

OPINION 6
SIKHS HOLD TIRANGA
IN HIGH ESTEEM**WORLD 8**
CHINA, RUSSIA TO COUNTER US'
INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY**MONEY 10**
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AYER TO MISS
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AND WTC FINAL
11 SPORT

Plan for modern Delhi announced

- Govt gives infra-focussed ₹78,800-cr Budget
- Power subsidy, free bus rides to continue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday presented Rs 78,800-crore Budget, giving a major push to transport and infrastructure with an allocation of Rs 21,817 crore ahead of the G20 Summit, and announced a comprehensive plan to make the Capital a "clean, beautiful and modern city".

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Budget has something for everyone and free schemes like bus ride for women, power subsidy and pilgrimage for senior citizens will continue in the next financial year as well.

However, the education and health sectors, two highest priority areas of the AAP dispensation, have not seen a major hike.

The Government has proposed Rs 9,742 crore for the health sector, a marginal decline, while in the last Budget, it was Rs 9,769 crore.

The education department has been given Rs 16,575 crore. In the 2022-23 Budget, it had the highest allocation of Rs 16,278 crore. An outlay of Rs



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot arrive for the presentation of Delhi Budget for the financial year 2023-24, at Delhi Legislative Assembly, on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

9,337 crore in the transport sector has been proposed for the next financial year. Opposition BJP dismissed the Budget as "directionless" and alleged that it is a bundle of lies and has only paper announcements.

In his 150-minute speech in the Delhi Assembly, Gahlot said a comprehensive infrastructure rejuvenation project was being launched in a very significant year when Delhi will be hosting India's first

G20 summit. The comprehensive plan includes beautification of 1,400-km roads maintained by PWD, construction of 26 flyovers and three double-decker flyovers, induction of 1,600 electric buses and electrification of all bus depots.

Also, the Government has proposed to construct three world-class inter-State bus terminals, two multi-level bus depots, two modern bus terminals and nine new bus

Flares, bottles hurled at Indian Mission

High Commission in London responds to stir by pro-Khalistan protesters by putting up bigger Tricolour

PTI/PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

Around 2,000 protesters waving Khalistan flags descended upon the Indian High Commission here on Wednesday for a planned demonstration and hurled objects and chanted slogans amid a heightened security presence and barricades.

The Indian High Commission countered by unfurling an additional humongous Tricolour on the roof of its building, which seemed to rile the protesters further who then hurled coloured flares and water bottles towards the mission building and at police officers and media covering the protest.

Scotland Yard reacted by further blockading the area outside India House and several additional uniformed and mounted officers on horseback were deployed immediately to the area.

Unlike the violent disorder on Sunday when India House came under attack, the protesters were barricaded across the road with uniformed officers standing guard and patrolling the area throughout. The protesters, including turbaned men, and some women and children, had been bused in from different parts of the UK and chanted pro-Khalistan slogans. The organisers used mikes to make anti-India speeches and attack the Punjab



Protesters gathered outside a heavily guarded Indian High Commission in London. PTI

Police for alleged human rights violations. The speeches switched between English and Punjabi to make allegations of Indian media bias for calling them fringe elements and backed by Pakistan's spy agency ISI. Banners for the so-called "National Protest", organised by groups such as the Federation of Sikh Organisations (FSO) and Sikh Youth Jathebandia, have been circulating on social media since before a protest on Sunday, which ended in violent disorder at India House.

The Indian Government had registered a strong protest over the lack of security measures at its diplomatic mission, which ended in Khalistan flag-waving protesters smashing windows of the Indian High Commission and attempting to pull down the Tricolour. In an apparent tit-for-tat, India on Wednesday morning removed the barricade security cover of the UK High Commission or British Embassy and its envoy in New Delhi.

Hours after the Indian sharp action more policemen and barricades were installed outside the Indian High Commission in London on Wednesday ahead of the planned protest, in an apparent effort to avoid a repeat of the vandalism seen three days ago.

'Take early action on Judges' appointment'

Collegium worried over Centre holding back recommended names as it hurts their seniority

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has voiced concern over the Centre withholding or overlooking the names recommended for appointment as judges, saying this disturbs the seniority of the candidates, and asked the Government to take "necessary action" for elevation of those recommended earlier. The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, said a notification for the elevation of persons recommended earlier in point of time should be issued at the earliest.

The Collegium was expressing displeasure on the non-appointment of John Sathyan and Ramaswamy Neelakandan in Madras High Court and also reiterated Harpreet Singh Brar's appointment as Judge in Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The Collegium voiced its concern in a resolution dated March 21 in which it recommended the names of four district judges for appointment as judges of the Madras High Court. The Collegium, which comprises Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph, recommended the names of R Sakthivel, P Dhanabal, Chinnaasamy Kumarappan, and K Rajasekar.

"By its resolution dated 17 January 2023, the Collegium of the Supreme Court recommended the appointment



of Ramaswamy Neelakandan, advocate practising before the Madras High Court, as a judge of the High Court. As on March 31, 2023, Ramaswamy Neelakandan was 48.07 years of age while K Rajasekar on that date was 47.09 years of age. Neelakandan, who is a member of the Bar, has been recommended earlier in point of time and must be appointed before Rajasekar is appointed. Otherwise, Rajasekar, who is a judicial officer and younger than Neelakandan, would rank senior to Neelakandan.

Such a deviation in seniority would be unfair and against the settled convention," the resolution said. The Collegium said that while recommending the name of Rajasekar for elevation, it is of the view that his appointment should be notified after the appointment of Neelakandan is notified.

"The Collegium is of the considered view that necessary action for the issuance of a notification for the elevation of persons who have been recommended earlier in point of time should be taken at the earliest including the name of R John Sathyan which has been reiterated by this Collegium on 17 January 2023.

CAPSULE

RAILWAYS RESTORE AC 3-TIER ECONOMY FARE

New Delhi: Railways on Wednesday issued an order to restore the fare for AC 3-tier economy class travel which had been withdrawn in November last year when it was merged with AC 3-tier. Despite the restoration in price, Railways will continue offering linen to passengers, the order indicated.

MUKESH AMBANI IS RICHEST INDIAN AGAIN

Mumbai: Gautam Adani's fortunes have suffered a severe setback on concerns over corporate governance and accounting fraud, leading to Reliance Industries' Mukesh Ambani replacing the Ahmedabad-based industrialist as the richest Indian. Adani lost Rs 3,000 crore of wealth every week over the last year and his overall networth is down 60 per cent from its peak, as per the M3M Hurun Global Rich List, which pegged Adani's overall fortune at \$53 billion as of mid-March.

ISRO: CHANDRAYAAN 3, ADITYA L1 SOON

Ahmedabad: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath on Wednesday said the launch of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, and the first solar mission Aditya L1 will possibly happen by the middle of 2023. ISRO is also discussing a possible mission to the Moon in alliance with the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency.

PM reviews Covid, influenza situation

Modi stresses on genome sequencing, observing strict Covid protocols



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A mid a spike in influenza and Covid-19 cases in some pockets in the country in the past two weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting and directed officials to enhance genome sequencing while also emphasising on Covid-appropriate behaviour.

India has recorded 1,134 new coronavirus cases, while the active cases increased to 7,026, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,30,813 with five deaths. One death each has been reported in Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra while one fatality was reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The number of districts with 10 per cent or more Covid-positivity has gone up to 14 during March 12-18 against nine in the March 8-14 week.

Modi chaired the meeting to assess the Covid-19 and influenza situation in the country in terms of preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, status of the vaccination campaign, emergence of new Covid-19 variants and influenza types and their public health implications for the country, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

During the meeting, a comprehensive presentation was made covering the global Covid situation, including the rising cases, by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. The Prime Minister was briefed that a slight rise in new cases is being witnessed in some pockets in the country with average daily cases reported as 888 and weekly positivity reported as 0.98 per cent in the week ending March 22. However, 1.08 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally during the same week.

SC to set up Bench to hear plea against remission to Bilkis' rapists



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to constitute a special Bench to hear a plea against the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case. A Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new Bench will be formed.

Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and said that a new Bench needs to be constituted. "I will have a Bench constituted. Will look at it this evening," the CJI said. Earlier, on January 24, the hearing on Bano's plea challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case by the Gujarat Government could not be held in the top court as the Judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-Judge Constitution Bench.

All 11 convicts were granted remission and released on August 15, last year.

QR code on tomb keeps son's memories alive

Family of Kerala doc designed a Web page with his videos linked to the QR code

PTI ■ THRISSUR (KERALA)

A QR code placed on a tombstone at a church in Kerala's Thrissur helps one to relive and reminisce on the creative work rendered by a doctor, who died young at just 26. The parents of Dr Ivin Francis decided to place the QR code on the tomb of the youngest at St Joseph Church, Kuriyachira in the central Kerala district to give people a glimpse

into his world as they can watch videos of his performances by scanning the code. His family from Kuriyachira has designed a web page containing all the works of Ivin and linked it with the QR code.

Son of Francis, an officer with a private company in Oman, and Leena, principal of the Indian School in Oman, Ivin was well-versed in music and sports, and found time for it along with his medical course. He was popular among the community with his performances.

Ivin's unfortunate death came in 2021 when he collapsed and died while playing badminton. "We wanted his life to be a motivation for everyone and that is how we thought of placing a QR code on his tomb,"



Francis said.


Ivin had created profiles of people using QR codes and his parents also decided to do the same for him. "He also used to send me a lot of QR codes for information," the father said. He said the idea of placing a QR code was of Ivin's sister Evelyn Francis.

"My daughter told me that just writing something about Ivin on the tomb will not be suf-

ficient to portray what all he did. We thought he may not be satisfied with just that. So, she said we can have a QR code linked to his profile and place it on the tomb. So, people who scan the code will know what was he and what all he could do. She created the site and QR code in 10 days," Francis said.

The doting father said his daughter had asked him not to inscribe anything on the tomb when he ordered it. "She created the site and QR code and asked me whether that could be printed on the marble tomb. So I asked the maker, and he said it can be printed," Francis said.

He said, "Now, people who visit the grave can just scan the QR code and can know what sort of a person Ivin was."



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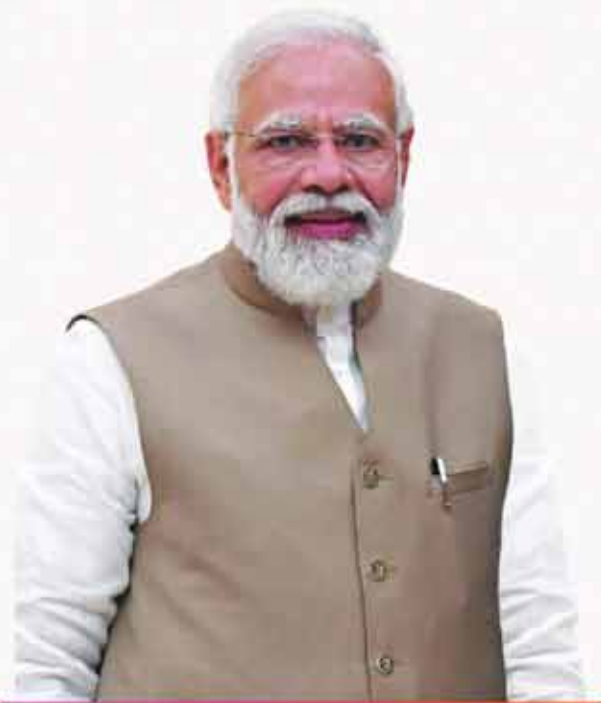
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शहीदों की चिताओं पर लगेंगे हर बरस मेले
वतन पर मिटने वालों का यही बाक़ी निशाँ होगा



नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री

युवा नीति
लाँच



शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

द्वारा

23 मार्च, 2023

दोपहर 12 बजे

मोतीलाल नेहरू स्टेडियम, भोपाल



नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

उपलब्धियां तीन वर्ष की



लाइली बहना योजना

23 से 60 वर्ष की महिलाओं को प्रतिमाह ₹ 1,000 की आर्थिक सुरक्षा



बढ़ती विकास दर

16.43% की औसतन आर्थिक विकास दर के साथ समृद्ध राज्यों में शामिल



मुख्यमंत्री कौशल अप्रेंटिसशिप योजना

1 लाख युवाओं को प्रशिक्षण के साथ ₹ 1 लाख तक का स्टैंडपेंड



सशक्त अन्नदाता

मध्यप्रदेश गेहूँ निर्यात में नंबर 1, कृषि विकास दर 2022 में 18.89%



लाइली लक्ष्मी योजना 2.0

44.50 लाख से अधिक लाइली बेटियाँ हुईं लाभान्वित



सुराज कॉलोनियां

भू-माफियाओं से मुक्त कराई गई 23 हजार एकड़ भूमि पर बनेंगे गरीबों के लिए आवास



मुख्यमंत्री इंटरनीशिप योजना

4,600 से अधिक युवाओं को दी गई पेड इंटरनीशिप



सीएम राइज़ स्कूल

₹ 6,300 करोड़ से बन रहे 9,000 आधुनिक सुविधाओं से परिपूर्ण विद्यालय



उद्योग-व्यापार की उन्नति

ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स समिट से ₹ 15,42,514 करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्ताव, औसत प्रति व्यक्ति आय 2003 में ₹ 11,718 से बढ़कर अब ₹ 1,40,583 हुई



सांस्कृतिक गौरव की पुनर्स्थापना

उज्जैन में श्री महाकाल महालोक का लोकार्पण, ₹ 2200 करोड़ की लागत से ओंकारेश्वर में 'एकात्म धाम' की स्थापना, ओरछा में राम राजा लोक, चित्रकूट में दिव्य वनवासी रामलोक और सलकनपुर में श्री-देवी महालोक मंदिर प्रस्तावित

I want to see my sisters smile with self-confidence: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that he wants to see his sisters smile with self-confidence, not have tears in their eyes. God has made me the Chief Minister to change the lives of my sisters. Our Government is committed to creating opportunities for the sisters to progress along the path of happiness, prosperity, security, and joy.

