

**OPINION 6**  
SIKHS HOLD TIRANGA  
IN HIGH ESTEEM**WORLD 8**  
CHINA, RUSSIA TO COUNTER US'  
INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY**MONEY 10**  
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# Plan for modern Delhi announced

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

In his 150-minute speech in the Delhi Assembly, Gahlot said a comprehensive infrastructure rejuvenation project was being launched in a very significant year when Delhi will be hosting India's first G20 summit. The compre-

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

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

## Flares, bottles hurled at Indian Mission

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

PTI/PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Unlike the violent disorder on Sunday when India House came under attack, the protesters were barricaded across the road with uniformed officers standing guard and patrolling the area throughout.

The protesters, including turbaned men, and some women and children, had been bused in from different parts of the UK and chanted pro-Khalistan slogans. The organisers used mikes to make anti-India speeches and attack the Punjab Police for alleged



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

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

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

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

## CAPSULE

### RAILWAYS RESTORE AC 3-TIER ECONOMY FARE

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

### MUKESH AMBANI IS RICHEST INDIAN AGAIN

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

### ISRO: CHANDRAYAAN 3, ADITYA L1 SOON

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

## PM reviews Covid, influenza situation

Modi stresses on genome sequencing, observing strict Covid protocols



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

## QR code on tomb keeps son's memories alive

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

PTI ■ THRISSUR (KERALA)

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

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

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

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



Francis said.

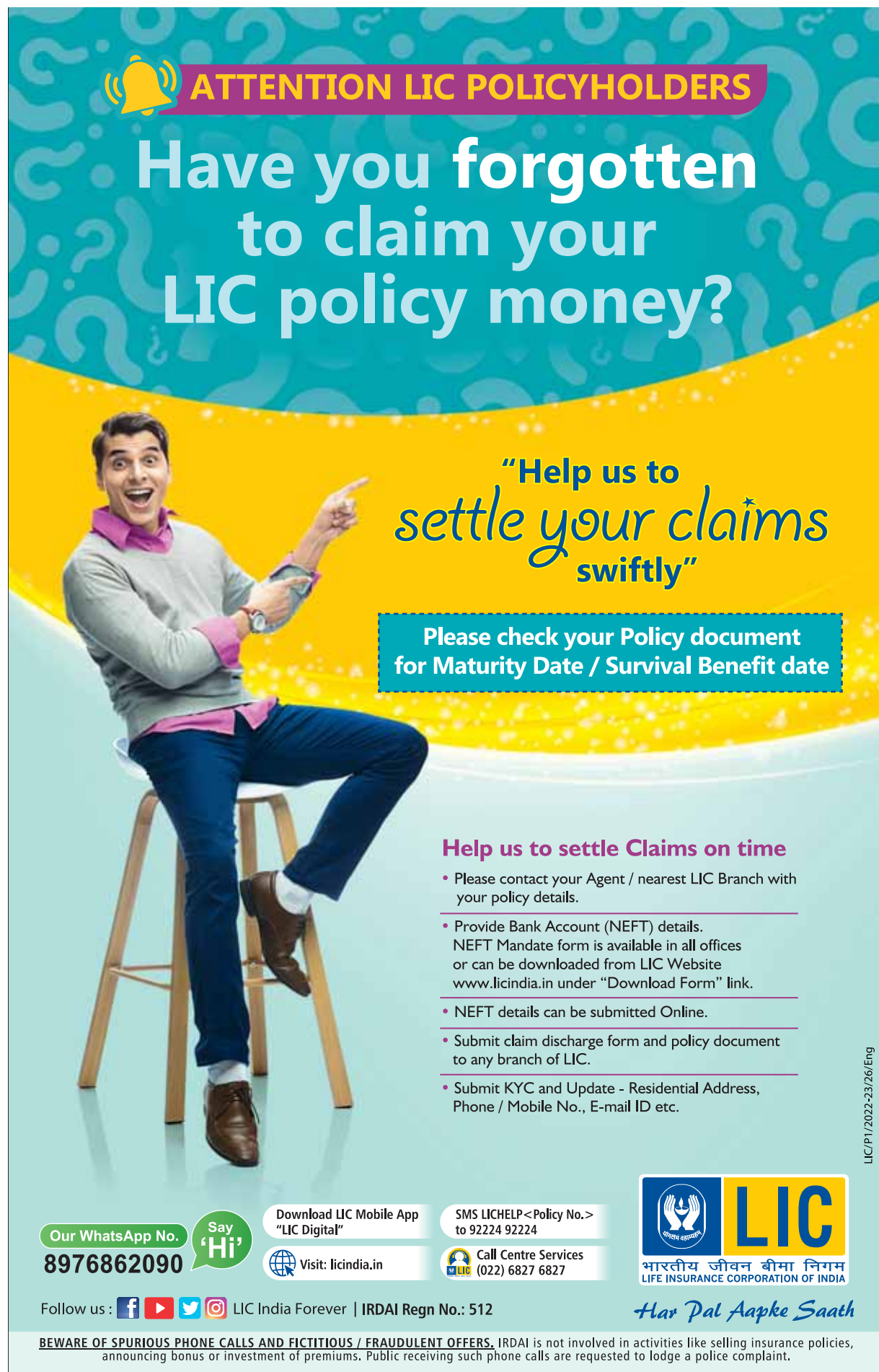
Ivin had created profiles of people using QR codes and his parents also decided to do the same for him. "He also used to send me a lot of QR codes for information," the father said. He said the idea of placing a QR code was of Ivin's sister Evelyn Francis.

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

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

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

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



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## State Govt allocates Rs 9.35 cr to ration dealers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Government on Wednesday allocated an amount of Rs 9.35 crore against Rs 35 crores for payment of dividend to ration dealers in fair price shops under National Food Security Act, (NFSA)



2013. The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Rekha Arya said that the central government from January 1, 2023 made the food grains free for beneficiaries of priority household (PHH) ration cards and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards.

However the payments to ration vendors were not made due to lack of clarity between the centre and the State regarding the payment of dividend to the vendors.

She said that All India Fair Price Shop Dealers Federation Uttarakhand had also demanded the department in January to pay dividend to ration vendors under NFSA. Considering this, Arya conducted a review meeting with representatives of vendors of fair price shops from all districts and the officials concerned. Arya had issued instructions to the officials in the meeting to take action for budget allocation to pay the pending payments of ration dealers under NFSA within a month. In the line of the same, the government on Wednesday allocated Rs 9.35 crore for such vendors of all districts which will be released to all soon. She said that the department will also make payments of the remaining amount soon too.

## RTO to form task force to check vehicular pollution

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Considering the increasing vehicular pollution in recent times, the regional transport office of Dehradun division has decided to form a special task force to check pollution caused by vehicles.



The regional transport officer (administration) Sunil Sharma said that the transport department has been making efforts to promote clean-fuelled public transport vehicles to minimise air pollution in cities as per the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The initiatives are being taken to ensure public transport vehicle operators operate clean-fuelled vehicles in Dehradun after which the RTO plans to implement the plan in Rishikesh, Haridwar and all major cities of the division comprising Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri and Uttarkashi districts. He said that the department is also working on a plan to convert existing vehicles into electric vehicles or

CNG-fuelled vehicles to strengthen the public transport system at local level without affecting the environment. He said that the department has also started raising awareness among locals about using clean-fuelled two-wheelers and cars in Dehradun for a sustainable environment. The RTO is also working on ensuring effective enforcement of rules especially regarding pollution checking of public transport vehicles. The department will soon form a special task force consisting of officials concerned to check vehicular pollution in Dehradun and to take action against violators accordingly.

## Patanjali organises Sanyas Diksha Mahotsav

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Patanjali Yogpeeth organised a 10-day Sanyas Diksha Mahotsav on Wednesday on the occasion of the 29th Sanyas Diwas of Baba Ramdev. A total of 60 men and 40 women will take Diksha (initiation) of Sanyas from Ramdev while 500 males and females will take Diksha of Brahmacharya (celibacy) from A c h a r y a B a l k r i s h n a. Ramdev said on the occasion that new Sanyasis will be initiated into Sanyas as per the tradition set by Indian sages. He said that Patanjali does not differentiate on the basis of gender, caste, religion and sect. He said that the new Sanyasis will be given education and would learn and master Vedas, Vedangas and Upanishads among others. He said that

these Sanyasis will be determined for the global prestige of Yoga Dharma, Rishi Dharma, Ved Dharma and Sanatana Dharma and will



contribute to preserving Indian Sanatana culture. Balkrishna also said that Patanjali is running many Vedic Gurukuls to keep the cultural heritage of the true Sanatana Vedic tradition intact. He said that the chosen Sanyasis will dedicate their life to the nation for the spiritual leadership of spiritual upliftment.

## U'khand to organise Millet fairs in Doon and Haldwani

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State government will Organise Millet fairs in Dehradun and Haldwani in May and June which will be attended by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar along with agriculture ministers of different states. Agricultural scientists, vice-chancellors of various universities besides industrialists and farmers will also participate in the fair in Dehradun. The agriculture minister Ganesh Joshi stated this on Wednesday in a meeting organised with the officials of the agriculture department to discuss the preparation of the millet fair. He said that stalls from various millet producing states will also be set up in the fair apart from Uttarakhand farmers and asked officials to take action to ensure millets get widespread publicity across the State. He asked them to prepare an outline to organise

Millets Fair Rath Yatra to spread awareness about the fair and advantages of millets consumption. He said that cultural programmes and technical sessions regarding agriculture will also be part of the fair. Joshi directed the officials to work in a well-planned manner regarding the grand event of the millets fair. He said that most of the farmers in the state grow millets and its mention in the union budget by the central government will certainly open new doors of opportunities for farmers here at state and central level. It will expand the market of traditional produce of the state benefitting the farmers at every level, added Joshi. He said that the state government is also making all efforts to promote millets to give a boost to the farmers here and the millets fair is one of such initiatives which will be a huge success.



