel's new government, it's most right-wing ever. On Wednesday, ultranationalist Cabinet minister Itamar Ben-Gvir promised to continue visits to a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site, despite pleas from neighbouring Jordan that Israel maintain a delicate status quo at the site.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man shot as Aref Abdel Nasser Lahlouh, 20. The Israeli military said the man was carry-



ing a knife and was shot after he attempted to attack a soldier at a military post. Video on social media showed a man running toward soldiers and then falling to the ground.

Tensions have been high for months as Israel has been conducting nightly arrest raids in the West Bank, which were prompted by a spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis last spring. Some 30 people were killed in Israel by Palestinians in 2022.

US reroutes \$72M in aid for wages for Lebanese army, police

AP ■ BEIRUT

The United States is rerouting USD 72 million of America's assistance to Lebanon to help the country's cash-strapped government boost wages of its soldiers and police officers, the US ambassador said Wednesday.

Washington is a key donor of the Lebanese Army and its 80,000 members, providing over USD 3 billion in military aid since 2006. The announcement Wednesday is the first time the US is allocating funds for wages of security personnel in Lebanon.

Lebanon, a tiny Mediterranean country of 6 million people, is struggling with an unprecedented economic crisis, one that the World Bank says is among the worst worldwide since the 1850s.

UN official: Aid groups press Taliban on ban on women's jobs

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Heads of major aid groups are pressing the Taliban to reverse their decision to ban Afghan women from working for national and international nongovernmental groups, the UN humanitarian chief said on Wednesday.

The Taliban move last month to bar women from NGO work prompted major international aid agencies to suspend operations in



Afghanistan, though some have since resumed their work in parts of the country.

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of IOPC First Bank Ltd. that Mr. Sanjay Batra is the owner of the Second Floor without roof/terrace rights with one mezzanine room between stair case of Second Floor & Third Floor (said floor) built up Property bearing No. EA-124 (Plot No.124, Block-1A) land area measuring 200 Sq. Yds. Situated in the area of Village Kharola, in the area of approved colony now known as Indraprastha, New Delhi. The said property 'by virtue of Partition Deed dated 22.08.2002, Registration No. 4802, executed amongst Mr. Sanjay Batra 'First party' and Mr. Smt. Smt. Kapoor & 2 Mrs. Nikita Batra as second party, all were owner of the Second and Third floor of the said property by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 11.08.2002. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Sanjay Batra want to sell Entire Second floor of the said property to Mr. Raj Kumar and his nominee who is taking loan for purchase the said floor from IOPC First Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner in respect of the said Property/floor, is 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, Vohi Nagar, N. Delhi 110 015
Ph: 011-4112222-28 nump.associates.advocates@gmail.com

THE MAHARAJA BHUPINDER SINGH PUNJAB SPORTS UNIVERSITY, (MBSPSU), PATIALA
Mohindra Kothi, Near Fountain Chowk, Patiala-147001
Advertisement No. 01/2023
1. Online applications are invited for various teaching and non teaching posts for The Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University and its constituent colleges i.e. Prof. Gursewak Singh Govt College of Physical Education, Patiala and Govt Arts and Sports College, Jalandhar.
2. Online registration of application for these posts will start w.e.f. 25.01.2023 and end on 12.02.2023. Last date for submitting the hard copy of the online submitted application and supporting documents (6 sets of hardcopies of online application form along with self attested copies of all the certificates by courier or by hand) is 18.02.2023. 3. For further details visit University Website <http://www.mbpspu.ac.in>
PATIALA
23.01.2023 REGISTRAR

