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11 SPORT



Jailed Sisodia, Jain Economic growth quit Delhi Cabinet

Arrested Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and his colleague in the Government Satvendar Jain on Tuesday resigned from the Kejriwal Cabinet amid corruption allegations against them. According to officials, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has accepted their resignations.

Sisodia was in charge of 18 of 33 departments in the Delhi Government, including finance, health, revenue, public works department. He had taken over nine from Jain when the latter was arrested.

In a late night development, Sisodia's portfolios were divided between Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot Gahlot and Social Welfare Minister Raaj Kumar Anand as a temporary arrangement. Gahlot has been given the additional charge of finance and power departments, while Anand will be handling education and health departments, officials said on Tuesday.

"Till the time new ministers are appointed, the allotment of additional portfolios for the interim period will see Gahlot taking care of finance, planning, public works department, power, home, urban development, irrigation and flood control, and water along

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SC refuses to The resignations of the two AAP bigwigs came minutes after the Supreme Court hear Sisodia's refused to entertain the bail plea of Sisodia, who is in CBI bail petition custody in the now-scrapped excise policy case.

Congress had stepped up their

demand for sacking of Sisodia and Jain from the Cabinet.

AAP national spokesper-son Bhardwaj said, "It is unfor-

tunate for the entire country

that leaders, who were known

and popular for their work,

have been trapped. The Centre

is targeting State Governments

Following the arrest of Sisodia, the BJP and the PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia seeking bail and quashing of the FIR in the excise policy case, saying it would set a "wrong precedent" and efficacious alternative remedies are available to him.

The bench observed that which work hard and relentlessly for development." just because the incident hap-While the BJP termed the pened in Delhi, Sisodia cannot resignation of Sisodia and Jain come to the apex court directa "victory of truth and the party ly as he has his remedies before workers," claiming that the trial court concerned as well as the Delhi High Court.

in Q3 slips to 4.4%

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Projection of 7% growth in current fiscal year very realistic: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic growth decelerated to 4.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of this fiscal mainly due to a contraction in the manufacturing sector. The GDP growth was 11.2 per cent in October-December 2021 and 6.3 per cent in July-September 2022,



National Statistical Office (NSO) on Tuesday. The manufacturing sec-

tor's output, as per the gross value added in the third quarter of this fiscal, contracted by 1.1 per cent compared to a growth of 1.3 per cent in the year-ago period.
The NSO also released the

second advance estimate for the current fiscal and maintained

its growth projection of 7 per cent as was estimated in the first advance estimate which was released in January. "GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in O3 2022-23 is estimated at ₹40.19 lakh crore, as against ₹38.51 lakh crore in Q3 2021-22, showing a growth of 4.4 per cent. GDP at Current Prices in O3 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 69.38 lakh crore, as against Rs 62.39 lakh crore in Q3 2021-22, showing a growth of 11.2 per cent," the NSO statement said.

Anantha said the growth forecast of 7 per cent is "very real-

Continued on Page 2

Chief Economic Adviser V

Kashmiri Pandit's killer among 2 ultras gunned down; jawan martyred

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

wo terrorists, including the murderer of Kashmiri Pandit bank guard Sanjay Sharma, were killed in an encounter by the joint team of security forces in Padgampora village of Awantipora in Pulwama early on Tuesday.

An Indian Army jawan laid down his life during the operation, while another soldier sustained gunshot injuries and is recuperating in hospital.

Kashmir range Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar said one of the terrorists, identified as Aqib Mustaq Bhat, was behind the

killing of the 40-year-old Kashmiri Pandit, in Achan

The second terrorist has been identified as Aijaz Ahmed Bhat. According to a police spokesman, the operation was launched after a specific input about the presence of terrorists in a mosque in Padgampora

area of Pulwama on Sunday.

village of Awantipora. Continued on Page 2

Little short of heat wave in March, predicts IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

March, April and May are expected to witness searing heat with mercury climbing to record levels over most parts of northeast, east, central India and some parts of northwest India.

ALOE VERA

In its forecast for the MAM (March, April, May), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said above normal minimum temperatures are very likely over most parts of the country except

normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely.

This means north India, including Delhi and NCR, is likely to witness a warmer March due to the rise in temperature. Delhi recorded the highest temperature for the month of February in the last 55 years, making it difficult for the residents to step out of their houses during the daytime.

