

OPINION 6
MYANMAR NIGHTMARE
CONTINUES UNABATED**WORLD 9**
US CARRIES OUT AIRSTRIKES
IN SYRIA**MONEY 10**
INDIA'S FOREX KITTY JUMPS BY
USD 12.8 BN TO USD 572.8 BN

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Rahul disqualified from LS

**Cong to launch nationwide strike,
Opp rallies around Rahul, accuses
BJP of doing 'vindictive politics'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was on Friday disqualified from the Lok Sabha, nearly 24 hours after a Surat court convicted him in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "all thieves have Modi as the common surname" remark.

The disqualification will bar the 52-year-old former Congress president, a four-time MP, from contesting elections for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction or lowers the sentence to below two years.

Soon after Rahul's disqualification, the Congress leadership got into a huddle at the party headquarters and deliberated on the way forward.

Late on Friday evening, the Congress announced a nationwide agitation against Rahul's disqualification, alleging that the Government has acted at lightning speed to "gag" him, and called for taking forward the efforts for the Opposition unity in a systematic manner.

Announcing Rahul's disqualification, the Lok Sabha

Secretariat in a notification said following his conviction by the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Surat, Rahul, Member of the Lok Sabha representing the Wayanad constituency of Kerala stands disqualified from the membership of the House from the date of his conviction i.e. March 23, 2023.

The Congress said it will fight the matter politically and legally. Hitting out at the Government, the Congress said it is "a black day for Indian democracy" and alleged that the action was driven by "political vendetta".

Hours before the notification was issued, Rahul attended the Lok Sabha proceedings in the morning session.

Before the proceedings commenced, he also participated in a meeting of party MPs in Parliament complex. Rahul said he is fighting for the voice of India and is ready to pay any price, hours after he was disqualified from the Lok Sabha.

Later, Rahul tweeted, "I am fighting for the voice of



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves Parliament House complex in New Delhi on Friday

India. I am ready to pay every price."

However, the disqualification ostensibly has come as a blessing in disguise for the ragtag unity in Opposition, including TMC, AAP, SP, BRS which have been toeing a different line. On Friday, they echoed concern over the vindictive kind of politics and alleged that the Rahul was not given 30 days appeal space.

Some of them who had quit the Congress and are now part of other outfits too expressed their solidarity with Rahul.

Rahul is the second member of the Lok Sabha, after Lakshadweep MP PP Mohammed Faizal of the NCP, to have been disqualified in the recent past following conviction.

The Kavaratti sessions court in Lakshadweep had sentenced four persons, including Mohammed Faizal, to 10 years in jail after they were found guilty in an attempt-to-murder case. Following the conviction, Faizal was disqualified.

However, the Kerala High Court later suspended his conviction and sentence. According to the MP, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is yet to issue a notification revoking his disqualification.

Lies, slander part of Rahul's politics: Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda on Friday claimed Rahul Gandhi has a habit of levelling fabricated allegations having no connection with facts while alleging the Congress leader has a "huge arrogance but little understanding".

In a series of tweets amid a political fight between the BJP and the Congress following Rahul's conviction in a defamation case, Nadda alleged that "lies, personal slander and negative politics is integral" to his politics.

People's "punishment" to him will be more severe in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls than in 2019 when he lost in Amethi and the Congress was routed nationally, the BJP leader said.

He said, "By comparing OBC communities to thieves, Rahul has shown a pathetic and casteist mindset. However, his latest tirade is not surprising. For the last many years, he has always reduced levels of political discourse."

UK's security obligations not met: Jaishankar

We want action, not assurance: EAM; UK MPs slam Khalistanis for vandalism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/LONDON

In the first high-level strong reaction by India to the attack on its High Commission in London by alleged Khalistan supporters, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said it is the responsibility of that country to provide security and "these obligations were not met".

A day after UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly condemned vandalism AT the Indian High Commission in London, the issue was raised in UK Parliament with MPs demanding action against "Khalistani hooligans". They also called for safety of India's diplomatic staff.

Taking exception to the attack on the Indian High Commission, Jaishankar when asked about the security of Indian Missions following vandalism in the UK said, "It is the obligation of the receiving country to provide security for a diplomat to do their work, to ensure embassy or High Commission's premises are respected. These obligations

were not met. We have had conversations with the British Government on this."

Jaishankar also said, "Many countries have a different view of their own security and a different view of other people's security. We will not accept this differential status." He made these observations at an event in Bengaluru.

Echoing similar views, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here on Friday, "We hope host Governments provide full and adequate protection to our Missions and to the personnel working there...We are not interested in just assurances, I think we would like to see action."

He also said "at least in London and San Francisco, we have strongly taken up the matter of vandalism. You would have also seen the statements that we have put out in this regard. We expect that host Governments will take action to identify and prosecute all those involved and also take necessary actions to prevent the recurrence of such incidents."



CAPSULE

K'TAKA ABOLISHES 4% QUOTA FOR MINORITIES

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Government on Friday announced its decision to scrap the four per cent quota for minorities and added it to the existing quota of two dominant communities of the poll-bound State.

HC SETS ASIDE DELHI BJP MLA'S HOUSE BAN

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday set aside the one-year suspension of BJP MLA Vijender Gupta from the Delhi Legislative Assembly and permitted him to attend the remaining Budget Session of the Assembly while directing him to maintain the dignity of the House.

COVID RELIEF OVER, NOW SURRENDER, ORDERS SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed that all convicts and undertrial prisoners, who were released during the Covid-19 pandemic in a move to decongest jails, to surrender within 15 days.

TAXPAYERS WITH INCOME OVER ₹7L TO GET RELIEF

New Delhi: In a relief to taxpayers opting for new tax regime, individuals earning marginally higher income than no-tax ceiling of ₹7 lakh will pay tax only on the differential income after the Government amended the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill 2023, passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday, has proposed a marginal relief to taxpayers under new tax regime.

Mere membership of banned outfit makes persons criminal: SC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict having wider ramifications, the Supreme Court on Friday reversed its 12-year-old verdict of two-judge bench and said that mere membership of a banned organisation will make a person criminal and liable to be prosecuted under provisions of UAPA.

The top court said its three verdicts of 2011 pronounced by two-judge benches, which held that mere membership of a banned organisation will not incriminate a person unless he resorts to violence or incites people to violence and does an act intended to create disorder or disturbance of public peace by resorting to violence, "is not a good law".

It restored Section 3(5) of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act,

1987 and Section 10(a)(i) of the UAPA, 1967, which made the membership of a banned outfit an offence, liable to be punished with two years imprisonment along with fine.

A bench of Justice MR Shah, Justice CT Ravikumar and Justice Sanjay Karol allowed the petitions filed by the Centre and the Assam Government seeking a review of the three 2011 verdicts of the apex court on the ground that it will impact the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

"We hold that the view taken by this court in the cases of State of Kerala versus Raneef, Arup Bhuyan versus Union of India and Indra Das versus State of Assam (all 2011 verdicts) taking the view that under Section 3(5) of Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 and Section 10(a)(i) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967... and reading down the said provisions to mean that over and above the membership of a banned organisation there must be an overt act and/or further criminal activities and adding the element of mens rea are held to be not a good law", it said.

Pak hecklers shown door at Kashmir event in US



PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON

Scores of Pakistanis tried to disrupt a discussion on Kashmir in prestigious Washington DC National Press Club and some of them were later forcibly removed from the venue. The incident took place late on Thursday. The same day India slammed Pakistan for raising the issue of Kashmir in the United Human Rights Council (UNHCR).

Six separatist loyalists were forcibly removed from the National Press Club in Washington as Pakistanis tried to heckle and repeatedly interrupt the discussion in the Press club.

The panel discussion titled "Kashmir: From Turmoil to Transformation" was held on Thursday. It was moderated by columnist Se Hoon Kim and addressed by president of the

Jammu & Kashmir Workers Party Mir Junaid, and Touseef Raina, president of the Municipal Council of Baramulla.

"The whole audience has seen your real face today. What we have seen in Kashmir, we saw in Washington today, and thank you for showing the world how cruel, and indecent these people are. You have seen it all," Junaid said as the separatist sympathisers were taken out of the room.

They tried to disrupt the discussion while Junaid was responding to a question on the reasons why the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders were in jail.

"They (Hurriyat leaders) are in jail because of their mistakes. They misled the people of Jammu & Kashmir for their vested interests and gains. They spoiled our ecosystem of education. They were the spoilers of our economy. They were

glorifying terrorism. They are in jail for their hate speech. They are in jail for their war crimes," Junaid said.

Referring to the disruption caused by the protesters, Raina said all these years this is what the separatists sponsored by Pakistan have been doing in Jammu & Kashmir.

"What these gentlemen did, the same thing they did in Kashmir. Whosoever was speaking, right, or for the people, was silenced by the gun," he said. "I wish I get a chance to visit Pakistan. I want to meet the policymakers to stop funding terrorism," said the Baramulla Municipal Council president.

45 Defence JVs with foreign firms OK'd for faster weapons production

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of faster development and production of weapons to maintain operational readiness of the armed forces, the Government has given approval to "45 companies/joint ventures" operating in the defence sector with foreign OEMs (original equipment manufacturers).

Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed this to the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The Centre has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought reforms to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country, thereby reducing dependency on imports in coming years, he said.

"These initiatives, inter

alia, include according priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)-2020; notification of three Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs) by the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence, with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry," the Minister said.

India's first ropeway transport in Varanasi: Modi sets project in motion

'UP rising from hopelessness and moving towards hope, aspirations'

PNS ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gifted his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, 28 projects — including the first of its kind 3.75-kilometre ropeway transport that will ease traffic congestion in the city.

He laid the foundation of Rs 645-crore ropeway project adding a new chapter in the history of public transport in India.

"The ropeway project will take the city's internal connectivity to a new level. It will further increase the economic opportunities as well as the stay of visitors and their spending here," Modi said while address-

ing a public meeting after laying the foundation stone of nine projects and inaugurating 19 development projects.

The ropeway will cover the distance between Varanasi Cantt Railway station and Kashi Vishwanath Dham in a few minutes. The ropeway system will have five stations and facilitate the ease of movement for tourists, pilgrims and residents.

The Prime Minister praised the the Yogi Adityanath Government for turning Uttar Pradesh from hopelessness towards a state of hope and aspiration "Uttar Pradesh is rising from hopelessness and moving towards hope and aspirations. Where security and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 'One World TB Summit' at Rudrakash Convention Centre, in Varanasi, on Friday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is also seen

facilities are made available, prosperity is certain," Modi said, appreciating the efforts of Yogi who completes the first year in office in his second term on Saturday.

During a programme at the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University ground here, Modi termed himself a "sewak (servant)" and said, "The development of Kashi is being discussed all over the country and the world."

"Whoever is coming to Kashi is taking new energy from here. Nine years ago, people had apprehensions that there would be no change in Banaras, nothing would happen in Kashi. But the people of Kashi proved every apprehension wrong with their hard work," he said.

"Today, in Kashi, both the old and the new forms are

simultaneously seen," he said. Modi added that people in India and abroad appreciated the development of the Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor and the Ganga ghat.

In the past one year, over seven crore tourists visited Varanasi and brought employment opportunities for the local residents, Modi said.

He also announced that a big campaign to promote natural farming would start on both sides of the Ganga. "A big campaign is going to start on both sides of the Ganga river. Natural farming will be encouraged on 5km on both sides. Arrangements have been made in the Budget for this," he said.

Modi also laid the foundation stone of a 55 MLD (million litres per day) sewage treatment plant at Bhagwanpur under the Namami Gange

scheme. The project will be built at an estimated cost of ₹300 crore.

Under the Khelo India scheme, Modi laid the foundation stone of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 redevelopment work of Sriga Stadium.

He also dedicated 19 drinking water schemes that will benefit over three lakh people in 63 panchayats under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Earlier, while addressing the "One World TB Summit" on World TB Day, Modi said India's ideology of "Vasudev Kutumbakam" is giving the modern world an integrated vision and solutions.

Launching a series of initiatives to eliminate tuberculosis in India, Modi said the country is working to eliminate the disease by 2025 against the global target of 2030.

J&K lithium to make India top in EV making, says Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said that if India can use recently discovered reserve of lithium in Jammu & Kashmir, it can become world's number one automobile manufacturer in electric vehicle segment.

The road, transport and highway minister said there is a need to encourage public transport, and electric buses are the future. "Every year, we import 1,200 tonnes of lithium. Now, in J&K, we got lithium. (If) we can use this lithium ion, we will be the number one automobile manufacturing country in the world," he said.

‘Ladli Bahna Yojana’ will change the lives of women: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Mahayagya for the service of Matri Shakti (mother power) is starting from March 25 in the state. Receiving of applications will begin from March 25 under the Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana implemented for women empowerment.

This is not a simple work but a mission to change the lives of women. All the people's representatives and officers-employees should join wholeheartedly in mission mode in the implementation of the scheme. The success of implementing the scheme lies in the fact that we receive applications from women without any hassle and difficulty. For this, arrangements should be made to

receive applications with sensitivity in every village and ward. Activities should be carried out with detailed and micro planning in advance at the district level. Wide publicity should be given about the camps to be organised in the villages and the wards.

Chief Minister Chouhan was having a virtual dialogue with all ministers, MPs, MLAs and commissioner-collectors regarding the implementation of the Ladli Bahna Yojana. Finance Minister Jagdish Deora, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Principal Secretary Women and Child Development Deepali Rastogi and other officers were present in the meeting held at Samatva Bhawan at Chief Minister's residence.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that funds are being made available by the state govern-



ment for doing e-KYC. If any person asks money for doing e-KYC, strict action should be taken against him by filing FIR immediately.

It should be clearly written on the centres set up for e-KYC that e-KYC will be free of cost. There is no need to pay any money to anyone for this, the money for doing e-KYC is being given by the state government.

The Chief Minister said that in villages or wards where there is difficulty in doing e-

KYC due to network problems, district administration should arrange vehicles and take them to other centres for e-KYC. publicise it through pamphlets, folk songs and public announcements, to ensure cent percent application in the scheme. The provisional list will be pasted at public places in the villages and wards.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that there should not be any problem in the implementation of Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana, for this the responsibility is being entrusted to the officers of the CM's Office for necessary coordination along with continuous monitoring. A phone number will be issued by the Women and Child Development Department, which can be contacted for resolving the problem.

In the presentation given on the scheme, information related to necessary documents for the application, e-KYC, Aadhaar link and Samagra ID were given. While obtaining information about the ongoing preparations in the districts for the implementation of the scheme, it was informed that the applications will be received from March 25.

The last date for receipt of applications will be April 30. The provisional list will be released on May 1, on which objections will be received by May 15 and will be resolved by May 30. The final list will be released on May 31. The amount will be transferred to the accounts of the beneficiaries under the scheme on June 10. In forthcoming months also, 10th of every month will be fixed for payment.



National Student Union of India (NSUI) activists stage a protest against Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar and Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang over the issue of MP Board exam paper leak, in Bhopal on Friday.

31-year-old CEO of LED bulb company ends life

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

CEO of Samarth Industries, which manufactures LED products. She was alone in the house at around 4.30 pm on Thursday

My company is in debt. There is no point in living my life anymore. Because of me my family is not able to survive. I don't want to see my family upset. Can't give any answer. My business was not successful. My God! Take care of my family Please forgive me if I have made any mistake" was written in suicide note of woman CEO of a company manufacturing LED products who committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Piplani area on Friday.

Swati Dangi (31), a resident of Balaji Nagar, Ayodhya Bypass, was the CEO of Samarth Industries, which manufactures LED products. She was alone in the house at around 4.30 pm on Thursday. His brother Dhanveer was in the office.

Meanwhile, Dhanveer's

wife calls him to inform that Swati has committed suicide. Dhanveer immediately reached home and took her to hospital in an unconscious condition where the doctor declared dead. Swati Dangi was the CEO of LED product maker Samarth Industries.

Dhanveer said that many loans were taken in the name of Swati. Often bank people would call. All the money that was generated in the business would go towards the bank loan. Due to this the business also started going into loss. Due to these reasons

she started getting worried. Company manufactures many electrical products.

Meanwhile, a class 9 girl student jumped from the 7th floor at Regal Paradise Campus in Awadhpuri area of Bhopal.

No suicide note was found at the spot, the reason for the suicide was not revealed. However, the police said that the student had left home for coaching on Thursday. When she did not reach home till late, the family members went to the coaching center to find out and found that she had not turned up today.

Later she reached home at around 8.15 pm. The family questioned her which angered her and she jumped from the seventh floor. She fell into the water tank from a height of about 90 feet. The relatives took him to the hospital. The girl died during treatment on Friday morning.