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
GHINGARIKHAL, RANIKHET, DISTT- ALMORA 263645
Letter No.: 01/Camp Dehradun Date : 25-01-2023
E-Tender Notice
1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF REPAIRING WORKS OF TYPE-II RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS FOR REVENUE DEPARTMENT AT TEHSIL RANIKHET, DISTRICT ALMORA.
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 24.26 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 04 Month
4. Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 25-01-2023 (17.00 hrs)
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 08-02-2023 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09-02-2023 (16.30 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
8. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in
PROJECT MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that We Natraj Industries, a Partnership Firm having its manufacturing Unit at Property No. 65, Sector-6, Faridabad - Haryana since 1978 are in business of manufacturing of Corrugated Boxes Packaging Machines for Industrial Use only and we have never changed our business. We were/are never in business of trading or manufacturing or packaging of Pen or Pencil or Paper/Plate of any type of any brand. We have no concern of any nature whatsoever with Natraj Pencil or any similar pen or pencil, Paper Plate brand. Our company doesn't offer any kind of these machines under any scheme. It has come into our knowledge that some notorious and criminal minded unknown persons singly and in group illegally using name 'Natraj' or 'Natraj Industries' to play fraud and to deceive the innocent persons on account of offering fake and frivolous job / business are making offer like 'घर में बैठे बैठे रोज़ पैसे कमाये' और भी कई तरीके से लोगों को गुमराह कर रहे हैं for this modus operandi these notorious and criminal minded persons are illegally using social media platform like Facebook, you-tube, Instagram etc. even to take innocent people in confidence fixing fake, unauthorized picks, videos, offers on these social media sites. We Natraj Industries, already informed the concerned police of our area that how on-line fraud are being doing by criminal minded notorious persons in the name of 'Natraj' / 'Natraj Industries'. Further, we have time to time, also posted that these offers are FRAUD through social media sites. Few of telephone numbers of these fraud people which we came to know are as 9219485822, 7854038561, 9348750955, 7735574101, 9692355823, 8249603417, 8962398972, 8982124093, 8759779568, 9555804125.
We, being law abiding citizen in best interest of society, under bonafide believe seriously in apprehending these notorious / fraud / criminal minded people as they may further succeed to mislead the innocent people on pretext of fake job / business offer and deceive them in future. All concerned are advised immediately to report such incident to Local Police Station of their respective area so that concerned police can take immediate action against them and book them for committing the various offences with the public at large. Hence notifying public at large vide this notice Please do not get trapped in any manner whatsoever with these FAKE people - WITH FAKE OFFER in the name of 'Natraj' or 'Natraj Industries' or Fake Job / Offer of Pen / Pencil / Paper / Paper Plate Packing Business etc. in any manner on any assurance, If any one shall be doing so, it shall be entirely as its / his / her own risk, costs, consequences and responsibility from all quarters without any concern of any nature with 'Natraj' or 'Natraj Industries' in any manner whatsoever.
Anand Mohan (Manager)
Natraj Industries

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Ref.- Tender Notice No. 78 Dated: 12.01.2023
Tender No. 14221030 due on 13.02.2023
In reference to above tenders, the item description has been modified same has been uploaded. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 264/23

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No. [S.N.] 37-2022-23-W-V
1 Name of work with its location: 1) Transplantation of trees in connection with construction of EMU stabling line at HN2M yard in the section of SSE/W/HN2M line under ADEN/HN2M
2 Approx. Cost of work: 1) Rs. 15,10,255.00
3 Earnest Money Deposit: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-IC/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) 1) Rs. 30,200.00
4 Completion period of Work 1) 2 Months
5 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 17.02.2023. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 17.02.2023
6 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No.: 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-37-2022-23-W-V Date: 24.01.2023 259/2023
Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No. 38-2022-23-W-V
Name of work with its location Development of landscaping and other horticulture in the section of SSE/W/HN2M under ADEN/HN2M
Similar Nature of work : Supply, installation and maintenance of indoor/outdoor will developed ornamental potted plant.
Rs. 9039034.97
Earnest Money Deposit (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited in IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 201025/CE-IC/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) Rs. 180000.00
24 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.02.2023 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 17.02.2023
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-38-2022-23-W-V Dated : 25.01.2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 271/23