The Ladli Lakshmi Yojana was started in the state with the aim that the daughter should not be considered a burden but a boon. In this sequence, Ladli Bahna Yojana is being started for economic empowerment, self-confidence, and self-respect of women. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the women who had reached the

Chief Minister's residence on Chaitra, Shukla and Pratipada, Gudi Padwa in the programme 'Ladli Bahen Ke Sang - Navsamsvatsar Parv'.

Chouhan said that I am talking to my sisters as a brother, not as a Chief Minister. It is a fact that injustice has been done to mothers, sisters, and daughters. It is also a reality that due to the mentality of society, daughters were killed in the womb itself and sisters and daughters were forced to live as second-class citizens in society.

Chouhan said that why should sisters and daughters bear this pain, restlessness, and agony. To change this situation, our government started schemes for the empowerment of sisters and daughters and their welfare. Be it the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana or Ladli Lakshmi Yojana, we have made efforts to

make every step for daughters simpler. In this sequence, by giving 50 percent reservation to women in local bodies and panchayats, effective efforts were made in the direction of their political empowerment. Arrangements have also been made to give more opportunities to daughters in government jobs.

It was also decided to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in police recruitment. I believed that if I give guns and sticks to the hands of daughters, they will put the goons in place.

Chouhan said that sisters in families face shortage of money and are dependent on others for the money. The sisters do not have money to spend for the betterment of themselves and their children. The yearning to change this condition of dependence and poverty especially of women

from poor and lower middle class families always remained in my mind. The Chief Minister said that economic empowerment is the basis of self-confidence and self-respect. Narrating an incident from Mahabharata regarding the importance of money in human life, he said that for the empowerment of sisters, Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana has been started for the purpose of directly depositing money in their accounts. This scheme will instill new faith in the lives of the sisters.

The Chief Minister said that sisters also have a right on the state treasury. E-KYC of the sisters is being done to ensure that the money of Ladli Bahna Yojana goes directly to the accounts of the sisters every month. No certificate like income or domicile is required for applying in the scheme.

There is no need to pay anyone for e-KYC. Immediately complain to the CM Helpline 181 about those who ask for money or those who commit irregularities. Such persons will be sent to jail. Chouhan said that from March 25, camps will be organised in every village and every ward to fill the applications under the scheme. The amount will be transferred to the sisters' accounts on June 10. This scheme is nothing less than a social revolution.

Chouhan said that Ladli Bahna Sena will be formed in every ward and village. This Sena will not allow injustice to happen to the sisters. Along with helping in taking advantage of the Ladli Bahna Yojana, this Sena will also be active in cases of domestic violence and in taking action against goons and miscreants.



State Congress President Kamal Nath, senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh with BJP leader Rao Yadvendra Singh Yadav from Ashoknagar after he joined Congress party with his supporters at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

State capital witnesses cloud cover throughout the day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Weather conditions were cloudy in the state capital while weather changed on Wednesday in Narmadapuram, Mandla and Chhindwara regions of the state.

Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla and Balaghat districts would witness thundery activities and lightning.

It was cloudy throughout the day in Bhopal. Mandal has received 11 mm of rain. Between March 23 and 25, there will be an effect of weather disturbance again in Madhya Pradesh.

The effect of this system will be more visible in the Gwalior-Chambal division, while light drizzle may occur in Bhopal and Indore. The weather is likely to remain clear in most districts on Wednesday.

The effect of this system will be more visible in the Gwalior-Chambal division, while light drizzle may occur in Bhopal and Indore

Hailstorms were witnessed in Rewa. The layer of hail froze on National Highway-39 covered the road.

In many areas of Rewa district, it rained intermittently from noon to Tuesday evening. The city received continuous rain for an hour in the evening. The standing crops in the fields have been damaged due to the hailstorm. The Met stated that the possibility of rain on March 22, 25 and 26.

According to the Meteorological Department,

between March 23 and 25, Bhopal, Vidisha, Sehore, Betul, Neemuch, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopurkalan, Singrauli, Rewa, Satna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori Weather will change in Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Niwari. There is also a possibility of light rain with strong wind.

The systems have settled and sky will remain clear, but from March 23, there will be a change in the weather again. There may also be light rain. The Meteorological Department has issued a warning. There may be light drizzle on March 24 as well.

The weather had wreaked havoc in the state between March 16 and 19. There was heavy rain-storm and hail-storm, due to this, wheat, gram and mustard crops standing in

the fields were destroyed. The government has also started a survey of the crops destroyed in the second phase. Preliminary losses have come to the fore in 27 districts. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has asked to complete the survey by March 25. The system returned.

Due to the following current and upcoming weather conditions:

Weather of Madhya Pradesh is likely to remain mainly dry during the next 2 days. Thereafter, a fresh round of rain and thundershower/hail activity is very likely over Madhya Pradesh during March 24-26.

The maximum temperature is very likely to increase gradually by 2-3 degree celsius during the next 2 days and not change significantly thereafter. A cyclonic circulation persists over Southwest Rajasthan & neighborhood.

45-year-old man killed in Shahjehanabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 45-year-old man died after a dispute between children in Shahjehanabad escalated, the accused killed his own brother-in-law, two other people were injured in the incident and in the incident a minor was also involved.

Police have made five people accused of murder in the case. At present, the arrest of the accused has not been done. The police found that there was a dispute between both the parties regarding the transaction of Rs 15,000.

According to the police, Sheikh Rahim alias Munne Khan (45), a resident of Mazdoor Nagar Shahjehanabad, was an auto driver. Two days ago, his children had a dispute with Liyaqat, who lives in the neighborhood. With the intervention of the locals they dispute was pacified.

On Tuesday night around 8 Sheikh Rahim reached Liyaqat to demand his 15 thousand rupees. There was an argument on both sides regarding this matter. The matter escalated so much that Liaquat along with his son Farhan and friend Nasir, Ayub alias Faizan, Javed started fighting. Hearing the noise of the dispute, the family members of Sheikh Rahim also reached to intervene where Liyaqat attacked him with a knife in the stomach. In critical condition, the relatives took him to Hamidia Hospital. He died during treatment. Police have registered a case of murder against Liyaqat, his son Farhan, Nasir, Javed, Ayub alias Faizan in the case. The accused have not been arrested yet.

Liyaqat's son Farhan had taken Rs 15,000 from Sheikh Rahim. His nephew Sakir Hussain had come to ask for money from Farhan. There was a dispute between the two on

this. Only then Sheikh Rahim reached and started explaining to both of them.

Meanwhile, suspecting his wife of illicit relationship a farmer killed his 60-year-old wife after a dispute in Sukhi Sewania area.

Preliminary investigation by the police revealed that he used to doubt his wife. Sukhi Sewania police station in-charge BS Sengar told that Geeta Bai husband Bhagwan Singh (60), a resident of village Pipaliya Zahir Peer, was a housewife.

Bhagwan Singh used to doubt her and used to fight with them every day after getting drunk. On March 19 also there was a dispute between husband and wife. Bhagwan Singh had attacked Geeta Bai with a sharp weapon and later her son got her admitted in the hospital. Geeta Bai died late on Tuesday night. The arrest of the accused has not been done yet.

Scindia thanks State government

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Madhya Pradesh Health Minister Prabhuram Chowdhary said that Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and other public representatives have been demanding for a long time the upgradation of various hospitals in Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Datia, Shivpuri, Ashoknagar and Guna districts, so that the general public can get more medical facilities.

Keeping this in mind, the Madhya Pradesh Government yesterday gifted dozens of new health centers to the Gwalior-Chambal region. As per sources these include four new hospitals apart from the primary health centres. The Community Health Centre at Pichore, which had a capacity of only 30 beds has been upgraded to 100 beds at a total cost of 40 crores and 60 lakhs.

Similarly, the Community Health Centre located at Birla Nagar in Gwalior Nagar, which earlier had only 40 beds, has been upgraded with 100 beds at a total cost of 15 crores and 2 lakhs. The sources further said that Energy Minister Praduman Singh Tomar too was trying for the upgradation of this clinic.

New primary health centres have been sanctioned for Acharoni of Khaniyadhana development block in Shivpuri district also.

With the upgradation of these hospitals, patients will be able to get better health facilities.

Union Civil Aviation and Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State Health Minister Prabhuram Chowdhary for improving the health facilities in the Chambal region.



Women devotees of Maharashtra Community participate in a religious procession on the occasion of Gudi Padwa festival in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Every woman in MP to get Rs 1,000 per month

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After launching the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' under which eligible women in Madhya Pradesh will get Rs 1,000 per month, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday announced that special squads will be formed in each ward and village in the state to empower women and end injustice against them.

These squads with women members will be called 'Ladli Behna Sena', he said.

Chouhan made the announcement during an interaction with women at his official residence as part of a programme - 'Ladli Behna Ke Sang Nav Samvatsar Parv'.

"Ladli Behna Sena" will be constituted in each ward and village in the state. This sena (squad) will ensure that no behna (sister) faces any injustice," he said.

Besides ensuring that the benefits of the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' reach the women, the sena will also deal with cases of domestic violence and set anti-social elements right. It will unite women on the issues of economic empowerment and social security, the chief minister said.

Chouhan also told the women during the interaction that 'ahatas' (drinking areas attached to liquor outlets) will be closed in the state from April 1, and those found drinking liquor on the roadside and in parks will be punished.

The 'Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana' was launched in the state on March 5. Under this scheme, women will be given Rs 1,000 assistance per month with certain riders, like the woman must be in 23-60 age group, should be a resident of MP and married, should not be an Income Tax payee and her family's annual income should be

below Rs 2.50 lakh.

The government aims to reach out to one crore women in the state, where Assembly polls are scheduled to be held at the end of the year. A provision of Rs 8,000 crore has been made for the scheme in the state budget presented in the Assembly recently.

During the programme, the chief minister said, "Women also have the right on the state exchequer and to ensure that the Ladli Behna Yojana's money goes straight into the accounts of the women, the process of 'e-KYC' is being started in the state."

To avail benefits of the scheme, there is no need to submit documents like domicile or income certificate. No need to pay anyone for getting e-KYC done and in case anybody demands money for doing it, just complain to CM-Helpline- No. 181, to ensure that such persons are sent to jail, he added.

New Police Commissioner for stern action against goons

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra took charge on Wednesday morning, while interacting with media persons, he said that strict action will be taken against the goons and miscreants. The police would be more sensitive towards the common people.

On the lines of Indore, the hooligan campaign would also be conducted in Bhopal. Police will work sensitively even in the midst of political pressure.

Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra, after taking charge, inquired about the law and order situation in the city with the officials.

Harinarayanchari Mishra is an IPS officer of 2003 batch. Mishra has been the Indore Police Commissioner. Big steps have been taken like demolishing land mafia houses in Indore. In his earlier role he was SP in Gwalior, Jabalpur, Balaghat and Khandwa.

Mishra has also been Indore ASP, Mhow SDO and ADC to Governor. Let us tell you, on March 16, the Home Department had issued an order



to post Indore Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra to Bhopal, Bhopal Police Commissioner Makrand Deoskar to Indore.

While being the DIG of Indore, Harinarayanchari Mishra had taken a big step to demolish the houses of the land mafia and the miscreants who acquired property illegally. This experiment of Mishra was adopted by many police officers of the state.

Harinarayanchari Mishra, a resident of Raghunathpur vil-

lage in Siwan, is a 2003 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. He passed the PCS exam in 1998. Became Treasury Officer in Uttar Pradesh.

During the service, the preparation for the civil services examination continued. Passed IRTS in 2001 and became Railway Officer. While working in railway, he prepared for UPSC. After this, in the next year i.e. 2002, he gave the UPSC exam. He became IPS in the result of the examination in 2003. He got the cadre of Madhya Pradesh state.



The new premises of Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bhopal at Paryavas Bhavan was inaugurated by Zonal Head and General Manager, Bank of Baroda, Bhopal Zone Girish C Dalakoti, on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Sarabjot Singh wins gold in International shooting

Bhopal: India's Sarabjot Singh has won gold in the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shooting Championships, Bhopal. He shot 253.2 points in the men's 10 meter air pistol category and stood first, whereas, Varun Tomar of India won the bronze medal. He finished third with a score of 250.3. Azerbaijan's Rulsan Lunev finished second with a silver medal scoring

251.9 points. Sarabjot defeated Rulsan Lunev 16-0.