Linking the rising trend in temperature with global warming, the IMD said India reported the warmest February this year since 1877 with average

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maximum temperatures touching 29.54 degrees Celsius.

Addressing a virtual press conference, S C Bhan, the Head of the Hydromet and Agromet Advisory Services of the IMD, said there was little probability of heat waves in March, but most parts of the country could experience extreme weather conditions in April and May. The monthly average maximum temperature for February was the highest since 1877, Bhan said in response to a

question, linking the rising

trend to the phenomenon of

global warming.

"Monthly maximum temperatures for March 2023 are likely to be above normal over most parts of the country except penisnuslar India where normal to below normal maximum temperatures are likely to be seen. Above normal monthly minimum temperatures are most likely during March, 2023 over most parts of India except south peninsular India where normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely," it said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

UK, INDIA LAUNCH YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VISA PLAN London: In effort to give chances to youngsters of UK

and India to live and work in either country, Indian High Commission in London has opened its Young Professionals visa application process for UK

FOREIGN REMITTANCES TO BE TAXED MORE New Delhi: From July 1 onwards, any outward remittances except for medical and education purposes, will attract a TCS of 20 per cent on the entire value

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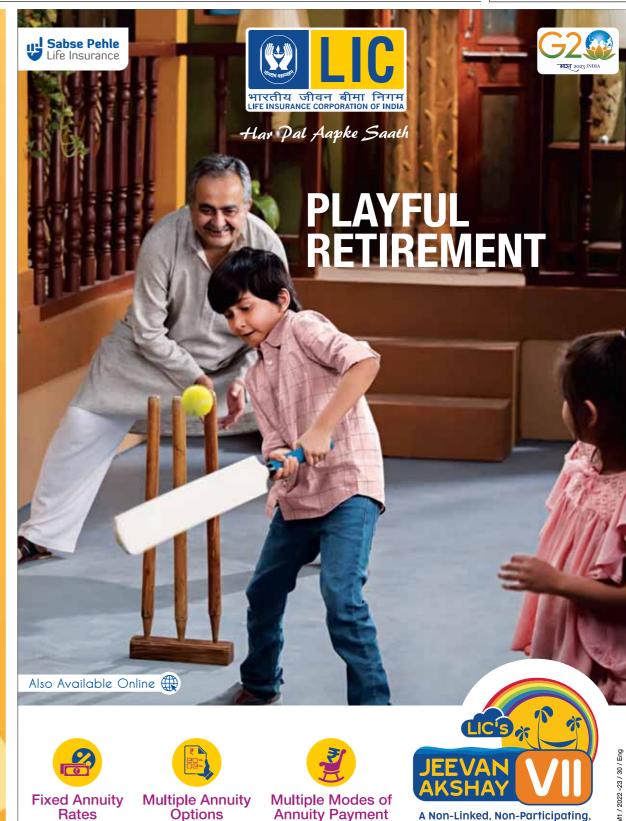
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MANN GOVT, GUV SPAR ON ASSEMBLY SESSION

SC slams Punjab Govt, Purohit for lack of 'decorum, statesmanship'

On the day Supreme Court was hearing AAP-led Punjab Government's petition against Governor for not calling Assembly session, Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that he has summoned the Assembly for the Budget session on March 3. The apex court told both sides that constitutional discourse has to be conducted with a sense of decorum and mature states-

The court, which was hearing the State Government's plea against the Governor's alleged "refusal" to summon the Budget session for March 3, said the Punjab Government is duty-bound to furnish information as sought by the Governor and at the same time the Governor is also dutybound to accept the recommendations of the Cabinet on convening of Assembly. The apex court said there was no occasion for the Punjab governor to seek legal advice on whether to convene a Budget session as he is bound by the aid and advice of Ministers.

A bench headed by Chief



Justice DY Chandrachud took note of the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the governor, that the plea filed by the Punjab Government does not survive in view of the governor's decision to convene the Assembly. "While this court is cognisant of free speech and expression, constitutional discourse has to be conducted with a sense of decorum and mature statesmanship, particularly in the context of constitutional dialogue between functionaries

"Political differences in a democratic polity are acceptable and have to be worked out with sobriety. Unless these principles were borne in mind, the effective implementation of

urgent hearing on Tuesday

The tussle between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had worsened last week with Purohit indicating he is in no hurry to summon the assembly's budget session, and reminding the CM about his "derogatory" response to a letter from the Raj Bhavan. In that February 13 letter, the governor had asked Mann to explain the process of selecting 36 government school principals for a training seminar held recently in Singapore, and raised other issues as well. Mann had responded that he was only answerable to three crore Punjabis, not to a Centreappointed governor and also questioned the Centre's criteria for appointing Governors.