HAZARIBAG COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES & HOSPITAL
SHRINIVAS
SHRINIVAS BLOOD BANK
SCSRD
SHRINIVAS INSTITUTE OF PARAMEDICAL SCIENCES
UNITS OF SHRINIVAS SARVAMANGALAM SOCIETY

Happy Republic Day

Off NH-33, Dumotand, Hazaribag, Jharkhand - 825301
www.hcdsh.edu.in
9430165925, 8298899558
hcdsh.hospital@gmail.com

74 वें गणतंत्र दिवस की समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

पी मंडल प्राचार्य
केंद्रीय विद्यालय, मेरु कैंप, हजारीबाग

सभी देशवासियों को 74 वें गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

क्षितिज हॉस्पिटल हजारीबाग

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर लोहरदगा संसदीय क्षेत्र सहित समस्त देशवासियों एवं भाजपा कार्यकर्ताओं को हार्दिक बधाई

सुदर्शन भगत
सांसद, लोहरदगा

26 जनवरी 2023 को देश का 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

सन्नी टोप्पो
बीजेपी युवा नेता, मांडर विधान सभा

समस्त हजारीबाग वासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

श्री जयंत सिन्हा जी
माननीय सांसद, हजारीबाग

26 जनवरी 2023
74वें गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ
सेन्ट्रल कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

विनोबा भावे विश्वविद्यालय, हजारीबाग
की ओर से 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

डॉ मुकुल नारायण देव
कुलपति, विनोबा भावे विश्वविद्यालय, हजारीबाग

74 वें गणतंत्र दिवस की समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

सर्वप्रथम आज समस्त युवा वर्ष एवं 74वें गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, हजारीबाग ब्रांच के संचालक राहुल एवं वार्डन राहुल एवं संचालक शुभकामनाएँ. आज ही के दिन 26 जनवरी 1950 को हमारा भारत पूर्ण स्वतंत्र बना था. आज का दिन सभी देशवासियों के लिए गर्व का दिन है. हमारा बैंक भी देश के प्रगति और उन्नति में निरंतर सहयोग देने एवं अपने शाहकों को बेहतर से बेहतर सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए कुशलकाम है. बैंक अपने दिन शाहकों एवं देशवासियों के लिए सभी बैंकिंग आवश्यकताएँ जैसे- भुवि संबंधित काम, स्वर्ण काम, मुद्रण, मनु एवं मर्यादा व्यवस्थापन, भुवरा काम, आवास काम, गृह काम, वाहन काम, व्यक्तिगत काम के साथ-साथ अन्य काम कागज, बीबी एफ कागज, भुवना समुक्ति कागज, बीबी एफ कागज, बैंक योजना, न्यायक बीबी, मनुका कागज, सिविल बैंकिंग, एफ पी एम, बीबी बीबी बीबी, एम पी एम एवं अन्य सभी सुविधाएँ सुचारु रूप से प्रदान करने के लिए हमारे बीबी कागज व्यवस्था है. बैंक ऑफ इंडिया अपने सभी उपाय एवं बेहतर सिविल बैंकिंग एवं उपाय करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है. बैंक ऑफ इंडिया परिवार एवं सभी शाहकों एवं देशवासियों के शुभक भविष्य की कामना करता है.

बी बी कुमर मिश्र
अध्यक्ष, ब्रांच

समस्त हजारीबाग समेत झारखण्ड वासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री **श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी** के नेतृत्व में हमारा संकल्प क्षेत्र के आखिरी व्यक्ति तक पहुंचे योजनाओं का लाभ

मनीष जायसवाल
विधायक, लोहरदगा

राजेंद्र आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रांची की ओर से गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

मुख्य उद्देश्य
चिकित्सा, शिक्षा और अनुसंधान
सुपरस्पेशियलिटी सेवाएँ

अत्याधुनिक ट्रामा एवं क्रिटिकल केयर, न्यूरोसर्जरी, न्यूरोलॉजी, प्लास्टिक सर्जरी, नेफ्रोलॉजी, यूरोलॉजी, क्रिटिकल केयर, कार्डियोलॉजी, ऑन्कोलॉजी, शिशु शल्य इत्यादि।