CM to assist 1500 new MSMEs

Bhopal: On March 27, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will transfer Rs 400 crore as grant amount into the accounts of entrepreneurs in 2000 cases of 1500 micro, small and medium enterprises of the state with a single click.

The programme will be held at the Samatva Auditorium of the Chief Minister's residence office from 11:30 am. MSME Minister Omprakash Sakhelecha will also attend. Representatives of industrial organisations of the state and beneficiary entrepreneurs will also participate through video conferencing.

Secretary MSME P Narhari informed that the programme will also be telecast live on Doordarshan, regional news channels and various social media platforms. He said that in the MSME policy implemented in the year 2021 for the development of micro, small and medium enterprises, there is a provision to give various types of grants.

SISTec-R begins its annual signature event

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sagar Institute of Science and Technology, Ratibad (SISTec-R) began its annual signature event Sagar Euphoria with great fervor at its campus. Inspired by the national pride, the students have organized this Euphoria on the theme "G-20" Presidency to India.

In the context of "W-20", SISTec presented Tejoday Awards 2023 to 20 Eminent Women of Bhopal who outshined in their respective fields at National/ International Level with a command to lead.

Sagar Euphoria was inaugurated by Sudhir Kumar Agrawal Founder & Chairman Sagar Group in presence of SISTec Tejoday Awardees, Jyoti Deshmukh Group Director SISTec and Principal Manish Billore. SISTec Tejoday Awards were conferred to Anu Sapan (Poetry), Archana Singh

(Science & Technology), Chitra Singh (Literature), Dristhi Gupta (Badminton), Padmashree Durgabai Vyam (Tribal art), Jyoti Ratre (Mountaineering), Kalpana Shrivastava, IAS (Public Administration), Ms. Muskan Raghuvanshi (Cycling), Preeti Mishra (Higher Education), Priya Chittawar (Health Services), Priyanka Paliwal (Technical Education), Priya Singh (Entrepreneurship), Ms. Anadi Tiwari (FM Radio Broadcasting), Ravisha Merchant (Architecture), Reenu Yadav (Fashion), Richa Jain (Police), Shibani Ghosh (Social Work), Smita Nagdev (Sitar), Soumya Tiwari (Cricket), Umang Shridhar (Entrepreneurship), Vijaya Sharma (Kathak) for their owing contribution in their respective fields rising from a phoenix to outshine with their hard work, commitment and

dedication.

The other attraction of Sagar Euphoria was a series of competitions, Tech Expo and SISTec Fete which engrossed students.

Tech Expo's main attraction was a showcase of real-life models of - Electric Tillage Machine, e-rickshaw, e-bicycle, Highway Designs, smart transportation, earthquake resistant design, IOT Based Smart Battery Charging Station, Fire Fighting Robot, Automatic Drone Delivery, Solar Power Vaccine Refrigerator, Solar operated Pesticide sprayer, AI & IoT based smart agriculture drone, AI-based city surveillance automatic unwanted activity detection etc. The Tech competitions Summer of code on coding, Junk-yard making best from waste, online gaming, problem-solving model creations, attracted students to showcase their talent in their respective branches.

Winners of the sports events felicitated

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A IIMS Bhopal organized a felicitation ceremony today at LT-4, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Medical College Building to honor the winners of the sports events conducted by the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA). The program commenced with Saraswati Vandana by Dr. Dipra and was anchored by Dr. Snehashish.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Executive Director Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh and DDA Col. Dr. Ajit Kumar, who felicitated the winners of the various sports events. In the three-day-long box cricket tournament, Surgical Strikers emerged as the winners, and Pulmo Crusaders were the runners-up. Dr. Moorat received the award for the best batsman and faculty, while Dr. Siddharth was awarded the best bowler. Dr. Aman was honored as the best female player.

In the Late Chinmaya R Kamat Memorial Table Tennis Tournament, Dr. Aniket, Dr. Bhavya, Dr. Shekhar, Dr. Sumit, and Dr. Kenam emerged as the winners. In the Late Anchal Tripathi Badminton Tournament, Dr. Gunjan Chouksey, Dr. Jayanthi Yadav, Dr. Moli Kiran, Dr. Smriti, Dr. Pushpendra, Dr. Brijesh, Dr. Harshita, Dr. Pooja, and Dr. Pranita emerged as the winners.

The sports events were organized by Dr. Manish Gupta, Dr. Raghvendra, Dr. Swastik, Dr. Divyabhushan, Dr. Devesh, Dr. Rishiraj, Dr. Prince and Dr. Sibi Vijayakumar, Dr. Rishabh.

The Executive Director emphasized the importance of sports and encouraged all the resident doctors and faculties to take an active interest in sports and physical fitness. He stated that participating in sports can not only help maintain a healthy lifestyle but also promote teamwork, discipline, and mental well-being.



Muslim devotees offer prayers on the first Friday at the beginning of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at Moti Masjid in Bhopal on Friday.

Pioneer photo

Yoga & wellness camp organized at IIFM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal inaugurated a three-day yoga workshop, led by Ms. Niharika, a renowned yoga trainer from Rishikesh Yoga Nirvana. The workshop was attended by Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director, IIFM along with 30 participants, including faculties, officers, and staff members of the institute.

On the first day, the session started bright and early at six-thirty in the morning and featured traditional Ashtanga Yoga practices from Mysore, conducted by Ms. Niharika. She also led a discussion on the benefits of yoga, emphasizing its ability to connect the soul with the divine and highlighting the importance of pure air and food. She recommended a Satvik diet, including seasonal cereals and fruits, and suggested that yoga could be a solution to many health problems, including "sinus," which can be eradicated by "Jal-neti kriya" of yoga.

The workshop was also attended by students of the institute, who received training of Surya Namaskar. Throughout the three-day session, Ms. Niharika will provide training in various activities of Ashtanga Yoga every day.



Ashtanga Yoga is considered essential for preventing physical problems, as it activates the body's main eight organs.

In conclusion, the Indian Institute of Forest Management's three-day yoga workshop, led by Niharika, was a great success, with participants gaining valuable knowledge and training in the ancient practice of Ashtanga Yoga.

Social activists perform a street play to bring attention to the effects of climate change and switch off lights at working places and homes to save power, on the eve of environmental campaign World Earth Hour Day, at new market in Bhopal on Friday.

Tata Steel hires 12 transgender crane operators at its plant

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The term "Transgender LGBTQIA+" refers to people whose gender identification and/or gender expression varies from the sex they were given at birth. The transgender community does not exist in a vacuum. Transgender people have a wide range of sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender transgender employees have been hired as crane operator trainees by Tata Steel Kalinganagar Tata Steel has hired 12 transgender crane operator trainees at its Kalinganagar plant as part of its ongoing effort to expand its transgender workforce.

Tata Steel's West Bokaro Division had previously hired 14 transgender people as Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) operators at its mines in December 2021. Menstrual leave, equitable benefits for LGBTQ+ partners, gender neutral parental leave, and support for gender confirmation are among the company's other D&T efforts.

Tata Steel has set a goal of having a diverse workforce of 25% by 2025. identities, which

are unaffected by physical appearance, biological sex, or medical procedures. LGBTQIA+ are emerging from the margins to fight for an equal place in society. Nowadays corporate and government are continuously taking numerous steps for inclusion of LGBTQIA+ at workplace.

These companies have also busted the myth that by openly supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, they would lose out on customers. However, amidst this great progress, there is more work to be done.

For majority of the working professional, work is stressful on its own. But the people of LGBTQIA+ community carries an additional emotional weight of denial and suppression to one of the most important fundamental aspects of who they are; their gender identity, because it doesn't conform with society's norms regarding gender expression.

It is essential for every organization to ensure that the person who works hard and contributes to an organization's success should never feel stigmatized and fearful of coming to work each day.

HealthPlix raises USD 22 million

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

HealthPlix Technologies India's most trusted and secure doctor software brand today announced the closure of \$22million funding in Series C led by Avataar Venture Partners, SIG Venture Capital and existing investors.

The funding round marks the first health-tech growth stage investment done by venture capitalists in 2023. The proceeds from this round of funding will be used to ramp up doctor first product innovation, enhance the technology stack and scale user acquisition efforts.

A significant percentage of the Indian population suffers from chronic diseases and several health-tech startups have emerged to serve their needs.

Leading the health-tech segment, HealthPlix's unique approach puts doctors first and solves for their pain points. HealthPlix currently empowers 10K+ doctors who treat 2.5 percent of the entire Indian population and is advancing national health missions, such as Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

By 2024, the rapidly growing doctor base on HealthPlix will include 25K+ doctors treating 15 percent of the entire population.

DGP Sudhir Saxena to inaugurate 2-day seminar on cops sensitisation

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena will inaugurate a two-day training webinar by the Police Headquarters to increase the sensitivity of police personnel towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and effective implementation of the law on March 27 at 11 in the morning at Police Headquarters Conference Hall.

Additional Director General of Police (AJK) Rajesh Gupta said that more than 90 police officers of the state from Inspector to Superintendent of Police level will participate in this training webinar which is going to be held on March 27 and 28. On the initiative of the Police Headquarters, this state-level webinar is being organized on the topic "Sensitivity towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes".

On the first day of the webinar, Assistant Inspector General of Police Training Police Headquarters, Malay Jain, sensitivity towards SC/ST people – a necessity

On the initiative of the Police Headquarters, this state-level webinar is being organized on the topic 'Sensitivity towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes'

and retired director, D.K. Satpathy will discuss the conservation of the crime scene and the collection of physical evidence.

On the second day of the webinar, Law Officer, AJK Police Headquarters, Vijay Kumar Bansal, will give information about the errors in writing and interpretation of the First Information Report and the provisions of the Act, and the Superintendent of Police, Cyber Cell, Bhopal, Vaibhav Srivastava, on the compilation of scientific evidence (interpretation) in cyber crimes., in the context of missing) will discuss in detail.

This webinar will conclude on March 28 at 01:00 PM in the hospitality of Additional Director General of Police AJK Rajesh Gupta.



Social activists perform a street play to bring attention to the effects of climate change and switch off lights at working places and homes to save power, on the eve of environmental campaign World Earth Hour Day, at new market in Bhopal on Friday.

Pioneer photo

Dr Divyabhushan of AIIMS Bhopal awarded fellowship

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

2023, at Samrat Ashok Technological Institute, organized by the M.P. council of Science and Technology. The Fellowship was awarded based on the research and academic achievements of young scientists who participated in the congress. Executive Director Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh congratulated Dr. Divya Bhushan for this

achievement.

The Fellowship comes with various benefits, including a fully-funded training program for young scientists, which will help to enhance research skills and knowledge. This will not only benefit our department but will also contribute to the growth and development of the scientific community.

Dr. Divyabhushan Senior Resident in Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, AIIMS Bhopal has been awarded the Fellowship for the training of young scientists at the 38th Young Scientist Congress held from March 17 to 19,

More than one lakh govt recruitments by August 15: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that every youth in the state will be provided employment according to his qualification. Employment opportunities will be made available to every youth through government recruitment, self-employment and learn and earn scheme.

Under the Mukhya Mantri Yuva Kaushal Kamai Yojana, youths will be given training in various professions along with an honorarium of Rs. 8,000 per month. By August 15, the recruitment process for 1 lakh government posts will be completed. Under the Mukhya Mantri Udyam Kranti Yojana, loans and grants ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh are being made available to the

youths for employment. Today, Rozgar Diwas (Employment Day) is being celebrated in every district of the state and loans are being distributed to the youths for self-employment.

Chief Minister Chouhan participated in the State Level Rozgar Diwas programme in Neemuch today. He distributed loans worth Rs. 2779 crore to 2 lakh 31 thousand 760 youths under various self-employment schemes. The Chief Minister also dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various development works. These include the laying of foundation stone of Neemuch's new medical college and Gandhi Sagar-2 group drinking water supply project and the dedication of new mandi complex Dunglawada Chamera.

Chouhan interacted virtually with young entrepreneurs

Shri Farooq Khan from Morena, Rohit from Betul, Vivek Soni from Guna and Jitendra Mishra from Satna, who received loans for self-employment under the Mukhya Mantri Udyam Kranti Yojana and obtained information regarding setting-up of employment and also extended his best wishes.

The Chief Minister said that I see the form of a goddess in every sister, daughter and mother. Our culture says that gods reside there, where women are worshipped. The respect of women is highest in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Chouhan announced development of Bhadwa Mata Temple and construction of corridor.

Chouhan said that there used to be discrimination against women in Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, 900 girls were born for every 1000 boys. I took a pledge

to put an end to all discrimination against daughters on the land of Madhya Pradesh and that they will be considered a boon. Ladli Laxmi Yojana was launched in the state.

Today, there are 44 lakh 50 thousand Ladli Lakshmis in the state. 956 daughters are being born for every 1000 sons. I will keep making efforts in this direction until 1000 daughters are born on 1000 sons. The Chief Minister said that the Ladli Bahna Yojana launched in the state is a plan to change the lives of women and the condition of their families. The forms for the scheme will start filling from March 25.

For this, camps will be organised in every village and ward. EKYC for the scheme will be filled at Common Service Centre, Ration Shop and MP Online Kiosk. No fee will be

charged for this. Its fee Rs 15 per application will be filled by the government.

A complaint can be registered on 181 if anyone demands money. Strict action will be taken against the concerned. From June 10, money will start coming into the accounts of the women.

Chouhan said that intoxication is a social evil, it should be removed. The government has decided that from April 1, all liquor vends will be closed in the state. Drinking alcohol in public places will be prohibited.

Chouhan said that the damage caused by the recent hailstorm will be adequately compensated by the government. Farmers whose crops have suffered more than 50 percent damage will be given compensation at the rate of Rs 32,000 per hectare.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan goes through an exhibition after its inauguration during the State level Rozgar Divas programme in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Pioneer photo



Youth Congress supporters stop a train during a protest over Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from Lok Sabha, marked as Black Day for Indian Democracy, at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Special campaign for illegal construction in urban areas

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Neeraj Mandloi has directed all the urban bodies to ensure that action is taken against illegal construction activities by running a special campaign. He told to start the campaign from April 1 after making an action plan.

Mandloi said that due to the expansion of urban areas and addition of new areas, there has been a tremendous increase in building construction activities. The increase in population in urban areas is also leading to an increase in the number of new houses. It is being noticed that many of the building construction works are being done as additional construction without permission or against permission, leading to an increase in the number of illegal construction works in urban areas apart from causing hindrance in the planned development of cities.

The Principal Secretary said that 100 percent mandatory inspection of building permits of all under-construction/built buildings above 5000 square feet in urban areas and it should be ensured that the construction work is done

according to the building permits granted by the urban bodies. If the construction work has been done without permission or against permission, then, necessary action should be taken as per rules under the provisions of Madhya Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act 1956 / Madhya Pradesh Municipal Act 1961. He said that the cases which are eligible for compounding should be compounded as per rules and action should be taken to remove illegal constructions on those cases which are not eligible for compounding.

Existing properties and new properties are being identified through GIS survey in urban bodies. Information of all the properties is available on the base map of the body in the survey. Therefore, the bodies should ensure that the building

permission for all the properties/buildings found in the survey has been taken and the construction work has been done according to the granted building permission.

At present, it has been seen that most of the cases of compounding/compounding (Type-2) have been done by the citizens by applying automatically under the ABPAS Software operated for building permission.

The process of compounding / mitigation has been greatly reduced by identifying illegal buildings through the building permission / encroachment related activities of the body. Mandloi said that all civic bodies should direct their ward in-charge / building permission in-charge / encroachment in-charge to identify illegal constructions and take action for compounding / mitigation.

Crime branch nabs drug peddler, recovers 2 kgs of Cannabis

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The crime branch has arrested the drug peddler and have recovered 2 kg of Cannabis from his possession, accused was standing near 108 office waiting for the customer. Police have found that the accused has been booked for several criminal cases in the past.

DCP Shailendra Singh Chauhan said that information was received that a boy was standing near 108 office at Gufa Mandir Road Shahjahanabad. He is carrying a black colored bag. Cannabis is kept in the bag. Waiting for someone to sell drugs. Acting on information regarding a person carrying Cannabis in a plastic sack on a Pulsar motorbike near Dhobi Ghat to sell it

to a person around noon was caught. The nabbed person was frisked and from his belongings a bag carrying some substance was recovered which was found to be Cannabis.

During the search of his bag, 2.1 kg of Ganja was found in a plastic packet.

The accused has been identified as Pankaj Sen(19) of Rahul Nagar near Sharda Temple. Police have registered a case under section 8 and 20 of the NDPS Act and started further investigation.

The source from where the accused brings the drug and where does he dispose is under investigation. The accused used to find the retail customers by bringing drugs at cheap prices and selling it in small quantities in Bhopal and nearby areas.