## LUT under GST

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**Attention, GST Taxpayers intending to make zero rated supplies of Goods or Services or both without paying IGST or furnishing an export bond, please file Letter of Undertaking (LUT) under GST**

**The new LUT Form for FY 2023-24 is available on GST Portal for making zero rated supplies on or after 01-04-2023**



### WHAT IS LETTER OF UNDERTAKING

All zero rated supplies are subject to payment of IGST, which can later be reclaimed as Refund. Any eligible supplier\* registered under the CGST Act can furnish LUT in FORM GST RFD-11 and make zero rated supply of Goods or Services or both without payment of IGST.

### PROCESS FOR FILING LUT CERTIFICATE

- ✓ Login to GST portal [www.gst.gov.in](http://www.gst.gov.in)
- ✓ Click on **Services > User Services > Furnish Letter of Undertaking (LUT)**
- ✓ Enter the required details and submit FORM GST RFD-11

For detailed procedure, please Scan



**LUT under GST ~ Easing the liquidity**

**\*A person who has been prosecuted for evading tax of Rs. 2.5 crore or above under the CGST Act is not eligible to furnish the LUT**

**Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

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### Meeting of Pollution control board at KGCCI

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

An important meeting was held between the member secretary Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board in the auditorium of Tata Motors Limited Pantnagar recently. The environment engineer of Pollution Control Board Ankur Kansal, the regional officer Kashipur Naresh Goswami, Rajendra Kathayat and regional director State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL), Rudrapur Manish Bisht were present in the meeting. Several issues being faced by Pollution Control Board Uttarakhand were discussed during the meeting. KGCCI chairman Vinit Kumar Sangal said.

### Required

**Principal (01) and Asst. Professor (06)** required for B.Ed. Course. **Assistant professor-06** (Music, Drawing, Hindi, Political Science, Sociology & Mathematics). Qualification and Experience as per University and NCTE norms. Interested candidates should submit their resumes with all self-attested documents and 2 passport size photographs on the below mentioned address within 07 days from the publication of advertisement. Dr. Sushila Tiwari College Of Advanced Studies, NH-73, Sikanderpur, Bhagwanpur, Roorkee, Dist. Haridwar, PIN-247661 (U.K.), **Contact no.** 8920108090, **E-Mail id** - stejendra188@gmail.com

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E-mail: ee2ndcdkot@gmail.com

**निविदा सूचना सं: 34/निविदा/04 ई-निविदा सूचना** दिनांक: 21.03.2023

एतद द्वारा अधिशासी अभियंता, द्वितीय निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, कोटद्वार के पत्रांक 34/निविदा/04, दिनांक 21.03.2023 द्वारा जल जीवन निगम के अंतर्गत जनपद पीढ़ी के निम्नलिखित विकासखण्डों हेतु पेयजल योजनाओं के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से दि. 23.03.2023 से दि. 05.04.2023 तक ई-निविदाई आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदाओं की निम्न शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

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Rural Health Training Centre  
नजफगढ़, नई दिल्ली- 43  
Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043

**F.No.2-7(MO)/2023-RTC/5310 Dated: 07.03.2023**

**Walk-in Interview**

The Director, Rural Health Training Centre, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43 invites applications for engagement of the posts of Specialist Doctors (Medical Specialist-2, Surgery Specialist-2, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Specialist-2, Paediatrician-1, Anesthetist (Regular Trained)-2, ENT Surgeon-1, Orthopaedics-1) and General Duty Doctors-6, Dental Surgeon-1, Ayush Physician-1 on the basis of walk-in-interview. The prescribed format for applying along with the details of posts, eligibility criteria, remunerations, date of walk-in-interview and the other terms & conditions will be available on the websites of Directorate General of Health Services and Rural Health Training Centre ([www.dghs.gov.in](http://www.dghs.gov.in) & [www.rhtcnajafgarh.in](http://www.rhtcnajafgarh.in)). Applications may be submitted to the Director, RHTC by post or at email: [hundredbeddedhospital@gmail.com](mailto:hundredbeddedhospital@gmail.com), within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Candidates are advised to visit these websites at regular intervals for all further notifications.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
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Name and Address of the Borrower, Co-Borrower/ Guarantors/Mortgagor	Loan Account No. and Loan Amount	Details of Properties/ Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice Amount Due in Rs.
1. M/S Belwal Dental Clinic (Through Its Proprietor/ Authorised Signatory Mr. Rajesh Selwal) 3/233, Chakrata Road, Opposite Prabhat Cinema, Dehradun-248001	80900285 5515	"All That Property Comprising of Land Bearing Khatta No. 1619 (Fasli Year 1416 to 1421) Khassa No. 233 Rakba No. 2030, Area Measuring 188.59 Sq. Mtrs. with covered area measuring 91.10 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Mauza Niranjanpur, Pargana Pachhwa Doon, District Dehradun"	20-03-2023 Rs. 11,89,880/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty only) together with interest at contractual rate, (till complete payment) and incidental expenses thereon.

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Place: Dehradun  
Date : 23.03.2023

Authorised Officer  
RBL Bank Ltd.

# Make all arrangements for Char Dham Yatra before April 15: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the Char Dham Yatra should be held in an organised manner and the officers should ensure that a positive environment is created for the Yatra. Directing the officers to make all the necessary preparations for the Yatra in time, the CM said on Wednesday that the sentiments of the shopkeepers on the Yatra route should also be respected. He said that the officers of the tourism department and police should hold a meeting with the district magistrates (DMs) of the districts connected with the Yatra to give final touches to the preparations for the Yatra. CM said that more pilgrims would visit the Yatra this year than



last year and all the preparations should be made while keeping this thing in mind. He directed that all the preparations for the Yatra should be completed before April 15. Dhami directed that the conditions of the roads on the Yatra route should be improved and an effective work plan should be prepared for the ensuring best facilities to the pilgrims during the Yatra.

The authorities have made the prior registration of the pilgrims mandatory for the Yatra. A total of 5,67,435 pilgrims have already registered themselves for the Yatra this year. As per the tourism department 2,21,272 pilgrims have registered themselves for Kedarnath, 184,215 for Badrinath, 81,500 for Gangotri and 80,448 for Yamunotri shrines so far.

# Portals of Gangotri shrine to reopen on April 22

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The portals of the Gangotri shrine will be opened for the pilgrims on April 22 this year. The date of the shrine's reopening was announced on the occasion of the Hindu New Year on Wednesday. The portals of the shrine will be opened to the public at 12.35 PM on April 22.

A meeting was organised by the Gangotri temple committee at Mukhba (winter abode of Gangotri) on Wednesday. It was decided in the meeting that the Gangotri shrine will be reopened to the public on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya on April 22. The date of the portal opening was declared by the president of the temple committee, Harish Semwal and secretary Suresh Semwal.

The Utsav Doli of goddess Ganga will depart from her winter abode of Mukhba on April 21 and hold a night

stay at Bhairon temple. The procession will reach Gangotri at 9.30 AM on the next day where various prayers and rituals will be held.

It is pertinent to mention here that the portals of the Yamunotri shrine also open on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya. However the formal declaration of the opening of Yamunotri would be declared on the occasion of Yamuna Jayanti. This year the portals of the Kedarnath shrine would open on April 25 at 6.20 AM while the Badrinath shrine would reopen for pilgrims on April 27 at 7.10 AM.

The additional commissioner Garhwal N S Quiriyal said that the Garhwal commissioner Sushil Kumar has given orders to all the departments to complete the pending works and preparations by April 15 for the Char Dham Yatra.

# Plan mooted for smooth traffic in Rishikesh during Yatra

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The traffic directorate of Uttarakhand held a meeting on Wednesday and took several decisions to ensure smooth flow of traffic in Rishikesh, which is an important stop for vehicles carrying pilgrims in the Char Dham Yatra. The director of the traffic directorate, Mukhtar Mohsin said that Rishikesh area is an important stop of this journey where there is a lot of pressure of Char Dham Yatra in terms of traffic. Considering this, special traffic plans have been prepared by the police to make this journey chaos-free for pilgrims. He said to officials that heavy vehicles arriving from mountainous areas towards Rishikesh should be made to stand at Vyasi from 6 AM to 9 AM in the Yatra season. He said that Chilla road will also be used as a way for passenger's vehicle. The authorities must take immediate action if they find heavy encroachments on the Char Dham Yatra



route in Rishikesh and take measures to ensure smooth flow of traffic there, said Mohsin. Traffic police personnel with a handset will also be deployed at the hill-top point in Rishikesh as it is a narrow road that often leads to traffic jams during the journey.

The officials should also ensure implementation of better traffic operations by selecting separate fixed routes for vehicles going for rafting in Shivpuri to minimise traffic congestion. Mohsin said that Shyampur

railway gate has emerged as a challenging point for the authorities to ensure unhindered flow of traffic during the Yatra because of the movement of over a dozen trains every day till 1 PM. He said that to ensure pilgrims do not get stuck in traffic during these hours, vehicles carrying pilgrims will be diverted to Lal Tap-pad via Nepali farm. Mohsin said that since the number of trains running after 1 PM reduces, the local authorities should take necessary action to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the area. He said that the state witnessed over 45 lakh pilgrims during the Char Dham Yatra last year and since this number is expected to increase this time, the department is focussing on making this journey chaos-free for pilgrims.