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कार्यालय, नगर परिषद, लोहरदगा

26 जनवरी 2023 को देश का 74वां गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर लोहरदगा नगर वासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी वार्ड पार्श्वदगण श्री राउफ अंसारी श्रीमती अनुपमा भगत एवं नगर परिषद, परिवार नगर परिषद, लोहरदगा उपाध्यक्ष अध्यक्ष लोहरदगा नगर परिषद, लोहरदगा नगर परिषद, लोहरदगा

ज्ञापक: 124, दिनांक: 24.01.2023

SARALA BIRLA UNIVERSITY
74वें गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ
26th January 2023

SARALA BIRLA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SARALA BIRLA UNIVERSITY, MAHADEVI BIRLA INSTITUTE OF NURSING & CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY
Birla Knowledge City, Mahilong Ranchi - 835103

Wish you a very happy Republic Day

Mahesh Poddar
Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

74 वें गणतंत्र दिवस की समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

डॉ जयदीप सान्याल
प्राचार्य
यूनिवर्सिटी लॉ कॉलेज (बी बी यू) हजारीबाग

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर लोहरदगा सहित समस्त देशवासियों व कांग्रेस पार्टी कार्यकर्ताओं को हार्दिक बधाई

धीरज प्रसाद साहु
सांसद, राज्य सभा

74 वें गणतंत्र दिवस की समस्त देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

एटीएम न्युक्लियर बैंक के सहयोग से नव भारत जन्मति बैंड द्वारा संचालित मिशन रोजनार ट्रेनिंग सेंटर पर बैंकिंग कंप्यूटर एप्लिकेशन, नर्सिंग इतिहास, टैली ग्राफिक्स, एप्लिकेशन, टैलीग्राफ का प्रशिक्षण और रोजनार क्लब करें।

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नव भारत जन्मति बैंड द्वारा जन्मति में जारी

एनटीपीसी NTPC
G20
कोरेडारी एवं चट्टी बरियातु कोयला खनन परियोजनाएँ

गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

एनटीपीसी का संकल्प एक मजबूत, समृद्ध और प्रगतिशील भारत।

एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड
(बारा बरियातु का जन्म)
कोयला खनन परियोजनाएँ, हजारीबाग

Djokovic reaches Aus semis



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic delivered a masterclass Wednesday to race into the Australian Open semi-finals and edge closer to a 22nd Grand Slam title with a straight-sets thrashing of Andrey Rublev.

The Serbian was in the zone to blitz past the Russian 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena and meets Tommy Paul for a place in Sunday's final.

The unseeded American Paul defeated countryman Ben Shelton 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

"I cannot be happier with my tennis, honestly," said Djokovic, after reaching a 10th semi-final at Melbourne Park.

Only Roger Federer (15) and Jack Crawford (11) have been there more often.

"I've been playing very solid from the back of the court and I really love playing in these conditions and this court," the 35-year-old told Rod Laver Arena.

"Some really close games that we had," he added. "Andrey is a great opponent, great player. I have tons of respect for him, one of the biggest forehands, quickest players on the tour."

"I knew what the game plan was and it was important that I found my best tennis."

Djokovic's quest for a record-extending 10th Australian Open title has been far from smooth, plagued by a left ham-

string strain suffered en route to the title at Adelaide this month.

He struggled physically in the early rounds but was dominant during his fourth-round demolition of Alex de Minaur, and he showed few problems against Rublev.

Victory for the red-hot favourite propelled him into a 44th Grand Slam semi-final to close the gap on Federer's all-time record of 46.

In another astonishing record, he clocked a 26th consecutive match-win at the Australian Open to equal Andre Agassi's Open-era record for longest streak at the first Grand Slam of the year.