Youth rapes neighbouring minor girl student in Chhola area, arrested

Bhopal: A minor girl student was raped by her youth in Chhola Mandir police station area, accused sexually assaulted the victim by locking in her own house by threatening to kill her.

Police have arrested the accused identified as Aniket Rai of Salamampur, Raisen and is a college student.

According to the police, a 17-year-old girl living in the area studies in class 10th. Two years ago she went to her grandmother's house. During this, he became friends with Aniket Rai. The two started to talk and became friends.

The young man started loving the victim. The girl came to Bhopal from her maternal grandparents' house to her parents. But, the accused did not stop chasing him. He came to Bhopal from Salamampur on January 31 2023. He reached the girl's house. At this time the girl was alone in the house.

Finding him alone, the accused locked him in the room. After he was pressurizing her to marry him. After the incident, the girl remained depressed. Then the family asked her the reason for her condition. The girl kept hiding the atrocity for many days. Recently she narrated an incident.

Based on the complaint police registered a case and

nabbed the accused who was on the run. The accused confessed that he sexually exploited the victim and threatened her of life. The police registered a case under section 376 and 506 of the IPC against the accused.

HS refuses to constitute special bench

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh High Court Jabalpur has refused to constitute a special bench in the matter of 27 percent reservation for OBCs. The High Court has rejected the petition demanding a special bench.

OBC/SC/ST Ekta Manch had demanded not to include OBC and General category judge in this matter.

In the petition on behalf of OBC/SC/ST Ekta Manch for a fair hearing of all 65 cases related to OBC reservation, Ed. Uday Kumar, on behalf of Lokendra Gurjar, had filed an application for formation of a

Special bench. On March 20, 2023, the case was reserved for order on this application by the bench of Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Virender Singh.

It has been clarified in the order passed by Sheel Nagu on January 24 that no personal allegations have been made against any judge of the batch in this application.

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, सागर

शिवाजी वार्ड, तिली रोड, सागर (म.प्र.) -470001

Website :- bmcsagar.edu.in

E-Mail :- deansmc08@yahoo.co.in

क्र. 1554

दिनांक 15.03.2023

बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय एवं संबंध चिकित्सालय में स्थापित चिलर प्लान्ट की मरम्मत एवं अनुरक्षण कार्य हेतु खुली निविदा आमंत्रण-सूचना

| निविदा का नाम | प्रो-विड बैठक दिनांक | निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि अंतिम तिथि | निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय | निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय एवं संबंध चिकित्सालय में स्थापित चिलर प्लान्ट की मरम्मत एवं अनुरक्षण कार्य हेतु खुली निविदा | 21.03.2023 | 10.04.2023 | 10.04.2023 | 12.04.2023 |

इच्छुक फर्म/संस्था/व्यक्ति ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट <https://mptenders.gov.in> से एवं हमारी वेबसाईट www.bmcsagar.edu.in से भी निविदा संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निविदा में किये गये कोई भी संशोधन की जानकारी केवल महाविद्यालय की वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध कराई जावेगी।

अधिष्ठाता
बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय
सागर (म.प्र.)

G-24897/22

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI -110 608

Admission Notice No.71 /2023

INI-SS Entrance Test for Admission in DM/M.Ch & MD (HOSP. Administration) Courses for AIIMS, PGIMER, NIMHANS, SCTIMST & JIPMER for July-2023 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online application for Entrance Examination leading to admission in Post-Doctoral [DM/M.Ch.(3 year)/MD (Hospital Administration) Courses for AIIMS New Delhi & Six other AIIMS, PGIMER, NIMHANS, JIPMER and SCTIMST for July, 2023 session.

| Online Registration for application | | | |
|--|--|------------|-----------------------|
| Courses | Institutions | Opens on | Closes on |
| DM/M.Ch.(3 year)/ & MD (Hospital Administration) | AIIMS - New Delhi & other Six AIIMS, PGIMER, NIMHANS, JIPMER and SCTIMST | 23.03.2023 | 06.04.2023 at 5:00 PM |

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.

CBC 17112/12/0043/2223

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)

Form no INC-26
(Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
Advertisement for the Shifting of Registered Office of the Applicant Company from the State of Madhya Pradesh to the State of Maharashtra.

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
NORTH WESTERN REGION,
ROC BHAVAN, OPPO RURAL PARK SOCIETY,
BEHIND ANKUR BUS STOP, NARANPURA,
AHMEDABAD-380013, GUJARAT

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013,
SECTION 13(4) OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND
RULE 30 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014
AND

IN THE MATTER OF
NKJM MINING PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U10100MP212PTC0227609)
HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT 301, RAJNIGANDHA GREEN GARDEN ESTATE, NEAR S. P OFFICE, CITY CENTRE, GWALIOR, MP-474011

.....APPLICANT

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make an application before the Regional Director under Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking approval of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023 to enable the company to change its Registered office from the State of Madhya Pradesh to the State of Maharashtra i.e. within the jurisdiction of Registrar of Companies Maharashtra at Mumbai.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, North Western Region, Ahmedabad within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the petitioner company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Current registered office of the Company:
NKJM MINING PRIVATE LIMITED
301, Rajnigandha Green Garden Estate, Near S. P. Office, City Centre Gwalior, MP-474011

For and on behalf of the Applicant
NKJM MINING PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
Vinayak Madhav Nayak
Date: 22.03.2023 Director
Place: Madhya Pradesh DIN: 09166632
Add: 43, Sadhana Suboth CHS, Flat No. 5
Subway Road No. 1 TPS VI, Santacruz West
Mumbai-400054

We understand your world

HDFC BANK LIMITED

HDFC Bank Ltd. Plot No. 9, Third Floor, Star Planet Building
M.P. Nagar Zone-2, Bhopal, MP, PIN 462011. Ph.: 0755-4253052

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 8(6) & 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) concerned that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession (as Detailed below) of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Ltd.** Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on (shown below in respective column) for recovery of the amount (shown below in respective column) due to the **HDFC Bank Ltd.** Secured Creditor from respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s) shown below. The Reserve price and the earnest money deposit of respective properties as shown below in respective column.

| Sr. No. | Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor Name | Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession | Description of Property/House having Total area about | Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit | Outstanding dues (In Rs.) | Date of Inspection | Last date for submission of EMD | Date and Time of E-Auction |
|---------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. | 1. Mr. Dinesh Kumar S/o Bhanu Prakash Gupta Proprietor Of Asha Enterprises 2. Bhanu Prakash Gupta S/o Paramasukh Gupta Loan A/c No. 17818020000073 | 09-01-2019 08-04-2021 | Residential Property Is Having An Extent Part And Parcel Of Survey No.62 Area 0.024 Hectare. Constructed Residential House No 54, Ward No 14 Nutan Vihar Colony, Dhonga Tikamgarh Registered Owner Of The Above-Mentioned Property Is Mr. Dinesh Kumar Gupta S/o Bhanu Prakash Gupta. Boundaries :- East - Road, West - Other Prop., North - Road, South - Other Prop. | ₹ 19,32,678 /- ₹ 1,93,268/- | ₹ 59,78,505/- | 28.03.2023 Onwards BETWEEN 12.00 PM & 03.00 PM As per the availability of Officers | 21.04.2023 | 25-04-2023 BETWEEN 12.00 Noon & 03.00 PM with unlimited extension of 5 Mins. for every Successful Bid |
| 2. | 1) Ashva Realinfra Private Ltd. Through Authorised Person - Mr. Amit Chandrawanshi S/o Jagdish Chandrawanshi 2) Mr. Amit Chandrawanshi S/o Jagdish Chandrawanshi, 3) Neha Chandrawanshi D/o Nathuram Jamrakar, 4) Jagdish Chandrawanshi S/o Tulsidas Chandrawanshi, 5) Shruti Karaiya S/o Pramod Kumar Karaiya Loan A/c No. 50200013636619 | 05.10.2019 25.11.2022 | Residential property Plot no. E-8/184 Trilochan Nagar, Gram Bawadia Kalan Trilanga Dist. Bhopal survey No. 12/13/12/2, 12/1/2 AREA 1500 Sq.Ft, Registered owner of the above-mentioned property is Jagdish Chandrawanshi S/o Tulsidas Chandrawanshi, Boundaries :- East : Plot No.196,197, West : 25 Ft Road., North: Plot No 185, South: Plot 183. | ₹ 63,50,560/- ₹ 8,35,056/- | ₹ 1,01,54,025 /- | 28.03.2023 Onwards BETWEEN 12.00 PM & 03.00 PM As per the availability of Officers | 21.04.2023 | 25-04-2023 BETWEEN 12.00 Noon & 03.00 PM with unlimited extension of 5 Mins. for every Successful Bid |
| 3. | 1. M/s MJ Associates Through Proprietor Mrs Saloni Jivnani W/o Mahesh Jivnani 2. Mrs Saloni Jivnani W/o Mahesh Jivnani 3. Mr. Mahesh Jivnani S/o Madhav Das Jivnani Loan A/c No. 83730703 | 22.02.2022 30-12-2022 | Residential H. No. F-52, Duplex House, Khasra No. 201/1 - Narela Sankari Ward No. 65 Tehsil- Huzur, Bhopal Registered Owner of The Above- Mentioned Property 1 Mrs Saloni Jivnani W/o Mahesh Jivnani 2- Mr. Mahesh Jivnani S/o Madhav Das Jivnani, Boundaries :- East: 20 Ft. Road, West: Plot No. F39. North: 20 Ft. Road South: Plot No. F 51. | ₹ 36,75,000/- ₹ 3,67,500/- | ₹ 34,27,216/- | 28.03.2023 Onwards BETWEEN 12.00 PM & 03.00 PM As per the availability of Officers | 26.04.2023 | 28-04-2023 BETWEEN 12.00 Noon & 03.00 PM with unlimited extension of 5 Mins. for every Successful Bid |

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the Secured Creditor's Website i.e. <https://www.hdfcbank.com/personal/resources/important-notices>
This Notice should also be considered as 15 Days / 30 Days Notice to the Borrowers under Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Date : 25.03.2023
Place : Bhopal

Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd.

Rahul’s case echoes in UN



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

A verdict sentencing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to jail for two years echoed in the United Nations (UN) and it said the international body was aware of it.

When asked whether UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was “worried about democracy” in India, Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for Secretary General, said late on Thursday, “I can say we’re aware of the reports regarding

the case of Rahul Gandhi. We understand that his party does plan to appeal the decision. That’s as much as I can say on that at this stage.”

Rahul was sentenced to two years in jail on Thursday by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his “Modi surname” remark.

He took to Twitter to give his initial reaction by quoting Mahatma Gandhi in Hindi. “My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God, non-violence, the means to get it. — Mahatma Gandhi,” he tweeted.

String of initiatives launched to eliminate TB by 2025 in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/VARANASI

Asserting that “it’s difficult to accomplish new outcomes with old approaches,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World TB Day on Friday launched a string of innovative initiatives like TB-Mukt Panchayat, official pan-India rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment and Family-centric care model for TB.

He said this would help India achieve TB elimination target by 2025, five years ahead of the global stipulated time.

The Prime Minister said the new initiatives to fight against the bacterial infection is in addition to a multi-pronged approach being already followed, including measures to enhance nutrition, increase people’s participation, treatment innovation, integration of technologies and disease prevention through programmes like Fit India, Yoga and Khelo India.

“These could become the



global model for ending TB...” he said.

Under ‘TB Mukta Panchayat’ members of the local bodies are sensitised and trained about the disease, with them aiding the government’s implementation of the programme and achieving TB free status while the nation-wide rollout of a 3-month preventive treatment for those at risk of developing TB aims to reduce the course of treatment from the previous six months and replace the daily pills with a once-a-week medicine regimen.

Stating that 80 per cent of TB medicines are made in India, Modi lauded the role

played by the pharma industry and said it is a big strength to the world’s fight against TB. “I wish that fruits of each and every endeavour of India, campaign of India, innovation of India reach to the whole world...as we are committed towards the Global Good!,” he said at an event organised by the Union Health Ministry along with the Stop TB Partnership organisation..

The Prime Minister credited people’s participation for the great work that India has done in the fight against Tuberculosis. After the government’s appeal, about 10 lakh TB patients were adopted across

the country by people, including children of 10 to 12 years of age. Financial help to a TB patient under the programme has reached up to one thousand crore rupees.

“This addresses the challenge of nutrition for TB patients along with the government’s direct benefit transfer scheme started for TB patients in 2018. Approximately Rs 2,000 crore have been directly transferred into their bank accounts for their treatment, with 75 lakh TB patients benefiting from this. “Ni-kshay Mitras have now become a new source of energy for all TB patients,” he said.

The Prime Minister also drew the world’s attention to the integration of technology in the programme, with the Ni-kshay portal that can track all those with an active infection. He also said that ICMR has developed a new method for sub-national disease surveillance that has made India, apart from the WHO, the only country to have this kind of model.

Houses adjourned again amid uproar



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The deadlock to the Parliament’s second-leg of the Budget session is unlikely to be found before the end of the second-leg of the Budget session on April 6 as both the Houses were again adjourned for the day amidst heavy uproar even while the Lok Sabha managed to pass the Finance Bill with the Opposition members trooping into the well and shouting slogans “Modi-Adani Bhai Bhai”.

The battle-lines have turned sharper as the Congress member from Waynad, Kerala, Rahul Gandhi has been disqualified from his Lok Sabha member-

ship following his conviction by a Surat court.

Slogans like “Modi-Adani Bhai Bhai” and “We want JPC” raised by the opposition when the house resumed its proceedings at 1200 after being adjourned in the morning.

The Finance Bill, 2023 ‘tabled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha saw its passage amid heavy noise by Opposition MPs demanding a JPC inquiry into the Adani Group issue. The ruling party members too sought apology from Rahul for his comments against the Indian democracy

Delhi Police registers case in violence at Indian High Commission in London

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of the incidents of violence targeting the Indian High Commission in London on Sunday last, the Delhi Police has registered a case in connection with the protest.

The case was registered by the special cell under the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act as it involves unlawful activities carried out by certain people holding Indian nationality abroad, a senior police officer said here on Friday.

It was done after the Ministry of Home Affairs directed the Delhi Police to take appropriate legal action on the receipt of a report from the Ministry of External Affairs over the incident at the Indian High Commission March 19.



Last Sunday, the tricolour flying atop the Indian High Commission in London was grabbed at by a group of protesters waving separatist Khalistani flags and chanting pro-Khalistani slogans, leading to an arrest related to the violent disorder.

Officials from the mission said “attempted but failed” attack had been foiled and that the tricolour was now flying “grander”. The Metropolitan Police said two members of security staff sustained minor

injuries which did not require hospital treatment. An investigation has been launched.

India on last Sunday night summoned the British deputy high commissioner and demanded an explanation over the complete “absence of security”. In a strongly-worded statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said India finds “unacceptable” the indifference of the UK government to the security of Indian diplomatic premises and personnel in the UK.

‘Financial help being provided to States, UTs for promotion of film tourism’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Tourism issued guidelines in 2012 for extending financial support to state governments and Union territory administrations for promotion of film tourism, and a financial assistance of up to Rs 2 lakh per film is provided under it, the government has informed a parliamentary panel.

This was mentioned in a report on ‘Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Three Hundred Twenty Sixth Report on the subject ‘Role of Indian Missions Globally for the growth of Tourism in India’ tabled in Lok Sabha on Friday.

The committee in its report has also said that it had observed that many of the tourist spots and places of religious importance are located near the national highways

yet the state of the last-mile connectivity from the national highways to the tourist spot “leaves much to be desired”.

“The Committee feels that good quality last-mile connectivity is important to ensure a positive experience for tourists visiting a tourist destination in the country, which in turn, helps attract more tourists through word-of-mouth publicity.

“The Committee therefore recommends that the ministry may examine the state/quality of last mile connectivity roads at all such tourist spots near the National Highways at the earliest and ensure their construction and maintenance with the concerned Ministries/agencies to make the tourist places more accessible to tourists, both domestic and international, which will invariably increase the number of tourists visiting such places,” the panel had observed.

Rahul may have to vacate bungalow unless higher court stays conviction, say experts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday stood disqualified from contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction, an expert on electoral laws said.

Now following his disqualification as an MP, Rahul Gandhi may have to vacate his official bungalow in Lutyens’ Delhi within a month if he does not get relief from a higher court in the criminal defamation case, an official said on Friday. Rahul Gandhi was allotted the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow after his election as a Lok Sabha MP in 2004.

“As he has been disqualified from Lok Sabha, he is not entitled to a government accommodation. According to rules, he will have to vacate his official bungalow within a month since the date of dis-



qualification order,” an official of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had to vacate her official Lodhi Estate bungalow in July 2020 as she was no longer eligible for it after her security cover had been downgraded.