# Making efforts to make women of the State self reliant: CM Dhami

## 824 ANMs appointed in health department of the State

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami handed over appointment letters to 187 ANMs at his residence on the occasion of the Chaitra Navratri and the New Year of Hindu calendar on Wednesday. The health department has appointed 824 Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery (ANMs)

who would be deployed in different districts of the State. Congratulating the newly appointed health workers, the CM said they have got a golden opportunity to serve the people. He said that the ANMs would be responsible for providing primary health care in the remote parts of the State and taking care of the pregnant women and children. The CM said that the State government is making continuous efforts to make the women of the State self reliant and empowered. A horizontal reservation of 30 per cent has been given to women of the State. Dhami said that the State government has taken a target to make Uttarakhand the best State of the country and in this endeavour the cooperation of women is necessary. He said that all departments of the State are working on a roadmap of ten years which will place the State among the leading States of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that all the newly appointed ANMs would serve in the remote mountainous areas of the State for next five years. He said that the 92 per cent posts of the ANMs in the health department are now filled. The Minister said that soon 171 assistant professors would be appointed in the medical colleges of the State after which the problem of paucity of staff in Almora and Srinagar Medical colleges would be removed. He added that all the posts of Medical officers in the State health department would be filled by the year 2024.

Cabinet minister Ganesh Joshi and Chandan Ram Das also congratulated the newly appointed ANMs.

The Vice Chancellor (VC) of the HNB Medical education university Hemchandra Pandey, director general (DG) health services Dr Vinita Shah, the Principal Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) Dr Ashutosh Sayana and others were present on the occasion.

# U'khand Congress protests reduction in liquor prices

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

On the call given by the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara, the workers of the Congress party held a state-wide protest against the decision of the State government to reduce the liquor prices on Wednesday. In Dehradun the Congress party leaders and workers led by Mahanagar president Jasvinder Singh Gogi held a demonstration at Prem Nagar Chowk on the day. An effigy of the State government was also burnt in the protest. Speaking on the occasion, Gogi said that the State government is taking strange decisions to hide its financial mismanagement. He said that at a time when the people of the State are reeling under the increase in prices of cooking gas, edible items and other things the State government is trying to increase the sale of the liquor by reducing its price. Gogi said that it is unfortunate that from April 1, when the prices of liquor would get reduced by Rs 150 to 200 per bottle the people of the State would have to pay more for drinking water. Terming the State government as anti people, the Congress leader said that Uttarakhand is the State where a 'Nasha Nahi Rojgar Do' (give employment not addiction) movement was launched by the women of the State. The State government has now adopted a policy 'Rojgar Nahi Nasha do' (give addiction not employment) policy, he said. The Congress leaders said that the party would continue to protest against this policy of the State government.

# खुले हैं माँ शक्ति के द्वार

## आइए उत्तराखंड, लेने आशीष अपार

### गढ़वाल मण्डल

**धारी देवी मंदिर, श्रीनगर**  
अलकनन्दा नदी के तट पर स्थित धारी देवी मंदिर प्राचीन सिद्धपीठ है। धारी देवी को उत्तराखंड की रक्षक देवी के रूप में जाना जाता है।

**कालिका माता मंदिर, वीरेंखाल,**  
**पौड़ी गढ़वाल**  
पौड़ी जिले में स्थित कालिका माता मंदिर को मां काली का स्वरूप माना जाता है। यहां हर 3 साल में सर्दियों के मौसम में प्रसिद्ध मेला लगता है।

**माया देवी मंदिर, हरिद्वार,**  
माया देवी हरिद्वार की अधिष्ठात्री देवी हैं। माया देवी को शक्ति का अवतार माना जाता है। माया देवी के नाम पर ही हरिद्वार को पहले मायापुरी के नाम से जाना जाता था।

**कालीमठ मंदिर, रुद्रप्रयाग**  
रुद्रप्रयाग जिले में स्थित कालीमठ मंदिर को महालक्ष्मी, महासरस्वती और महाकाली के सिद्धपीठ के रूप में जाना जाता है। इस स्थान का वर्णन दुर्गा सप्तशती में भी है।

**नंदा देवी मंदिर, कुरुड़ (चमोली)**  
कुरुड़ में नंदा देवी का मंदिर गांव के शीर्ष पर देवसरि तक पर स्थित है। कुरुड़ नंदा को राजराजेश्वरी के नाम से भी जाना जाता है।

**ज्वाला देवी मंदिर, सतपुली**  
यह मंदिर नबालिका नदी के तट पर स्थित है। नवरात्रि के दौरान इस मंदिर में विशेष उत्सव का आयोजन होता है।

**नागणी देवी मंदिर, उत्तरकाशी**  
यह मंदिर बालखिला पर्वत पर स्थित है। नवरात्र के दिनों में यहां श्रद्धालुओं का तांता लगा रहता है।

**चन्द्रबदनी मंदिर, देवप्रयाग**  
यह शक्तिपीठ चंद्रकूट पर्वत के ऊपर स्थित 52 शक्तिपीठों और माता सती के पवित्र स्थलों में से एक है।

**सुरकंडा देवी मंदिर, कडूखाल, टिहरी**  
सुरकंडा देवी मंदिर टिहरी क्षेत्र के सुरकूट पर्वत पर स्थित है। यह प्रसिद्ध 52 शक्तिपीठों में से एक है।

**कुन्जापुरी देवी मंदिर, नरेन्द्र नगर**  
ऋषिकेश से लगभग 25 किमी की दूरी पर स्थित कुन्जापुरी देवी मंदिर देवी सती को समर्पित है। मान्यता है कि यहाँ माता सती के शरीर का ऊपरी भाग गिरा था।

**मनसा देवी मंदिर, हरिद्वार**  
मनसा देवी को भगवान शिव की मानस पुत्री के रूप में पूजा जाता है। इन्हें नागराज वासुकी की बहन के रूप में भी पूजा जाता है।

**चण्डी देवी मंदिर, हरिद्वार**  
देश के प्रसिद्ध धार्मिक स्थलों में शामिल चंडी देवी मंदिर नील पर्वत के शिखर पर स्थित है। यह मंदिर प्रसिद्ध शक्तिपीठों में से एक है। मान्यता है कि इस मंदिर की मूर्ति को आदि शंकराचार्य ने 8वीं शताब्दी में स्थापित किया था।

**अपने तीर्थ स्थलों को स्वच्छ रखें**

- सभी तीर्थ यात्रियों से अनुरोध है कि तीर्थ स्थलों की स्वच्छता का विशेष ध्यान रखें।
- किसी भी प्रकार का कचरा अथवा कूड़ा नियत स्थान पर ढो डालें और परिसर को स्वच्छ रखने में सबका सहयोग करें।

**पुष्कर सिंह धामी**  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

**सतपाल महाराज**  
मंत्री - पर्यटन, लोक शिल्प, विमान, विमान, रणु सिमर, धार्मिक शिल्प, पौराणीक कला, उत्तराखण्ड प्रशासन, संस्कृति, पर्यटन, मंदिर-मठों का पर्यटन, धार्मिक पर्यटन, उत्तराखण्ड सरकार

**उत्तराखण्ड पर्यटन विकास परिषद्**

uttarakhandtourism.gov.in, www.gmvoonline.com, www.kmvo.in, /UttarakhandTourismOfficialPage, /UTDOfficial, /uttarakhand\_tourismofficial

कुछ सावधानियाँ बरतें ● बाहर निकलें तो मास्क अवश्य पहनें ● अस्पत में कम से कम 6 फुट की दूरी बनाए रखें ● कुछ भी छुं तो साबुन से कम से कम 30 सेकंड तक हाथ धोएं

# GUEST COLUMN

## Act now to avoid regret later



Akshat Veer Bhateja

India as a country has an area of 33 lakh square kilometres and a share of 16 per cent of the total world population but has only four per cent of the total world's freshwater resource. The difference is quite evident as 16 per cent of the global population is dependent on only per cent of the world's freshwater resource.

One of the vital natural resources, water cannot be created artificially but can only be used responsibly. Out of the water available to the country, 85 per cent of the groundwater is used for agriculture while only 15 per cent of the groundwater is used by domestic and industrial sector. The agriculture sector being a widespread user of water in the country, very little could be done to save or optimise the usage of water in this sector citing multiple reasons like crop pattern, reluctance to adopt new effective technology and lack of education. Under these circumstances, we are left with the option of optimising water usage of the already water stressed domestic and industrial sector.

In the quest to become a \$ three trillion economy by

2025 through integral infrastructure development, our cities are expanding their footprints and attracting more and more urban dwellers which in turn is increasing the stress on our groundwater resources leading to substantial reduction in the natural water recharge through seepages. As far as water is concerned, our country is progressing towards a grave water stressed situation not only in terms of quantity but also quality. As per the water aid water quality index, India ranks 120 out of 122 countries. Also, approximately 70 per cent of

of the total 7,083 assessment units, 2,309 assessment units/blocks of the country are either semi-critical, critical, over-exploited and saline which are approximately 33 per cent of the total assessment units. The above data indicates that 33 per cent of the total area of the country is water stressed where most of the urban population resides.

A 2020 report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) projected that 30 Indian cities including Jaipur, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai,

Best water saving practices must be followed by each and every citizen of the country and water in the 21st century must be used with a mindset of shared resources. Its unavailability in the future will not differentiate between the city you are residing, social or economic status, caste or creed. Therefore, we as a society need to come forward to safeguard the water. We need to adapt to small but effective water saving practices like minimising water wastage in car washing, road washing and building cleaning. We also need to make certain efforts

to maximise reuse of the rejected RO water from our kitchens, restaurants and hotels. People of the country must come forward in adopting rooftop rainwater harvesting systems with their buildings. Out of the total rains we receive, 95 per cent of it is wasted as runoff and only five per cent of it is recharged or reused. There is a huge potential to save water by adopting effective and scientifically feasible rain water harvesting solutions.

Apart from stringent water laws and building by-laws in place throughout the country, citizens must come forward and adopt best water practices not just for the government compliances but as a social responsibility. If we act now, we would definitely not regret later.