The signs were ominous for

Rublev before the match even started. In contrast to Djokovic's outstanding record in Melbourne, Rublev — who was taken to five sets by Holger Rune in the fourth round — came into the clash with a 0-6 record in Grand Slam quarter-finals.

After a shaky start when he served double fault to open proceedings, Djokovic quickly settled into a rhythm.

The Russian, who also sent down a double fault to start, struggled early on.

His serving jitters persisted and when the Serb worked a break point at 2-1 he double-faulted again in response.

Djokovic was on fire and raced to a 4-1 lead before con-

verting a fifth break point to speed 5-1 clear and clinch the set in 39 minutes.

Rublev had no answers to his precision and power.

Djokovic continued in the same vein in the second set, grabbing his opportunity in game four after a 16-shot rally when Rublev blinked first with a backhand error.

Another break left Rublev frustrated and castigating himself as he slumped two sets down.

He took a bathroom break in between sets, but it didn't work as Djokovic came out with more venomous shots and broke his serve in the opening game and never let up.

Sania-Bopanna pair reaches mixed doubles AO decider

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Playing the last Grand Slam tournament of her career, Sania Mirza earned the chance to win her seventh major title by reaching the Australian Open mixed doubles final with compatriot Rohan Bopanna here on Wednesday.

The unseeded Indian pair knocked out third seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski 7-6(5), 6-7(5), 10-6 in the semifinal that lasted one hour and 52 minutes.

After splitting a set each, the Indians played to a commanding lead in the Super Tie-breaker. Sania found a stunning backhand winner to earn three match point and sealed the contest with a drive volley that Krawczyk could not return.

"It was an amazing match, there was a lot of nerves. It's my last slam and it's so special to play with Rohan. He was my first mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and today I'm 36 and he is 42 and we are still playing, we have a solid relationship," Sania said after the match.

Sania has announced that the WTA event in Dubai in February will be her swansong.

"We are excited to come back here and give ourselves another chance. We were playing the best mixed doubles pair on Tour and had to come up with the best," she said about the rival players from USA and England.

"I'm not a crier but I'm almost there right now. I feel the love for the last 18 years I have been coming here. It feels like home for me, I have a family here, I eat at home and I have so many Indians supporting me," said Sania, who won her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in 2009, win-



ning the title with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi.

She later won the women's doubles title at Melbourne Park in 2016 with Swiss great Martina Hingis.

The 42-year-old Bopanna, who won his only major title at the French Open, winning the mixed doubles with Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski, said seizing the momentum in tie break was crucial.

"As Sania mentioned it was a tough team we were playing against. It is not easy to keep the momentum going having lost that second set but we stayed strong and got an early lead and gave us that momentum," he said.

"Really happy to be sharing the court with Sania. (It's an)

incredible journey, inspiring everyone back home and today so many fans here.

"One more to go. It would be an absolute dream (Sania winning the title). It can't get better than that. It will be special and we need it in India, keep inspiring everyone back there is the only way to keep it going."

Out of Sania's six Grand Slams title, three are mixed doubles trophies which she won with Mahesh Bhupathi (2009 Australian Open, 2012 French Open) and Brazilian Bruno Soares (2014 US Open).

All three women's doubles titles came with Swiss great Martina Hingis. (Wimbledon 2015, US Open 2015 and Australian Open 2016).

Netherlands-Croatia, Spain-Italy in Nations League semis



AP ■ NYON

Host nation Netherlands will play Croatia in the UEFA Nations League semifinals after the draw was made on Wednesday. The Dutch, under new coach Ronald Koeman, will face World Cup semifinalist Croatia on June 14 in Rotterdam at the De Kuip home stadium of Feyenoord.

In the other semifinal, Spain will play European champion Italy on June 15 in Enschede at the home of Twente.

The final in Rotterdam and third-place game in Enschede are both scheduled on June 18.

The four teams qualified for the mini-tournament by winning a top-tier Nations League group played last June and September.

The finals played every two years were previously won by host Portugal in 2019 and France

in the 2021 edition staged in Italy.