This was Rahul Gandhi’s fourth Lok Sabha term. First elected to Lok Sabha in 2004 from Amethi, he represented that constituency for two more terms. In 2019, he lost the Amethi seat to Smriti Irani but managed to win from Wayanad.

Incidentally, the Congress-led UPA government, in 2013, had attempted to circumvent a Supreme Court ruling to set aside an RP Act provision under which a person sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified “from the date of such conviction” and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time. Rahul Gandhi himself had opposed the ordinance at that time and tore the ordinance in a press conference as a token of protest.

Rahul Gandhi is the second member of Lok Sabha, after Lakshadweep MP P P Mohammed Faisal of the Nationalist Congress Party, to have been disqualified in the recent past following conviction. The Kavaratti sessions court in Lakshadweep had sentenced four persons, including Mohammed Faizal to 10 years in jail after they were found guilty in an attempt-to-murder case.

Def Min signs contract with BEL for ‘Project Himshakti’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a boost to indigenous production of weapon systems, Ministry of Defence on Friday signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad for procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems ‘Project Himshakti’ at an overall cost of approximately Rs 3,000 crore.

Giving details of the contract, officials said here the project is under the Buy (Indian – IDMM) (Indigenously Designed Developed and

Manufactured)) category comprising contemporary and niche technologies.

‘Project Himshakti’ will encourage participation of Indian electronics and associated industries, including MSMEs, which are sub vendors of the BEL. It will generate employment of approximately three lakh man-days over a period of two years. The project is a significant leap forward in developing indigenous capabilities making the country ‘Aatmanirbhar’, in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative of the government.

SC directs convicts released during Covid emergency to surrender in 15 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that all convicts and undertrial prisoners, who were released during the COVID-19 pandemic in a move to decongest jails, to surrender within 15 days. A bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said undertrial prisoners, who were released on emergency bail during the pandemic, can move for regular bail before competent courts after their surrender.

US pick for WB, Banga, cancels India meetings after tests Covid +

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian origin US nominee for World Bank president Ajay Banga, scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here has tested positive for Covid-19. Hence, his meetings to take place on March 23 and 24 were cancelled.

According to a Finance Ministry statement, Banga’s meeting with Nirmala Sitharaman would not happen as he is in quarantine.

“During routine testing, Ajay Banga tested positive for COVID-19 but remains asymp-



tomatic. In adherence with local guidelines, he is quarantining in isolation,” the statement said.

Besides meeting with the Union finance minister, Banga was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and top officials during his two-day visit.

Banga’s New Delhi visit is the final stop on his three-week

global tour that began in Africa before progressing to Europe, Latin America, and Asia to drum up support for his candidature for the World Bank’s top position.

In a statement on Wednesday, the US Treasury Department had said, “While in India, Banga will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as the Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman and the Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar.

“These discussions will focus on India’s development priorities, the World Bank, and global economic development challenges,” it said.

Banga’s New Delhi visit was the final stop on his three-week

global tour that began in Africa before progressing to Europe, Latin America, and Asia to drum up support for his candidature for the World Bank’s top position.

India endorsed Banga’s candidacy soon after his nomination was announced in February. Since then, a diverse coalition of governments has expressed their support for Banga, including Bangladesh, Côte d’Ivoire, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom.

During his global listening tour, Banga met with senior government officials, stakeholders, business leaders, entre-

preneurs, and civil society.

Along the way, he built continuous momentum for his candidacy, gaining the support of advocates, academics, development experts, executives, Nobel Laureates, and former government officials.

If elected to serve, Banga will draw from his experience living and working in emerging markets and his expertise in forging public-private partnerships to mobilise investments and action to confront long standing challenges.

That includes his efforts at Mastercard to successfully bring 500 million previously unbanked people into the digital economy, as well as its support for 50 million small businesses.

NIA chargesheets gangsters, criminals linked with pro-Khalistani terror outfits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against notorious gangsters/criminals, Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar, along with 12 others having links with the proscribed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and several other pro-Khalistani terrorist outfits, in the second of the three terror-gangster nexus cases it is investigating. The latest action takes the total number of accused chargesheeted by the NIA so far in these cases to 26.

The chargesheet has exposed the linkages between members of criminal syndicates and drug smugglers with BKI and pro-khalistani outfits.

Lawrence Bishnoi, in custody since 2015, has been operating his terror-crime syndicate from jails in different States, along with Canada-based Goldy Brar, who is an accused in the killing of Pradeep Kumar, a Dera Sacha Sauda follower, in Faridkot in November 2022.



The Lawrence Bishnoi terror-crime-extortion syndicate was also responsible for providing killers for the RPG attack case on Punjab State Intelligence HQs (headquarters) at Mohali, which was carried out on directions of Harwinder Singh alia Rinda, a Pakistan-based BKI terrorist, NIA investigations have revealed, the NIA alleged.

Goldy Brar was found to have direct links with Lakhbir Singh alias Landa, another BKI operative working closely with Rinda, as revealed in NIA investigations so far, it said.

Lakhbir Singh is also an accused in the Mohali RPG

attack, as well as the December 2022 RPG (rocket propelled grenade) attack on Police Station Sirhali in Tarn Taran, Punjab.

Investigations against Landa and three others are continuing. “All the 14 accused have been charged with criminal conspiracy to unleash a wave of terror and carry out targeted killings of well-known social and religious leaders, movie stars, singers and businessmen,” the NIA said in a statement.

Besides having links with conspirators in Pakistan, the accused were also in contact with pro-Khalistani elements based in Canada, Nepal and other countries, NIA investigations have further revealed.

NIA has seized a huge cache of nine illegal and sophisticated weapons, 14 magazines, 298 rounds of ammunition and 183 digital devices and other incriminating material in raids across 74 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Delhi in the case.

ED attaches ₹252.17 cr property in PMLA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached immovable property in the form of commercial asset Ambience Tower at Shalimar Bagh locality here worth Rs 252.17 crore belonging to Ambience Towers Pvt. Ltd, a company of Ambience Group, promoted by Raj Singh Gehlot in connection with a money laundering investigation.

The ED initiated Investigation on the basis of an FIR and subsequent chargesheet filed by Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir under the Provisions of Ranbir Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Samvat Act.

PMLA investigation revealed that Aman Hospitality Pvt. Ltd through its promoter director Raj Singh Gehlot was sanctioned a term loan facility of Rs 810



crore by a consortium of Banks led by J&K Bank to part finance its hotel project in Shahdara, Delhi.

The loan amount later turned into a non-performing asset (NPA). “During investigation, it was revealed that Raj Singh Gehlot had diverted loan funds and layered the same through a web of bank accounts belonging to his relatives and Ambience Group companies. In addition to

diversion of funds, it was also found that Raj Singh Gehlot had diverted materials to the other project sites of Ambience Group,” the ED said in a statement.

In line with the probe findings, Gehlot was arrested on July 28, 2021. His wife, Sheela Gehlot and other directors of Ambience Group Companies, Amit Gehlot, Shamsher Singh and Pawan Singh were arraigned as accused in the Prosecution Complaints (chargesheets in police parlance) filed by the ED.

The ED has already filed Prosecution Complaints dated September 24, 2021 and November 17, 2022 in the present case before the PMLA Court, Patiala House Courts here for commission of money laundering offences.

The PMLA court took cognizance through its order dated September 27, 2021 and November 30, 2022.

Ayush Min, Def Min ink pact to integrate Ayurveda in ECHS Polyclinics



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Ayush and Department of ex-servicemen Welfare/ECHS under Union Ministry of Defence on Friday inked a pact to integrate Ayurveda in ECHS Polyclinics as an OPD service for five years period. These will be established at 10 polyclinics based at Ambala, Mysore, Ranchi, Nagpur, Bhopal, Bhuvaneshwar, Chennai, Meerut, Danapur, and Allepey (Alappuzha).

Ayurveda centres are already in place in 37 cantonment Hospitals, 12 military hospitals of AFMC and Ayurveda OPD in AH R&R,

AF Hospital Hindan and five ECHS polyclinics. The MoU was signed by Dr Manoj Nesari, Adviser (Ayurveda) on behalf of the Ayush Ministry and Maj Gen NR Indurkar, Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme on behalf of the Defence Ministry.

According to this MoU, Ayush Ministry will provide technical guidance from time to time and will empanel Ayurveda doctors and pharmacists for their engagement and provide list of essential Ayurveda medicines and any other technical support as may be required while the Defence Ministry will provide logistic and locations in the respective polyclinics.

AFSPA extended in parts of Arunachal, Nagaland

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Friday extended for six months the “disturbed area” status in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

According to two separate notifications, the decisions have been taken after review of the law-and-order situation in both the states. The AFSPA gives armed forces personnel, operating in disturbed areas, sweeping powers to search, arrest, and to open fire if they deem it necessary for “maintenance of public order”.

The home ministry said the central government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the AFSPA 1958 (28 of 1958) had declared the Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the state of Assam as ‘disturbed area’ on September 30, 2022.

One more police station



area has been brought under the ambit of the AFSPA through the fresh notification.

“And whereas a further review of the law and order situation in the state of Arunachal Pradesh has been undertaken. Now, therefore, Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai, Mahadevpur and Chowkhim police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the state of Assam, are declared as ‘disturbed area’ under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for a period of six months with effect from April 1, 2023, unless withdrawn earlier,” one of the notifications said.

In the other notification, the home ministry said the central government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the AFSPA, 1958 (28 of 1958) had declared nine districts and 16 police stations in four other districts of Nagaland as ‘disturbed area’ for a period of six months with effect from October 1, 2022. It said, now, the disturbed area status will be applicable in eight districts and 21 police stations areas falling under five other districts.

“And whereas a further review of the law and order situation in the state of Nagaland has been undertaken. Now, therefore, Dimapur, Nuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek and Peren districts in Nagaland and the areas in Nagaland falling within the jurisdiction of i) Khuzama, Kohima North, Kohima South, Zubza and Kezocha police stations in Kohima District; ii) Mangkolemba, Mokochung-I, Longtho, Tuli, Longchem and Anaki C’ police stations in Mokochung District... are declared as ‘disturbed area,’ the notification said.

RAHUL’S DISQUALIFICATION FROM LS Opp leaders main target in Modi’s new India: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after calling Rahul Gandhi the “biggest asset” and “biggest TRP” of the BJP, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday took a turn this time slamming the Narendra Modi Government for getting the tallest Congress leader disqualified from the Lok Sabha in a defamation case.

Moments after Gandhi’s disqualification from the House, Banerjee said the Opposition leaders were the main target of in the new India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While Bengal Opposition parties—save the BJP — would not exhibit much of enthusiasm over Banerjee’s statement saying she was more concerned about the rising popularity of “Under PM Modi’s New India, Opposition leaders have become the prime target of BJP” Banerjee who is also the president of Trinamool Congress wrote in her Twitter post. Condemning the kind of treatment meted out to the Congress leader she said



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee speaks during a meeting, in Kolkata, on Friday PTI Photo

“Today, we have witnessed a new low for our constitutional democracy.” Attacking the BJP government for pursuing double standards she said while on one side saffron leaders with criminal records were made ministers and on the other leaders of the opposition parties were made victims of political speeches. She said, “While BJP leaders with criminal antecedents are inducted into the cabinet, Opposition leaders are disqualified for their speeches.”

Her nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee wrote that “Democracy” in today’s India sounded oxymoronic. Though

he would not refer to the Rahul Gandhi issue he wrote, “Democratic India is an oxymoron now.” TMC MP Shantanu Sen called it a “black day” wondering whether BR Ambedkar would have relished such a huge drop in Indian democratic standards today.

“This is a Black day for the Indian democracy. Had the father of our Constitution BR Ambedkar been alive he would have literally cried,” Sen said wondering “how a ruling party with such a brute majority in Parliament can stoop such low to script such a dirty game.” Gandhi was disqualified from being a Member of Lok Sabha hours after he was sentenced to two years of imprisonment by a Surat court in a caste defamation case.

The Left too, hit out at BJP government for its “vindictive attitude” saying “plot to disqualify Gandhi was hatched divert attention from burning issues like corruption, unemployment” etc. Reacting sharply on issue senior counsel and CPI(M) MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said.

Cambodia mountain to be home to Indian tigers

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A technical committee comprising officials from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is on the job to advise their counterparts in Cambodia to help them execute dreams of bringing Indian big cats in their land under the world’s first ambitious translational tiger programme conceived last year.

On its part, Cambodia has already identified 90 acres of forest land at its Tatai wildlife sanctuary in the Cardamom Mountain to be the home to the Indian tigers whenever they arrive.

SP Yadav, Head of the NTCA told *The Pioneer*, “We have constituted a technical support group which is advising Cambodia to achieve certain levels of standards with respect to staffing, prey base, habitat and protection. Once these are achieved, further action will be taken.”

He said hence it is too early to talk about the numbers of big cats proposed to be shifted to Cambodia. No tiger has been spotted in Cambodian forests for the last 15 years. The



last picture of a tiger was taken in the eastern highlands of Cambodia in 2007. The country is now committed to have the tigers, which is included in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species, back to its forests.

Though Yadav was non-committal when the translocation will happen, Cambodia is pinning hopes that the tigers may arrive by the year-end, as has also been stated by Suwanna Gauntlett, founder and CEO of Wildlife Alliance, as per reports.

Officials in the Union Environment Ministry said that before the Indian big cats lands on the foreign land, it is necessary that ground and field works be done to ensure they are safe and get the conducive environment to settle down properly to make the translocation successful in the long term.

4 yrs ordeal of 5 Indian sailors jailed in Iran ends

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an emotional homecoming, five Indian sailors — who had been arrested, jailed, acquitted and grounded after they were stranded in Iran in June 2019, returned home on Friday after suffering four years of ordeal.

The five sailors — Aniket S. Yenpure (31), Mandar M. Worlikar (28), both of whom are from Mumbai, Pranav A. Tiwari (23) from Patna, Naveen M. Singh (30) from New Delhi and Thamizh R. Selvan (33) from

Chennai — appeared overwhelmed as they bowed and touched the Indian soil after they arrived at the city airport from Iran by an Iran Air Tehran-Mumbai flight this afternoon.

The sailors were accorded a moving reception by their relatives and friends, who cheered vociferously, hugged and lifted them in the air and celebrated the quintet who shed tears of happiness.“We have never been so happy as we are today. Nearly 45 months of nightmare has

ended today. We underwent lots of hardships like being arrested, thrown into jails there, fighting legal battles, getting acquitted and obtaining necessary permissions to fly back to India.

Finally we are back in a country to which we belong,” Aniket Yenpure said. “For the next one month, we will rest and be with our families,” Yenpure said. Naveen (New Delhi), Tiwari (Bihar) and Selvan (Tamil Nadu) will stay with Mumbai-based Yenpure and Worlikar for the next few days,

before returning to their home cities. Aniket thanked the Indian Embassy in Tehran which arranged for the emergency travel papers and air tickets for him and his fellow sailors and also a few Iranian lawyers who fought their case for more than six months and got them released from the jail and ensured their return to India. “The authorities in Iran seized our passports and Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC)-cum-Seafarer’s Identity document.

Probe defamation plea filed by Union Min against Raj CM, court directs Delhi Police

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Adelhi court on Friday directed the Delhi Police to probe the criminal defamation complaint filed by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over his remarks on the alleged Sanjivani co-operative scam.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal directed the Joint Commissioner of Police concerned to “investigate the matter either himself or through an officer not below the rank of an Inspector” and file the investigation report on April 25.

“...Keeping in mind the facts and circumstances and also keeping in mind the legislative mandate...(considering the fact that the accused is residing outside the local jurisdiction of this court), this court directs an investigation into the matter, through Delhi Police. Keeping in mind the sensitivity of matter, it is directed that Joint Commissioner concerned shall monitor investigation,” the judge said. The judge further said that investigation should endeavour to find answers to three questions —whether complainant Shekhawat was



addressed as “an accused” in the Sanjivani scam by accused Gehlot, whether Gehlot stated that the allegations against Shekhawat stand proved in the Sanjivani scam and whether Shekhawat or his family members have been arrayed as “an accused” in investigation of the scam. Union Jal Shakti Minister Shekhawat had filed complaint on March 4. The complaint alleged that Gehlot, a senior Congress leader, defamed the BJP leader by alleging his role in the scam.

“There is irreparable damage caused to his (Shekhawat) reputation,” the complaint claimed. The complaint alleged that Gehlot has been making defamatory remarks, trying to tarnish Shekhawat’s image and affect his political career. In Sanjivani Credit Cooperative Society Ltd, thousands of investors allegedly lost Rs 900 crore. Rajasthan Police’s Special Operations Group (SOG) has been investigating case since August 2019.