Purohit had called Mann's replies not only "patently unconstitutional but extremely derogatory" also, saying he was compelled to take legal advice. Purohit's letter to CM Mann had come two days after the Punjab Cabinet decided to call the assembly session on March 3 and requested the governor to summon the House.

Little

From Page 1

These forecasts have

increased the concerns over the

standing rabi crop, especially

wheat and horticulture, and

chances of the gross value

added (GVA) in "agriculture allied activities" losing some

summer heat could be damaging for the wheat crop which

has just entered flowering stage.

The likelihood of scorching

momentum in 2023-24.

Madhya Pradesh on path of eco growth

Madhya Pradesh is performing well in financial discipline, holistic development and tax collection. The financial management of the State is outstanding. Per capita income has increased. This was revealed in the Economic Survey 2022-23 of Madhya Pradesh released on Tuesday.

There is progress in every field in Madhya Pradesh from an economic and financial point of view. Revenue collection and capital expenditure has also increased. Industrial growth rate of the state has also increased. According to advance estimates, the economic growth rate of the state is 16.43 percent in the year 2022-23. Earlier this growth rate was 18.02 percent in 2021-22 despite the circumstances of Covid. In the year 2001-02 it was merely 4.43 percent. The state's Gross Domestic Product is estimated to be ₹13 lakh 22 thousand 821 crore. It was ₹71 thousand 594 crore in the year 2001-02. Thus the Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) has increased by more than 18

times between then and now. In the year 2022-23, a fact came forth that the per capita income in Madhya Pradesh is ₹1 lakh 40 thousand 583. In the vear 2011-12, the per capita income in the state had

cial stocks of the grain.

The agriculture sector has

been growing at an average

annual growth rate of 4.6 per

cent during the last six years -

it grew 3.3 per cent in 2021, 3

per cent in 2022 and is seen to

grow at 3.5 per cent in 2023 as

per the first advance estimate.

În March last year, the average

maximum temperature was

30.7 degrees Celsius, the high-

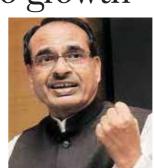
2023 averaged over the coun-

try as a whole is most likely to

be normal (83-117 per cent of

LPA). The LPA of rainfall over

The rainfall during March



increased to ₹38 thousand 497. Prior to this, in the year 2001-02, the per capita income in Madhya Pradesh was only ₹11 thousand 718. Talking about debt and GSDP ratio, the performance of Madhya Pradesh is great in this area as well. The latest Economic Survey states that the debt to GSDP ratio which was 39.5 percent in the year 2005 decreased to 22.6 percent in the year 2020-21.

The capital expenditure of the state has increased from Rs 37 thousand 89 to ₹45 thousand 685 crore. This increase is 23.18 percent and is the highest capital expenditure in the history of the state. Efforts were made to increase the state's revenue even under the circumstances of Covid, with the vision of building an Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh. It has grown at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.94 percent per annum in

the last three years.

2020 is about 29.9 mm. The probability forecast for the minimum temperatures (Fig.1b) indicates that during the upcoming hot weather season (MAM), normal to above normal minimum temperatures are very likely over most parts of the country except south penisnuslar India where normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely. Bhan said currently La Nina conditions were prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region, which was expected to weaken and turn to El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions during the pre-monsoon season.

NCR-PULSE

PGICH ORGANISES AWARENESS PROGRAMME

NOIDA: Post Graduate Institute of Child Health (PGICH), Noida, one of the ICMR collaborating centres for National Rare Disease registry, on the occasion of Rare Disease Day on Tuesday, organized an



threadbare the cases they have diagnosed in the Institute. A handprint drawing made by patients with rare diseases was also released on the occasion, by Dr (Brig) Rakesh Gupta, Director of PGICH, Dr Nita Radhakrishanan, Head of the Haematology-oncology department among others from various faculties in the hospital. They noted that early diagnosis and treatment can ensure better outcomes for these patients. But sadly, this is not happening due to lack of awareness among physicians and the masses.