*(The author is a geologist and founder of a company providing water management and conservation solutions. The views expressed are personal)*



our country's surface water bodies are polluted which in turn lead to polluted water intake by animals and also in a way enter human food cycle leading to very serious health issues. In order to assess the state of overall groundwater extraction in the country, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has divided the country in some 7,083 blocks/assessment units under safe, semi-critical, critical, over-exploited and saline assessment units. Out

Ahmedabad and many others would face a "grave water risk" by 2050. With the above background in place, we are moving to a situation where after a certain point human intervention would be useless. In order to adopt sustainable development practices and work on solutions to save water for our future generations, we need to be more vigilant towards usage of this precious resource and also put efforts in saving the water wherever possible.

# Nature will protect those who protect nature :Choubey

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Nature will protect those who protect nature. The Union minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey said this after inaugurating an international workshop on enhancing ecosystem services by improving forest quality and productivity and SLEM knowledge dissemination at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) here on Wednesday.

Choubey said that the nature will protect those who

protect the nature adding that as a nation India never exploited nature but instead worshipped it. He also stressed on sustainable utilisation and circular economy for conservation of forests.

ICFRE director general Arun Singh Rawat said that the conservation of natural resources, forests, biodiversity and restoration of degraded lands can be attained through Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM). This can be achieved through increased participation of local com-

munity, conserving biodiversity, and maintaining ecosystem services. The concept of ecosystem services has gained global momentum as they hold immense importance for human well-being. The total value of ecosystem services (TEV) for India is \$1.8 trillion/year.

Additional secretary and financial advisor to MoEFCC Pravir Pandey stressed on green finances and said that the funds should be utilised by research and development organisations in synergy so that it benefits the society.

Additional director general of forests (Forestry) BK Singh complemented ICFRE on successfully implementing the ESIP in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Over 200 delegates from national and international research organisations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Japan Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand, Universities, SFDs, representatives from World Bank, FAO, GIZ, UNDP, scientists and officers were present during the inaugural session.

# ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 46/2023

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

09.02.2023

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

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

## SCHEDULE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE COURSES

Basic Registration (PAAR) for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical Courses) -2023

Start Date :15.02.2023

Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)

Generation of Code for Final Registration for B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. (Paramedical courses) -2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.

Start date: 01.03.2023

Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for FinalRegistration.

Start date: 01.03.2023

Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

## SCHEDULE FOR POST-GRADUATE COURSES

Basic Registration (PAAR) for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses -2023

Start Date :15.02.2023

Closing Date: 20.04.2023 (05.00 PM)

Generation of Code for Final Registration for M.Sc Nursing/M. Biotechnology/M.Sc Courses-2023 only for those whose Basic Registration is accepted.

Start date: 03.03.2023

Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those who have Generated Code for Final Registration.

Start date: 03.03.2023

Closing date: 28.04.2023 (05:00 PM)

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

CBC 17112/12/0042/2223

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)

**BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)  
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi – 110066  
Website: [www.beeindia.gov.in](http://www.beeindia.gov.in), Ph: 011-26766700

**KIND ATTENTION : ENERGY USERS IN 14 NOTIFIED SECTORS**  
**Submission of Report on the Status of Energy Consumption under Energy Conservation Act 2001 (52 of 2001)**

All users/class of users of energy in the following energy intensive sectors having Annual Energy Consumption of and above the specified limit shown against the following energy intensive sectors are notified as designated consumers vide S.O. 394 (E) dated the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2007, S.O. 3542 (E) dated 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2015, S.O. 1388(E) dated 02<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 and S.O. 2147 (E) Dated 17th June, 2020, S.O. 3445 (E) dated 28th September, 2020, S.O. 4165(E) dated 07th September, 2022 under clause (e) of section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act (52 of 2001).

S. No.	Notified Sector	Threshold Energy Consumption in metric tonne of oil equivalent (mtoe) per year
1.	Aluminium	7,500
2.	Cement	
	(a) Integrated Cement Unit	30,000
	(b) Cement Grinding Unit	10,000
3.	Commercial Buildings or Establishments	
	(a) Hotels	500
	(b) Airports	500
4.	Chlor-Alkali	12,000
5.	Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)	All licensed distribution companies by SERC/JERC
6.	Fertilizer	30,000
7.	Iron & Steel	20,000
8.	Pulp & Paper	20,000
9.	Petroleum Refineries	90,000
10.	Petrochemical units having gas crackers or naphtha crackers or both	1,00,000
11.	Railways	
	(a) All Zonal Railways (Traction)	70,000
	(b) Workshops	750
	(C) 8 Production Factories of Railways namely ICF, RCF, CLW, BLW, PLW, RWF, MCF & RWP	-
12.	Textile	3,000
13.	Thermal Power Stations	30,000
14.	Petrochemical Manufacturing units.	
	(1) Fibre Intermediates	50,000
	(2) Polymers	10,000
	(3) Detergent Intermediates	9,000
	(4) Performance Plastics	3,000
	(5) Other Petrochemical products	6,000
	(6) Synthetic Rubbers	15,000
	(7) Aromatics	20,000

All units/establishment consuming more than the listed threshold energy consumption under respective sectors, notified by the Central Government under S.O. 1409(E) dated 28th March, 2018, S.O. 1473(E) dated 29th March, 2019, S.O. 1254(E) dated 13th April, 2020, S.O. 4491 (E) dated 26th October, 2021, S.O. 4552 (E) dated 26th September, 2022, are requested to submit to the concerned designated agency, with a copy to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a report on the status of Annual Energy Consumption, together with their annual production, for the last two years, namely, 2021-22 and 2022-23 in Form 1 notified under clause (l) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (52 of 2001), duly authenticated by the Energy Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the required sector applicable Pro-forma or Form-I could be downloaded from BEE website: <https://beeindia.gov.in/content/pat-performance>.

If any person fails to submit a report on the status of annual consumption etc by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, he shall be liable to a penalty under clause 26 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

For more information/query please contact us on 011-26766700 or send mail on [newdc@beeindia.gov.in](mailto:newdc@beeindia.gov.in).

CBC 34106/12/0024/2223Mission Director, NMEEE

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI – 110 608  
EXAMINATION SECTION

**ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 44 /2023**  
Ref. No.F.AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-JULY-23)/202307.03.2023

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

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

Date of uploading Prospectus Part-A including eligibility criteria: 07.03.2023		
Online Registration for application		
	Start date	Closing Date
• #Registration and Basic Information [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been #ACCEPTED for July 2019, January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021 session, January 2022, July 2022 and January 2023 are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code)]	07.03.2023	25.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)
• Editing of Registration and Basic information (after last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic information will not be allowed)		
Status of Registration and Basic information and last date of correction of rejected Images	28.03.2023	31.03.2023 (by 5:00 pm)
Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information	03.04.2023	(by 5:00 pm)
• Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC) [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information - Previous EUC code not valid for July 2023 session]		
• Completion of Application form (only for the candidates those have generated EUC code)	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	10.04.2023 (05:00 pm)
• Editing of completion of Application form (Change of category will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstances)		
• Uploading of valid Certificate/Card: SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card.		
a) Date(s) of valid OBC(NCL) certificate: The OBC(NCL) certificates should have been issued between 08.05.2022 to 07.05.2023 (date of Exam) both dates inclusive.	24.03.2023 (05:00 pm)	07.05.2023 (05:00 pm)
b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate: The EWS certificate must be valid for financial year 2023-2024 and issued between 01.04.2023 to 07.05.2023 (on or before date of Exam), both date inclusive based on income of year 2022-2023.		
Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form & Last date of submission of required documents.	14.04.2023 (11:00 am)	15.04.2023 (05:00 pm)
Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	01.05.2023 (Monday)	
Date of Examination		Examination Centers
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**Correction/edit of Registration:** For candidates requiring correction in Registration & Basic candidate information OR Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

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# 1 एक साल नई मिसाल



## संकल्प नये उत्तराखण्ड का

- प्रदेश की मातृ शक्ति के हितों की रक्षा के लिए राज्य सरकार की नौकरियों में महिलाओं के लिए 30 प्रतिशत क्षैतिज आरक्षण।
- लखपति दीदी योजना में वर्ष 2025 तक प्रदेश की 1.25 लाख महिलाओं को लखपति बनाने की पहल।
- राज्य आंदोलनकारियों को 10 प्रतिशत क्षैतिज आरक्षण का निर्णय।
- चारधाम और कांवड़ यात्रा में कुशल प्रबंधन से रिकॉर्ड संख्या में आए श्रद्धालु।
- केदारनाथ धाम और बदरीनाथ धाम की तर्ज पर मानसखंड मंदिर माला मिशन के अंतर्गत कुमाऊं के पौराणिक और प्राचीन मंदिर क्षेत्रों में अवस्थापनात्मक विकास।
- वोकल फॉर लोकल के अंतर्गत स्थानीय उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक जिला दो उत्पाद योजना।
- स्टेट मिलेट मिशन, मंडुआ की न्यूनतम समर्थन कीमत 3574 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल पर खरीद।
- नई राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति लागू करने में उत्तराखण्ड अग्रणी राज्य। प्रदेश के राजकीय विद्यालयों के प्रतिभावान छात्रों के लिए मुख्यमंत्री मेधावी छात्रवृत्ति योजना।
- टेली मेडिसिन के लिए 400 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों को 04 मेडिकल कॉलेज से जोड़ा गया।
- 06 एरोमा वैली विकसित करने की योजना। 50 हजार पॉलीहाउस से बदलेगी उद्यानिकी की तस्वीर। इसके लिए बजट में 200 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान।
- मिशन दालचीनी, मिशन तिमरु प्रारंभ करने का निर्णय।
- नई खेल नीति से प्रदेश के खिलाड़ियों को प्रोत्साहन, खेल अवस्थापनात्मक सुविधाओं का विकास।
- उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उत्तराखण्ड लॉजिस्टिक नीति, प्राइवेट इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट पॉलिसी।
- मुख्यमंत्री सौर स्वरोजगार योजना में सब्सिडी बढ़ाकर 40 प्रतिशत की।
- नई पर्यटन नीति में स्वरोजगार को बढ़ावा, 100 प्रतिशत तक सब्सिडी का प्रावधान।