Thieves, scamsters running freely while Rahul punished: Uddhav

TN ■ RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Friday dubbed the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as a Lok Sabha member, as a “murder of democracy” and said that “it’s now a crime to call a thief a thief” in the country. The Lok Sabha Secretariat’s decision to issue a notice to Gandhi disqualifying him an MP a day after he was convicted and sentenced to two years in jail in a defamation case evoked strong reaction from the MVA constituents in the state — Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena who said that the Congress leader is being punished for “exposing” the Narendra Modi government.

Maharashtra’s former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray said Gandhi’s disqualification as an MP was nothing but a “a murder of democracy” “It’s a crime to call even a thief a thief in the country,” Uddhav said.

“The thieves and scamsters are running around freely while Rahul Gandhi has been punished for calling a thief a thief... This is a blatant murder of democracy. All institutions are



under pressure. Whatever is happening of the is beginning of end of democracy in the country. We need to take our fight against the Modi government to a new level to restore democracy in country,” Uddhav said.

Coming down heavily on Lok Sabha Secretariat’s decision over Gandhi’s disqualification, NCP chief Sharad Pawar tweeted, “The disqualification of Mr Rahul Gandhi and Mr Faizal a few months ago as MP’s of Lok Sabha are against the basic tenets of the constitution, where democratic values are being curtailed. This is condemnable and against the very principles on which the constitution is based.”

“Our Constitution guarantees right of each Individual to fair justice; liberty of thought; equality of status and opportunity and fraternity assuring dignity of each Indian,” Pawar added.

Corrupt Cong wants to make K’taka its ATM, fill coffers, alleges Shah

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Congress is degenerating across the country, and has now set its eyes on Karnataka to make the state its ATM and fill its coffers at the national level.

Speaking in the poll-bound State, he appealed to people of Karnataka not to give a “half and incomplete government”, and to form a BJP government with full majority and thereby strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

“Congress party is degenerating across the country, the Congress people don’t have any state with them that can fill the Congress’ central treasury, they want an ATM.... They want Karnataka to become Congress’ ATM, and the corrupt Congress’ eyes are now set



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the foundation laying ceremony of Sahakar Samridhidi Soudha and the inauguration of various development works of the Department of Cooperation (Karnataka), in Bengaluru, on Friday PTI Photo

on Karnataka,” Shah said. Addressing a beneficiaries’ meet organised by Karnataka Cooperative department and other departments, he asked people whether they will form a BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership in Karnataka or a

Congress government with Rahul Gandhi at the helm. “Wherever the Congress has formed the government, their history is corruption, humiliation of Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis, and strengthening anti-national forces,” he alleged. Bommai, veteran BJP leader B

S Yediyurappa, Karnataka Co-operation Minister S T Somashekar among others were present at the event.

Highlighting that the Modi government banned Popular Font of India (PFI), Shah said, “Siddaramaiah’s Congress government (earlier), used to withdraw cases against PFI, but Narendra Modi government by banning PFI has secured the entire South India, and also the entire country.” Claiming credit for the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, he said, the Congress party was “delaying, obstructing and misleading” for 70 years, but Modi has laid the foundation for the temple and it will be ready very soon.

He also said that PM Modi, by abrogating Article 370, has put a bridle on terrorism in the entire country. “Modi’s mission is to make the entire country prosperous, take forward every state including Karnataka.”

CBI arrests Joint DGFT in bribery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday arrested a Joint DGFT of Directorate General of Foreign Trade for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a Joint DGFT, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Rajkot (Gujarat) for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs Five Lakh from the Complainant,” the agency said in a statement.

The CBI arrested Jawri Mal Bishnoi, Joint DGFT in the corruption case, officials said. A case was registered against the officials on the allegations of demanding undue advantage to the tune of Rs 9 lakh from the complainant.

It was further alleged that complainant had submitted six files containing all required documents of periodical export of food cans to DGFT, Rajkot to issue no objection certificate (NOC) so as to release their bank guarantee of around Rs 50 lakh.

SC to hear Opp parties plea over misuse of CBI, ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to list for hearing on April 5 a plea by 14 opposition parties, led by the Congress, alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against political opponents.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took note of the submissions of senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Opposition parties, and said the plea would be taken up for hearing on April 5.

“I am asking for the guidelines for the future. This is a remarkable convergence of 14 parties against the misuse of the agencies, both CBI and ED,” Singhvi said, and claimed that 95 per cent cases of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are against the leaders of opposition. The senior lawyer referred to the rise in the number of cases filed



by the CBI and ED after the NDA government came to power in 2014. “Second statistics, pre-2014 and post-2014. There is a humongous jump in cases. The rate of conviction is four to five per cent. We are asking for pre-arrest guidelines and post-arrest bail guidelines,” Singhvi said.

Sources close to the deliberations which led to the filing of the common plea by 14 political parties said Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal played an important role in persuading other opposition leaders for moving the top court jointly.

The plea alleged there is an alarming rise in the use of coercive criminal processes against opposition political leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental right to dissent.

“Investigating agencies such as CBI and ED are being increasingly deployed in a selective and targeted manner with a view to completely crush political dissent and upend the fundamental premises of a representative democracy,” a statement issued on behalf of a petitioner alleged.

The plea filed through lawyer Shadan Farasat cited some statistics and said they demonstrated a “shocking and unconstitutional state of affairs”.

Besides the Congress, other parties who are part of the joint move are the DMK, RJD, BRS, Trinamool Congress, AAP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, JD(U), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party and the J&K National Conference, the statement said.

2-day Gaj Utsav from April 9

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India’s two mega and important conservation focused projects involving tiger and elephants are completing their 50th and 30th years of existence respectively this year which the Government has plans to celebrate with much fan-fare next month.

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a two-day “Gaj Utsav” on April 9 in Assam’s Kaziranga National Park to commemorate the successful completion of 30 years of Project Elephant while Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a three-day mega event on April 7 in Mysuru in Karnataka to mark the completion of 50 years of Project



Tiger and showcase India’s tiger conservation success globally, officials said on Friday. The Prime Minister will also release the latest tiger census data, the government’s vision for tiger conservation during ‘Amrit Kaal’ and a commemorative coin, said S P Yadav, member secretary, National Tiger

Conservation Authority (NTCA). India launched Project Tiger on April 1, 1973 to promote tiger conservation. Initially, it covered nine tiger reserves spread over 18,278 sq km. At present, India has 53 tiger reserves covering more than 75,000 sq km (approximately 2.4 per cent of the country’s geographical area) of tiger habitat.

With a current population of about 3,000 tigers, India is home to more than 70 per cent of the global wild tiger population and their number is increasing at six per cent per annum. The tiger reserves are repositories for biodiversity conservation in the country. These ensure regional water security and carbon sequestration and thus contribute in

accomplishing India’s climate change mitigation targets. Similarly, ‘Gaj Utsav’ a two-day event to commemorate Project Elephant which was launched in 1991-92 as a centrally-sponsored scheme to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, prevent human-elephant conflict and to ensure the welfare of captive elephants in India, will be inaugurated by the President at Kaziranga National Park on April 9, Minister of State for Environment Ashwani Choubey told reporters here.

Elephant is a national heritage animal protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. India accounts for more than 60 per cent of the global wild elephant population.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Inconsistent

ONDC is making a foray into the city transport sector but its very existence is problematic

Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) has entered the city transport sector by tying up with a Bengaluru-based ride-hailing company. The objective is to check the market dominance of aggregators like Uber and Ola. ONDC, a Government-run protocol on the lines of UPI, is also reportedly negotiating with more companies in the sector in several other cities. While well-intended, there are fundamental flaws in the idea of ONDC. When it was launched in September last year, it was claimed that it would check the monopoly of global e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart. "After UPI, another game changing idea to democratise commerce - ONDC soft launch today to select consumers, sellers and logistics providers. Get ready for a world of choice, convenience and transparency," Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal tweeted the day ONDC was launched. But isn't checking monopolistic practices the duty of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)? The Competition Act, 2002, was passed by Parliament in 2002, to which the President accorded assent in January 2003. It was subsequently amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007. In accordance with the provisions of the Amendment Act, the Competition Commission of India and the Competition Appellate Tribunal were established. The CCI is now fully functional with a Chairperson and six members, according to the CCI's website. The provisions of the Competition Act relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were notified on May 20, 2009.



"It is the statutory duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants, in markets in India as provided in the Preamble as well as Section 18 of the Act," says the CCI website. The commission is also mandated to give its opinion on competition issues to government or statutory authority and to undertake competition advocacy for creating awareness of competition law, it adds. Against this backdrop, the very idea of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry setting up a body for the same purpose is duplication of work. Besides, it also militates against the principle Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated more than once: the government has no business to be in business. It is in pursuance of this principle that the Government has been privatising public sector undertakings. But, by launching ONDC, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry will be ensuring government interference in the economy — something that is not in tune with the Modi Government reformist agenda. On the face of it, ONDC's new forays may seem impressive but in reality these don't appear to be consistent with the newly emerging policy framework. Instead of zealously promoting ONDC, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry should focus on boosting manufacturing.

PICTALK



Women in traditional dresses celebrate Zangtri as part of three-day Navreh (Kashmiri New Year) festival

PTI

Are you contributing to electronic waste?

E-waste is a growing concern not only in India but also globally. With the launch of newer devices, our greed leads us to buy the latest ones

Christian Lous Lange says "technology is an effective servant but a dangerous master". There is no denying everyone is addicted to technology in some way or another. Everyone has seen the transition from a wired telephone to the first cell phones followed by the latest, lighter and better version of cell phones. However, have we ever thought that today's technology will be obsolete someday? Today, technology has affected almost every aspect from advancements in education, medicine or transport to easy access to socialization, food, healthcare and productivity. Every year, big tech companies come up with new versions of their devices. This leads to the market to shift to its updated version. As a result, many individuals replace their phones or gadgets with new ones, causing a lot of E-waste. Today, almost 10 billion people have smartphones, and in 3-4 years without access to repair these devices will add to an enormous amount of e-waste that already exists. Though buying latest gadgets keeps an individual



updated, in the long run their constant use will affect our planet's health severely. According to a research, India is the 3rd largest E-waste producer after China and the USA. E-waste or electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world. It includes discarded electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, notepads, computers, radios and televisions. Computer devices account for nearly 70% of e-waste, followed by the telecom sector, medical equipment and electrical equipment.

Unfortunately, these devices end up in landfills, where they release hazardous gases into the atmosphere. The toxic components so released affect human health in terms of skin irritation, lung infections, kidney problems, nausea and others. They also contribute to soil contamination, polluting the envi-

ronment and most importantly harm and threat to wildlife. According to a recent study, E-waste has reached alarming levels with 5.3 billion phones thrown away every year. Since the last 5 years, waste has grown by 21% and is expected to reach 74.2 MT by 2030. If not recycled or disposed of properly, heavy metals in e-waste emit toxic substances causing serious environmental concern.

At the individual level, there are several solutions that can help reduce e-waste such as considering repairing a smartphone instead of buying a new one or preferring to donate old devices such as laptops, computers or notepads to schools or charitable organisations that can find a use for the product. Educating high-school students about e-waste's harmful effects has a greater impact on stopping its spread. Adopting changes in technology such as cloud computing and the internet of things can even help with dematerialization. In India, many e-waste recycling startups such as Cashify, Attero recycling, Namo E-waste, Binbag and many more have come up

with the objective of conserving resources by adopting economical and responsible disposal techniques of e-waste.

These startups are working day and night to create opportunities to transfer waste into socially and industrially beneficial raw materials such as valuable metals, plastics and glass. They are using simple, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies suitable for Indian conditions. As climate change effects grow, it becomes the responsibility of its citizens to help the planet and prevent e-waste issues. Also, with the 5G revolution, it is imperative to recycle old smartphones. It is important to understand that a difference can only be made at the individual level.

E-waste is a growing concern not only in India but also globally, as the moment electronic devices get introduced, an individual's greed leads them to buy the latest one while the old ones take space in the cupboard drawers. We need a safe channel for recycling obsolete equipment. (The writer is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi)



SAKSHI SETHI

FIRST COLUMN

NOW THE GOVT DECIDES WHAT WE EAT

Unlike the days of yore, Govts need to incentivise crops which suit modern life



In the early human civilisations, it was geography and weather that decided what crops were to be grown in any region. The same crop was consumed by the people of that area. Exports were tough and risky. But, in modern civilisation, Governments directly or indirectly control the food consumed.

Government subsidies are offered in various ways. It can be direct transfers to farmers by cash transfer (DBT) or by providing them with subsidized electricity, water, diesel, pesticides, fertilizer etc. Subsidies have also been provided in the form of MSP (minimum selling price) for certain agricultural products. Subsidies given to small and big enterprises are to set up export-oriented units or food processing units, cold storages, warehouses, or to set up SEZs or food parks to enhance the production of a particular cereal crop, fruit, vegetable, fish, meat products or certain packed products/processed food (dairy, apiculture) etc. By giving subsidies to farmers, the government incentivizes farmers to grow a particular crop, which can become a mass consumption item as government subsidies make it really cheap to produce and reduce the price of the products, and these crops when subsidized can change the dietary habits of not only millions but billions of people. A remarkable example of such action is the USA subsidizing corn and corn-related products which have flooded not only



the American market but also the world market with products like corn flour, cornstarch, corn syrup etc. Another remarkable example is from India. Government subsidy on rice and sugarcane has made India one of the largest producers of this agricultural produce. It has also made India one of the biggest exporters of these both commodities and flooding not only the Indian market but also the world market with it. Also, the Indian government gives rice and sugar subsidised to public distribution centres.

Well, there is nothing wrong in giving incentives to farmers to produce more to get good rates for their produce, but in the case of India, the biggest problem that we are facing is, that both these crops are highly water-intensive crops and a country of 1.4 billion is already facing a lot of trouble with its groundwater and water irrigation. Exporting these crops is like exporting water from the country. Rice cultivation also produces a large amount of methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas (GHG). Another problem is that both these crops are high in carbohydrates and combined with an unhealthy lifestyle can lead to diseases such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and other heart-related issues. Governments across the world should, before incentivising a certain crop, consider that incentivizing one crop can really impact the consumption patterns of the masses. It can have a detrimental effect on the health of millions of people.

Another remarkable example is from the industrialization period in Europe and America. Potatoes were made a mass-consumed vegetable as the labour working in the factories needed high calories and carbohydrates to function in the long shifts of the factories. This dietary habit continued even after the industrialization era ended. For the generations after that, potatoes still remained the go-to vegetable as it was a cheap vegetable and people ate it in the past, hence the generations copied the same eating habits even after changes in working and lifestyle.

Today's lifestyle requires less physical work and more mental effort, which requires crops and dietary habit changes. This change can benefit generations to come. For example, eyesight weakness and malnutrition are common problems children face these days. To curtail these problems vital vitamins like vitamin A and C-rich fruits and vegetables can be incentivized by the government. Less water-intensive cereals like Bajra, Jau, and Ragi can be incentivized to become part of the daily meal plan. The year 2023 has been declared the millet international year by the United Nations. This is "as it consumes 70% less water than rice and needs 40% less energy in processing and is climate-friendly and environmentally friendly."

(The writer is the Director of Rath Public Schools)

Empower ‘Divyangs’ with skills, inclusion

There is no dearth of opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, provided they are equipped with the right set of skills. The Govt is working in this direction



Divyangjan or persons with disabilities (PwDs) are a significant social group but are rarely provided with the right kind of opportunities, skills and platforms to showcase their talent and productive potential. It is unfortunately presumed that PwDs cannot make any meaningful contributions to our economy's growth, which is wrong. People with disabilities have immense potential to contribute significantly to the economy but they need skills that are best suited to them. It is an irony that PwDs, who account for more than 2 per cent of our total population, have not been allowed to be a part of mainstream discourse and pursuits aimed at empowerment through inclusion.

Unfortunately, the employability rate for PwDs is very low. It is estimated that only 36 per cent of India's 26 million PwDs are working. As per a report by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on PwDs, nearly 64 per cent of persons with disabilities in India don't have jobs. More disabled men than women have jobs. As per an assessment of market intelligence, Unearth Insight, only 34 lakh out of almost 3 crore PwDs are employed but 1.3 crores are employable. Most of them are employed in organised and unorganised sectors, government entities or self-employed. It is therefore necessary to ensure that most PwDs get gainful jobs but how?

In order to ensure that persons with disabilities lead a dignified life independently, they must be provided with high-quality education. This is so that they have the freedom to choose their careers and have equal employment opportunities. There are several examples where Divyang people have achieved impressive feats in many fields thanks to their indomitable courage, talent and determination. If provided with the right environment, opportunities and skills, they can excel in every field. Education, in particular skill-based education, is the key to empower-



AS PER A REPORT BY THE UNION MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION ON PwDs, NEARLY 64 PER CENT OF THEM DON'T HAVE JOBS. MORE DISABLED MEN THAN WOMEN HAVE JOBS

(The writer is a co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner with the National Skill Development Corporation)

ment for everyone, including those with disabilities.