APCC TREATS 62-YR-OLD FOR RARE BRAIN TUMOUR

New Delhi: Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC), the first and only proton therapy centre in South Asia and the West Asia, has successfully treated a 62-year-old woman from Delhi with proton beam therapy (PBT) for a different type of rare brain tumour. Talking about the high-tecDr Sapna Nangia, Senior Consultant, Radiation Oncology, Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Chennai said "Proton beam therapy represents a very sophisticated form of modern radiation therapy, offering the highest degree of precision and efficacy in cancer treatment. The Apollo Proton Cancer Center employs the latest technology in pencil beam scanning, which allows for spot-by-spot and layer-by-layer delivery of proton beams to the tumor site while minimizing exposure to surrounding healthy tissues.

SC refuses to hear Sisodia's bail petition..

From Page 1

"Since the petitioner (Sisodia) has efficacious alternate remedies available under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, we are not inclined to entertain the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, at this stage. The petition is accordingly disposed of," a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said.

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, questioned the need of arresting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader saying policy decisions were taken at different rung and moreover, no money was recovered. He said that the Lieutenant Governor was also part of the policy decision in the excise policy.

As the apex court observed that it would not entertain the plea at this stage, Singhvi withdrew it. "You are invoking Article 32 to challenge an FIR and for bail. You have your

remedies," asked the bench. Singhvi referred to the apex court judgements in the case of journalists Arnab Goswami and Vinod Dua.

"Arnab Goswami case had travelled to this court from the Bombay High Court," the CJI said, adding that Dua's case was about freedom of speech and expression of a journalist and the present matter relates to the Prevention of Corruption Act. "Here, you have a full remedy available which is open to you either in the form of filing bail before the competent court or 482 (Code of Criminal Procedure) before the high court," the bench said, adding that "it is a very wrong precedent", saying Sisodia can move to High Court.

This is a case involving the PC (Prevention of Corruption) Act," the CJI said, asking, "Can you not say the same things to the Delhi High Court?". Singhvi said the relevant roster judge in the High Court is holding charge of a PFI tribunal and 60 per cent of the time, he is not holding court as he has to hold the tribunal. "All this problem, the Chief Justice is there. You can mention it before the Chief Justice," the CJI told Singhvi.

Rly officers to serve in field for 10 PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Lyoung officers of the Indian Railways will now have to spend first 10 years of their service in the field mandatorily before being eligible to be posted at the headquarters, the Railway Board has said. Currently, even new officers could be posted at the headquarters. These officers are recruited through the highest

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Resident Editor

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Dated: March 1st. 2023

MHDJ/e-NIT 232 of 2022-23

UPGRADATION OF HON'SLE HIGH COURT Justice and Supply, INSTALLATION, ITSTING AND COMMISSIONING OF

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has been taken to ensure that officers have enough experimaking their way to cushy posts in the HQ. "In order to

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I Narendra Kumar, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Government Medical College & Hospital, Jammu

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

Narendra Kumar

Delhi-110048

Delhi-110048

Vijay Prakash Singh

DECLARATION

FORM IV (SEE RULE 8)

Group 'A Railway officers, it has been decided that for the initial 10 years of their service, directly recruited Group 'A' Railway Officers shall normally be posted in field and shall not be posted in the headquarters," the order issued by the Railway Board said.

constitutional values is liable to

be placed in jeopardy," the

bench also comprising Justice

Singhvi, appearing for the

Punjab government, alleged

that the governor was hijacking

the Constitution. "A constitu-

tional authority is acting in

ignorance of the Constitution.

He is hijacking the Constitution," Singhvi said.

Solicitor General Mehta told

the apex court that the plea

filed by the Punjab government

has become infructuous and

and he said he is taking legal

advice," he said. The top court

earlier in the day agreed to hear

the plea of the Punjab govern-

"Governor never refused

will not survive.

Senior advocate AM

PS Narasimha said.

Notably, addressing a meeting after a derailment in Andhra Pradesh recently, Railway Board Chairman A K Lahoti had asked general managers and divisional railway managers from across India to go to the accident sites them-

ous and demanding and is more productive for railways. It also readies young officers for challenges that they might encounter and help in their decision-making," the officials said explaining the idea behind

mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all

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GMDA cuts water connections of 3 societies over dues' non-payment

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

On Tuesday disconnected three water connections due to non-payment of ₹2.88 crore. These include Vipul World Society Sector 48, Mayfield Garden — Sector 51, and BPTP Country

The development authority has now disconnected water supply to them, which will be resumed only after the clearance of the dues. All the beneficiaries of water supply are requested to timely clear the water supply charges of the Authority to avoid disconnection of water supply to their colonies," said

Kashmiri Pandit's...