“ 21 वीं सदी के विकसित भारत के निर्माण के दो प्रमुख स्तंभ हैं। पहला, अपनी विरासत पर गर्व और दूसरा, विकास के लिए हर संभव प्रयास। आज उत्तराखण्ड, इन दोनों ही स्तंभों को मजबूत कर रहा है।

**नरेन्द्र मोदी**  
प्रधानमंत्री

## मल्टी मॉडल कनेक्टिविटी

केदारनाथ, बदरीनाथ, यमुनोत्री और गंगोत्री के साथ ही टनकपुर-पिथौरागढ़ की सड़क कनेक्टिविटी में सुधार के लिये चारधाम ऑलवेदर सड़क परियोजना पर तेजी से काम गतिमान।

दिल्ली-देहरादून एलिफेन्ट रोड, नजीबाबाद-अफजलगढ़ बाईपास के साथ ही सितारगंज से टनकपुर मोटरमार्ग को चार लेन में परिवर्तित करने की स्वीकृति।

केन्द्र सरकार से पौंटा साहिब-देहरादून, बनबसा-कंचनपुर, भानियावाला-ऋषिकेश, काठगोदाम-लालकुआ-हल्द्वानी बाईपास और रुद्रपुर बाईपास परियोजनाओं की महत्वपूर्ण सौगात।

ऋषिकेश-कर्णप्रयाग रेल परियोजना पर तेजी से काम गतिमान।

गौरीकुण्ड-केदारनाथ और गोविंदघाट-हेमकुण्ड साहिब रोपवे का शिलान्यास माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा किया गया। पर्वतमाला परियोजना पर तेजी से काम गतिमान।

उत्तराखण्ड के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भारत सरकार द्वारा 1202 मोबाईल टावर की स्वीकृति।

भर्ती माफिया पर कड़ा प्रहार,  
देश का सबसे सख्त  
नकल विरोधी कानून।

जबरन और प्रलोभन से  
धर्मांतरण पर रोक के लिए  
सख्त कानून।

समान नागरिक संहिता  
के लिए मजबूती से  
बड़े कदम।

अंत्योदय परिवारों को  
साल में तीन गैस रिफिल  
निःशुल्क।



“ माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने कहा है कि 21वीं सदी का तीसरा दशक उत्तराखण्ड का होगा। उनके इस वाक्य ने उत्तराखण्डवासियों में नई ऊर्जा और उत्साह का संचार किया है। केन्द्र सरकार से राज्य को प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्व सहयोग मिल रहा है। राज्य सरकार सरलीकरण, समाधान, निस्तारण और जनसंतुष्टि के मूलमंत्र पर चलते हुए अंत्योदय की भावना के साथ अंतिम पंक्ति में खड़े व्यक्ति के विकास, कल्याण और उन्नति के लिए निरंतर प्रयासरत है। हम वर्ष 2025 तक देवभूमि को देश का सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# Already engaged

A prominent US conservative academic says BJP is the most important foreign political party in the world

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh rarely figure in public discourse of Western countries. And when it does, it is generally for criticism. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine years in office, and his Government's persistent emphasis on its Hindu core, seem to have changed that. Evidently, those who matter in government and decision- and opinion-making are shedding their blinkers to have a closer look at the Sangh Parivar. The blinkers, needless to say, were often manufactured at the facilities (academia, the mainstream media, *et al*) run by the Left-liberal establishment. But it looks like the important people in the West want to have a 360-degree view of the saffron family, especially the BJP. This is the reason that a prominent conservative academic, in an opinion piece in the prominent conservative newspaper *Wall Street Journal*, chose to state that the BJP "is, from the standpoint of American national interests, the most important foreign political party in the world. It may also be the least understood." The author Walter Russell Mead is "convinced that Americans and Westerners generally need to engage much more deeply with a complex and powerful movement [Hindutva]." It may be mentioned here that Mead is a well-known critic of China. Three years ago, he wrote an article with the self-explanatory headline, 'China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia,' in *WSJ*. Unsurprisingly, the Chinese Government was incensed; it even expelled three *WSJ* journalists.



Mead, who teaches at New York's Bard College, is quite bullish not just about India but also the BJP, which "is headed for a repeat victory in 2024." India is emerging both as a leading economic power and, along with Japan, as the linchpin of American strategy in the Indo-Pacific, he wrote. Therefore, for the foreseeable future the BJP will be calling the shots in a country without whose help American efforts to balance rising Chinese power are likely to fall short. Mead is not exactly a cheerleader of the BJP. He talked about the anti-Government journalists who "can face harassment and worse." He also talks about "anti-conversion laws as well as occasional outbursts of mob violence." Yet, he doesn't find the BJP beyond the pale, for the party may reject many ideas and priorities of Western liberalism, "*it embraces key features of modernity*" (emphasis added). Further, he is appreciative of the saffron party which "combines a basically pro-market economic stance with populist rhetoric and traditionalist values." This is also a trait that American conservatives generally admire. The *WSJ* article should not be seen as just an academic's exuberance; the West's deeper engagement with Modi's India was written all over Air India's 70-billion deal to buy 470 aircraft. This could not have been possible without the consent of the big boys and girls of global finance — and of politics. Indo-Western engagement has already begun.

## PICTALK



Women traditional attire celebrate Gudi Padwa festival, the beginning of Maharashtrian New Year, in Nagpur

# Legal remedies for crimes against women

Underreporting of crimes against women makes it difficult to assess the correct prevalence of such crimes and provide relief

Domestic violence and crimes against women have been a persistent problem in many countries, including India. Despite various initiatives and measures taken by governments and civil society organizations, these issues continue to affect women in our society. The victims of such crimes often find themselves in a vulnerable position, not aware of their legal rights and remedies.

Domestic violence is defined as any behaviour that is designed to control or dominate an intimate partner, including physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and economic abuse. It is a serious violation of human rights and can have devastating consequences for the victim's physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

One of the primary reasons for the persistence of these issues is the patriarchal nature of Indian society. Women are often viewed as inferior to men and are expected to conform to societal norms and expectations. This mindset has led to the normalization of violence against women and the belief



that women are responsible for their own safety.

One of the most effective legal remedies for victims of domestic violence is obtaining a restraining order or protection order. A restraining order is a court order that prohibits the abuser from contacting or coming near the victim or their children. The order can be obtained by filing a petition in court and providing evidence of abuse. Once the order is issued, the abuser can be arrested and charged with a criminal offence if they violate the order.

Another significant legal remedy for victims of domestic violence is obtaining a divorce or separation. In many cases, the victim may need to obtain a restraining order before filing for divorce or separation to protect themselves

and their children from further harm. Divorce or separation can provide victims with the legal right to seek financial support and custody of their children. The divorce may also provide for the division of property and assets acquired during the marriage.

One big reason for the persistence of these issues is the under-reporting of crimes against women. Many women are hesitant to report such crimes due to fear of retaliation, social stigma, and lack of trust in the justice system. This under-reporting not only makes it difficult for victims to seek legal remedies but also makes it challenging for authorities to tackle these issues effectively. Crimes against women such as rape, sexual harassment, and trafficking constitute serious offences that can have long-lasting consequences for the victim. Victims of these crimes can seek legal remedies to hold the perpetrator accountable and obtain compensation for the harm they have suffered. It is not that we do not have laws though their implementation leaves much to be desired. The

number of crimes identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for instance, Rape (sec.376 IPC), Kidnapping & abduction (sec.363 – 373 IPC), Dowry Deaths (sec.302/304-B of IPC), torture, both mental and physical (sec.498-A of IPC), Molestation (sec.354 of IPC), Sexual harassment (sec.509 of IPC) (referred to in the past as Eve-teasing), Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and last but not the least, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Unfortunately, the actual number of such crime is never known as women shy away from reporting it.

Victims can also seek legal remedies through civil lawsuits, which can provide compensation for the harm they have suffered, including medical expenses, lost income, and emotional distress. It is imperative for women to be aware of their constitutional rights and seek help from law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.

(The writer is an advocate in the Delhi High court)



HITESH BAISLA

# Sikhs hold Tiranga in high esteem

Reckless politics by earlier governments created conditions that bred an insurgency movement but Sikhs have always saluted the Tiranga

Healthy politics is all about disagreements (irrespective of the fact that every ruling dispensation would suggest otherwise), and so it should always be. Dissent and disagreement with a government and its perceived policies is not the same as rebelling against the nation. History is instructive that often dissent against the government can be the highest form of patriotism e.g., dissent against Emergency in 1975. However, something is sacrosanct and beyond the realm of either political usurpation or conversely destruction. These are the foundational 'Ideas of India' as enshrined in the holy book of the land i.e., the Constitution and the defined symbols within, the most sacred of them being the national flag, Tiranga or Tricolour.

Recent images of a Khalistani supporter attempting to pull down the Tiranga at the Indian High Commission in London, were simply deplorable beyond words. The shameful act militated against the inert sense of patriotism that ought to beset all Indians, irrespective of their partisan loyalties, personal identities, and disaffections. That it came from a member of a community that has given more blood and lives to protect the integrity, sovereignty, and dignity of India since time immemorial, made it even more hurtful and unbelievable.