There is no dearth of jobs for PwDs, provided they are equipped with the right soft and practical skills. Some of the most valuable soft job skills for adults with disabilities that employers look for: attention to detail; communication skills; conflict management skills; problem-solving skills; teamwork skills; time management skills; and enrichment and life skills. Similarly, some hard job skills for PwDs include accounting, engineering, technical writing, computer-related jobs, healthcare, career counseling, customer service, insurance agent, massage therapist, telemarketer, photographer in a wheelchair, desktop publisher, graphic designer, web developer, bank teller, receptionist, financial analyst, landscaper or groundskeeper.

National Education Policy 2020 also underlines the importance of enabling arrangements in providing equal opportunities for quality education for children with disabilities. The conversion of NCERT textbooks for Classes I to VI into Indian Sign Language for hearing-impaired children is complete. It is a crucial initiative to include hearing-impaired students in mainstream education. It is heartening indeed to note that the Government is taking several steps to empower Divyangjan. Inculcating self-confidence among Divyangjan is very important to empower them for which they need skills. There are talents and abilities in people with disabilities; in some cases, these are greater than those found in normal people. Inclusive growth, development and confidence must encompass PwD aspirations.

It is worth noting that the

Government enacted the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which came into effect on April 19, 2017. It provides for 4 per cent reservation in government jobs for disabilities. The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign, was launched by the Central Government on December 3, 2015. It provides universal accessibility for persons with disabilities so that they can live a meaningful life with dignity. Public buildings, transport systems and information and communication technology are included in this campaign. Keeping in view the problems related to accessibility faced by the masses, a mobile app has been developed to address accessibility problems in a quick and systematic manner.

The Government has also set up the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) to promote hearing-impaired persons' empowerment and to create sign language in the country. The institute, among other things, is continuously preparing sign language dictionaries that have so far included more than 10,000 words. The Government is also implementing a Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) project to create a National Database for Persons with Disabilities. So far, over 84 lakh UDID cards have been prepared in 713 districts of all states and Union Territories.

The Disability Sports Centre is being established at Gwalior and the National Institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation at Sehore, both Madhya Pradesh. Divya Kala Shakti is organised to showcase Divyang youngsters and children's talent and skills. However, they need a dedicated

programme to equip them with employable or gainful skills. The process of skilling and creating job opportunities for crores of youth through Skill India Mission and Kaushal Rozgar Kendra cannot exclude PwDs. Their needs require a specific and targeted approach.

We have the Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) as a national body to fulfill the mission of mainstreaming PwDs through skill training to enable them to earn a livelihood and lead a life of dignity in the mainstream society and in turn contribute to the growing economy of the country. Skill training is also imparted at accredited training centres through trained and certified trainers. Trainers are trained on NSQC-approved job roles aligned to a specific disability. Trainers are also certified in disability orientation and sensitisation.

As of now, we haven't been inclusive in our approach to skilling people in any way. A few sectors' artisans received some attention, while many classes of artisans such as carpenters, iron smiths, sculptors, masons and others that are an integral part of society have been adapting to the changing times to fulfil; the needs of society that were ignored.

PwDs were rarely discussed in relation to their skill set. Empowering every section of society is essential to our country's development journey. I totally agree with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's argument that they should get easy loans, skilling, technical support, digital empowerment, brand promotion, marketing and raw material. Development of traditional artisans and craftsmen while preserving their rich tradition must include PwDs.

Innovative approaches are galvanising livestock economy

A conclave in Hyderabad recently brought more than 100 startups, 50 CII members and the fast-growing livestock sector together

The livestock sector, besides contributing to the national economy, plays a key role in providing livelihood to 80 million rural households and is growing at a high and consistent rate in the country, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.93 per cent between 2014-15 to 2020-21 (at constant prices), which is much higher than the general agriculture sector.

India currently ranks third in unicorns and has a thriving startup ecosystem. It is estimated that 15 per cent of the world's agri-tech startups are based here. Modern technical breakthroughs have impacted almost every component of India's dairy and livestock value chain. This is due to Government initiatives to encourage investments, ease of



doing business and innovation.

Animal husbandry and dairying have more than 700 startups registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. This proves that there is more room for technology deployment and monetisation of interventions in the related sectors.

Startup conclave

A recent startup conclave in Hyderabad on February 28 included showcasing of a 100 select startups, a pitch fest, a buyer-seller meet, and a workshop for startups to train the early-stage startups operating in the animal husbandry and dairying sector in pitching, building the main business pillars, and their story of impact. Beside more than 100 startups, 50 members from the Confederation of Indian

Industry also participated in the event, searching for creative solutions to the key issues facing the livestock sector.

Startups' exhibition

Startups showcased their goods and innovations, including cosmetics made of camel milk and donkey milk (they offer a mind-boggling rate of Rs 1,200 per kg of donkey milk to the owners of donkey farms), building products and panels made of cow dung, innovations in animal feed and insect feed, platforms for online livestock trade, platforms that connect farmers with embedded digital finance options, new yoghurt flavours, breed improvement technology for cattle, intelligent dairy automation solutions, and cold chain solutions. Startups benefited greatly from the expo as

it gave them access to investors, dairy cooperatives, and government partners.

Pitch fest & shoring capacity

A special pitching event with a panel of investors, including venture capitalists and angel investors, was organised for 10 startups. With innovative products and services, the startups represent the animal husbandry and dairy industries. These products and services include artificial insemination equipment, cattle reproduction solutions, traceability, heat detection, frozen semen thawing, veterinary care, nanotechnology, polymer chemistry, vaccines, and diagnostics, among others.

A concurrent workshop was held for early-stage startups to guide them in the art of pitching and developing

primary business pillars/story of impact, problem-solving, and government-e-marketplace. The speakers delved into investor psychology and expectations to help the audience understand what is required to have the highest chance of acquiring investment from a venture capital fund and PE and angel investors.

On the finer elements of pitching, term sheet preparation, legal rights, value, etc., the experts gave enlightening advice. The buyer-seller meeting was a fascinating session of the conclave that drew enthusiastic involvement from both sides. Of the prominent dairy cooperatives and enterprises participating in the event, ten start-ups delivered a sales pitch to market their products.

Technological advancements will lead to significant improvements in day-to-day operations and lower business costs. The Indian Government employs numerous cutting-edge breeding techniques in the animal husbandry industry to maximise local bovine herd production. Startups are crucial for making such a system self-sustaining.

The growth of startups has improved this ecosystem's development, organisation, and resilience, mostly to the benefit of its most significant stakeholder—the Indian farmers—who make up the agriculture sector, which includes the livestock industry and forms the backbone of the nation's economy.

Innovative approaches to

the problems of animal health, online marketplaces, improved supply chains, products with value-added, mobile apps, drones, and other investments are not only empowering producers or entrepreneurs but also improving the market, making resources more available, preventing waste, maximising profits, creating scalable businesses, and removing bottlenecks.

The support that the Government gives to startups shows the importance and impact of startups in the Indian economy. The livestock industry in India is poised to grow and will continue to be crucial in advancing our Hon'ble Prime Minister's goal of building an Aatmanirbhar (self-sufficient) India.

Russian strikes in Ukraine kill 10 civilians | N Korea tests radioactive tsunami weapon at sea

AP ■ KYIV

Russian long-range strikes killed at least 10 civilians and wounded 20 others in several areas of Ukraine on Friday, Ukraine's presidential office said, as a senior Moscow official warned that the Kremlin's forces were prepared for an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive in the coming weeks.

Five people died in Kostiantynivka, a town in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province, when a Russian missile hit an aid station. Ukrainian authorities last year established hundreds of so-called "points of invincibility", where residents hard-pressed by the war could warm up, charge their cellphones and get snacks.

Local prosecutors said the Russians attacked Kostyantynivka with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles. The civilians who died were refugees, according to Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko. As the mostly artillery war of the recent winter months stretched into its second spring, Russian forces also used air-launched missiles, exploding drones and gliding bombs in their attacks on several regions early on Friday, Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat said.

Two civilians were killed and nine were wounded in the Sumy province town of Bilopillya by a night-time rocket and artillery barrage and air strikes, the administration of the northeast region said. In the southern Kherson region, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited on Thursday, Russian shelling killed one person in the main city, also called Kherson, and killed another person and wounded four others in the town of Bilozerk.

On Wednesday, a Russian drone attack struck a high school and dormitories south of Kyiv, killing at least nine people. Kyiv's forces are poised to use the improved spring weather and the arrival of modern weapons supplied by its Western allies, including tanks, to launch a counteroffensive aimed at dislodging Russian troops from occupied areas of Ukraine.

But Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president and now the deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, said the Russian military was ready to repel a counterattack. "Our General Staff is assessing all that," Medvedev said. He also said that a Ukrainian attempt to seize Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, could trigger a nuclear response from Moscow. "An attempt to split part of the state away means an encroachment at the very existence of the state," he said.



UN decries killing of Russian POWs and Ukrainians

Kyiv (AP): UN human rights monitors have documented dozens of summary killings of Ukrainian and Russian prisoners of war, as well as the use of torture, human shields and other abuses against POWs since Russia invaded its neighbour that could amount to war crimes, according to a report released Friday.

The first full look by the U.N. human rights office's mission in Ukraine at the treatment of POWs was released along with an update of human rights violations overall from a six-month period that ran through January. The report was based on interviews with about 400 POWs, half of them Ukrainians who were released and the other half Russians held captive in Ukraine.

The team said it had no access to POWs held in Russia or Russia-occupied parts of Ukraine where it identified 48 internment sites.

North Korea claimed on Friday to have tested a nuclear-capable underwater drone designed to generate a gigantic "radioactive tsunami" that would destroy naval strike groups and ports. Analysts were skeptical that the device presents a major new threat, but the test underlines the North's commitment to raising nuclear threats. The test this week came as the United States reportedly planned to deploy aircraft carrier strike groups and other advanced assets to waters off the Korean Peninsula.

Military tensions are at a high point as the pace of both North Korean weapons tests and US-South Korea joint military exercises has accelerated in the past year in a cycle of tit-for-tat responses.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said the new weapon, which can be deployed from the coast or towed by surface ships, is built to "stealthily infiltrate into operational waters and make a super-scale radioactive tsunami through an underwater explosion" to destroy enemy naval strike groups and ports.

The report came hours before South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol pledged to make North Korea pay for its "reckless provocations" as he attended a remembrance service honouring 55 South Korean troops killed during major clashes with the North near their western sea border in past years.

The testing of the purported "nuclear underwater attack drone" was part of a three-day exercise that simulated nuclear attacks on unspecified South Korean targets, which also included cruise missile launches on Wednesday.

KCNA said the North's latest tests were aimed at alerting the United States and South Korea of a brewing "nuclear crisis" as they continue with their "intentional, persistent and provocative war drills." It said



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows what it says is an underwater blast of test warhead loaded to an unmanned underwater nuclear attack craft "Haeil" during an exercise around Hongwon Bay in waters off North Korea's eastern coast Thursday, AP/PTI

the tests were supervised by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who vowed to make his rivals "plunge into despair." The US and South Korea completed an 11-day exercise on Thursday that included their biggest field training in years, and are preparing another round of joint naval drills that will reportedly involve a US aircraft carrier. Hours after the North Korean report, South Korea's air force released details of a five-day joint aerial drill with the United States that began Monday and concluded on Friday above waters off South Korea's western coast, which included live-fire demonstrations of air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons.

The air force said the exercise, which involved various South Korean fighter jets and at least one US A-10 attack plane, was aimed at verifying precision strike capabilities and reaffirming the credibility of Seoul's "three-axis" strategy against North Korean nuclear threats — preemptively striking sources of attacks, intercepting incoming missiles and neutralizing the North's leadership and key military facilities.

The North Korean drone is named "Haeil," a Korean word meaning tidal waves or tsunamis. The North's Rodong Simmun newspaper published photos of Kim smiling next to a large, torpedo-shaped object at an unspecified indoor facility, but didn't identify it.

Other photos published with the same article showed sea-surface tracks supposedly caused by the drone's underwater trajectory and a pillar of water exploding up into the air, possibly caused by what state media described as an underwater detonation of a mock nuclear weapon carried by the drone. KCNA said the drone was deployed on Tuesday off the North's eastern coast, traveled underwater for nearly 60 hours, and detonated a test warhead at a target standing for an enemy port. It said the test verified the operational reliability of the drone, which it said the North has been developing since 2012 and tested more 50 times in the past two years, although the weapon was never mentioned before in state media until Friday.

Israeli AG: Netanyahu broke law on conflict of interest

Jerusalem (AP): Israel's attorney general on Friday warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he has violated the Supreme Court's conflict of interest ruling, which barred him from direct involvement in his government's divisive plans for a judicial overhaul. Netanyahu's far-right government has barreled ahead with plans to weaken the Supreme Court and grant politicians less judicial oversight in their policymaking despite massive protests from across Israeli society — including an uproar among business leaders, top legal officials and military reservists.

On Thursday, just hours after his coalition passed a law that would protect the Israeli leader from being



An Israeli activist dressed as a clown runs with border police as Israelis protest against plans by 'Netanyahu' in Tel Aviv, Israel on Thursday. AP/PTI

deemed unfit to rule because of his corruption trial and claims of a conflict of interest, Netanyahu defiantly pledged to proceed with the overhaul. Netanyahu contended that stripping the attorney general

Demonstrators protest Netanyahu's visit to UK

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak welcomed Benjamin Netanyahu at his official residence in London on Friday as protesters shouting "Shame!" in Hebrew demonstrated against the Israeli leader's right-wing policies and his plans to overhaul the country's judiciary.

Netanyahu had to pass by hundreds of protesters waving Israeli flags and waving signs calling for the defense of Israeli democracy as he arrived for talks that are expected to focus on concerns about Iran's nuclear programme.

"We are Israelis and Jews living in the UK demonstrating against Prime Minister Netanyahu, who is leading a judicial coup turning Israel into a dictatorship," one placard read.

Netanyahu arrived in London as protesters in Israel blocked roads and clashed with police over his right-wing government's plans to overhaul the judicial system.

The proposals have ignited the biggest protests in the country's history amid rare dissent from people throughout Israeli society, including military reservists, navy veterans, high-tech businesspeople and former officials.

Netanyahu's proposals would give his government more control over judicial appointments, weaken the Supreme Court by limiting judicial review of legislation and allow Parliament to overturn court decisions with a simple majority vote. **AP**

Large asteroid coming close, but zero chance of hitting earth

Cape Canaveral: An asteroid big enough to wipe out a city will zip harmlessly between Earth and the moon's orbit this weekend, missing both celestial bodies. Saturday's close encounter will offer astronomers the chance to study a space rock from just over 100,000 miles (168,000 kilometers) away. That's less than half the distance from here to the moon, making it visible through binoculars and small telescopes.

While asteroid flybys are common, NASA said it's rare for one so big to come so close — about once a decade. Scientists estimate its size somewhere between 130 feet and 300 feet (40 meters and 90 meters).

Discovered a month ago, the asteroid known as 2023 DZ2 will pass within 320,000 miles (515,000 kilometers) of the moon on Saturday and, several hours later, buzz the Indian Ocean at about 17,500 mph (28,000 kph). **AP**

Saudi Arabia, Syria may restore ties

AP ■ BEIRUT

Saudi Arabia is in talks with Syria to reopen its embassy in the war-torn nation for the first time in a decade, state television in the kingdom reported late Thursday, the latest diplomatic reshuffling in the region. The announcement on state TV comes after Chinese-mediated talks in Beijing saw Saudi Arabia and Iran agree to reopen embassies in each others' nations after years of tensions. Syrian President Bashar Assad has maintained his grip on power in the Mediterranean nation rocked by the 2011 Arab Spring only with the help of Iran and Russia, which made a historic call earlier in the day to Oman.

Saudi Arabian state television aired a report late Thursday, quoting an anonymous official in the country's Foreign Ministry, acknowledging the talks between the kingdom and Damascus.

"A source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs revealed to Al-Ekhabariyah that ongoing discussions have begun with the

Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commenting on what was circulated by some international media," an anchor said on air. "Discussions are underway between officials in the kingdom and their counterparts in Syria about resuming the provision of consular services." Arabic-language media had been reporting the possible detente in recent days ahead of the Saudi state TV announcement. The Wall Street Journal, quoting anonymous Saudi and Syrian officials, attributed the talks to reopen the countries' embassies to Russian mediation.

Syrian state media did not immediately acknowledge the talks. Officials in both Saudi Arabia and Syria did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press early Friday.