Shooting World Cup Championship is going on at MP State Shooting Academy, Bhopal. More than 300 players from 30 countries are participating in it. 37 shooters from India are participating in the competition, including 20 men and 17 women.

Gold winner Sarabjot Singh said that he started shooting

from summer camp in school. Covid was the biggest challenge while making a career in shooting. Started participating in shooting competition after 2017.

Sarabjot has so far won two gold in the World Championship. Has won one Gold in ISSF Junior World Cup, one in ISSF Junior Cup and two in Asian Championship. Apart from this, he has won two silver medals in the ISSF Junior Cup so far.

Kamal Nath lashes out at BJP and CM for Amit Shah’s visit to Chhindwara

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Eight months are left for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. Politics has already heated up before this. Former CM Kamal Nath lashed out at Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the BJP on Wednesday regarding the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Chhindwara.

Former CM Kamal Nath said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had come to Chhindwara in the last assembly elections and the result was that Congress won all the seats in the district. The election of Chhindwara is the election of public versus BJP. The love and trust that the people of

Chhindwara have given him for 44 years, no matter who comes or who goes, this love and trust will remain.

Notably, on March 25, Amit Shah will address a big public meeting in Chhindwara. The BJP had lost the Chhindwara seat in the last Lok Sabha elections in the state. Now the top leadership of BJP has focused on winning this prestigious seat.

Targeting CM Shivraj, Nath said that he gets intoxicated with announcements as soon as the elections come. The former CM said that he thinks that he will be able to mislead the simple natured people of Madhya Pradesh by his announcements and by giving various kinds of inducements. Today the Chief Minister and the Bharatiya Janata

Party are unable to give account of their 18 years tenure. This is the reason why the Vikas Yatra being run by him was opposed at more than 160 places.

Former CM said there has been hailstorm in many districts of the state. Rains have caused more havoc than the hailstorm. The government should get the survey done as soon as possible and give compensation.

He said that more than half of Shivraj ji’s time goes into criticising Kamal Nath, the government does not run by criticising him. On the celebration of completion of three years of the BJP government, Nath said that perhaps this celebration is because of the way in which the government was formed through horse-trading.

Chouhan plants saplings with daughters on Chaitra Navratri

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the beginning of Chaitra Navratri, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with daughters planted saplings of Banyan, Amla and Champa in the garden located at Shyamala hills. Chief Minister Chouhan while giving best wishes for Navratri said that it is my wish that the blessings of Goddess continue to shower on all of us.

Daughter Shubhyanshi Upadhyay along with Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings on her birthday. Kumari Harshali, Anshika, Priya and Anshita also planted saplings. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Nasrullaganj’s social work-



er Ajay Soni planted a sapling on his birthday. Dheeraj Soni, Devendra Soni, Jagdish Vishwakarma, Jagdish Gurjar, Santosh Soni, Manvi, Ayushi, Aashi and Adhira were with them. Shubham Upadhyay, Kanchan Upadhyay, Neha Patankar, Saumya Patankar, Anjana Rajput, Tanushka Rajput also participated in the plantation.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with his wife Sadhna Singh celebrates Gudi Padwa festival at their residence in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan with his wife Sadhna Singh distributes gifts to a woman during a Ladli Behna convention organised to welcome Hindu New Year and Chaitra Navratri festival at his residence in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Police arrest miscreant who looted bike on Mar 15

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Jahangirabad police arrested the accused who robbed a motorbike at knifepoint in Pul Bogda area on March 15; accused is watch list criminal and has been booked for over two dozen crimes.

The accused Nadeem Khan stopped the victim complainant near Pul Bogda and robbed the victim at knifepoint.

The robbed bike has been recovered. In the complaint Rehan Khan stated that he is an electrician of automobiles, he was on his bike bearing registration number MP04ZB5939 was coming from Ashoka Garden to meet a friend in Jinsi when he spotted

The accused Nadeem Khan stopped the victim complainant near Pul Bogda and robbed the victim at knifepoint

Nadeem near the bridge Bogda fire brigade who asked him to stop victim stopped, Nadeem took a knife and robbed him of his motorbike.

After the incident the robbery victim reached the police station and lodged a complaint against the accused and based on the complaint a case under section 392 of the IPC was registered.

The team of Jahangirabad police station was continuously searching for the accused Nadeem by raiding his house and possible locations but during the search the accused Nadeem managed to escape.

On Wednesday he was tracked and arrested by the police. Nadeem was booked for assault, extortion, threatening, theft, illegal possession of weapons by Jahangirabad, Hanumanganj, Aishbagh, Jahangirabad, Kohefiza, Ashoka Garden.

The police have started searching for other accomplices who have helped the accused in stealing and disposing of the vehicles.

Prime Minister to attend national meet of army officers in Bhopal on April 01

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come to Bhopal on April 01. He will attend the National Meet of Army Officers to be held at the Kushabhau Convention Center here. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh along with chiefs of Navy, Army and Air Force will also be present in the meeting. The meeting is going to be held for the first time in Madhya Pradesh.

However, the PM’s minute-2 minute programme has not been finalised yet. Officially, even the police officers are tight lipped regarding



the arrival of the PM.

According to the information, a meeting of army officers has been organised in Bhopal. Senior army officers will be involved in this. It is being told that many important issues related to the military

will be discussed in the meeting. Preparations have started at the Kushabhau Thackeray Convention Center for the meeting. Police and administrative officials have also become active.

It is worth mentioning here that on March 17, Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi of Western Naval Command, Lieutenant General Vipul Singhal of 21 Corps, Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena, and Brigadier SS Chillar met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence office. Vice Admiral Tripathi presented the emblem to Chief Minister Chouhan.

CM congratulates for promoting wildlife tourism

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh is continuously moving ahead in the field of tourism. It is a matter of pleasure that in the recent ET Travel and Tourism Award-2023, the state received the Best State Promoting Wildlife Tourism award for its efforts to promote wildlife tourism.

All concerned deserve congratulations on this. Chief Minister Chouhan was in a discussion with media representatives after planting saplings in the garden located in Shyamala Hills.

Chief Minister Chouhan has said that news is being received continuously about works being done through public participation in various areas of the state.

Public participation has an important role in the development of the state. Taking a wonderful initiative, the youth of Indore rejuvenated a school in Ralamandal with their own money and resources in four months.

Apart from providing blackboards and furniture to the

school, the school premises have been enriched with greenery by planting trees in front of the classes to protect the environment. Six classrooms are ready in the school. I congratulate the youth of Indore for this positive thinking and the initiative to implement it with their resources.

CM greets on Indian New Year

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Hindu New Year Vikram Samvat 2080, Chaitra Navratri and Gudi Padwa. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan gave a message through social media that it is my prayer to Devi Maa that the New Year should be auspicious for all, happiness, peace, prosperity and joy should come in everyone’s life.

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that the entire state is engaged in devotion to the Maa

during Navratri. This is the festival of true worship. We have considered daughters, sisters and mothers as Shakti-goddess. It is the core of our country. Society and the country cannot be empowered without the empowerment of mothers, sisters and daughters.

The campaign for their political, social and economic empowerment will continue in the state. The Chief Minister said that today is Ugadi along with Navratri, the New Year is beginning. Indian New Year, Gudi Padwa, Chaiti Chand and Chaitra Navratri greetings to all.



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY



E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed **"Open Tender"** through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of work	E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
BINA-JHANSI Section: Replacement of channel sleepers with H-Beam sleepers on Important Bridges No. 1006/1 on DN & UP main line.	JHS-ENGG-C-2023-27	₹ 22849260.23	₹ 264300.00

Date of closing Tender: 20/04/2023 at 15:00 hrs.
Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 6 Months
• Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 20.04.2023
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in 422/23(K)

ncr@northcentralrailway [North central railways](#) www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in [@CPRONCR](#)

न्यायालय अपर कलेक्टर, जिला अशोकनगर (म.प्र.)

प्र.क्र./448/बी-12/22-23/383 अशोकनगर, दिनांक 15/03/2023

सूचना पत्र

बनाम 1. श्री विनोद पुत्र मूलचंद जाति जैन नि. वार्ड नं. 9 मकान नं. 8 शाहीरा अमोदा जिला अशोकनगर

2. श्रीमति सविता जैन पति विनोद जैन नि.वार्ड नं.9 मकान नं. 8 शाहीरा अमोदा जिला अशोकनगर

3. श्री ऋषभ पिता विनोद जैन नि. वार्ड नं. 9 मकान नं. 8 शाहीरा अमोदा जिला अशोकनगर -0--

एतद द्वारा आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकृत अधिकारी इक्विटास स्माल फायनेंस बैंक द्वारा वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन एवं प्रतिभूति हित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 के अन्तर्गत राशि की वस्तु की संबंध में आपके विरुद्ध आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त आवेदन पत्र पर सुनवाई हेतु दिनांक 28/03/2023 नियत की गई है।

अतः आप प्रकरण में नियत दिनांक 28/03/2023 को स्वयं उपस्थित होकर या अपने अधिकृत अभिभाषक के माध्यम से अपना जवाब समय प्रातः 10.30 बजे से सायं 5.30 बजे तक इस न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अनुपस्थिती एवं जवाब प्रस्तुत न किये जाने की दशा में प्रकरण में एकसम्यक् कार्यवाही की जाकर प्रकरण में नियमानुसार अग्रिम कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

सूचना पत्र आज दिनांक 15/03/2023 को न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा से जारी किया गया

अपर कलेक्टर
जिला अशोकनगर (म.प्र.)




WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE


No. BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/386RT3, 396RT & 399 Date: 21.03.2023

Sr. DEE/TRD/WCR, Bhopal acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following works, upto 11.00 hours on the dates mentioned against each tender. The complete tender documents and detail information regarding tender, is available on the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> . Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. For any correction, in this tender, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date which may be seen up to the date of tender opening. **Tender No. - BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/399, Description of work -** Dismantling of feeder wire and reclamation of mast at Bina TSS, **Completion Period - 6 Months - Estimated Cost Rs. - 595164.00, EMD Rs.- 11900, Closing Date and Time for Submission of Tender - 13.04.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. Tender No. - BPL/TRD/ DRG / WC /386RT3, Description of work -** Shifting of existing IOL location having distance less than 120meter from stop signal over Bhopal division., **Completion Period - 12 Months - Estimated Cost Rs. - 17901970.29, EMD Rs. - 239500.00, Closing Date and Time for Submission of Tender- 20.04.2023 at 11:00, Tender No. - BPL / TRD / DRG/WC/396RT, Description of work -** Electrification of left over un-electrified sidings over Bhopal Division, **Completion Period - 18 Months - Estimated Cost Rs. - 36235019.55, EMD Rs.- 331200.00, Closing Date and Time for Submission of Tender- 20.04.2023 at 11:00**
Sr. DEE/TRD, West Central Railway, Bhopal

कोरोना को है हराना, तो टीकाकरण जरूर कराना



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES



ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 46/2023

F.No.AIIMS/7-10/Exam.Sec/(B.Sc-M.Sc-2023)/2023 09.02.2023

Admission Notice for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) and M.Sc Nursing/ M.Sc courses/M. Biotechnology for session August-2023 at AIIMS New Delhi & other AIIMS


All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications (Basic Registration followed by Generation of Code and Final Registration) for Entrance Examinations leading to admission for subject cited above courses in below mentioned schedule:-

SCHEDULE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE COURSES	
Basic Registration (PAAR) for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) -2023	Start Date :15.02.2023 Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Generation of Code for Final Registration for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical courses) -2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start date: 01.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start date: 01.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

SCHEDULE FOR POST-G RADUATE COURSES	
Basic Registration (PAAR) for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses -2023	Start Date :15.02.2023 Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)
Generation of Code for Final Registration for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses-2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.	Start date: 03.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.	Start date: 03.03.2023 Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

All applicants are required to visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

CBC 17112/12/0042/2223 ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110608

EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 44/2023

Ref. No.FAIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-JULY-23)/2023 07.03.2023

Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) for admission to PG Courses for July 2023 session


All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) July 2023 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch.(6years)/ DM(6years)/MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum and other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bibinagar, Bathinda, Deoghar, Mangalagiri, Raebareli, Kalyani and Bilaspur etc.) for July 2023 session as per following schedule:-

Date of uploading Prospectus Part-A including eligibility criteria: 07.03.2023		
Online Registration for application	Start date	Closing Date
#Registration and Basic Information [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been #ACCEPTED for July 2019, January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021 session, January 2022, July 2022 and January 2023 are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code)]	07.03.2023	25.03.2023 (by 5:00 PM)
Editing of Registration and Basic information (after last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic information will not be allowed)		
Status of Registration and Basic information and last date of correction of rejected Images	28.03.2023	31.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)
Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information	03.04.2023	by 5:00 pm)
Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC) [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information - Previous EUC code not valid for July 2023 session]	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	10.04.2023 (05:00 pm)
Completion of Application form (only for the candidates those have generated EUC code)		
Editing of completion of Application form (Change of category will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstances)		
Uploading of valid Certificate/Card: SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card.		
a) Date(s) of valid OBC(NCL) certificate: The OBC(-NCL) certificates should have been issued between 08.05.2022 to 07.05.2023 (date of Exam) both dates inclusive.	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	07.05.2023 (05:00 pm)
b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate: The EWS certificate must be valid for financial year 2023-2024 and issued between 01.04.2023 to 07.05.2023 (on or before date of Exam), both date inclusive based on income of year 2022-2023.		
Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form & Last date of submission of required documents.	14.04.2023 (11:00 pm)	15.04.2023 (05:00 pm)
Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	01.05.2023 (Monday)	
Date of Examination	Examination Centers	
07th May, 2023 (Sunday)	Cities all over India	


Important:- For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Registration and Basic information are mandatory. Only those with accepted Registration & Basic information can proceed for Generation of EUC for completion of application form.