From Page 1

"During the search, terrorists hiding inside a mosque opened indiscriminate fire upon search parties and in jawans of the army sustained grievous injuries while neutralising one terrorist on the spot. One of the jawans later on attained martyrdom".

According to police, Aqib Mushtaq Bhat of Malangpora, Pulwama (A category), was associated with Hizbul Mujahideen

> and for past few months also working with the Resistance Front (TRF). However, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat Syedabad Pastuna Tral (C-Category) was associated with terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and

also working

Jammu

terrorist outfit

2021 and Aijaz was active from May 2022, police added. The army jawan who laid down his life has been identified as Sepoy Pawan Kumar. Defence spokesman said,

in coordination with the TRF.

Agib was active from January

"Sepoy Pawan Kumar in a sheer act of bravery overpowered the first terrorist in a hand to hand combat and was grievly succumbed to his injuries, making the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the

The deceased soldier is survived by his mother Bhajun Dassi. The mortal remains of the brave soldier will be moved for the last rites to his native place at village Pithyt, Post Kinoo, Tehsil Rampur, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, and will be laid to rest with full military honour.

Indian Army."

During this action, Sepoy Pawan Kumar and Naik Hemraj, led from the front and suffered multiple gunshot wounds and were immediately evacuated to 92 Base

Hospital, Srinagar. During the operation, which started past midnight, the security forces exercised utmost caution and used limited firepower to avoid any collateral damage while evacuating civilians praying inside the

growth...

Economic

From Page 1 "Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 159.71 lakh crore, as against GDP for the year 2021-22 of Rs 149.26 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7.0 per cent as compared to 9.1 per cent in 2021-22," the NSO said.

The NSO revised upward the GDP growth for 2021-22 to 9.1 per cent from 8.7 per cent estimated earlier. The national accounts data showed that the farm sector gross value added (GVA) has grown by 3.7 per cent in the third quarter compared to a growth of 2.2 per cent a year ago.

The mining and quarrying sector grew at 3.7 per cent compared to 5.4 per cent a year

The construction sector has grown by 8.4 per cent in the quarter compared to 0.2 per cent growth a year ago. Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services segment has grown by 8.2 per cent compared to 6 per cent growth a year ago.

From Page 1

Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva and party MP Manoj Tiwari trained their guns at the ruling party and Kejriwal.

Both Sisodia and Jain are consid-

His arrest came just ahead of the Delhi Government Budget. Before the duo's resignation, the Delhi

Government had a total of six Ministers with Sisodia handling 18 portfolios. Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Îmran Hussain and Raj Kumar Anand are the other Ministers.

According to AAP leaders, Sisodia's

Leader of Opposition in Delhi

Jain has been lodged in Tihar Jail in a money laundering case since May last year but he was still in the Cabinet without portfolio.

ered close confidantes of Kejriwal and played a major role to expand the AAP

workload had almost doubled after Jain's arrest, and he was handling most of the crucial departments of the city government. Both have led what the AAP describes as the "successful transformation" of Delhi's education and health services, contributing to the party's popularity and continued electoral success.

Gahlot already holds charge of six departments: law, transport, revenue, administrative reforms, information technology, and women and child development. Anand, on the other hand, is the minister for Gurudwara Elections, SC and ST, social welfare, and cooperative.

yrs before headquarters postings

n a major policy change,



Sources said the decision

Public Service Commission.

recruitment body - Union

ence at the field-level before ensure adequate exposure of

selves and seek solutions. "Field postings are strenu-

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THE PIONEER O

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mahabir Singh, s/o Sh Amar Singh, r/o Allu Patti, Village Manesar-154, Gurgaon, Haryana 122051, declare that Mohar Singh/Mohlar Singh are also my name as mentioned in few documents of my son Rajbir Singh. And from now on i will be only known as Mahabir Singh

PD(90285)A

Romila Majumdar Sundaresan D/o Sh. Samit Kumar Majumdar R/o Flat No.302, Tower-3 N.R.I Residency, Next To Prateek for all future purposes.

the country during March based on data from 1971 to Lower wheat output could also lead to a depletion of the offi-

urugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) Wide Promoters Pvt Ltd in Sector 102, Gurugram.

water supply charges of GMDA for the bulk water supply provided to them by the Authority. Reminder notices had been issued thrice to the concerned builders but no nothing concrete came from their end.