Earlier Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin called Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, which the Kremlin called the "the first high-level bilateral contact since the establishment of diplomatic relations" between the nations.

Protests continue as Paris reels under violence

AP ■ PARIS

Protesters angry at French President Emmanuel Macron's pension reforms continued with scattered actions on Friday amid slowed train traffic, rows of trucks blocking access to Marseille's commercial port and debris still littering the Paris streets following the previous day's mass demonstrations. Over 450 protesters were arrested in Paris and beyond on Thursday as some 300 demonstrations drew more than a million people nationwide to protest against unpopular pension reforms.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said Friday that some 441 police and gendarmes were injured as violence marred some marches. He added that 1,000 trash bins were set on fire in the French capital during the previous day's action. Amid a weeks-long refuse collectors strike, trash bins have become a symbol of the protest.

Polls say most French oppose Macron's bill to increase the retirement age from 62 to 64, which he says is necessary to keep the system afloat. The supply of fuel to Paris by the large Gonfreville-l'Orcher refinery



ery in Normandy resumed on Friday after police intervened, according to Energy Transition Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher. At the Fos-sur-mer oil terminal near Marseille, however, protesters were meeting to plan future oil refinery blockades.

Fearing disruptions in coming days as actions continue, France's Civil Aviation Authority has requested that a third of

flights be cancelled on Sunday at Paris' second airport, Orly, with 20 per cent to be cancelled on Monday. Unions have called for new protests and strikes on Tuesday, when Britain's King Charles III is scheduled to visit Bordeaux on the second day of his trip to France. The heavy wooden door of the elegant Bordeaux City Hall was destroyed by fire Thursday night by people taking part in an

British King's visit postponed

Paris (AP): Protesters angry at French President Emmanuel Macron's pension reforms continued with scattered actions on Friday, as the unrest across the country led officials to postpone a planned state visit by Britain's King Charles III.

Although no major protests were planned on Friday, train traffic was slowed, rows of trucks blocked access to Marseille's commercial port and debris still littered the Paris streets following the previous day's mass demonstrations. Over 450 protesters were arrested in Paris and beyond

unauthorised demonstration. The mayor of Bordeaux, Pierre Hurmic, said Friday he had "difficulty understanding the interest of such acts of vandalism." Hurmic said that he hopes Charles' visit to his city next week will not be cancelled. "I hope that we do not give this gift to the thugs," he said, although he acknowledged that a tram ride with the king may

on Thursday as some 300 demonstrations drew more than a million people nationwide to protest against unpopular pension reforms.

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He added that 1,000 trash bins were set on fire in the French capital during the previous day's action. Amid a weeks-long refuse collectors strike, trash bins have become a symbol of the protest. Macron's office announced that a state visit by the British king was postponed.

now be off the cards. The protests have drawn support from beyond France's borders. In Greece, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the French Embassy in Athens on Thursday to show solidarity. Protesters chanted slogans and held placards that read "Macron, your democracy hangs on nine votes" and "From Greece: victory for the workers of France".

Report on Leicester clashes warns of ethnic enclaves in UK

AP ■ LONDON

A fact-finding report into the violent clashes between groups of men on the streets of Leicester following an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match in Dubai last year has warned of ethnic enclaves or ghettos of migrants in the eastern England city as a key factor behind communal tension.

The Delhi-based Centre for Democracy, Pluralism and Human Rights (CDPHR) think tank, which launched its report at a Committee Room in the House of Commons on Thursday, sheds light on the events that took place in August-September last year and their human rights implications. In its "Fact-finding report on Leicester Violence 2022 – The rise of territorial majoritarianism and Hinduphobia", the think tank calls for immediate action to address the underlying issues that led to the Leicester vio-

lence such as the rise of extremism and hate speech.

"There were two kinds of stories circulating around the violence that occurred, which is the motivation behind this fact-finding report," explained Rashmi Samant of the ATMAH non-profit organisation and one of the co-authors of the report. "What we found was that different religious groups in east Leicester, ground zero of the unrest, are living in ethnic enclaves – with some ethnicities clubbed up in some spaces more than others. This phenomenon is not common in the United Kingdom but we found it continues to happen in Leicester because of the spillover effect involving migrants from countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh," she said.

The report claims that the presence of these ethnic enclaves gave rise to territorial tensions and localised majoritarianism, which were

witnessed both before and during the unrest in east Leicester – the ethnic enclave of the Muslim community residing in Leicester with a minority presence of the Hindu community. Conservative Party MP Bob Blackman, chair of the India (Trade and Investment) All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), said at the launch event that "fake news" spread on social media has been identified as a major factor behind the escalation of the clashes. "Lessons must be learnt. There was a false narrative being spread to create divisions within the communities. In Leicester, people of all religions have lived alongside each other for many, many years," said Blackman.

The findings of the report say that the attackers attempted to undermine the fundamental principles of democracy and pluralism, including freedom of expression by spreading misinformation.

Jamaican cleric gets 18-year sentence in NY terrorism case

New York: A cleric arrested in his native Jamaica and extradited to New York to face state terrorism charges on accusations of recruiting support for the Islamic State group was sentenced on Thursday to 18 years in prison.

Abdullah el-Faisal was convicted in January in state Supreme Court in Manhattan on counts including soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism. The state law he was prosecuted under was put in place after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and prosecutors said his case was the first state-level trial on terrorism charges.

El-Faisal was extradited to New York City in 2020 after being arrested in Jamaica in 2017. Beginning in 2016, authorities said an undercover officer in New York City posed as a would-be jihadist and started communicating with the cleric.

The cleric was accused of giving out information to help the officer ultimately connect with the Islamic State group, as well as trying to do things like act as a conduit for a marriage between the officer and a member of the militant group.

Prosecutors said el-Faisal had supported the Islamic State organization for several years. **AP**

Starbucks CEO to work as barista

New York: Starbucks' new Indian-origin CEO Laxman Narasimhan has said he will work as a barista once a month in stores to stay close to the company's culture, customers, challenges and opportunities.

Narasimhan, 55, officially became the Seattle-based coffee giant's chief executive on Monday, taking the reins from Howard Schultz about two weeks earlier than scheduled. He was welcomed as incoming chief executive officer of Starbucks with a coffee tasting in the place where it all began – at Seattle's Pike Place market store. In a letter to the employees on Thursday, the Indian-American business executive said he will always be a "fierce advocate" for the company's partners and its culture. "With you, I've experienced every aspect of the business to learn what it truly means to wear the green apron. You've welcomed me into our stores, trained me in how to be a barista ... all to

help me deeply understand what we do, how we do it, and the challenges and opportunities facing us," he wrote.

Barista is a person who serves in a coffee bar. "To keep us close to the culture and our customers, as well as to our challenges and opportunities, I intend to continue working in stores for a half day each month," he was quoted as saying by CNN.

"I thought it was very important for me to put myself in the shoes of the partners and really understand what they do and how they do it.

There were things I learned through experience in all of this. It taught me a lot," he said in a statement.

Pune-born Narasimhan joined Starbucks as interim CEO in October and has since spent time getting to know the company — including earning a barista certification, which requires 40 hours of training in stores. **PTI**

Bolsonaro hands undeclared jewels to authorities

AP ■ BRASILIA

A representative of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday handed a set of diamond jewellery he had received from Saudi Arabia to a state bank, as he was ordered to do by a government watchdog.

The state bank Caixa Economica Federal received the box of precious stones at one of its branches in the capital Brasilia, the bank's press office told The Associated Press. A federal watchdog on Wednesday gave Bolsonaro five days to hand over the precious stones that he had received while president.

Authorities are investigating whether the goods were a public gift that Bolsonaro improperly tried to prevent from being incorporated into the presidency's public collection, or a private gift that Bolsonaro tried to sneak into Brazil without paying taxes.

Brazilian media started reporting on the jewels earlier this month, along with another set that was seized at the international airport in Sao Paulo. The seized set is estimated to be worth several million dollars. Neither set was declared to tax authorities.

Bolsonaro, who denies any wrongdoing with the jewellery, has been in the United States since late-December, just days before the end of his presidential term.

Sensex, Nifty fall 1% amid weak global equities trend

Sensex declined 398.18 points, Nifty fell 131.85 points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure for the second straight session to settle nearly 1 per cent lower on Friday as investors pared exposure to the metal, energy and realty stocks amid a bearish trend in Asian and European markets.

Besides, a depreciating rupee against the US dollar and fresh foreign fund outflows also hit investor sentiments, traders said. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 398.18 points or 0.69 per cent to finish at 57,527.10. During the day, it went lower by 502.3 points or 0.86 per cent to 57,422.98.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 131.85 points or 0.77 per cent to end at 16,945.05.

Bajaj Finserv was the biggest loser among the Sensex constituents, sliding 3.81 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, HCL



Tech, SBI, Larsen & Toubro and Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank and Titan.

On the other hand, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Asian Paints and Wipro were the gainers. In Asia markets, stock exchanges in Seoul, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were also quoting in the red in the after-

noon trade. The US markets ended higher on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the rupee declined 25 paise to close at 82.45 against the US dollar.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 1.73 per cent to USD 74.60 per barrel.

Foreign Portfolio Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 995.01 crore on Thursday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

AMC stocks under pressure; UTI AMC falls nearly 5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of asset management firms declined on Friday amid amendments to the Finance Bill changing tax treatment for debt mutual funds.

The stock of UTI Asset Management Company tanked 4.73 per cent, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC declined 4.44 per cent, HDFC Asset Management Company fell 4.21 per cent, Shriram Asset Management Company dropped 3.21 per cent and Nippon Life India Asset Management dipped 1.29 per cent on the BSE.

The broader market also faced selling pressure as the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 398.18 points or 0.69 per cent to finish at 57,527.10.

The Lok Sabha on Friday approved The Finance Bill 2023 with 64 official amendments, including providing tax relief to some taxpayers opting for new tax regime, and removing long-term tax benefit for debt mutual funds to bring them at par with other interest earning instruments.

"The asset management industry was hit hard by tax



changes and the elimination of the indexation benefit of debt mutual funds," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Asset managers termed amendments to the Finance Bill changing tax treatment for debt mutual funds as a "surprise", which will be detrimental to the agenda of corporate bond market development.

Late on Thursday evening, the industry came to know about the changes the government proposed, wherein tax benefits for over three year investments in debt mutual fund investments will not be available

and all such bets will attract short-term capital gains tax.

The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday.

A Balasubramanian, chairman of MF industry lobby grouping Amfi, who also heads Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC, called the amendments as "surprising" and added that the industry will have to be ready for the changes that set in from April 1.

Consultancy firm Dhruva Advisors' partner Punit Shah said the amendment to treat gains on debt mutual funds as short-term gains will substantially diminish the attractiveness of

such products.

"The amendment in the finance bill will have significant structural changes to the way we invest. For mutual funds to get investor interest, it'll now have to purely be on their ability to add extra "risk adjusted returns" and not because of any tax arbitrage," Srikanth Subramanian, CEO of wealth management firm Kotak Cherry, said.

Financial advisor firm Fintoo's founder Manish P Hingar explained that mutual funds may no longer receive indexation benefits and will be taxed at marginal rates, and added the move will also impact gold funds and international funds.

"This move may have a negative impact on all debt funds, particularly in the retail category, as ultra-high net worth and high net worth individuals may choose to invest in safe havens like bank fixed deposits.

"We may see a shift from long-term debt funds to equity funds, and money may be directed towards sovereign gold bonds, bank fixed deposits, and non-convertible debentures in the debt category," Hingar said.



RBI's MPC to meet 6 times next fiscal; first on April 3-6

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet six times in the next financial year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rate setting panel will be holding its first meeting of the next fiscal from April 3-6, the central bank said in a statement.

The RBI Governor announces the bi-monthly monetary policy after MPC's deliberations on the prevailing domestic and economic situations. The meetings are held over three days.

According to the schedule released by the RBI on Friday, the first bi-monthly monetary policy of FY2023-24 is scheduled for April 3, 5 and 6; and next will be held during June 6-8.

The third, fourth and fifth meetings have been scheduled for August 8-10, October 4-6, and December 6-8.

The sixth bi-monthly meeting of the MPC is scheduled to be held on February 6-8, 2024.

Headed by the Governor, the committee has two representatives from the central bank and three external members.

The central government has tasked the RBI to ensure that inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

Govt to set up panel headed by finance secretary to improve NPS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday announced that a committee under the finance secretary will be set up to improve the New Pension System (NPS) with a view to take care of the concerns of employees while maintaining fiscal prudence.

While moving the Finance Bill 2023 for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the new approach to the NPS will be designed for adoption by both central and state governments.

"I propose to set up a committee under the finance secretary to look into the issue of pensions and evolve an approach which addresses the

needs of employees while maintaining fiscal prudence to protect common citizens," she said.

"The approach will be designed for adoption by both the central government and state governments," she said.

The decision comes in the backdrop of several non-BJP states deciding to revert to the DA-linked Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and also employee organisations in some other states raising demand for the same.

The state governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have informed the Centre about their decision to revert to the Old Pension Scheme and have requested a refund of corpus accumulated under the NPS.



Earlier this month, the central government informed Parliament that it is not considering any proposal to restore the OPS in respect of the central government employees recruited after January 1, 2004.

Under the OPS, retired government employees received 50 per cent of their last drawn salary as monthly pensions. The amount keeps increasing with hike in the DA rates. OPS is not fiscally sustainable as it is not con-

tributory in nature and the burden on exchequer keeps on mounting.

The total assets under management under the National Pension System and Atal Pension Yojana stood at Rs 8.81 lakh crore as on March 4, 2023. NPS has been implemented for all government employees except those in armed forces joining central government on or after 1st of January 2004. Most of the state/ Union Territory governments have also notified the NPS for their new employees.

According to the PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority), 26 state governments, with the exception of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, have notified and implemented NPS for their employees. NPS has been made avail-

able to every Indian citizen from May 1, 2009 on a voluntary basis.

Further, on June 1, 2015, the Atal Pension Yojana has been launched which has given the much required impetus to the social security schemes.

To regulate and develop the pension market, the government created PFRDA in 2003. It was initially designed for government employees exclusively, but its services were subsequently expanded to include all Indian nationals and NRIs, including self-employed persons.

PFRDA promotes, develops and regulates organised pension funds; namely National Pension System (NPS) to serve the old age income needs of people on a sustainable basis.



Further delay in e-commerce policy rollout may accentuate issues in digital mkt: Par panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Any further delay in formulating and notifying a dedicated e-commerce policy may further accentuate the prevailing issues in India's digital market, according to a Parliamentary panel report.

The report tabled on Friday urged the Centre to finalise the draft National E-Commerce Policy at the earliest.

The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its report on the 'Promotion and Regulation of E-Commerce in India' observed that the absence of a dedicated e-commerce policy has resulted in a 'strategy vacuum' for the sector and 'ineffective regulation'.

Notably, the Committee said as the current regulatory framework is restricted to prevention and identification of sellers who have violated rules regarding Intellectual Property Rights, there exist gaps in enforcement mechanisms with regard to provision for imposing ex-post penalty on sellers who have violated the relevant rules.

It recommended the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to "develop appropriate mechanisms for enforcement of rules related to Intellectual Property Rights in e-commerce space in consultation with the relevant Ministries/Departments".

It also asserted that the online sale of medicines has not been regulated despite objections and concerns raised by stakeholders, and opined and reiterated its recommendation to

the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to notify E-Pharmacy Rules and formulate comprehensive guidelines with regard to e-pharmacy/e-health platforms.

Noting that the Draft National E-Commerce Policy is at the stage of inter-ministerial consultations and could not be finalised till date, the panel said "any further delay in formulating and notifying a dedicated policy may further accentuate the prevailing issues in the fast paced digital market".

The Committee also observed that delay in finalisation and passage of the Competition Amendment Bill might have 'far reaching adverse and irreversible implications for competition in digital markets in India'.

It recommended the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to take concerted efforts to finalise and get the bill enacted at the earliest. The panel said necessary provisions should be incorporated in the amendment bill to empower and enable the Competition Commission of India as well as the Digital and Markets and Data Unit to effectively regulate the fast paced digital market taking into account the present day realities.

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, which seeks structural changes in the governing structure of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August last year.

The CCI has in recent times ordered probes as well as passed various orders with respect to alleged unfair business practices in the growing digital market.

Pvt hospitals to clock 10-11% revenue growth in FY22-23, FY23-24: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Revenue of private hospitals will grow 10-11 per cent in financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24, supported by increasing domestic demand and pick-up in medical tourism, says a report. According to the Crisil Ratings report, revenue of private hospitals will grow on the back of healthy bed occupancy and sustenance of high average revenue per occupied bed (ARPOB).