Correction/edit of Registration:- For candidates requiring correction in Registration & Basic candidate information OR Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

Note:- All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.



Prospective Applicants Advanced Registration



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES New Delhi

ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

CBC 17112/12/0045/2223

FIRST COLUMN

ROBOTIC AUTOMATION IS THE FUTURE

It will be the main driver of growth in the e-commerce



SANGEET KUMAR

The face of robotics is quickly changing due to new technologies like edge computing, cloud computing, AI and machine learning. Every industry is experiencing a change as a result of the use of robots. For example, robots are used in restaurants to prepare food, in manufacturing to perform tasks like picking and placing, pelletizing, and material movement. They are also used in supply chains and warehouses to perform every conceivable task from sorting to inventory management until the product is ready for delivery.

Industries all over the world have been integrating robotics and automation into their operations because of the introduction of the latest cutting-edge technologies to increase corporate productivity, efficiency, and marketability. The e-commerce sector has grown exponentially during the last two to three years. According to Statista, global retail e-commerce sales were over 5.2 trillion dollars in 2021 and are projected to increase to 8.1 trillion dollars by 2026.

The disruption of the supply chain caused by the rise in e-commerce sales has driven businesses to find more innovative ways to meet customer demand for speedy delivery.

Increased demand for e-commerce sales in turn drives up the need for faster delivery, packing, shipping, inventory management, and supply chain management. Advanced and automated warehouses can help meet this demand. The need for automated warehouses has increased significantly in the last couple of years. The global market for warehouse automation systems, which was estimated to be worth \$21.7 billion in 2021, is expected to grow to \$93 billion by 2031, according to Allied Market Research.



In warehouses, robots have a crucial job to do. The employment of robots in warehouses helps with time-consuming and arduous chores like picking stuff up off the floor or sorting products by size, shape, or colour. Most often used in warehouses are piece-picking robots, automated guided vehicles (AGVs), collaborative robots, sorting and shuttle robots.

Inventory management plays an extremely important role in warehouse management. Automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RS) are most frequently used for inventory control and on-demand product storage and retrieval. They are used to expedite material handling and order fulfilment procedures.

Automated robotics systems with AI capabilities aid companies in boosting the effectiveness and speed of supply chain operations. These AI-enabled systems have grown considerably as a result of technological breakthroughs; they now learn from both existing systems and the surrounding system. Robotic systems are becoming quicker, better, and more adaptable thanks to AI and machine learning, which is beneficial for e-commerce fulfilment operations.

Increased demand for online shopping and shifting customer expectations for quicker deliveries are the main causes of the rise in demand for warehouse automation. Emerging technologies like 5G, AI, ML, edge computing, and sophisticated robots will help the e-commerce sector develop at a phenomenal rate in the years to come..

{The writer is cofounder and CEO of Addverb Technologies}

Moral compass is critical for democracy

Elected representatives must ensure proper and well-informed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies



The manner the Indian Parliament conducted itself in the second half of the Budget session in March 2023 inflicts considerable disquiet amongst all those who revere it as a pious institution that could transform the lives of every Indian and give dignity and better life to those who deserve support and handholding because of exclusion and sufferings inflicted for generations due to historical, social and cultural constraints.

Could such an assembly of responsible people afford to waste their time for weeks together? They all are—officially—honourable individuals who are guardians of the Constitution; they are policymakers and lawmakers of the nation. The global image of India is changing fast; it is being viewed with considerable interest; there are high hopes in the international community. The last decade has convinced the powers that be that India is emerging as a self-confident nation; it is no more cowed down by its belligerent neighbours. India is no more willing to suffer ‘thousand cuts’ and terrorist attacks. The new-found sense of national pride could be seen in practically every home and hearth in India, in its farms and fields, across the high-end research labs bringing out innovations in areas, extending from artificial intelligence to space research.

India has enhanced its pace of change with full confidence and self-assurance. It has to make course corrections as well and must recall the Mahatma. ‘The Lonely Pilgrim (Gandhiji’s Noakhali pilgrimage)’, a compilation by Manubahan, contains the essence of how Gandhi realised that the national service has nowadays come to mean striving for a big name, according to many now, through which one can get a notice in the papers or is photographed—which is better—or secure ministership as a reward for going to jail.

So everyone wants to grab power in order to rise to a ministership in the end. But how can even good ministers do any notable work without the people’s support? The country does require ministers, but a minister can adorn his post only if he deserves it, Gandhi said. He observed, in

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THE 75+ GENERATION OF INDIANS HAS SEEN AND OBSERVED THE DECLINE OF MORAL AND HUMANISTIC VALUES IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE, AND THE CONSEQUENT DETERIORATION OF THE CREDIBILITY OF LEADERS, ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, AND THOSE IN OFFICE

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity)

this very context, the presence of ‘selfish stinginess’ and reiterated that “we must, therefore, train ourselves to keep national interest always before us.” And this was not the first time he was referred to ministers.

On September 18, 1938, when provincial governments had spent just ten months in ‘power’, things were not much different! The Mahatma received a letter from a citizen, indicating that the main purpose of the “Congress ministry appears to us to be to worship your idol in public and break it in secret; to worship the symbols of Imperialism in secret and denounce them in public, to play the malefactor towards their opponents when they cannot conquer by truthful and legitimate methods...”

Gandhi had condensed this after “toning down the bitterest part.” The letter writer had also included a sentence which after 85 years appears prophetic: “The government of a people cannot be run by the common argument of promised boons and by corrupting the electorate with hope.”

The lesson to be drawn is clear: the mere scent of power coming to ministers made them leave no stone unturned to shake the moral foundation of good government. In this particular instance, the letter-writer found it strange why Gandhi’s “soul should not revolt against such a predatory Ministry for creation of which the moral responsibility is entirely yours”.

After over seven decades of Independence, India has more ex-ministers than serving ministers. The taste of having savoured power—exceptions apart—has been highly intoxicating. We have ‘Lok-Sewaks’ who swear by the name of Mahatma Gandhi but have amassed wealth by means that could be beyond the comprehension of the finest of economists.

People have seen the growth and display of affluence that follows that politicians becoming elected representatives, ministers and chief ministers. In fact, most panchas and sarpanchas of village panchayats have proved to be good learners from politicians.

The issue before the nation is: why are the elected representatives losing credibility among those who elect them and put them in the saddle of power?

The manner democracy is being conducted was most crudely exposed in the recent election of the mayor of Delhi, which presented a shocking spectacle for everyone who feels a sense of pride in Indian democracy. The entire country witnessed it, as did the world. I found it shameful. Sadly enough, one could cite numerous such instances that have led to the disaffection between the representative and those represented.

On May 12, 1920, Gandhi said: “If I seem to take part in politics, it is only because politics today encircle us like the coils of a snake from which one cannot get out no matter how one tries. I wish to wrestle with the snake...” He did, and created a model of giving people a voice, a non-violent approach that helped not only India but so many other nations to throw away the yoke of imperialism, the caste system and apartheid.

In one word, he made people trust the moral force. On September 7, 1920, it was so articulated by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: “We need all the moral force which Mahatma Gandhi represents, and which he alone in the world can represent.” It was this moral force that every Indian was supposed to comprehend, internalise and put to practice.

Obviously, the representatives of people at every stage were—and are—supposed to be the prime torchbearers of the legacy of

Gandhi. Each one of them needs self-introspection; they must analyse the extent to which their conduct is contributing to the national cause, strengthening democracy, and helping the amelioration of the miseries from the life of the ‘last man in the line’.

The 75+ generation of Indians has seen and observed the decline of moral and humanistic values in the political sphere, and the consequent deterioration of the credibility of leaders, elected representatives, and those in office. It adversely impacts the very vitals of democracy, its institutions and, above all, the people and their concerns.

Ministers are put behind bars, but continue to receive all the perks and privileges of the post and position. It is an unheard-of situation in a democracy. How could India ignore resignations on moral grounds credibility—like those of TT Krishnamachari, KD Malaviya and Lal Bahadur Shastri?

This generation of elderly citizens often recalls Gandhi and his in-depth comprehension of a free person and a free nation. He acknowledged that the superficial study of the British Parliament had made him think that all power percolates to the people from parliaments. It was not so, he himself realised: “The truth is that power resides in the people and it is entrusted for the time being to those whom they may choose as their representatives. Parliaments have no power or even existence independently of the people.”

One earnestly hopes that the elected representatives realise the source of their power—the people—and ensure proper and well-informed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies. Following the moral compass could strengthen their role performance and bestow the satisfaction of serving the needy.

Stress among women is rampant but it can be managed

Women can reduce the risk of burnout in their daily lives by following a few simple changes to their lifestyles

Stress is a common problem that many women experience in their daily lives. Whether it’s due to work, family obligations, or other responsibilities, stress can take a toll on both mental and physical health. According to a Deloitte report in 2022, 56 per cent of Indian women’s stress level is higher than it was a year ago. Globally, 53 per cent of women admitted to feeling more stressed than last year.

Due to a shift in hormonal levels (including sex hormones, like estrogen, which can also impact stress hormones, cortisol, and response), females are at a higher risk of developing mood disorders. Since a woman passes through puberty, menstruation, preg-

nancy, postpartum, and post-menopause, they face a host of different stressors and reactions to stress. However, the good news is that there are many effective ways for women to cut down on stress and improve their overall well-being. In this article, we will explore some of the most effective strategies for reducing stress in a woman’s life.

Exercise regularly

Exercise is one of the most effective ways to reduce stress for women. Physical activity releases endorphins, which are chemicals in the brain that promote feelings of happiness and well-being. Additionally, regular exercise can help women sleep better, improve their mood, and increase their energy levels.



Practice mindfulness meditation

Mindfulness meditation is a technique that involves focusing on the present moment and paying attention to your thoughts and emotions without judgment. It has

been shown to be effective in reducing stress and anxiety in women. By practicing mindfulness meditation regularly, women can learn to manage their emotions and respond to stressful situations in a more positive and productive way.

Get enough sleep

Sleep is essential for overall health and wellbeing, and it’s also crucial for managing stress. When women don’t get enough sleep, they may feel irritable, anxious, and stressed. By making sleep a priority and getting enough rest each night, women can reduce their stress levels and improve their mental and physical health.

Connect with others

Connecting with others is a vital way for women to reduce stress in their lives. Spending time with friends and family members, participating in social activities, and engaging in hobbies and interests can all help women feel more supported and less stressed.

Eat a healthy diet

Eating a healthy diet is essential for overall health and wellbeing, and it can also assist women manage stress. Foods that are high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants can help reduce inflammation and promote feelings of wellbeing. Also, avoiding foods that are high in sugar and caffeine can help prevent spikes in blood sugar and promote better sleep.

Take breaks throughout the day

Taking breaks throughout the day is essential for managing stress. By taking short breaks to stretch, walk, or simply relax, women can give their minds and bodies a chance to recharge and refocus. This can help them feel more productive and less

stressed throughout the day.

Seek professional help

If stress is becoming overwhelming or interfering with daily life, it may be helpful to seek professional help. A mental health professional can help women develop coping strategies and manage stress in a healthy way.

In conclusion, stress is a common problem for many women, but there are many effective strategies for reducing stress and improving overall wellbeing. By exercising regularly, practicing mindfulness meditation, getting enough sleep, connecting with others, eating a healthy diet, taking breaks throughout the day, and seeking professional help when needed, women can successfully manage stress and enjoy a happier, healthier life.

China, Russia to counter US’ Indo-Pacific strategy

PTI ■ BEIJING/MOSCOW

Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded his state visit to Moscow on Wednesday and vowed to build “an equal, open and inclusive security system” with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to counter the Indo-Pacific strategy pursued by the US.

Xi held an intense round of discussions with Putin after which the leaders signed two joint statements to deepen their “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era” and “Pre-2030 Development Plan on Priorities in China-Russia Economic Cooperation”.