Contrast this recent image with that of the valourous Sikh warriors (8 Sikh Regiment - the irrepressible 'Chardhikala' battalion) who battled their way to the top of Tiger Hill in the Kargil War. These fierce Khalsa warriors with unmatched josh and daredevilry reached atop the Tiger Hill and flew the Tiranga – the price to pay for flying that Tiranga was one officer, four junior commissioned officers and 30 jawans of 8 Sikh who went down fighting and charging with a war cry that sent shivers down the spine of the enemies, 'Bole So Nihal Sat Sri Akal!' To defend their commitment to the flag, their forefathers had refused to surrender and came down fighting to the last man in earlier battles like Saragarhi. There is no surprise the latter day Sikh Regiment (along with Sikh Light Infantry) has continued to



be one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army due to its fiery traditions. 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment, later the 4th Mechanised Regiment, is considered the Commonwealth's most decorated battalion with 245 pre-independence and 82 post-independence gallantry awards. Martial Sikhs need no certificate of patriotism. Those who seek to besmirch its fine history written in blood and sacrifice, don't behoove or represent the community's unflinching standards and ethos for eons!

Sikhs may be about 1.7% of the national population but they are almost 20% of the recipients of the highest gallantry award i.e., Param Vir Chakra (with the National Emblem of India in the centre, surrounded by four copies of the Vajra). These men willingly put themselves in the line of fire to defend the Tiranga. They are Lance Naik Karam Singh, Subedar Joginder Singh, Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon and Hony Capt Major Bana Singh.

Beyond soldering, farming is the mainstay of the Sikh community and they have had many socio-economic concerns with various dispensations since independence (like any region or ethnicity). Reckless politics by earlier



RECENT IMAGES OF A KHALISTANI SUPPORTER ATTEMPTING TO PULL DOWN THE TIRANGA AT THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON WERE SIMPLY DEPLORABLE BEYOND WORDS

governments created conditions that bred an insurgency movement, but that didn't imply that every Sikh who had a genuine grievance against the government wanted to secede or become a Khalistani (as is instinctively and thoughtlessly attributed today). At the height of militancy in 1987, then Naib Subedar Bana Singh of 8th JAKLI had led an impossible assault and wrested control of an almost impregnable peak in Siachen Glacier. Such is the cloth from which the Sikh community is cut – societal and political differences aside, a nation first and foremost, always!

Like many proud Veterans who had guarded the nation with their lives and were later participating in the Farmers Protest a few years back, little did they know that they would be abused as Khalistanis, 'anti-nationals' by people who would never come remotely close to making the sacrifices that these men and women had made, and even by some among them, who were misguided and truly condemnable. Larger citizenry did not differentiate (unlike in the 80's) and the dispensation encouraged the wrongful narrative that a Khalistani flag had replaced the Tiranga at Red Fort – it hadn't

replaced the Tiranga and the flag hoisted on the said pole was the sacred Nishan Sahib and not the Khalistani flag. But politics of disparagement ensued and wrongfully diminished a patriotic community, as truth may not have been able to generate the much-needed polarisation!

As a result, the PVC awardee Hony Capt Bana Singh voiced his disapproval of the Agnipath scheme and even walked with an opposition leader on his Bharat Jodo Yatra - the logic of the proud Indians - "This is our country, and we have to address what issues there are". He rightfully delinked his right to dissent from any suggestions of disagreeing with the 'Idea of India'. Instead, he owned and sought to protect the 'India', which he was proud of by dissenting. Today all his tweets are signed off by emoticons of a folded hand and the 'Tiranga!' The person who sought to remove the Tiranga from the building in London could never claim to represent the clan of defenders of the nation and its Tiranga. This is i.e., the most patriotic, gallant and noblest Sikhs.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WORRYING SIGNS IN PUNJAB

Sir — The drama surrounding the Punjab Police manhunt for fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh which has entered its third day, and the spurt in pro-Khalistani activity in countries abroad have brought back memories of 1984 and the Operation Bluestar misadventure that culminated in the assassination of Indira Gandhi. The preacher's supporters filing a habeas corpus petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, claiming that he has been spirited away by the police, has only muddied the waters. There is no room for error in the efforts to rein in anti-India elements that threaten to destabilise Punjab.

The reign of terror that prevailed under the Khalistani militants during the eighties must surely haunt all sane individuals in the state. It took many years for Punjab to regain at least part of its lost glory. India cannot afford a re-run of those times when militancy claimed so many lives and almost destroyed the prospects of a state that was once the food bowl of the nation.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

### UNSEASONAL RAINS AND FOOD SECURITY

Sir — Incidentally, agriculture in India still thrives only on seasonal rain. The farmer, even today, patiently awaits the annual monsoon. But if that rain is unseasonal, it becomes a disaster. In recent days, farmers have been concerned about the rains caused by western disturbances.

At a time when the wheat harvest has ripened in the fields and the farmer is getting ready to pick up the grain from the barns at the market. Likewise, mustard has also ripened. Due to unusual rainfall in many Northern Indian states over the past few days, wheat and mustard crops have been severely damaged. When the mustard seed was ready, it was dispersed because of hail. Furthermore, the mustard which had reached the mandis got wet because of the rain. In fact, because of rising temperatures due to global warming in recent years, there has been a rapid shift in weather patterns.

By and large, clouds of crisis are

## Parliament logjam continues



Kalyani Shankar's piece 'Reforming Parliament: Charity begins at home' (Thee Pioneer, March 21) assumes a good deal of significance given the acrimony between the Opposition and the Treasury Bench getting fiercer and in turn leading to the repeated suspensions of Parliamentary proceedings in both Houses-to the detriment of the Exchequer. This time, it is the allegedly defamatory comments Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently made about the Modi government in the United

Kingdom.

This resulted in a controversy that stalled the House of Representatives. Legislators from the ruling regime want to make Mr Gandhi come to the House and apologize. Contrarily, the Opposition leaders are adamant on their demand for a probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). Ironically, these gratuitous adjournments are commonplace in all regimes and have adverse bearing on the precious time of the Members of the Houses as well as on the taxpayers' hard-earned money. Reverse columnist's observation that in a matured over-year democracy like India, what matters most is the smooth functioning of the Parliament. For that to happen, some pragmatic and corrective measures are needed.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

threatening our food chain. The frequency, timing and quality of precipitation has shifted. The rains are heavy and short-lived. In the past, sudden temperature rises prior to time were considered harmful to wheat crops. Last year, despite a full harvest, wheat grain remained low because of an early increase in temperature. Therefore, productivity declined, and the farmer suffered.

Rain is expected to fall for a few more days because of western disturbances. In such a situation, where immediate relief is required for farmers, the central and state governments must promote advancing research and research for crops. This will assist farmers in preventing the damage caused by the effects of global warming.

This crisis will turn off the next generation of farmers. A country with a population of 140 million may face a food crisis in the coming decades. For that, far-reaching policies must be implemented right away.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

### EXCESSIVE SALT IS DANGEROUS

Sir — It is very imperative for all of us to

consume salt in food according to taste and need. Without salt, food is tasteless and bland. Nevertheless, excessive salt consumption causes death all over the world. Recently a report from the World Health Organization has explained why salt is proving fatal. According to this WHO report, every year around 20 lakh people around the world die because of eating too much salt. At present the average use of salt per person in the world is 10.8 grams. While the WHO has set a maximum limit of 5 grams per person's consumption of salt.

That means we are consuming double the amount of salt. These figures are proof that it is healthy to take salt in limited quantities, not according to taste. If we all reduce the amount of salt, the number of deaths due to heart diseases worldwide every year can be brought down. WHO estimates that consuming less salt can save the lives of 22 lakh people by 2025 and about 70 lakh lives can be saved by 2030.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

ROBOTIC AUTOMATION IS THE FUTURE

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

*{The writer is cofounder and CEO of Addverb Technologies}*

Moral compass is critical for democracy



JS RAJPUT

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




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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

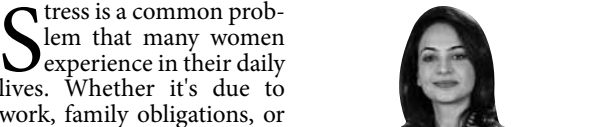
One earnestly hopes that the elected representatives realise the source of their power—the people—and ensure proper and well-informed debates and discussions in Parliament and Assemblies. Following the moral compass could strengthen their role performance and bestow the satisfaction of serving the needy.

Stress among women is rampant but it can be managed

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

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

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



DR JYOTI KAPOOR

*(The writer is the founder and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)*


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

**Exercise regularly**

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

**Practice mindfulness meditation**

Mindfulness meditation is a technique that involves focusing on the present moment and paying attention to your thoughts and emotions without judgment. It has been shown to be effective in reducing stress and anxiety in women. By practicing mindfulness meditation regularly, women can learn to manage their emotions and respond to stressful situations in a more positive and productive way.