In FY22, private hospitals had reported an all-time high operating profitability of 19 per cent due to a surge in treatment during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, which also pushed up occupancy levels, and, later, pent-up demand for elective surgeries, it said.

"Growing health awareness, especially after Covid-19, leading to increase in domestic demand together with recovery



in medical tourism, will ensure bed occupancy being maintained at almost similar levels of 60 per cent (past five fiscals average) even as bed addition continues," Crisil Ratings Senior Director Anuj Sethi said.

Sethi further noted that occupancy dipped only once during this period to 53 per cent due to lockdown enforced during the first phase of the pandemic.

Healthy cash generation,

leading to limited reliance on external borrowing to fund higher capex (both greenfield and brownfield) will in turn help private hospitals maintain adequate debt protection metrics and keep credit risk profiles stable, Crisil Ratings added.

Further, rising insurance coverage will make quality treatment more accessible, and support demand as well, he said adding that ARPOB which grew 20 per cent in FY22, will contin-

ue to register modest growth, supporting revenues.

The report further said private hospitals are seeing a gradual return of medical tourism - accounting for 10-12 per cent of revenue pre-pandemic - that got affected considerably during the pandemic, amid travel restrictions.

Lower cost of treatments, modern facilities with well-trained personnel, and increasing air-connectivity are expected to restore revenue from medical tourism to pre-pandemic levels. This will further support occupancy levels despite aggressive bed additions, Crisil Ratings noted.

However, the report noted any resurgence of Covid-19 or intense viral cases that triggers lockdown and restricts travel, or any regulatory intervention that impedes the performance of private hospitals, will bear watching in the road ahead.

RBI Central board discusses global, domestic eco situation

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India's central board on Friday reviewed the global and domestic economic situation as well as the associated challenges.

The 601st meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was held at Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"The board in its meeting reviewed the global and domestic economic situation and associated challenges, including the impact of current global geopolitical developments," RBI said in a statement.

Further, it said, the board discussed RBI's activities during the current accounting year 2022-23. The board also approved the budget for the accounting year 2023-24.

The meeting took place in the backdrop of global concerns over failure of banks in the US

amid aggressive monetary tightening. The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday hiked interest rates by 25 basis points to tame high inflation despite the banking crisis.

Both, Bank of England and European Central Bank (ECB) have also raised their benchmark interest rates. Meanwhile, policy makers and experts have said that the Indian banking system is in good shape.

At the meeting on Friday, directors of RBI's central board — Satish K Marathe, Sachin Chaturvedi, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel and Ravindra H Dholakia — were present.

RBI Deputy Governors — Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, and T Rabi Sankar — were also present.

Besides, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Sethi, and Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi participated in the meeting.

CCI approves GMR Airports Infra-Aeroports de Paris SA deal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fair-trade regulator CCI on Friday said it has approved the proposed deal of GMR Airports Infrastructure and Aeroports de Paris SA (ADP) under the green channel route.

The proposed combination involves ADP's proposed acquisition of and subscription to foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCB) issued by GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd, according to a CCI notice.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared the deal. It has also given nod to the proposed intra-group merger of GMR Airports Ltd and GMR Infra Developers Ltd (GIDL) with and into GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd.

Also, the regulator has given its nod to the proposed acquisition by ADP (and its group entities) of equity shares and optionally convertible redeem-

ing to a CCI notice.

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Also, the regulator has given its nod to the proposed acquisition by ADP (and its group entities) of equity shares and optionally convertible redeem-



able preference shares of GMR Airports Infrastructure post-merger, CCI said.

On March 19, GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd (GIL) announced the merger of GMR

Airports Ltd with GIL.

ADP is an international airport operator owned by the French Government, while GMR Airports Infrastructure is a listed-entity and global infrastructure conglomerate with expertise in operating airports. It primarily operates through its subsidiary GMR Airports Ltd (GAL).

GIDL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure.

BRIEF POWERGRID WINS 6 PROJECTS THROUGH TARIFF-BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING



Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, has acquired six project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for various transmission system projects after competing with various private sector players and emerging as a successful bidder in the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding process conducted by REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), as per the guidelines notified by Government of India.

These Project SPVs include Khavda RE Transmission Limited, KPS2 Transmission Limited, KPS3 Transmission Limited, Khavda II-B Transmission Limited, Khavda II-C Transmission Limited, ERWR Transmission Limited.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to taxpayers opting for new tax regime, individuals earning marginally higher income than no-tax ceiling of Rs 7 lakh will pay tax only on the differential income after the government amended the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill 2023, passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday, has proposed a mar-

ginal relief to taxpayers under new tax regime. Explaining the provision, the finance ministry said under

the new tax regime with effect from April 1, if a taxpayer has annual income of Rs 7 lakh s/he pays no tax. But if s/he has income of Rs 7,00,100 s/he pays tax of 25,010. Thus an additional income of Rs 100 leads to a tax of Rs 25,010.

Hence, marginal relief is proposed to that so that the tax what one pays should not be more than the income that

exceeds Rs 7 lakh (Rs 100 in this case), the ministry said.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said the amendment to Finance Bill seeks to provide a marginal relief to individual taxpayers having borderline income by proposing a deduction of income tax payable in excess of the differential income above Rs 7 Lakh.

‘HARDIK SIMILAR TO DHONI AS CAPTAIN’

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Having watched both of them from close quarters, Gujarat Titans spinner R Sai Kishore feels that his franchise skipper Hardik Pandya is very similar to legendary MS Dhoni in terms of leadership traits.

Sai Kishore, before joining Gujarat Titans, was with CSK for a couple of years.

"Hardik and Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) are pretty similar in the way they handle things, they both are pretty calm," Sai Kishore told the media during a virtual interaction session on Friday.

"One thing that I really admire about Hardik is his ability to handle success and failure equally - that is something very unique about him. He is a level-headed guy and that works (for him)," he added. The 28-year-old said Gujarat Titans, who won the IPL last year in their debut season, will have to replicate their performances from last season in order to be successful.

"The tag of being defending champions is up to us whether to take it or not. We played well last year and that is why we won. I think if we can do that (then) the tag won't matter much," he said. Sai Kishore said the new rule of having an 'Impact Player' in IPL will make it more manageable than what it was in domestic circuit.

"It is more like the super-sub



rule where we can either use a bowler or a batsman. It is basically like playing with 12 people. We have already played with this (rule) in domestic (cricket). The only change is that we can use it till the 20th over, in domestic it was restricted to the 14th over. In 20 overs, it should be a lot easier to handle," he said.

The Tamil Nadu left-arm spinner said he is eyeing a place in the Indian side via strong per-

formances in the IPL.

"Yes, there are a lot of left-arm spinners in India and this (IPL) is a very good opportunity but I would like to be here now in the present and play well for Gujarat. In the last five years, my skill-set has gone up and I want to keep improving. If it happens that I do very well in the IPL, I am going to play for India," he said. However, Sai Kishore admitted that he has to improve his batting to come into national reckoning.

"It is a work in progress. I have done well in domestic (cricket) also. I know the areas where I am good at and areas where I need to work on. I am trying to put in hours into my batting and fielding," he said.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda


E-AUCTION NOTICE

Branch: Gwalior Bhind Road, thakur uttam singh kirar colony, Bhind-477001
Contact -7247770031, E- mail : bhind@bankofbaroda.co.in

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. In witch they where requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 24/03/2023(date) failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 11:30 AM on Bhind (10.04.2023) or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

| Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors | Loan Account Number | Date of Loan |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Borrower- Mukesh Singh Toram Add - Ward 35, jamuna Nagar, Lahar, Bhind (M.P.)-477001 | Account No. 50390600000865 | 16.11.2021 |
| Place: Bhind, | Date: 24/03/2023 | Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda |




केनरा बैंक
Canara Bank

Regional office -1st floor,
Sai Baba complex, Near
GDA building, Phool Bagh,
Gwalior. 07512423126

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Rule 8(1)) For
Immovable Property

The Undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002, in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice on below mentioned date to the following Borrowers/Guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Notice with in 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is here by given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on dates mentioned below. the borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank, for an amount herein below mentioned & Interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Name and Address of Borrower / Property owner | Outstanding Amount (Rs.) | Description of the Property |
|---|--|---|
| Branch: BINA. Ph. 8989989131, Email: cb2383@canarabank.com | | |
| Borrower & Mortgageor- SHYAM SUNDAR LITORIYA S/O SHRI RAM SAHAY LITORIYA Add.: Station Road Bina, Dist- Sagar (M.P.) RAM SAHAY LITORIYA S/O SHRI KUNDAN LAL LITORIYA Add.: Daulatpur Gram Rampur, Teh Bina Distt Sagar (M.P.) | Rs. 5,39,336.31 + Interest and other expenses - Recovery Demand Notice: 01/12/2022 Possession Date : 22/03/2023 | Emt Of Land & Building Of Residential House Village -Daulatpur Survey No.71/2 Bina, Dist. -Sagar (M.P.), Admeasuring- 0.10 Hec (10890 Sqr Ft), Boudaries- East- mandir West-property Of Shiv Ram Litoriya, South- Road, North-road |
| Borrower - SURAJ SINGH GHOSI S/O SHRI JAHAR SINGH GHOSI Add: 945 681 Se Ant Tak , Basahari, Achwal Ward Teh- Bina, Distt- Sagar. | Rs. 10,36,930.07 + Interest and other expenses - Recovery Demand Notice: 23/11/2022 Possession Date : 22/03/2023 | Emt of Land & Building - Pratap Ward Bina, Moja Etawa, Ph No 51, Rm Bina, Dist- Sagar (M.P.), Khasra No -167/4/1/1 As Per Title Deed, After Mutation 167/4/1/31 Measuring -1500 Sqr Ft, Boundaries : East -Rasta, South- Land Of Upadhyay Ji, West -Land Of Seller, North - Land Of Rajput Ji |
| Place: Gwalior Authorised officer, Canara Bank | | |



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
(सीवेज शाखा)
// निविदा आमंत्रण //

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिये ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रतियोगिता पर निविदा प्रपत्र -'अ' में केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली के अंतर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्म/टेकदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य शर्तें <http://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

| ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र. | विवरण | अनुमानित लागत | धरोहर राशि | निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य |
|--------------------|--|---------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 2023_UAD_251769_2 | PROVIDING AND LAYING OF SEWAR LINE AND CHAMBER IN PADMANABH NAGAR WARD 44 ZONE 12. Estimated based on SOR. -MPUADD Water supply sewerage and tube well Works, 2021 | 16621375.00 | 83107.00 | 12500.00 |

नोट :-1. सशर्त निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी।
2. धरोहर राशि केवल ऑनलाईन ही मान्य होगी।
3. सफल निविदाकार को ठेके की राशि के 3 प्रतिशत राशि के बराबर परफार्मेन्स सिक्यूरिटी जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा।

कार्यपालन यंत्री
सीवेज शाखा, नगर निगम, भोपाल

नि.क्र. 1862/022/023

NOTICE FOR SALE OF OLD OFFICE USED ITEMS BY AUCTION ON 27 MARCH 2023 (1000 TO 1400 HRS) SUBSEQUENT DAYS AT HQ 21 CORPS

In terms of Rule 220 & 221 of General Financial Rule, it has been decided that Auction of office used items will be held at HQ 21 Corps (MT) through Public Auction on 27 March 2023 (1000 hrs to 1400 hrs).

Details of items are as under :-

ACs, Office Tables, Computer Chair Revolving, Cooler, Executive Chair, Curtain, Table cloth, Steel Almirah, Television, Plastic Bucket, Door Mats, Emergency Light, Filling Cabinet, Hand Towel, Water Dispenser, Pad Lock, Pen Stand, Thermos, Voltage Stabilizer etc.

Terms and Condition :-

- The bidder shall deposit 100% of the bid value immediately on the spot in cash.
- The goods will be handed over to the successful bidder only after receiving the 100% payment.
- The auctioneer will notify other items and conditions at the place of auction.
- The Interested parties can inspect the goods during the auction.
- Bids for auction will be accepted on the spot on date and time of auction.

Office of The Executive Engineer,
P. W. D. (B./R.) Division Betul (M.P.)

NIT No.- 15-DL of 2022-23

Betul, Date 20/03/2023

::: Notice Tender :::

Online Tenders for the following work have been processed on the e-Procurement System Portal

<https://mptenders.gov.in>


| S. No. | Tender No. | District | Type of work | Name of work | Number of Call | Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lack) | Earnest Money | Period | Physical Submission (Original EMD & Other Document) at the Office of as mentioned in tender document will be received on or before Dated & Time |
|--------|---------------------|----------|---------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2023_PWDRB_260911_1 | Betul | Road Work | W/W, C/W of Resi. Building under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Betul | 1st Call | 10.00 | 20,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 2 | 2023_PWDRB_260919_1 | Betul | Road Work | W/W, C/W of Resi. Building under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Bhainsdehi. | 1st Call | 10.00 | 20,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 3 | 2023_PWDRB_260923_1 | Betul | Road Work | S/R M.O.W. Work of R.B. under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Betul | 1st Call | 19.50 | 39,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 4 | 2023_PWDRB_260929_1 | Betul | Road Work | S/R M.O.W. Work of R.B. under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Bhainsdehi. | 1st Call | 10.00 | 20,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 5 | 2023_PWDRB_260937_1 | Betul | Road Work | Repairs of Bridge/Culvert and Approach of Various Road under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Betul. | 1st Call | 10.00 | 20,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 6 | 2023_PWDRB_260950_1 | Betul | Building Work | Repairs of Bridge/Culvert and Approach of Various Road under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Bhainsdehi. | 1st Call | 10.00 | 20,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 7 | 2023_PWDRB_261564_1 | Betul | Building Work | Survey and Investigation and Preparation of D.P.R. for Road work under P.W.D. Sub Dn. Betul. | 1st Call | 19.50 | 39,000/- | 08 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |
| 8 | 2023_PWDRB_261570_1 | Betul | Building Work | B.T. Renewal on Bhogitheda Bhadus Road. Length 2.50 Km. | 4th Call | 19.97 | 40,000/- | 02 Months (Including Rainy Season) | EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only. |

The Document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The Last date & time for purchase of document on line is Date 08.04.2023 up to 17:30 PM. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

EMD and all Documents Submission Online Only.

Executive Engineer
P.W.D. (B./R.) Division
Betul (M.P.)

G-24913/22



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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

G20
भारत 2023

“We are working steadfastly towards ensuring an inclusive, accessible and equitable future for our Divyang sisters and brothers.”
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

EMPOWERED DIVYANGJAN
EMPOWERED INDIA

Distribution of Assistive Devices to Divyangjan through Samajik Adhikarita Shivirs

Organizing shivirs at various locations across the country

Free distribution of Assistive Devices to 15 thousand beneficiaries

Total cost being borne by the Government of India

Facility of registration is also available for new beneficiaries at the Shivirs

For details of places of camp visit: www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in

25th March, 2023


Transforming lives of Divyangjan

13.5 thousand Shivirs organized so far

Aids and assistive devices distributed to 24.25 lakh beneficiaries, More than 35 thousand Divyangjan benefited with motorized tricycles

More than 5 thousand cochlear implant surgeries conducted

Divyangjan can apply directly for assistive devices on Arjun Portal : adip.disabilityaffairs.gov.in



CBC 38117130062/2223



नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

अन्नदाताओं के हित में समर्पित मध्यप्रदेश सरकार

- गेहूं निर्यात में 46% की भागीदारी (21 लाख मीट्रिक टन से अधिक निर्यात) के साथ मध्यप्रदेश देश में नं. 1
- फसलों के उपार्जन के लिए ₹ 94 हजार 394 करोड़ किसानों को दिए गए
- 0% ब्याज दर पर किसानों को ₹ 47 हजार 745 करोड़ से अधिक का ऋण वितरण
- किसानों को खेती के लिए बिजली कनेक्शन में ₹ 37 हजार 522 करोड़ का अनुदान
- पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि एवं सीएम किसान कल्याण योजना के तहत किसानों को प्रतिवर्ष ₹ 10 हजार की मदद
- 1 लाख 86 हजार हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में प्राकृतिक खेती हेतु 60 हजार से अधिक किसान रजिस्टर्ड
- मध्यप्रदेश सरकार ने ₹ 17 हजार करोड़ से अधिक के बीमा दावों का किया भुगतान
- प्रदेश के 4 लाख से अधिक पशु और मछली पालकों को क्रेडिट कार्ड जारी
- मध्यप्रदेश को लगातार 7 बार मिला कृषि कर्मण अवॉर्ड

पिछले तीन वर्षों में विभिन्न योजनाओं के अंतर्गत
₹ 2 लाख 25 हजार 837 करोड़ के हितलाभ किसानों को वितरित