Abhinav Verma, Executive Engineer, GMDA.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) JAMMU-KATHUA CIRCLE JAMMU SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No.SEJ/72 of 2022-23 Dated 25-02-2023

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1	Construction of	Rs.306.48	Rs.30.42	Rs.336.90	6000/-	2% of the	19	At or after	'A
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1	road from Challan to Balad (Takeoff				6000/-	2% of the advertised cost	19	1400 hrs on	
1	road from Challan to				6000/-	2% of the advertised cost	19	1400 hrs on	

The Bidding documents Consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set o terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websithttp://jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25.02.2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25.02.2023, 1800 Hrs to 16.03.2023, 1800 Hrs
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	10.03.2023 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Jammu-Samba-Kathua Circle, Jammu
4.	Bid submission Start Date	25.02.2023 From 1800 Hrs
5.	Bid Submission End Date	16.03.2023 up to 1800 Hrs
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	17.03.2023 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Jammu-Samba-Kathua Circle, Jammu
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed
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Stylome, Sector-45 Noida, Distt-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P-201303 have change my yal) name to Romila Sundaresan (Er. K.K.Khanna)
Executive Engineer
Spital & Central Heating Division

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Master Plan 2041: Boost to night economy, green growth

LG nod to draft MPD-2041

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday approved the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041 at the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) meeting which will usher a new era of development and will guide future growth of the national

The draft MPD 2041 will be forwarded to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for final approval and notification. The Master Plan proposes to promote clean economies such as IT/cyber hubs, knowledge-based industries, and R&D facilities in

There is also provision for the development of night time economy. As part of the master plan, the authority wants to boost housing supply, by private participation through land pooling and regeneration of

At the meeting, the Authority also took a decision for relaxation in guidelines pertaining to female beneficiaries for in situ rehabilitation under Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makan programme.

The new MPD 2041 will be a more people-friendly document easy-to-read and understand by general public apart

GIS-based land use plan is developed which will enable stakeholders in ease of understanding of applicability of policies/provisions of draft circuits, plazas, and night time



meet future developments and The MPD also emphasis on development of city hubs,

circuits. Specific corridors and

trails will be identified for promoting the night time economy; boost housing supply, by private participation through land pooling & regeneration of planned and unplanned areas with incentive FAR; plan proposes development of nonownership/Rental Housing and Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (particularly close

mats like serviced apartments, condominiums, hostels, student housing, worker housing, etc. to meet housing supply demand in existing developed

The main features also include plan proposes parking management and promotes green mobility, such as the use of E-vehicles and e-charging infrastructure; physical infra-

urban development, as it provides the basic framework for any urban area to function and grow sustainably.

Strategies are provided for reuse of treated waste water, dual-piping systems, green rat-ing, promotion of renewable energy, optimising utilisation of energy, optimising utilisation of resources, waste management including C&D waste; plan permits flexible loading of Floor Area Ratio (FAR), Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) receiving areas, and additional development controls to promote walkability, sustainable design, active frontage, and other sustainable urban planning principles in land pooling areas.

The MPD also include provisions made for regeneration of existing/ brownfield areas through retrofitting,

ers planned areas such as planned residential colonies, Commercial, Industrial, PSP & BPD, and unplanned areas such as inauthorised colonies, II clusters, urban villages, Non-Conforming Godown Clusters & Non-Conforming Industrial Clusters; Regeneration in the old and dilapidated areas, redensification of areas by pro-viding incentives for planned redevelopment and/or retro-fitting of areas; improve area-level safety and disaster resilience and increase availability of social infrastructure and Improving social infrastructure in existing areas through regeneration, particularly dense areas like urban villages and unauthorized

The DDA also decided that for successful implemen-

colonies.

such projects, it was decided that possession letter may be issued in the single name of women spouse occupying the huggi in such cases.

The first Master Plan for

The first Master Plan for Delhi was promulgated in 1962 under the Delhi Development Act 1957. These plans are prepared for 20years' perspective peri-ods and provided a holistic framework for planned devel-opment of Delhi opment of Delhi.