**Get enough sleep**

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

**Connect with others**

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

**Eat a healthy diet**

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

**Take breaks throughout the day**

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

**Stressed throughout the day. Seek professional help**

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

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

# China, Russia to counter US’ Indo-Pacific strategy

PTI ■ BEIJING/MOSCOW

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

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

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



## ‘Xi sees Russia as counterweight to US influence’

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

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

# Civilians killed by Russian missiles, drones

AP ■ KYIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

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



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

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

# ‘Israel attacked Aleppo airport, no casualties’

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


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

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

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



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE



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

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

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

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

872/23



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE



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

1. Name of work with its Location	"Part-A Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV OHE modification work in connection with Provision of Machine siding & over run at Safdarjua station Part-B Provision of 25 KV/230V, 25KVA Auxiliary Transformer interconnection with Electronic Interlocking work at DSJ station
2. Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 6600101.05/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 132000.00/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	03.04.2023
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	17.04.2023 (15.00 Hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	deposit work
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

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

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

878/23

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Place: New Delhi**  
**Date: March 22, 2023**

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

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

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

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

The shareholders whose email ids are not registered with Company/RTA or with respective DPs may temporarily get their email id registered with the Company by sending e-mail at [hindaf1980@gmail.com](mailto:hindaf1980@gmail.com) and follow the temporary registration process as guided thereafter to receive the Annual Report for FY 2018-19 along with the Notice of AGM which inter-alia contains the instructions for attending the AGM. However, for permanent registration of email id, members are requested to approach their respective DPs and follow the process advised by DPs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Place: New Delhi**  
**Date: March 22, 2023**

# Donald Trump’s potential indictment caps decades of legal scrutiny

AP ■ NEW YORK

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



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

be a “shocking event, both because of the fact that a former president is being indicted for the first time, but also because one of the slipperiest people at the highest level of business, whose devotion to abusing the system is so well established, is being caught.” “Throughout his life, he has done things for which he could have been investigated and potentially prosecuted and learned from those experiences that he could act with impunity,” he said. Trump first faced legal scrutiny in the 1970s when the Department of Justice brought a racial discrimination case against his family’s real estate business. Trump and his father fiercely fought the suit, which accused them of refusing to

rent apartments to Black tenants in predominantly white buildings. Testimony showed that applications filed by prospective Black tenants were marked with a “C” for “coloured”. Trump counter-sued for USD 100 million, accusing the government of defamation. The case ended with a settlement that opened the way for some Black tenants but did not force the Trumps to explicitly acknowledge they had “failed and neglected” to comply with the Fair Housing Act. Since then, Trump and his businesses have been the subject of thousands of civil lawsuits and numerous investigations. There have been probes into his casino and real estate dealings, allegations of bribery and improper

er lobbying, fraud allegations against the now-defunct Trump University and charitable Trump Foundation and a probe by the Manhattan district attorney into sales at the Trump SoHo hotel-condominium in Lower Manhattan. Indeed, according Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group abbreviated CREW, as of November 2022, Trump had been accused of committing at least 56 criminal offenses since he launched his campaign in 2015, not including allegations of fraudulent business dealings. But he has never been formally indicted. Trump is a master of delay tactics, “finding ways to endlessly delay in the hopes that the investigation and litigation will go away. And he’s had remarkable success,” says CREW president Noah Bookbinder, a former federal corruption prosecutor. “It makes accountability absolutely essential because we can’t have people in a functioning democracy operating in positions of power with total impunity where they can commit crimes and never have to face any consequences,” he said.

# Indian-American receives National Humanities medal from Joe Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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



her own mom was. And, Mindy, we know your mom is always with you in your spirit. We know that,” Biden added. “Imbued with humour and heart, Mindy Kaling’s work across television, film, and books inspires and delights, capturing and uplifting the experiences of women and girls across our nation,” the citation of Kaling’s award, read by a military aide later, said. The award honours individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy,

and other humanities subjects. The 11 other distinguished medal recipients were Judith Franciscas Baca, Fred Eychaner, Jose Feliciano, Gladys Knight, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Antonio Martorell-Cardona, Joan Shigekawa, Bruce Springsteen, Vera Wang, The Billie Holiday Theatre, and the International Association of Blacks in Dance. Richard Blanco, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Walter Isaacson, Earl Lewis, Henrietta Mann, Ann Patchett, Bryan Stevenson, Amy Tan, Tara Westover, Colson Whitehead and Native America Calling were the recipients of the National Humanities Medal.

# California faces more flooding after strong storm

**Santa Cruz (US):** A strong late-season Pacific storm that brought damaging winds and more rain and snow to saturated California was blamed for two deaths and forecasters said additional flooding was possible Wednesday in parts of the state. Tuesday’s storm focused most of its energy on central and southern parts of the state, bringing threats of heavy runoff and mountain snowfall. In the north, intense hail was reported in Sacramento, the state capital. Locally heavy rain and snowmelt may cause flooding on Wednesday in southern California and central Arizona, the National Weather Service warned. Trees and power lines were reported downed in the San Francisco Bay Area. An Amtrak commuter train carrying 55 passengers struck a downed tree and derailed near the East Bay village of Portola Costa. The train remained upright and nobody was injured, Amtrak and fire officials said. In the Bay Area community of Portola Valley, a man driving a sewer truck was killed when a tree fell onto the vehicle, the California Highway Patrol said. And in the community of Rossmore, a driver was injured and a passenger died after a large tree fell onto a car, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District said.

**AP** ■ LONDON

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

Unions have called for new nationwide protests and

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

**APPENDIX IV-A**  
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

**Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property**

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 proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.** [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("**Secured Creditor**"), the **constructive possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where s", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on **27.04.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.**, for recovery of **Rs. 46,16,334/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Four only)** pending towards Loan Account No. **HHLDMT00371858**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **15.03.2023** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement; and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **16.03.2023** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **BALVINDER SINGH HANSPAL, HARMEET KAUR andINDERPREET SINGH**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 28,10,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Ten Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("**EMD**") will be **Rs. 2,81,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty One Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**RESIDENTIAL UNIT NO. T-83, DUPLEX TUSCAN FLOORS, AREA MEASURING 1434 SQ.FT., SITUATED IN TDI TUSCAN CITY SITUATED IN KUNDLI, SONEPAT-131028, HARYANA.**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.indiabullshomeoans.com](http://www.indiabullshomeoans.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in)

s/d

<b>Date: 20.03.2023</b>	<b>AUTHORISED OFFICER</b>
<b>Place: SONEPAT</b>	<b>INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.</b>

# DoT seeks ₹33,111 cr for BSNL AGR dues

Expects PSU to become profitable by FY 2027

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

crore have been spent till December 2022.

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

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

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

AP ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BRIEF

### PFC SIGNS MOU WITH IISC FOR NEW ENERGY RESEARCH BUILDING

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

### IIFL AIMS WORLD RECORD WITH IIFL JITO AHIMSA RUN

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

### NTPC COMMEMORATES WORLD WATER DAY

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

### PFC INKS PLA FOR JPY 2.65 BN WITH JAPAN BANK

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

# Modi launches ITU Area office, innovation Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Tomar launches blended learning platform for higher edu in agri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

have been digitised, he added.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Google suspends Chinese shopping app amid security concerns



AP ■ HONG KONG

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# India will not slow down: RBI article

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

The projected salary increases for 2023 are slightly lower

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

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

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

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

# Oz beat India in 3rd ODI, seal series

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Indian batting unit once again choked under relentless pressure from the Australian spinners as the visitors clinched the three-match ODI series 2-1 with a comfortable 21-run victory, here on Wednesday.

Chasing a stiff target of 270 on a tricky pitch, India were all out for 248 in 49.1 overs as Australia came back in the series after losing the first ODI by five wickets.

The series defeat is an indicator that the Indian team is far from prepared for the World Cup and there are too many loose ends that needs to be tied.

The match turned out to be an anti-climax in the final 15 overs as Australian spinners Adam Zampa (4/45) and Ashton Agar (2/41 in 10 overs) snared as many six Indian wickets, giving away only 86 runs in the 20 overs between them.

The Chepauk track got slower and slower and post 35th over in the Indian innings, it became very difficult to hit the big strokes.

Once Zampa bowled a couple of googlies to force Hardik Pandya (40 off 40 balls) and Ravindra Jadeja (1 off 33 balls) hit against the turn, the writing was on the wall.

It was Zampa's best figures against India and he certainly was the hero for the Aussies.

Incidentally, Australia were the last international team to beat India in a bilateral ODI series back in 2019. The score-line back then was 3-2. Since that series defeat four years back, India have won seven back-to-back bilateral ODI rubber at home.

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



tered to deceive and that too in home conditions. They could have been blanked 3-0 in the series had Australia scored at least 235 in the opening ODI.

The highest run-getter for India in the series was KL Rahul with 116 runs and that tells the story.

Between overs 35 to 43, India managed only 31 runs and that was where the game turned on its head.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (30

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

Kohli's first boundary came in his 21st delivery, a pull shot off Agar and two balls later of Tamil Nadu he hit a regal six off Agar over extra cover.

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

to hold onto it at the boundary. Then it was the turn of Agar to quickly send back Kohli and the out-of-form Suryakumar Yadav (0) for his third first-ball duck in as many games.

From 146 for 2, India had slumped to 185 for 6 when Pandya and Jadeja joined forces with the Australian close-in fielders making it infinitely difficult.

But Pandya, however, main-

tained a 100-plus strike-rate despite tight bowling by the opposition.

Earlier, a fine opening spell by Pandya and a probing effort by Kuldeep Yadav put a tight leash around the Australian batters before its tail wagged considerably to take the visitors to a fighting 269 all out in 49 overs after opting to bat first.

The five wickets added 131 to keep Australia in the game.

While Pandya (3/44 in 8 overs) shaved off the top half, Kuldeep's (3/56 in 10 overs) rhythm and guile on a helpful Chennai track was the biggest takeaway as the latter's delivery to remove Carey was the ball of the series. It was a classical left-arm wrist spinner's leg-break that beat the southpaw all ends up and Kuldeep's ecstasy was there to be seen.

India were in control after pegging Australia back at 138 for 5 but a 58-run stand between Carey and Marcus Stoinis for the sixth wicket and 42 for the eighth wicket between Sean Abbott (26) and Ashton Agar (17) took them close to 250 while Mitchell Starc and Adam Zampa added 22 precious runs for the final wicket.

What looked like a good toss to win for Australia after Mitchell Marsh (47 off 47 balls) and Travis Head (33 off 31 balls) put on 68 for the opening stand didn't seem so as Pandya bowled three different deliveries in his first three overs to completely seize the momentum in favour of the hosts.

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



## Short break for India's white ball players before joining IPL teams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian players, who are part of the ODI series against Australia, will get a short break for three to four days before joining their respective IPL camps with the tournament starting from March 31.