The four teams' commitment to the Nations League meant they were all drawn into smaller five-team qualifying groups for the 2024 European Championship. Those groups start in March and run through November. UEFA created the third-tier competition to replace unwanted friendlies in national-team schedules. It also added competitive games to the increasingly congested season for players.

Koeman, who was Netherlands coach in his first spell in the job when his team lost the inaugural 2019 final, said he preferred to play for a trophy than extra qualifying games.

"We are not a nation that is always winning prizes. For football players it's important," he said, expecting his team in June "will be really very motivated."

Sabalenka, Azarenka chase historic all-Belarus final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Victoria Azarenka and Aryna Sabalenka can Thursday set up an all-Belarusian Australian Open final but Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina and Magda Linette stand in their way of making Grand Slam history.

Two-time champion Azarenka faces Russian-born Kazakh Rybakina in the first women's semi-final on Rod Laver Arena, with Sabalenka up against Poland's unseeded Linette after.

Should Azarenka and Sabalenka progress to Saturday's final, it will be the first time two Belarusian players have contested the championship match at a tennis major.

"I really want it to happen," said Sabalenka, the fifth seed who is yet to

drop a set in 2023 after winning the Adelaide International earlier this month.

"I know that Vika will do everything she can to make it happen. I will do everything I can to make it happen. That's going to be history."

The 33-year-old Azarenka is chasing a hat-trick of titles at Melbourne Park, 10 years after she won her second, but knows she has her work cut out against Rybakina. "It will be a great match-up," the 24th seed told reporters after knocking out third seed Jessica Pegula in straight sets to reach the last four.

"She's an incredible player," she added of 22nd seed Rybakina.

Rybakina was awarded no ranking points for winning her first Grand Slam title because of Wimbledon's ban on Russian and Belarusian players last year.



She would otherwise have been in the top 10 now.

"She's a very good, solid player. Her ranking obviously doesn't tell the full story," said Azarenka.

Rybakina has launched 35 aces so far in Melbourne and will be hard to topple on the form that has already seen her oust last year's finalist Danielle Collins, top-ranked Iga Swiatek and former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

"Very powerful. Big serve. She's in the semi-final, so she's obviously playing amazing," said Azarenka.

As well as Pegula, Azarenka knocked out 10th seed Madison Keys on her way to the last four so will fear no one as she rolls back the years in Melbourne, scene of her greatest career triumphs in 2012 and 2013.



Joelinton sinks Saints

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Newcastle moved within touching distance of the League Cup final as Joelinton clinched a 1-0 win against Southampton in Tuesday's semi-final first leg.

Joelinton netted in the second half at St Mary's to put Eddie Howe's side on the brink of their first domestic cup final since 1999.

Southampton's Duje Caleta-Car was sent off in the closing stages as a feisty clash boiled over.

Nathan Jones' team, bottom of the Premier League, felt hard done by after Adam Armstrong's equaliser was disallowed by VAR for handball.

But Newcastle can book their long-awaited trip to Wembley in the second leg at St James' Park on January 31, with the winner facing Manchester United or Nottingham Forest in the final.

Forest host United in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday.

Newcastle are enjoying a renaissance this season thanks to Howe's astute leadership and the financial investment of the club's Saudi-backed ownership group.

The Magpies sit third in the Premier League and are making their first domestic semi-final appearance since 2005.

Underlining Newcastle's new, confident attitude, Howe had said merely reaching a semi-final was "not enough" as he aims to win the club's first major domestic trophy since the 1955 FA Cup.

The Magpies' most recent domestic cup final ended in defeat against Manchester United in the 1999 FA Cup, with their last major silverware coming in the 1969 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

For Newcastle, this is their most promising period since the Kevin Keegan era in the 1990s and they left the south-coast having taken another step on the road back to relevance.

Indonesia Masters: Sen, Saina progress to second round



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Saina Nehwal made an impressive start at the Indonesia

Masters Super 500 tournament, advancing to the second round of men's and women's singles events, respectively, with contrasting wins here on Wednesday.