The Draft MPD-2041 is a 'strategic' and 'enabling' framework to guide future growth of the city, built upon the lessons learnt from the implementation of the previous plans and based on learning's from across the country with respect to implementation of various projects and

Unified portal for licensing of eating, lodging sectors to help startups

In an enabling move that will go a long way in giving a boost to the hospitality sector, Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday launched the modified unified portal for licensing of eating, lodging and boarding estab-

This single window portal will help entrepreneurs, businessmen and start-ups in the hospitality sector by way of ensuring that a single easy to fill form, enables them to get / renew licenses from Delhi Police, MCD, NDMC, Delhi Fire Service and DPCC, simultaneously within a fixed time-

Establishments will now be able to operate under a much simplified, minimal and enabling licensing regime, in the National Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG said this major step has reformed, simplified and overhauled a regulation that had been existing since 1980 and had become extremely obstructionist for the entrepreneurs in



the hospitality sector. Taking on from the Prime Minister's dictum of "Ease of Doing Business", Saxena said governance should be about enabling, endeavour and enterprise and not obstructing and

Addressing the gathering of restaurateurs, hoteliers and others, the LG said enabling the hospitality sector, with these simplified licensing norms, would prove to be the first step in the direction of a robust 'Night Time Economy' in Delhi. Since the existing license regime in the city was found to be restrictive in terms of the requirements and demands of the entrepreneurs and people, a High Level Committee under the Principal Secretary (Home), comprising top officers from all stakeholder departments was constituted to

The Committee was able to complete its task in record time and the result is there for all of us to see, in the shape of this "Modified Unified Portal for Licensing of Eating & Lodging / Boarding Establishments", launched Boarding today, he further said.

It was informed that, experiments like extending the timings of operations by eateries and restaurants in the city and clubs run by the DDA, had

been encouraging. Similarly, alfresco and dinning on terraces were allowed. Residents of the city, who were going to establishments in the neigh-bouring hubs of NCR, got an option to patronise establishments in Delhi itself.

With the launch of modified portal, the entire process of granting and renewal of licenses has been made completely online and faceless. Establishments in the hospitality sector will now be able to get their licenses or renew them by submitting a much shorter, simpler and userfriendly Common Application Form (CAF) on the portal. This CAF will be applicable for all 05 Licensing Bodies that include, Delhi Police, MCD, NDMC, DPCC and Delhi Fire Service. In the new CAF, 140 fields have been removed and uploading of 28 documents has been done away with. Instead of 05 affidavits that was supposed to be submitted earlier, the applicants will now have to submit a Single Common Undertaking for all

Kejriwal to personally oversee Govt's road safety initiatives

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In a major move to improve road safety in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will now personally oversee the Government's road-safety ini-tiatives. This decision comes amid the Government's bid to further improve the safety standards of the city given how many families are ruined because of road fatalities every

In addition to this, the Delhi Government has also announced that it will be tightening the enforcement of traffic norms and taking strict action against violators. With these measures, the Government aims to reduce the number of accidents on Delhi's roads and improve the safety of its citizens.

Kejriwal on Tuesday held a meeting to take stock of road safety measures in the national Capital The meeting was attend-

ed by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, Chief



Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra, and an IIT

The CM took stock of various projects and proposals during the meeting including diversion of compounding fees towards the Road Safety Fund and setting up of safe school zones.

The CM reviewed road accident data of Delhi, highlighting his concerns about overspeeding on city's roads. He also discussed the Bus

Lane Initiative by the Enforcement branch of the Transport Department, road

improvement projects and the strengthening of the golden hour treatment mechanism.

The CM began the meeting with assessment of road accident data of Delhi. He was apprised by the officials that the government has identified that 47 per cent of the accidents take place on National and State roads whereas this and State roads whereas, this road network accounts for only 10 per cent of the city's

As per the data, overspeeding is among the most major reasons behind accidents as commuters tend to drive faster on wider roads. High-risk locations for such accidents are often road sections passing through pedestrian-heavy areas such as schools, metro stations, and commercial areas. The Delhi Government

had recently conducted a study with the John Hopkins University's International Injury Prevention Unit & CŚIR's Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) to study road safety practices.

Duped during Covid, artist held for cheating man of ₹1.73 lakh

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

n animation artist who was Aduped during coronavirus induced lockdown and came under debt was arrested from Pune for allegedly cheating traders here with the same modus operandi.