Xi embarked upon the 3-day Moscow trip ostensibly to broker a peace deal and end the raging conflict in Ukraine, as he sought to push a peace talks plan that elicited a frigid response from the US, Kyiv’s key ally. The trip, described by Xi as “one of friendship, cooperation and peace,” marked his ninth visit to Russia since he first became the Chinese President in March 2013. The joint statement issued in Chinese and Russian languages said the two sides expressed serious concern over NATO’s continued strengthening of military security ties with the Asia-Pacific countries, which undermined regional peace and stability. It said the two sides



‘Xi sees Russia as counterweight to US influence’

Washington (PTI): In President Vladimir Putin and Russia, Chinese President Xi Jinping sees a “counterweight” to American and NATO influence on the continent and elsewhere around the world, the White House has said. The statement by John Kirby, National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, came as Putin accorded a red carpet welcome to his Chinese counterpart Xi in Moscow and held marathon talks spread over two days on a range of issues, including the raging war in Ukraine.

opposed cobbling together a closed and exclusive bloc structure in the Asia-Pacific region, creating camp confrontation, in an apparent reference to the Quad alliance comprising the US, India, Australia, Japan and AUKUS, consisting of Australia, the UK and the US. Both sides said the US adheres to the Cold War mentality and pursues the Indo-Pacific strategy, which has a negative impact on peace and stability in the region, it said. China and Russia are committed to building an “equal, open and inclusive security system” in the Asia-Pacific region that does not target third countries, in order to maintain regional peace, stability and prosperity, it said. Both countries expressed serious concerns over the consequences and risks of the tri-lateral security partnership — AUKUS and related nuclear-powered submarine cooperation programmes on regional strategic stability, it said.

Civilians killed by Russian missiles, drones

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine’s president posted video on Wednesday showing what he said was a Russian missile slamming into an apartment building in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, killing at least one person, after Moscow’s forces launched exploding drones before dawn that killed another seven at a student dormitory near Kyiv.

The video posted by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Telegram appeared to be from CCTV cameras that captured the moment a missile hit the nine-story residential block by a

busy road. Ukrainian media showed charred apartments on several stories of the affected buildings, with flames billowing from some of them. Two children were among the wounded, said Zaporizhzhia City Council Secretary Anatolii Kurtiev, adding that 25 needed hospital treatment, with three in critical condition.

“Russia is shelling the city with bestial savagery,” Zelenskyy wrote to accompany the video. “Residential areas where ordinary people and children live are being fired at.” He appealed for countries to increase pressure on the Kremlin to give up its invasion of Ukraine. The city is about

100 kilometres (60 miles) from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe’s largest which has previously come under threat during the war.

Russia has denied targeting residential areas even though artillery and rocket strikes hit apartment buildings and civilian infrastructure on a daily basis. Earlier Wednesday, an overnight drone attack partially destroyed a high school and two dormitories in the city of Rzhyshevsk, south of the Ukrainian capital, officials said. It wasn’t clear how many people were in the dormitories at the time. The body of a 40-year-old man was pulled from

the rubble on a dormitory’s fifth floor, according to regional police chief Andrii Nebytov, adding that more than 20 people were hospitalised. Just hours earlier, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida left Kyiv after meeting Zelenskyy in a show of support for Ukraine. Earlier Wednesday, Chinese leader Xi Jinping left Moscow after meeting with President Vladimir Putin and discussing his peace proposal, which has been rejected by the West as a non-starter. The drone barrage and other Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure drew a scathing response from Zelenskyy. “Over 20 Iranian murderous

drones, plus missiles, numerous shelling occasions, and that’s just in one last night of Russian terror,” he wrote in English on Twitter. “Every time someone tries to hear the word ‘peace’ in Moscow, another order is given there for such criminal strikes.”

Zaporizhzhia’s regional administration said two missiles struck the apartment block, saying Russia’s goal is “to scare the civilian population of the city of thousands.”

“It’s hell in Zaporizhzhia,” Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko wrote on Telegram, adding: “There aren’t any military facilities nearby.”

Pak court rejects FIA’s plea to cancel Imran Khan’s bail

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court on Wednesday rejected the country’s top investigating agency’s plea to cancel former prime minister Imran Khan’s bail in the prohibited funding case, a media report said. Khan, the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was granted bail by an Islamabad-based banking court in a prohibited funding case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in October last year filed a case in the banking court against Khan, 70, and other members of his



party for allegedly receiving prohibited funding. The prohibited funding case was filed by PTI’s estranged founding member Akbar S Babar in the Election Commission of Pakistan in 2014. A two-mem-

ber bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri conducted the hearing on the plea in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday, according to the Express Tribune newspaper. The court also rejected the request to cancel the bail of co-accused Tariq Shafi, the report said. The FIA filed an application in the IHC on February 28 against the banking court’s decision to grant bail to the PTI chief and appealed to the court to annul the decision as it was “against the law”.

‘Israel attacked Aleppo airport, no casualties’

Damascus (AP): An Israeli airstrike early on Wednesday targeted the international airport in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, causing material damage and putting it out of service, Syria’s state news agency reported. It was the second attack on the facility this month.


SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying Israeli warplanes fired the missiles toward Aleppo, Syria’s largest city and once commercial centre, while flying over the Mediterranean Sea. It did not mention any casualties. Bassem Mansour, head of Syria’s civil aviation, told the pro-government Sham FM radio station

the strike damaged the airport’s runway and put the facility out of service. Repair work has started, he said, adding that “the airport will resume work within a short period”. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said that in addition the airport, the airstrike also destroyed a nearby arms depot of Iran-backed militia-men.

The airport has been a key channel for the flow of aid into the country after the February 6 earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, killing over 50,000 people, including more than 6,000 in Syria.



NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE



Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1. N.I.T. No.	44A-22-23-W-2 Dated 21.03.2023
1. Name of work with its location	A) Augmentation in capacity of LHS by one time cleaning of 76 nos. LHS under ADEN/SMOL
2. Approx Cost of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
3. Earnest Money NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
4. Completion period of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
5. Cost of tender on cash/bid post NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	30.03.2023 to 14.04.2023 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 14.04.2023 at 15:00 hrs.
7. Similar nature of work NIT-44A-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
8. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be ascertained etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

NIT - 44A-22-23-W-2 Dated : 21.03.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

872/23



NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE



Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1. Name of work with its Location	*Part-A Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV OHE modification work in connection with Provision of Machine siding & over run at Safdarjung station Part-B Provision of 25 KV/230V, 25KVA Auxiliary Transformer in connection with Electronic Interlocking work at DSJ station
2. Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 6600101.05/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 132000.00/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	03.04.2023
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	17.04.2023 (15:00 Hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	deposit work
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 37-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Date : 21.03.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

878/23

HINDUSTAN AUTO FINANCE LIMITED
CIN: L65910DL1980PLC010617
Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Delhi-110092
Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in

NOTICE OF 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING AND INTIMATION OF BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of members of **Hindustan Auto Finance Limited** will be held on Friday, 14th April, 2023 at 02:00 p.m. at the registered office of the Company to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

The Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 including the Notice convening AGM along with Attendance Slip and Proxy Form has been sent to members whose emails are registered with their depository participants as at close of business hours on Friday, March 17, 2023. Physical copy of the Annual Report along with AGM Notice has been sent by permitted mode to members who have not registered their e-mail address. The emailing and dispatch of Annual Report along with Notice of AGM has been completed on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The Annual Report along with the Notice convening the AGM is available on the website of the Company at www.hindaf.in, website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com.

The shareholders whose email IDs are not registered with Company/RTA or with respective DPs may temporarily get their email ID registered with the Company by sending e-mail at hindaf1980@gmail.com and follow the temporary registration process as guided thereafter to receive the Annual Report for FY 2019-20 along with the Notice of AGM which inter-alia contains the instructions for attending the AGM. However, for permanent registration of email ID, members are requested to approach their respective DPs and follow the process advised by DPs.

Pursuant to provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 (“Act”) and the applicable rules framed thereunder and Reg. 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, (“Listing Regulations”), the register of members and share transfer books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, April 08, 2023 and will end on Friday, April 14, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 40th AGM of the Company.

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of Listing Regulations, the Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using electronic voting system from a place other than venue of the AGM (‘remote e-voting’), provided by Central Depository Services India Limited (CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. Friday, April 07, 2023. Any person who is a member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or voting through ballot paper at the AGM.

The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 09:00 a.m. IST and ends on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 05:00 p.m. IST. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter and remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time. Once vote on a resolution is cast by the member, he/she not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast the vote again. The detailed procedure for voting has been mentioned in the AGM Notice. The facility for voting through ballot paper shall also be made available at the AGM and members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM through ballot paper. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM, but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

A person who acquires shares and become a member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of the AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com. However, if he/she is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting, then he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the votes.

The Board of Director has appointed CS Anju Bansal, proprietor of M/s Anju Bansal & Associates, Company Secretary in Practice (COP No. 17594) as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the ‘remote e-voting’ process and voting at the AGM, in a fair and transparent manner. The results of AGM will be announced by the Chairman or any other person authorised by him and will be submitted along with report of scrutinizer within two days from the conclusion of AGM to Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited and also be posted on the Company’s website www.hindaf.in.

In case of any queries or grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) and e-voting manual which is available at www.evotingindia.com under help section. Or contact at 022-23058542/43. In case of grievances relating to e-voting, please contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager at 25th Floor, A Wing, Marathon Futorex, Mafatal Mills Compound, NM Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (E), Mumbai-400013; Email: helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or aforesaid number.

For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited
Sd/-
Rishabh Aggarwal
(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

Place: New Delhi
Date: March 22, 2023

HINDUSTAN AUTO FINANCE LIMITED
CIN: L65910DL1980PLC010617
Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Delhi-110092
Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in

NOTICE OF 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING AND INTIMATION OF BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of members of **Hindustan Auto Finance Limited** will be held on Friday, 14th April, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. IST at the registered office of the Company to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

The Annual Report for the financial year 2018-19 including the Notice convening AGM along with Attendance Slip and Proxy Form has been sent to members whose emails are registered with their depository participants as at close of business hours on Friday, March 17, 2023. Physical copy of the Annual Report along with AGM Notice has been sent by permitted mode to members who have not registered their e-mail address. The emailing and dispatch of Annual Report along with Notice of AGM has been completed on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The Annual Report along with the Notice convening the AGM is available on the website of the Company at www.hindaf.in, website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com.

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Pursuant to provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 (“Act”) and the applicable rules framed thereunder and Reg. 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, (“Listing Regulations”), the register of members and share transfer books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, April 08, 2023 and will end on Friday, April 14, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 39th AGM of the Company.

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of Listing Regulations, the Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using electronic voting system from a place other than venue of the AGM (‘remote e-voting’), provided by Central Depository Services India Limited (CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. Friday, April 07, 2023. Any person who is a member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or voting through ballot paper at the AGM.

The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 09:00 a.m. IST and ends on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 05:00 p.m. IST. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter and remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time. Once vote on a resolution is cast by the member, he/she not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast the vote again. The detailed procedure for voting has been mentioned in the AGM Notice. The facility for voting through ballot paper shall also be made available at the AGM and members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM through ballot paper. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM, but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

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For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited
Sd/-
Rishabh Aggarwal
(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

Place: New Delhi
Date: March 22, 2023

AP ■ NEW YORK

For 40 years, former President Donald Trump has navigated countless legal investigations without ever facing criminal charges. That record may soon come to an end. Trump could be indicted by a Manhattan grand jury as soon as this week, potentially charged with falsifying business records connected to hush money payments during his 2016 campaign to women who accused him of sexual encounters. It’s one of several investigations that have intensified as Trump mounts his third presidential run. He has denied any allegations of wrongdoing and accuses prosecutors of engaging in a politically motivated “witch hunt” to damage his campaign. An indictment in New York would mark an extraordinary turn in American history, making Trump the first former president to face a criminal charge. And it would carry tremendous weight for Trump himself, threatening his long-established ability to avoid consequences despite entanglement in a dizzying number of cases.

Indictment, says biographer Michael D’Antonio, would



Police officers place a barricade in front of Trump Tower, on Tuesday in NY. AP/PTI

be a “shocking event, both because of the fact that a former president is being indicted for the first time, but also because one of the slipperiest people at the highest level of business, whose devotion to abusing the system is so well established, is being caught.” “Throughout his life, he has done things for which he could have been investigated and potentially prosecuted and learned from those experiences that he could act with impunity,” he said.

Trump first faced legal scrutiny in the 1970s when the Department of Justice brought a racial discrimination case against his family’s real estate business. Trump and his father fiercely fought the suit, which accused them of refusing to

rent apartments to Black tenants in predominantly white buildings. Testimony showed that applications filed by prospective Black tenants were marked with a “C” for “coloured”. Trump counter-sued for USD 100 million, accusing the government of defamation.

The case ended with a settlement that opened the way for some Black tenants but did not force the Trumps to explicitly acknowledge they had “failed and neglected” to comply with the Fair Housing Act. Since then, Trump and his businesses have been the subject of thousands of civil lawsuits and numerous investigations. There have been probes into his casino and real estate dealings, allegations of bribery and improv-

er lobbying, fraud allegations against the now-defunct Trump University and charitable Trump Foundation and a probe by the Manhattan district attorney into sales at the Trump SoHo hotel-condominium in Lower Manhattan. Indeed, according to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group abbreviated CREW, as of November 2022, Trump had been accused of committing at least 56 criminal offenses since he launched his campaign in 2015, not including allegations of fraudulent business dealings. But he has never been formally indicted.