Sen, who had a subdued start to the new season with early exits from Malaysia and India in the last two weeks, dished out a superlative performance to outwit Japan's new sensation, Kodai Naraoka, 21-12, 21-11 in his opening match.

Saina, who had reached the second round at India Open, eked out a 21-15, 17-21, 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po to make it to the pre-quarterfinals.

Seventh seed Sen will face Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong next, while Saina takes on the winner of the match between two Chinese, Zhang Yi Man and eighth seed Han Yue.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth continued to flatter to deceive as he blew a 18-15 lead and two game points in the second game to lose 10-21, 22-24 in 39 minutes.

Belgium and Australia not taking anything for granted

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The world's top two sides, Belgium and Australia, have achieved their primary goal of reaching the semi-finals of the FIH Men's World Cup, and having accomplished it the hard way, they are not taking anything for granted.

Last edition's bronze medallists and world No.1 Australia came back from two goals down to beat Spain 4-3, while defending champions and Olympic gold medallists Belgium fended off a spirited challenge from New Zealand in the second half to emerge 2-0 winners in their quarter-final matches here on Tuesday.

"It (World Cup) is a tough competition against tough teams, there are no easy games. It will become harder and harder but we are very pleased that we are in the semi-finals," Australia coach Colin Batch said.

"We were in a difficult position at the start. Spain played very well, defended well and made counter attacks. The goal just before half time gave us the momentum and we did very well



in the second half, especially the third quarter," the coach added.

It was Australia's 12th straight semi-final entry in the World Cup since the 1978 edition, which shows their consistency in the showpiece event.

"We have to be at our best in a World Cup, there is no escape from that. It will only get tougher as you go ahead in the tournament," Australia captain Aran Zalewski added.

In the last edition in 2018, Australia lost to the Netherlands in the semi-finals in a penalty shootout.

Belgium captain Felix Denayer said anything can happen in the semi-finals and what his team can do is try and play their best game.

"We will try to grow in the tournament and analyse this game (against New Zealand) and all the details and see if there is room for improvement. That is the only thing we can do, we can only hope to play our best."

"Winning the title is what we dream of but we will first focus on the semi-finals. Back-to-back titles will be brilliant."



Lazio crush AC Milan

AP ■ ROME

Lazio shot into Serie A's Champions League places on Tuesday after hammering AC Milan 4-0 to leave the champions' title defence hanging by a thread.

Lazio breezed up to third on goal difference, ahead of Inter Milan and local rivals Roma, and a point behind second-place AC Milan, who gave a disastrous display at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic put Lazio ahead after three minutes with a first-time finish. By the time Mattia Zaccagni bundled in the hosts' 38th-minute second they could have already been up by three.

Luis Alberto ended the match as a contest by smashing home a penalty midway through the second half his beautifully disguised pass set up Felipe Anderson to roll in a deserved fourth in the 75th minute.

Milan are 12 points behind runaway league leaders Napoli at the season's halfway point and have lost their aura as the country's top team.

Three league matches without a win have allowed Napoli to skip away to a commanding lead, while Milan have four teams breathing down their neck for second place.

Lazio are one of three sides trailing them by a single point while in-form Atalanta are a further two points back in sixth, as the race for the top four heats up.

Maurizio Sarri's Lazio team were missing star striker Ciro Immobile but had no problem getting at a Milan defence which has conceded 12 goals in their last five matches in all competitions, losing three and drawing two. Coach Stefano Pioli lost France's Theo Hernandez ahead of the match and starting centre-back Fikayo Tomori to injury in the 24th minute before full-back Davide Calabria hobbled off in stoppage time.

Those were more blows for a team who have the Milan derby coming up in less than a fortnight — against the side who gave them a lesson in the Super Cup last week — and a Champions League tie with Tottenham on the horizon.