Defending champions Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings will play in the opening match of the season in Ahmedabad.

It is understood that all the players, who are in the World Cup scheme of things, will have their workload management monitored and hence the rest is going to be paramount.

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

source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Even if the players directly join the training camp, it is unlikely that they would be training for at least next 72 hours.

### LYER TO MISS ENTIRE IPL, DOUBTFUL FOR WC

Shreyas Iyer is all set to undergo lower back surgery and will not take any part in the IPL, according to sources in the board. The decision is being taken keeping the player's best interest in mind as a surgery right now will give him an outside chance of at least making a comeback before the World Cup in October, although chances of making it for the marquee event also looks dim at the moment.

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

## Fleming to be Texas Super Kings coach in MLC

PTI ■ DALLAS

Former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming will be the coach of Dallas-based Major League Cricket (MLC) club Texas Super Kings (TSK), which announced its partnership with IPL side Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

Four-time IPL champions, CSK had recently said that they would make a "major announcement" with regard to their association with the new T20 tournament in the US.

TSK said in a statement that CSK will bring "operational expertise" and help "Texas compete on the field".

"The (Texas Super kings) team will be led by coach Stephen Fleming. Fleming is a former captain of the New Zealand national cricket team and head coach of Indian Premier League team Chennai Super Kings. He played in the first-ever T20 to be staged as captain of the New Zealand team in 2005," said a TSK statement.

Fleming is a long-serving CSK head coach and has guided the Chennai franchise to four IPL titles.

CSK join Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians as the third IPL side to get associated with the six-team MLC, scheduled to begin on July 13.

The six MLC teams are San Francisco Unicorns, Lost Angeles, MI New York, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington DC.

Delhi Capitals, co-owned by GMR Group, are partnering with Seattle Orcas to "help build and operate a world-class cricket team", while Mumbai Indians have joined the US cricket revolution by acquiring the New York franchise.

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

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



## New IPL Rule: Captains allowed to name playing XI after toss

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The captains of IPL teams can name their playing eleven after the toss instead of handing over team sheets before the spin of coin, stated the new playing conditions issued by the BCCI.

According to playing conditions clause 1.2.1: "Each captain shall nominate 11 players plus a maximum of 5 substitute fielders in writing to the IPL Match Referee after the toss."

"Other than set out in Clause 1.2.9 no player (member of the playing eleven) may be changed after the nomination and prior to the start of play without the consent of the opposing captain."

This effectively means that after the toss, if a skipper feels that he needs to change his eleven as per demands of the situation, he is free to do that till the match starts.

The other significant change in playing conditions is penalising unfair movement by the wicketkeeper in case there is shift in position before the batter meets the ball.

In the event of unfair movement by the wicket-keeper, either umpire shall call and signal dead ball and inform the other umpire the reason for doing so. The bowler's end umpire shall then: "award the one-run penalty for Wide or No ball, if applicable or award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side. Inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action. Inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred."

The "Impact Substitution" where a new player can be introduced during the match from the five designated substitutions had already been announced by the tournament committee.

## Siraj slips from top spot to third in ODI rankings



PTI ■ DUBAI

Pacer Mohammed Siraj was on Wednesday dethroned from the top spot by Australia's Josh Hazlewood in the latest ICC rankings for ODI bowlers, as the Indian slipped to third place.

Another Australian pacer, Mitchell Starc, who impressed during the first two ODIs of the three-match series in India, also moved up to join Siraj at joint third.

Siraj, who returned with impressive figures of 3/29 to help India win the first ODI against Australia, was expensive in the second ODI giving away 37 runs in three overs and consequently lost his position as the top-ranked bowler.

The right-arm pacer had copped the brunt of the attack by Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head during the second ODI in Visakhapatnam. Siraj, who has had a successful run across formats in recent past, was crowned as the world No. 1 bowler in ODIs in January this year.

Starc claimed three wickets in Mumbai to stage Australia's fightback while his 5/53 in the second ODI in Visakhapatnam powered the visitors to a 10-wicket win.

Hazlewood, who missed the entire tour of India consisting four Tests and three ODIs, became world No. 1 bowler in ODIs for the first time ever.

"Hazlewood, whose career-best second position was attained for the first time in June 2017 and which he had kept since August 2022, is No. 1 in ODIs for the first time," the ICC said.

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## 2023 WC in India likely to start on Oct 5, final in Ahmedabad: report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 2023 ODI World Cup in India is likely to start on October 5 with the final to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on November 19, according to a report.

The BCCI has shortlisted at least a dozen venues for the 10-team marquee event, which will see 48 matches, including three knockouts across the 46-day period, an ESPNcricinfo report said.

The 11 other shortlisted venues, according to the report, are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Indore, Rajkot and Mumbai.

Except for the final match, which is set to be played at the world's largest stadium in Ahmedabad, the BCCI has not specified the venues for any games as yet.

The list of 12 cities, however, does not include Mohali and Nagpur, which had hosted a Test match against visiting Australia recently.

India had won the title when it last hosted the 50-over World Cup in 2011.

## WORLD NO 1 ALCARAZ RETURNS TO MIAMI AFTER RAPID RISE

AP ■ MIAMI

World number one Carlos Alcaraz heads into this week's Miami Open looking to defend both his title and top ranking and admitting even he has been surprised by his dizzying rise to the top of the sport.

A year ago, the 19-year-old came to Miami on the back of wins on clay in Croatia and Brazil and hoping to make his mark on the hard courts. His victory in South Florida launched a remarkable year.

The highlight was his US Open triumph which made him the youngest player to become world number one and he returns to Miami after last week's win in Indian Wells, achieved without dropping a set in the tournament.

"It's all been very fast, when I got to Miami last year I was around number 20 and a year later I am coming in with the number one ranking. That is something very

special. I fulfilled my dreams quicker than I expected," he told reporters on Tuesday. Because of his victory in Miami last year, Alcaraz must win at the Florida event again if he is to hold on to his number one spot, but he says he feels no pressure in that regard or to meet newly raised expectations.

"I don't feel the pressure too much. I know the things I have to do. I need to play relaxed and not mind if I lose or if I play well or not," he said.

"My goal is always the same. To feel comfortable on court. To enjoy playing tennis and try to have great thoughts when playing. That is why I am playing at a good level. I am enjoying every single second and playing relaxed. That is what I am thinking about on court," he added.

As at Indian Wells, world number two Novak Djokovic is missing after being refused entry to the United States due to his lack of a COVID vaccine and Alcaraz says he misses the Serb's presence,



along with the injured Rafael Nadal. "I'm a professional tennis player, but also I'm a huge fan of tennis and I always want to watch the best players in the world, like Rafa, like Djokovic," he said.

"I played a couple of times against Rafa and I wish to play against him more and with

Djokovic as well. I wish to play against him more times, you know, but obviously in every tournament I want them to be playing and I hope we get them back soon," he said.

Far from feeling the weight of following in the footsteps of the 'Big Three' of Djokovic, Nadal and the

now retired Roger Federer, Alcaraz says he is trying to draw lessons from their successes.

"You have to improve, you have to get better every day. That's why the big players, the Big Three, for example, did all through their careers - to improve every day a little bit," he said.

Alcaraz can expect plenty of support from the crowd in Miami, which includes many Spanish-speaking fans.

"It's so special to come back here and feel the same energy that I felt, for example, last year," he said.

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

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

## I'VE NEVER FELT THAT MUCH HATE: SABALENKA

AP ■ MIAMI GARDENS

Belarus' world number two Aryna Sabalenka says she has faced "hate" in the women's tour locker-room but hopes tensions with Ukrainian players will eventually ease. Australian Open champion Sabalenka lost to Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in Sunday's Indian Wells final and at the media day for this week's ATP-WTA Miami Open was asked about her recent comments on "tensions" in the locker-room between Ukrainian and Russian and Belarus players.

"It was really, really tough for me because I've never faced that much hate in the locker room," said Sabalenka.

"Of course, there are a lot of haters on Instagram when you're losing the matches, but like in the locker room, I've never faced that," she added.

"It was really tough for me to understand that there's so many people who really hate me for no reason, like no reason. I mean, like I did nothing," she said. Sabalenka said sometimes the tension had gone beyond awkward silences and abrupt conversations.

"I had some, not like fights, but I had some weird conversations with, not the girls, but with members of their team. It was really, it was tough. It was tough period. But, now it's getting better," she said. In comments at Indian Wells Sabalenka had said she had been in a dispute with Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko's coach Nikita Plesov. Tsurenko was due to play Sabalenka at Indian Wells but withdrew before their match.

The Ukrainian said she had a "panic attack" and had also been upset with a conversation about the war and the position of Russian and Belarusian players with WTA CEO Steve Simon.

# NITU, NIKHAT & SAWEETY CONFIRM MEDALS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

"Yes, today's bout was stressful but

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

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

Contrary to Nikhat, the three-time Asian medalist Saweety (81kg) recorded a dominating 5-0 win against the 2018 World Championships bronze medalist Viktoria Kebikava of Belarus. In what was her first match of the tournament, the experienced pugilist from Haryana was extremely confident throughout the bout and landed strong, accurate punches to seal the win. She will be going up against Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia in her next bout. "The boxer from Belarus (Viktoria

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

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

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

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

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

## Sarabjot clinches men's air pistol gold

PTI ■ BHOPAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Portugal back with Martínez as coach, Ronaldo in squad

AP ■ LISBON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BASEL

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

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

Treesa and Gayatri had made a sensational run in the All



## De Bruyne 'honoured' to be named Belgium skipper

AP ■ BRUSSELS

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



## Former World Cup winner Mesut Ozil retires

AP ■ BERLIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

attacks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## European Challenge Tour returns to India after 10 years

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

importance for Indian golf.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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