Trump is a master of delay tactics, “finding ways to endlessly delay in the hopes that the investigation and litigation will go away. And he’s had remarkable success,” says CREW president Noah Bookbinder, a former federal corruption prosecutor. “It makes accountability absolutely essential because we can’t have people in a functioning democracy operating in positions of power with total impunity where they can commit crimes and never have to face any consequences,” he said.

Indian-American receives National Humanities medal from Joe Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has presented the prestigious 2021 National Humanities Medals to Indian-American actress and producer Mindy Kaling, with several others, in recognition of her giving voice to a new generation of storytellers, at a White House ceremony. The National Medal of Arts is the highest award, given to artists, arts patrons, and groups by the US government. It honours exemplary individuals and organisations that have advanced the arts in America and inspired others through their distinguished achievement, support, or patronage. Presenting the award to the actress on Tuesday, at the ceremony attended by First Lady Dr Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and the Second Gentlemen, Biden said that Kaling is the first woman of colour to create, write, and star in a primetime sitcom. He added that the 43-year-old actress empowers a new generation to tell their stories with irreverence and sincerity. “The daughter of Indian immigrants — we know about that, right? Our Vice President is a daughter of Indian immigrants — a mother who was a great scientist,” the US President said. “Above all, she is hardworking and an adoring mom, just like



her own mom was. And, Mindy, we know your mom is always with you in your spirit. We know that,” Biden added. “Imbued with humour and heart, Mindy Kaling’s work across television, film, and books inspires and delights, capturing and uplifting the experiences of women and girls across our nation,” the citation of Kaling’s award, read by a military aide later, said.

The award honours individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects. The 11 other distinguished medal recipients were Judith Francisco Baca, Fred Eychaner, Jose Feliciano, Gladys Knight, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Antonio Martorell-Cardona, Joan Shigekawa, Bruce Springsteen, Vera Wang, The Billie Holiday Theatre, and the International Association of Blacks in Dance. Richard Blanco, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Walter Isaacson, Earl Lewis, Henrietta Mann, Ann Patchett, Bryan Stevenson, Amy Tan, Tara Westover, Colson Whitehead and Native America Calling were the recipients of the National Humanities Medal.

California faces more flooding after strong storm

Santa Cruz (US): A strong late-season Pacific storm that brought damaging winds and more rain and snow to saturated California was blamed for two deaths and forecasters said additional flooding was possible Wednesday in parts of the state. Tuesday’s storm focused most of its energy on central and southern parts of the state, bringing threats of heavy runoff and mountain snowfall. In the north, intense hail was reported in Sacramento, the state capital.

Locally heavy rain and snowmelt may cause flooding on Wednesday in southern California and central Arizona, the National Weather Service warned. Trees and power lines were reported downed in the San Francisco Bay Area. An Amtrak commuter train carrying 55 passengers struck a downed tree and derailed near the East Bay village of Portola Costa. The train remained upright and nobody was injured, Amtrak and fire officials said. In the Bay Area community of Portola Valley, a man driving a severe truck was killed when a tree fell onto the vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said. And in the community of Rossmore, a driver was injured and a passenger died after a large tree fell onto a car, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District said.

AP ■ LONDON

Protesters take part in a torchlight demonstration against the raising of the retirement age in Nantes on Tuesday. AP

Unions have called for new nationwide protests and

Rescue workers and people gather at a hospital, where earthquake victims are brought, in Saidu Sharif, a town Pakistan's Swat valley on Tuesday. AP/PT

PTI ■ COLOMBO

PTI ■ LONDON

AP ■ LONDON

Date: 20.03.2023
Place: SONEPAT

s/d
AUTHORISED OFFICER
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

DoT seeks ₹33,111 cr for BSNL AGR dues

Expects PSU to become profitable by FY 2027

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom has sought Rs 33,111 crore for payment of adjusted gross revenue dues of state-run BSNL which is likely to be made in the upcoming April-June quarter, according to a Parliamentary panel report.

In a submission to the Standing Committee of Communications and Information Technology, the Department of Telecom shared that against the proposal of Rs 39,725.07 crore for 2023-24, Rs 66,691.82 crore has been allocated to it in the budget.

"The increased amount is towards the payment of AGR Dues to BSNL, which is a part of its revival package. The Department had proposed an amount of Rs 33,111.00 crore for the AGR Dues. The payment



will be made once BSNL claims the amount and is most likely to happen in the first quarter of FY 2023-24," the DoT informed in a written reply to the panel.

The Finance Ministry has allocated a total of Rs 1,08,153.25 crore under Budget Estimates for 2023-24 to the DoT comprising Rs 41,461.43 crore under revenue section and Rs 66,691.82 crore for capital section accounts.

The government had allocated Rs 44,720 crore for capital infusion in the state-run BSNL and MTNL for the current fiscal which was revised to Rs 33,269.01 crore and out of the total allocated fund Rs 23,873.44

crore have been spent till December 2022.

The DoT has informed the panel that the techno-commercial bids of TCS and ITI were opened by BSNL on November 23 and financial bids of January 13 for procurement of 4G equipment and as per the cabinet approval Group of Ministers will approve the process of procurement.

"Due to indigenous development of 4G stack for the first time in the country and issues in supply chain of chipsets, the deployment will gradually start and completion of projects of all 1 lakhs sites is likely to take 2 years," the DoT submitted.

Stocks rise on Wall Street, even the most beaten-down banks

AP ■ NEW YORK

Stocks are rising on a calming Wall Street Tuesday, even the banks most beaten down by the industry's crisis, amid hopes for more help from the U.S. Government.

The S&P 500 was 0.6% higher in midday trading after halving a bigger gain from the morning. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 131 points, or 0.4%, at 32,376, as of noon Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6% higher.

Markets around the world have pinballed sharply this month on worries the banking system may be cracking under the pressure of the fastest set of hikes to interest rates in decades.

If the S&P 500 squeezes out a gain, it would mark its first back-to-back rise in two weeks.

In the U.S., shares of smaller and mid-sized banks rose after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told a bankers' group more government assistance "could be warranted" if risks arise that could bring down the system.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Government said it would make



depositors at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank whole, even those with more than the \$250,000 limit insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

They were the second- and third-largest U.S. Bank failures in history.

They had struggled as depositors rushed to pull their money out en masse.

Such runs can topple a bank, and investors have since been hunting for the next one that could fall. Much focus has been on First Republic Bank, which shares some similar traits with Silicon Valley Bank, and its stock had lost 90% for the month through Monday.

It jumped 39.6% Tuesday. Other smaller and mid-sized banks also rallied, including a 7.2% climb for Comerica and a 7.7% gain for Zions Bancorp.

Hopes for the banking industry began to turn over the weekend after regulators pushed together two huge Swiss banks.

Shares of both banks in that deal rose Tuesday in Switzerland, including a 9.8% jump for acquirer UBS.

Credit Suisse, meanwhile, rose 5.3% after tumbling a day earlier.

Credit Suisse had long-standing problems that were relatively unique, but all banks on

both sides of the Atlantic have the shared challenge of navigating a world with much higher interest rates than a year earlier.

Central banks have jacked up rates at a blistering pace in hopes of getting high inflation under control.

But such moves act like huge hammers with little nuance. They try to bring down inflation by slowing the entire economy.

That raises the risk of a recession later on. Higher rates also hurt prices for stocks and other investments.

That's one of the factors that hurt Silicon Valley Bank, which saw the value of its bond investments drop with the rise in rates.

The Federal Reserve is beginning its latest meeting on interest rates Tuesday, with an announcement slated for Wednesday.

Earlier this month, much of Wall Street was bracing for the Fed to reaccelerate its hikes and raise by 0.50 percentage points. A string of reports on the economy came in hotter than expected, including data on the job market, retail sales and inflation itself.

BRIEF

PFC SIGNS MOU WITH IISC FOR NEW ENERGY RESEARCH BUILDING

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a Maharatna Company and India's leading NBFC in the power sector, has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to support establishing a state-of-the-art building that will house the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER). The state-of-the-art building for ICER will foster cutting-edge fundamental and applied research on various energy-related areas, with special focus on green hydrogen generation.

IIFL AIMS WORLD RECORD WITH IIFL JITO AHIMSA RUN

IIFL Group, which is one of India's largest financial services conglomerates, aims to create Guinness Book of World record with IIFL Jito Ahimsa Run to be held on April 2, 2023 across 23 countries and 65 cities in India. This is the largest such run for the cause of peace and non-violence. The run is being organized by the ladies wing of Jito (Jain International Trade Organization) and IIFL besides Jito volunteers and supporters across the world.

NTPC COMMEMORATES WORLD WATER DAY

NTPC Limited, India's largest power producer, today commemorated World Water Day through a conference on 'Sustainable Supply Chain with Focus on Water Sustainability', along with prominent supply chain partners and vendors to observe World Water Day 2023. Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operations) and officials from multiple organizations participated in the discussions. The event witnessed the release of the NTPC Water Compendum 2023.

PFC INKS PLA FOR JPY 2.65 BN WITH JAPAN BANK

PFC recently signed a Project Loan Agreement (PLA) for JPY 2.65 Billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) at a ceremony held at JBIC headquarters, Tokyo, Japan. This PLA was executed under General Agreement signed between PFC & JBIC for JPY 30 Billion.

Modi launches ITU Area office, innovation Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre here.

Modi also unveiled the Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G R&D Test Bed.

ITU is the United Nations' specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). Headquartered in Geneva, it has a network of field offices, regional offices and area offices.

India signed a Host Country Agreement in March 2022 with ITU for establishment of an area office. The area office in India also envisaged to have an Innovation Centre embedded in

it, making it unique among other area offices of ITU.

The area office, fully funded by India, is located on the second floor of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) building at Mehrauli in New Delhi.

It will serve India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran, enhancing coordination among nations and fostering mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region, a statement said.

Bharat 6G Vision Document is prepared by Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) that was constituted in November 2021 with members from various ministries/departments, research and development institutions, academia, standardization bodies, telecom service providers.

Tomar launches blended learning platform for higher edu in agri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday launched a blended learning platform for higher education in agriculture, developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as part of a World Bank-funded project.

ICAR has developed the blended learning ecosystem as part of the five-year National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) concluding this year. India and the World Bank have contributed USD 82.5 million (about Rs 600 crore) each for this project that aimed at strengthening the national agriculture education system in the country.

"The blended learning is an extension of Krishi Megh. I believe it will strengthen the foundation of Krishi Megh and

will help in meeting the requirement of digital learning," Tomar said at the launch of this platform at the three-day international conference here.

Krishi Megh, which is a data recovery centre of ICAR, enables the farmers, researchers, students and policymakers to be updated with latest information regarding agriculture and research. For India to become a developed nation by 2047, the minister said the blended learning ecosystem will play a key role in this journey.

Blended learning is a combination of offline and online learning in a way that one complements the other.

ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak said, "I believe the World Bank will further promote research and education. ...To address the challenges of climate change and low productiv-



ity, education will play a crucial role. Our young students as well as scientists need to be equipped to combat all problems and experiment to learn new things which can be done through a blended learning ecosystem."

ICAR Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education) R C Agrawal said it has been the ICAR's endeavour to enhance agricultural higher education in alignment with guidance from the National Education Policy 2020 and the UN-SDGs.

Now, all agricultural universities have access to e-learning and e-governance applications. They all have smart classrooms, video conferencing facilities and virtual reality experience labs, he said.

About 86 per cent of agricultural universities have academic management systems; 90 per cent have wi-fi on campus and 92 per cent have high-speed internet connectivity. The e-content, using virtual and augmented reality, is highly immersive. Assessments, including short and long answer type questions

have been digitised, he added.

The NAHEP has achieved "almost all targets" and significantly exceeded more than half of them. "The quality of students coming in is better, in that they have higher cut-off scores, the graduates have higher placement rates and the research is more effective," Bekzod Shamsiev, Senior Agriculture Economist at The World Bank, said.

The next challenge is to transform digital learning into digital agriculture. Agricultural universities have an important role to play in promoting precision farming, environmental monitoring and automation of agricultural processes, he said.

It should lead to better trading systems and market information, efficient supply chain logistics and provide information for better policy making and regulation, Shamsiev added.

Par panel calls for ease of doing business to attract investment in mining sector

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel has suggested that factors like ease of doing business and increase in competitiveness should be looked into in a bid to boost a favourable investment environment for the mining sector.

The committee also acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry of Mines to accommodate the private sector to help the mining sector reach new heights.

"The Committee has been given to understand that the amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 in 2015 and in 2021 has been aimed at increasing the production of minerals and time-bound operationalisation of mines, maintaining continuity in mining operations even after a change of lessee and increasing the pace of exploration and auctioning of mineral resources," the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel said in its latest report. These amendments have resulted in the enhancement of mineral production across the spectrum and will be a major boost to many industries which

are primarily dependent upon key raw materials provided by the mining sector.

The measures are intended to enhance self-reliance in the mineral sector.