SKY VOTED ICC MEN’S T20 CRICKETER OF YEAR

PTI ■ DUBAI

Swashbuckling Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Wednesday named the ICC Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year for his ridiculously good run in the shortest format of the game. Surya had a stellar 2022, breaking an array of records and setting a benchmark in the format.

He beat the likes of Sam Curran, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and Zimbabwe's batting all-rounder Sikandar Raza for the top honour. India's newest fast-bowling star Renuka Singh become the recipient of ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year Award.

However, India vice-captain and last year's Cricketer of the Year Smriti Mandhana lost out to Australia's Tahlia McGrath in the women's T20 category.

Popularly known as 'SKY', the 32-year-old became just the second batter to make more than 1000 runs in a calendar year in T20Is and ended the year as the highest run-getter, scoring 1164



runs at a strike-rate of 187.43.

Surya hit a stunning 68 sixes during the year, easily the most recorded by anyone in a year in the format's history.

The Indian was the key batter for his team through the year, smashing two hundreds

and nine half-centuries.

Surya was at his stupendous best during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia, recording three fifties in six innings and averaging nearly 60. Notably, his strike-rate was yet again right up there at 189.68.

Having already recorded a ton earlier in the year, Suryakumar continued his brilliant year after the multi-nation tournament, making his second hundred in T20Is in the bilateral series in New Zealand.

Surya also became the top-ranked T20 player, achieving a career-high 890 rating points.

RENUKA WINS

There has been a buzz surrounding Renuka, who burst into life in a busy 12 months for the Indian women's team.

The 26-year-old beat Australia's Darcie Brown, England's Alice Capsey and compatriot Yastika Bhatia to take home the emerging player award.

The right-arm claimed 40 wickets for her country in 2022 in just 29 matches across the two white-ball formats, filling the void left by the great Jhulan Goswami.

In the ODI game, Renuka was especially potent, taking 18 wickets at an average of just 14.88, of which eight came in two appearances against England and seven in India's series with Sri Lanka.

Renuka troubled the Australian line-up in the seven T20I meetings across the year, taking eight wickets, and her performances across the Commonwealth Games and Asia Cup also grabbed attention. She claimed 17 wickets in 11 match-

es, at an economy of just 5.21. With an ability to swing the

ball and get it to deviate off the surface, Renuka will likely be

one of India's most dependable bowlers in the coming years.

Siraj becomes world No. 1 bowler in ODIs

PTI ■ DUBAI

India pacer Mohammed Siraj on Wednesday became number one bowler in the ICC rankings for ODI bowlers, a testament to his rapid rise in international cricket.

Siraj went past New Zealand's Trent Boult and Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood to become the top-ranked ODI bowler for the very first time.

Not only has Siraj's form over the last 12 months been imperious, but his effort in the ODI series at home earlier this month against Sri Lanka and New Zealand has shown just how much the right-arm has improved in recent times. India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey challenged Siraj to work on certain aspects of his game last year and the extra training the energetic quick has put in has paid off.



Siraj took nine wickets against Sri Lanka to be the leading wicket-taker for the three-game series and backed that up by claiming a four-wicket haul in the opening match of the recently-completed series against New Zealand.

It means Siraj jumps to the top of the ODI bowler rankings with 729 rating points, albeit narrowly, with his lead at the top over Hazlewood just two rating points higher than the Australian.


Fellow India pacer Mohammed Shami has jumped 11 places to 32nd overall on the updated list for ODI bowlers,

while there is plenty of movement at the top of the batter rankings following the completion of India's home series against the Kiwis.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam still enjoys a healthy lead at the top of the ODI batter rankings, but there is now a total of three India players inside the top 10 and chasing the highest accolade.

In-form opener Shubman Gill is the eye-catcher as the right-hander jumps a whopping 20 places to sixth overall following a brilliant double hundred and a century against New Zealand at home.

Gill rises in front of veteran Virat Kohli, who slipped to seventh following a quiet series against New Zealand, while Rohit jumped two places to equal eighth after his quickfire hundred against the Kiwis in Indore.



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