It envisages involving the private sector as a co-partner in the country's development and enhancing business opportunities in the economy, it said.

"The Committee has been informed that the scope and potential for the private sector in the mining sector is widely available in the existing legislation. Further, the National Mineral Policy (NMP), 2019 envisages that the private sector would be encouraged to take up exploration activities," it said.

Besides, NMP 2019, the recent reforms undertaken by the government also encourage investment by the private sector in the mineral sector.

The Committee find that the private sector plays a dominant role in mineral production and accounted for about 58.54 per cent or Rs 77,713 crore in the total value production in 2021-22 (Provisional).

As on April 1, 2022, there are 94 mines with CPSUs, 144 mines with state PSU.

20 women-led startups in pipeline to become unicorn, say study

Total valuation of unicorn built by women founders stands at \$30 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 18 per cent of India's unicorn startups are founded or co-founded by women and 20 other firms are in pipeline to become unicorn, a joint study said on Tuesday.

The study conducted by TiE Delhi NCR, research firm Zinnov, Google, NetApp and venture capital firm Indian Angel Network found that despite comparable metrics, success, and high entrepreneurial intent, socio-cultural barriers hinder women founders' growth.

"Approximately 18 per cent of India's total unicorns are founded by women, with 20 Potential Unicorns in the pipeline," the study said.

The startups that are in the pipeline to become unicorns include WinZO, Doubnut, Infinity Learn, Locus, Pratipati, Portea, SirionLabs, etc.

Women founded or co-founded start-ups that have already become unicorns include acko, BYJU's Pristyn Care, MyGlam, MobiKwik, Open etc.

The total valuation of unicorn built by women founders stands at over USD 30 billion and total equity investments raised by them is over USD 12 billion.

The study, however, found a huge gender disparity in the Indian start-up ecosystem.

"Disparity in ticket size caused women founders to face an investment loss of about USD 3.7 billion over the past 3 years," the study said.

According to the study, from an investor's perspective, women founders come across as more cautious compared to their male counterparts, which lowers deal size offers to them.

"Women founders face more scrutiny on their commitment compared to their male counterparts which makes negotiations more challenging from their point of view," the study said.

India may require 31,000 pilots in next 20 years: Boeing

PTI ■ MUMBAI

US aircraft maker Boeing has said India may require 31,000 pilots and some 26,000 mechanics over the next 20 years amid the growing order book of the aircraft original equipment manufacturers.

Speaking on the sidelines of a CII event here, Boeing India President Salil Gupte also said the South Asian region is expected to remain the fastest-growing market globally over the next several years.

Courage of the government to go forward and privatize Air India and Tata Group to take up the airlines will transform the Indian aerospace industry, he said. "India is going to need over 31,000 pilots and 26,000 mechanics over the next 20 years to take care of the aircraft coming in. This is as important a part of the Indian growth story as the aircraft (orders)," Gupte told reporters.



He said considering India's air traffic growth, a lot of focus has to be on making infrastructure robust, both hard infrastructure which includes airports as well as critical infrastructure, which includes pilots, among others. Tata Group-owned Air India last month announced placing orders for a total of 470 planes with both Boeing and European aviation major Airbus.

Air India's mega aircraft deal with Boeing, Gupte said, is a massive deal for

India as a nation, and added that India is getting a representation on the global stage.

Last September, Boeing had projected India's air traffic growth at around 7 per cent through 2040. He also said that after coming out of the pandemic, the recovery in air travel demand has stunned the world and Boeing does not see any impact of the financial crisis on air travel growth.

It is "too early to know what the consequences of the bank situation of the US and Europe and others are going to be. At this stage, we really see no slowdown in the demand for aviation," Gupte added.

There is a huge market for narrow-body aircraft for Boeing in India, he said and added that, "as much as 90 per cent of the market over the next 20 years is going to be a narrow body market and we expect we will be successful in competing for those every single campaign (aircraft order)."

Google suspends Chinese shopping app amid security concerns



AP ■ HONG KONG

Google has suspended the Chinese shopping app Pinduoduo on its app store after malware was discovered in versions of the app from other stores.

Google said in a statement Tuesday that it suspended the Pinduoduo app on the Google Play app store out of "security concerns" and that it was investigating the matter.

The suspension of the Pinduoduo app — mainly used in China — comes amid heightened U.S.-China tensions over Chinese-owned apps such as TikTok, which some U.S. lawmakers say could be a national security threat.

They allege that such apps could be used to spy on American users.

Pinduoduo is a popular e-commerce app in China which often offers discounts if users team up to buy multiples of an item.

Google warned users Tuesday to uninstall any Pinduoduo app not downloaded from its own Play store.

Downloads of Android and even iOS apps can often be found on websites that allow people to download apps without going through official app stores.

"Google Play Protect enforcement has been set to block installation attempts of these identified malicious apps," Google said in its statement.

"Users that have malicious versions of the app downloaded to their devices are warned and prompted to uninstall the app."

It was unclear if there are similar security concerns around the Pinduoduo app for Apple users, and Pinduoduo was still available to download from Apple's iOS store Tuesday.

In a statement, Pinduoduo said that Google had not shared more details with the company beyond informing it that the current version of its app was "not compliant with Google's policy."

India will not slow down: RBI article

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Unlike the global economy which is risk of recession, India would not slow down and maintain the pace of expansion achieved in 2022-23, said the RBI bulletin on Tuesday.

Even as global growth is set to slow down or even enter a recession in 2023 as global financial markets wager, India has emerged from the pandemic years stronger than initially thought, with a steady gathering of momentum since the second quarter of the current financial year, said an article in the March bulletin of the Reserve Bank.

Year-on-year growth rates do not reflect this pick-up of pace because by construction they are saddled with statistical base effects, and instead suggest a sequential slowing down through successive quarters of 2022-23 to an unsuspecting reader, it said.

"...Unlike the global economy, India would not slow down - it would maintain the pace of expansion achieved in 2022-23. We remain optimistic about India, whatever the odds," said the article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

They said the NSO's end-February data release indicates



that the Indian economy is intrinsically better positioned than many parts of the world to head into a challenging year ahead, mainly because of its demonstrated resilience and its reliance on domestic drivers.

Currently available forecasts of India's real GDP growth for 2023-24, including those of the RBI, settle between 6.0 and 6.5 per cent.

The article observes that hawkish minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's (FOMC) meeting, a sharp rise in US treasury yields, and fresh geopolitical risks after Russia suspended its participation from the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) dented positive sentiment in the Indian equity market during the second half of February 2023.

Consequently, the BSE Sensex reversed its earlier gains and registered a cumulative decline of 1 per cent during February 2023.

Hindustan Zinc board approves 4th interim dividend of ₹10,985 cr for FY23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Tuesday said its board has approved a fourth interim dividend of Rs 26 per equity share or 1,300 per cent for FY2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83 crore. This takes the Udaipur-based Hindustan Zinc's total payout to shareholders at a record Rs 32,000 crore this fiscal, making it among the top-dividend payers in the country.

"The board of directors of the company in its meeting held on March 21, 2023 has approved fourth interim dividend of Rs 26 per equity share i.e. 1300 % on face value of Rs

2 per share for the financial Year 2022-23 amounting to Rs 10,985.83 crore," Hindustan Zinc said in a filing to BSE.

The fourth interim dividend will be paid within stipulated timelines as prescribed under law, it said.

Hindustan Zinc (HZL) said that it has declared its ever-high-est dividend of Rs 32,000 crore for FY'23 by announcing the fourth interim dividend.

HZL, in which Vedanta holds a 64.92 per cent stake and has for long been unsuccessful trying to buy back the residual government stake, is the largest and only integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver in the country.

Average salary may rise 10.2% in 2023 led by e-commerce, IT, professional services: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Average salary in India is expected to increase by 10.2 per cent in 2023, mainly driven by e-commerce, professional services and information technology, a report said on Tuesday.

The average salaries in India will increase by 10.2 per cent in 2023, lower in comparison to 10.4 per cent (actuals) in 2022, but still in double digits, according to a 'Future of Pay' 2023 report by professional services organisation EY.

The projected salary increases for 2023 are slightly lower

than the actual increases for 2022 across all job levels, except for blue-collar workers, who are projected to have a slightly larger decrease in compensation in 2023, it stated.

The top three sectors with the biggest projected salary increases are tied to technology, said the report.

E-commerce has the highest projected salary growth at 12.5 per cent, followed by professional services at 11.9 per cent and IT at 10.8 per cent, it added.

The data presented in 'EY Future of Pay' report is based on a survey with over 150 leaders.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

It was three games in a row that the Indian top-order flat-



off 17 balls) started well but played one pull shot too many to be holed out at deep square leg fence while an alert Alex Carey's decision to convince Steve Smith into taking a DRS saw the back of Shubman Gill (37 off 49 balls). Rahul (32 off 50 balls) joined Virat Kohli (54 off 72 balls) and the duo added 69 runs in 15.3 overs but were never able to dominate as such on a track that got slower with passage of time.

Rahul's first boundary came in his 45th ball when he hit Zampa over his head for a four. Next over, Starc fired from wide off crease but the length ball was hit for a straight six. However a ball fired by Zampa into the blockhole was dug-out by Rahul but Abbot timed his jump well

But Pandya, however, maintained a 100-plus strike-rate

David Warner (23 off 31 balls) and Marnus Labuschagne (28 off 45 balls) paid dearly for their indiscreet shot selection off Kuldeep's bowling before Carey (38 off 46 balls) played his first innings of substance on the final day of a long near two-month tour.



"Some players might join their IPL camps directly but they will have an option of taking a three-four day break and relax at home before touching base with their respective IPL teams," a BCCI

Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna are the two players who have already undergone back surgery.

AP ■ MIAMI

porters here, a lot of people supporting me. I remember last year it was unbelievable you know with the crowd. I feel like I am at home, you know," he added.

The top seed will begin his title defence against Argentine Facundo Bagnis or a qualifier and could face two-time Miami champion and former world number one Andy Murray in the third round.

PTI ■ DALLAS

Meanwhile, all six MLC teams completed the domestic player draft at the Space Center in Houston, where they selected nine players each from more than 100 cricketers eligible to represent the "US cricket community".

The remainder of each team's player roster will be filled with top T20 cricketers from across the world.



new player can be introduced during the match from the five designated substitutions had already been announced by the tournament committee.

D-11250/22

NITU, NIKHAT & SAWEETY CONFIRM MEDALS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Riding on impressive performances, star Indian pugilists Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen and Saweety Boora registered thumping victories to confirm at least three medals for India at the Mahindra IBA Women's World Boxing Championships by advancing to the semi-finals at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here on Wednesday.

Squaring off against the two-time Worlds bronze medalist Madoka Wada of Japan, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion Nitu (48kg) secured a scintillating win with the Referee Stops Contest (RSC) verdict in the second round of the bout. With an attacking approach from the word go, the 22 year old hardly had to break a sweat against the veteran Japanese and was in complete control of the bout.

"I have been able to apply 100% apply of my practice in the ring so far and going into the next match I feel good I have won all my three bouts by RSC. She (Madoka) is a southpaw just like me and as this was my first time in the tournament facing a southpaw, I had to pay complete attention and attack. I was on the counter from the first round but I feel like I should have played a bit more attacking and I will try to do that in my next bout. (After the defeat in last edition's quarters) I felt that since is the tournament happening in India this year with the home support constantly backing us, I won't let the medal slip away this time," said Nitu after the bout.

The Indian will now take on the reigning Asian champion and last year's World Championships silver medalist Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan in what will be a rematch of last year's World Championships quarter finals.



Following Nitu's victory, Nikhat (50kg) successfully continued her title defence by recording a hard-fought 5-2 win on points after the bout was reviewed against the two-time World Championships bronze medalist Chuthamat Raksat of Thailand. Both pugilists were at the top of their game and gave it their all to emerge victorious in this bout that went right down the wire. However it was the 26 year old Indian who utilized her superior technical ability to edge out her Thai opponent and come out on top with the win.

"Yes, today's bout was stressful but

I won by a split decision so I am really happy that I secured a medal for my country, and going forward I'll win the gold medal too. My strategy today was to win in the first 2 rounds and then play around in the last. I won the 2 rounds but from 3:2 in each so in the last round, I aimed to play from a long range but there was a lot of clinching so my body got a little tired. All the bouts I have had till now were powerful but for me, it's been a good experience to keep moving forward and defeating them so hopefully I will keep moving forward like this and fight for my country," said Nikhat after the bout.

Nikhat will face Rio Olympics bronze medalist Ingrit Valencia of Colombia in the semi-finals.

Contrary to Nikhat, the three-time Asian medalist Saweety (81kg) recorded a dominating 5-0 win against the 2018 World Championships bronze medalist Viktoriya Kebikava of Belarus.

In what was her first match of the tournament, the experienced pugilist from Haryana was extremely confident throughout the bout and landed strong, accurate punches to seal the win. She will be going up against Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia in her next bout. "The boxer from Belarus (Viktoria)

is a very good fighter with a world medal to her name and with both of our strengths including uppercuts being similar, I knew that I will have to fight till the very end. I was a bit tired towards the last round but I kept going for my coach who was constantly motivating from the ringside and my family in the audience, all of whom had high hopes from me. My next bout will definitely be better than this one as I always get better with the number of matches that I play," commented Saweety after her bout.

Meanwhile, the two-time World Youth champion Sakshi Chaudhary (52kg) and the 2022 World Championships bronze medalist Manisha Moun (57kg) went down fighting in the quarter finals despite their best efforts. While Sakshi lost 0:5 against Wu Lu of China, Manisha lost 1:4 against Amina Zidani of France and bowed out of the competition.

The 2020 Olympics bronze medalist Irma Testa (57kg) of Italy also secured her place in the semi-finals after beating Jucielen Romeu of Brazil with a 5-0 scoreline. The Italian who won silver at last year's World Championships looked determined to better that this time round and proved it with her stellar performance.

Later on Wednesday, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), the 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and Nupur Sheoran (+81kg) will all take to the ring for their respective quarter-finals bouts.

The on-going prestigious event is witnessing the participation of 324 boxers, including several Olympic medalists, from 65 countries fighting for the titles in the 12 weight categories. The tournament has a massive prize pool of INR 20 crore.

Sarabjot clinches men's air pistol gold

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Sarabjot Singh shot down a gold in men's air pistol while Varun Tomar clinched a bronze in the same event as India opened their ISSF Pistol/Rifle World Cup campaign with two medals here on Wednesday.

The Indian women air pistol shooters though couldn't make it to the medal bracket, with Manu Bhaker, Divya Subbaraju and Rhythm Sangwan failing to come good on the inaugural day of competitions here.

Sarabjot, the 2021 junior world champion in the team and mixed team categories, defeated Azerbaijan's Ruslan Lunev 16-0 in the gold-medal match in the first final of the World Cup.

The 21-year-old Sarabjot was in awesome form all through as he emerged leader at the end of the qualification round with 585 points.

Sarabjot was hitting the bulls eye every time he took aim, with his scores of 98, 97, 99, 97, 97, 97 in the six qualification series suggesting he would be hard to beat.

China's Liu Jinyao was a close second at 584.

Six other shooters — Jason Solari (Switzerland, 583 points), Vladimir Svechinko (Uzbekistan, 582), Frederik Larsen (Denmark, 580), Zhang Jie (China, 580), Ruslan Lunev (Azerbaijan, 579) and Varun Tomar (India, 579) — completed the list of eight marksmen who made it to the ranking round.

In the ranking round, Sarabjot continued to excel, while 19-year-old Varun also began superbly after qualifying eighth and last for the ranking round.

At the end of the ranking round, Sarabjot (253.2 points) and Ruslan (251.9) were placed first and second respectively and both of them entered the gold-medal round high on confidence, while Varun, who scored 250.3, settled for bronze.

In the battle for the top podium place, the Azerbaijan shooter was no match for Sarabjot, with the Indian firing single-shot scores of 10.4, 10.4, 10.3, 10.2, 10.2, 10.9 in comparison to Ruslan's 10.1, 10.1, 9.6, 9.5, 8.9 and 10.4.

As per the ISSF's new format, the winner of a single shot in the final gets awarded two points and the first to race to 16 points is the winner of the competition.

With Sarabjot shooting better scores in all six shots, he raced to the title, giving India its first gold medal in the competition.

In the women's air pistol event, 27-year-old Divya Subbaraju did much better than Olympian Manu Bhaker, entering the ranking round after coming third in qualification with a score of 579.

However, the Indian ended up ranked fifth with China's Li Xue winning gold after defeating Germany's Doreen Vennekamp in the title round. Another Chinese shooter, Wei Qian bagged the bronze medal.



Portugal back with Martínez as coach, Ronaldo in squad

AP ■ LISBON

It's a new era for Portugal as it begins European Championship qualifying under a new coach and with Cristiano Ronaldo far away from football's biggest stadiums.

Portugal starts its Euro 2024 qualifying campaign at home against Liechtenstein in Group J on Thursday, with Roberto Martínez debuting as coach and Ronaldo still in the squad.

It will be Ronaldo's first appearance with Portugal since leaving Europe for Saudi club Al Nassr after a mostly disappointing stint with Manchester United. He is set to break the all-time record of appearances with a national team after tying Bader Al-Mutawa's mark of 196 outings for Kuwait during last year's World Cup.

Martínez is taking over Fernando Santos, who quit in December after Portugal's elimination by Morocco in the quarter-finals of the World Cup. Santos left amid the controversy of benching Ronaldo in the knockout stage of the tournament in Qatar.

ment in Qatar.

Santos was in charge of Portugal for eight years, leading the national team to the Euro 2016 title — the country's first major trophy — and the 2019 Nations League title. He reached an agreement with the federation to leave two years before his contract was to end.

Martínez ended his six-year stint with Belgium after the team's disappointing group-stage elimination at the World Cup. He arrived pledging to respect Ronaldo's history with the national team.

In addition to Ronaldo, Martínez will inherit a squad filled with talented players such as Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes, Diogo Jota, Gonçalo Ramos and João Félix. The coach made few changes to the squad, with 40-year-old defender Pepe also returning to play alongside the 38-year-old Ronaldo.

"We were briefly introduced to him on the training field," Félix said about Martínez.

"He explained to us some of his ideas, mainly for these two

games, which are going to be very similar. He talked about the attacking dynamic, the connections between wingers and strikers."

Félix downplayed Portugal's chances in the matches against Liechtenstein and at Luxembourg on Sunday.

"We always have to be prepared and not take any game lightly," he said.

"We have the recent example of the World Cup, when everyone thought we were going to get past Morocco and we didn't. It's always complicated, it's always the best from each country, and everyone plays each game like it is a final. All games will be difficult, both at home and away. We have to be cautious."

Portugal is unbeaten against Liechtenstein, with six wins and a draw in seven matches.

Portugal's Euro 2024 qualifying group also includes Iceland, Slovakia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The top two nations from each of the 10 groups qualify for the final tournament in Germany.

Treesa and Gayatri exit from Swiss Open in 1st round

PTI ■ BASEL

All England Championships As semifinalists, Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made an early exit from the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here as they lost their first-round match.

The Treesa-Gayatri duo lost to second-seeded Indonesian pair of Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva 14-21, 14-21 in 41 minutes in the opening round on Tuesday night.

Treesa and Gayatri had made a sensational run in the All



England Championships women's doubles last week before losing in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Malvika Bansod qualified for the main draw of the women's singles after beating USA's Lauren Lam 21-17, 21-7 in the qualifying round.

The women's doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil also made it to the main draw after beating Paula Lynn Cao Hok and Lauren Lam 21-15, 15-21, 21-18.

The mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy notched up a 21-17, 15-21, 21-18 win over Germany's Patrick

Scheiel and Franziska Volkman to book a berth in main draw.

However, Meiraba Luwang Maisnam and Priyanshu Rajawat couldn't qualify for the main draw. Rohan Kapoor and B Sumeeth Reddy also lost in the first round of men's doubles qualification. On Wednesday, PV Sindhu, seeded fourth in the tournament, will look to snap her three first-round exits on the trot this season when she faces local player Jenjira Stadelmann in women's singles. Kidambi Srikanth, H S Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will also begin their campaign in men's singles.

De Bruyne 'honoured' to be named Belgium skipper

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne said on Tuesday he was "honoured" to be named Belgium captain following Eden Hazard's retirement from international football.

The Red Devils coach Domenico Tedesco chose playmaker De Bruyne for the position after Real Madrid's Hazard, who turned 32 in January, ended his Belgium career following last year's World Cup. Tedesco, who took over from Roberto Martínez after the tournament, has called up 19-year-olds Zeno Debast and Romeo Lavia to what was an ageing squad.

"It's an honour for me to be named and represent the country in this way," De Bruyne told RTL-TV television.

"I'm almost 32. I've never considered international retirement. I think I can still bring something to the table and help the youngsters," he added. Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and Chelsea attacker Romelu Lukaku will be De Bruyne's vice-captains. De Bruyne was one of the players criticised after The Red Devils were knocked out in the group stage in Qatar.

De Bruyne has played 97 games for Belgium scoring 25 goals and will make his debut as skipper in Sweden on Friday in a Euro 2024 qualifier. They will also face Austria, Azerbaijan and Estonia in the campaign for the tournament held in Germany next summer.



European Challenge Tour returns to India after 10 years

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian golfers will have a two-week bonanza as they get to play back-to-back European Challenge Tour events at the KGA Golf course here.

The first of the two \$300,000 events, the Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge, gets underway on Thursday at the KGA with a majority of the Indian stars in action.

The European Challenge Tour returns to India after a 10-year absence.

The leading Indian players in the field include former PGTI Order of Merit champions Udayan Mane, also an Olympian, Khalin Joshi, current PGTI Order of Merit leader Sachin Baisoya, Yuvraj Singh Sandhu and Aman Raj, and the talented rookie Aryan Roopa Anand, who is playing in his hometown.

With the DP World Tour and TATA Steel Professional Golf Tour of India announcing a new partnership, this week's co-sanctioned event between the Challenge Tour and the PGTI is aimed at creating a pathway for the top players of the country



to reach the highest levels of the men's professional game.

Earlier this year, Manu Gandas earned his card into the DP World Tour by topping the PGTI Order of Merit.

In addition, the next three players will get a chance to make it to the DP World Tour via the final stage of the Qualifying School.

With 20 top players from the Challenge also getting into the DP World Tour, the two Challenge Tour events assume a lot of

importance for Indian golf.

The Challenge Tour is where the next generation of golfing stars find their feet and players including Irishman John Murphy, Frenchman Ugo Coussaud and Italian Matteo Manassero, the youngest winner in DP World Tour history, will tee it up in India this week.

Aryan is looking to thrive on local support in this week's Duncan Taylor Black Bull Challenge. The 21-year-old, who was crowned India's number one amateur in 2022, leads a strong home contingent.

"My expectations are high coming into the week but I am just going to focus on the little things and prepare the best I can," he said.

"Golf in India is growing in popularity in recent years and Karnataka Golf Association is such a busy golf course throughout the year," he said.

The Indian joins a star-studded field in Bangalore this week, including seven-time DP World Tour winner Alvaro Quirós and Matteo Manassero, the youngest winner in DP World Tour history.

Tvesa fires 68 to rise to top of leaderboard in 7th Leg of Hero WPGT

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

Tvesa Malik, playing on her home course at the DLF Golf and Country Club, climbed to the top of the leaderboard for the first time this season in the seventh leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.

Tvesa, who had a none-too-happy season on the Ladies European Tour in 2022, looked determined as she has been shaking off the rust over the last two weeks.

A week after losing in a play-off to Gaurika Bishnoi in the sixth leg of the Tour, Tvesa carded four-under 68, her best

round of the year, to take a one-shot lead into the final round.

Following up on her modest 74 on the first day, Tvesa, with 68, moved to two-under 142 and was one shot ahead of last week's winner, Gaurika (71-72).

Amateur Vidhatri Urs, fresh from her experience at the Queen Sirikit Cup where India finished second in the Philippines and then playing at the Women's Amateur Asia Pacific in Singapore, showed good form with one-under 71 and was lying sole third at even par 144. Vani Kapoor (72-73) suffered three bogeys in the last five holes and was fourth.



Former World Cup winner Mesut Ozil retires

AP ■ BERLIN

World Cup winner Mesut Ozil announced his retirement from football on Wednesday after an illustrious international career with Germany and club spells with Real Madrid and Arsenal.

The 34-year-old helped Germany to glory in Brazil in 2014 but bitterly quit the international scene after the Germans crashed out of the 2018 tournament in Russia.

"After thoughtful consideration, I'm announcing my immediate retirement from professional football," the attacking midfielder said.

"I've had the privilege to be an international footballer for almost 17 years now and I feel incredibly thankful for the opportunity."

"But in recent weeks and months, having also suffered some injuries, it's become more and more clear that it's time to leave the big stage of football."

Ozil, born in the German city of Gelsenkirchen but of Turkish descent, played on some of football's biggest stages but also became embroiled in international politics and accusations of racism.

When Germany were knocked out of the 2018 World Cup at the group stage, a wounded Ozil accused the German public of "racist

attacks.

His club career blossomed when his deft passing and vision helped secure his move from the Bundesliga to Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid side in 2010. He soon led La Liga in assists while helping the Spanish club to their 32nd league title in 2012.

His big-money move to Arsenal in 2013 helped the London club end their FA Cup drought the following year.

In 2014, Ozil started the final as Germany beat Lionel Messi's Argentina 1-0 in the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro thanks to Mario Goetze's extra-time goal.

Ozil was repeatedly short-listed for the Ballon d'Or but the later stages of his career were troubled by disputes over playing time and his close personal friendship with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan was the best man at Ozil's Istanbul wedding to former Miss Turkey and actress Amine in 2019.

But it was Ozil's decision to be pictured with Erdogan on the eve of Turkey's 2018 presidential election that caused particular controversy during that summer's World Cup.

He ended his international career before moving to Fenerbahce and most recently Istanbul Basaksehir.