According to police, the accused has been identified as Piyush Sharma (33), a resident of Pune. Sharma's bluff was called after a businessman in Sadar Bazar lodged a complaint alleging that he had been cheated of Rs 1.73 lakh. Police said the businessman had placed an order of 1,200 kilograms 'pooja' and 'havan' items on an e-commerce portal. He then received a call from an unidentified person who claimed that he dealt in wholesale trading of the items and could provide them at discounted rates, they said.

The accused also sent the tax invoice of 'Vijay Creation', Katraj Kondhwa Road, Pune, Maharashtra, a registration certificate and a visiting card to the complainant, police said.

Party to raise awareness on AAP's excise policy conspiracy: BJP

Hitting out at the AAP Government in Delhi over the now-scrapped excise policy, the BJP on Tuesday said it will raise awareness on the "conspiracy" that was hatched to "toy" with the future of youths in Delhi by allowing "proliferation" of liquor vends.

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters, the party's national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the "proponents of new politics" didn't even refrain from taking steps that would have drowned Delhi youths in a state of inebriation.

He said the party has decided to raise awareness on the issue, as "for us, it is not just a issue of corruption", but is also about the "future of youths in Delhi". The BJP's attack comes a day after Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was sent to five-day custody of the CBI by a special court



here in the Excise policy scam case. Trivedi tore into Sisodia, who was arrested by the CBI on Sunday evening in connection with alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped liquor policy for 2021-22.

"It must be an unusual

thing, that in Delhi 'Shiksha Mantri' (education minister) and 'Sharab Mantri' (excise minster) are the same," he said, taking a dig at Sisodia, who holds both the portfolios. The AAP used to claim that they were "proponents of new politics" and they didn't even refrain in taking steps that would have "drowned Delhi's

youths in a state of inebriation". The liquor policy that they

were opened close to residential areas, schools and religious sites, the BJP alleged. The AAP traces its genesis in the India Against Corruption movement that Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia and several others were a part

of 10 years ago. The saffron party has often attacked the ruling AAP in Delhi over the now-scrapped liquor policy. Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Monday had demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal immediately remove his two arrested ministers — Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain — from the cabinet.

Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on money laundering charges in May last year. The Delhi cabinet should be "reshuffled immediately", he said.

Twitterati complain of traffic gridlocks

Traffic snarls were reported **1** from several parts of the national Capital on Tuesday, causing inconvenience to commuters. Several people complained that areas including Paschim Vihar, Delhi-Gurugram expressway, Punjabi Bagh ring road, Rohini Sector-24, Karol Bagh, Mahavir Enclave, Karkari Mor, Vasundhra Enclave, Jhandewalan, SP Marg, Chhatarpur, Durgapuri India Gate, GTB hospital, etc were facing major roadblocks and demanded solutions, tagging

the traffic department. While some people cited metro construction for the iams, other said illegal parking, faulty red lights were causing

the problem. The Twitter wall of Delhi's traffic police department was filled with complaints on Tuesday as people shared videos and photos of massive



traffic snarls in various parts of the national Capital. The Delhi Traffic Police said it received several calls of traffic-related issues so far on Tuesday from different parts of the city.

According to officials, traffic may remain affected in central Delhi due to the arrival of a large number of diplomats and foreign ministers to attend the G20 meeting. The G20 foreign ministers meeting is slated for March 1 and 2 in the city. Foreign Ministers of almost all G20 countries, including Japan's Hayashi Yoshimasa, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Canada's Melanie Joly, are set to attend the meeting.

Sharpshooter of Lawrence Bishnoi gang arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

n alleged sharp shooter of An allegeu sharp one Lawrence Bishnoi-Kala Jathedi gang has been arrested from southwest Delhi's Mitraon area, police said on Tuesday. Sudhir Maan, a resident of

Najafgarh, was threatening traders and property dealers on the instructions of jailed gang leaders, they said. Police received a tip-off on

February 23 and apprehended Maan from Najafgarh-Dhansa Road after a scuffle, police

During interrogation, Maan revealed that as per the directions of gang leader Sandeep Jhanjharia alias Kala Jathedi, on March 30, 2022, shooters of the gang had fired at owner of a real estate firm in Mohan Garden for extortion of Rs 1 crore causing bullet injury to the businessman in both legs, police said.

Oz Edu Min, officials from 21 universities to participate in DU event

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Australian Education Minister Jason Clare and officials of 21 Australian universities will participate in an event at a Delhi University's college on Wednesday to discuss collaboration between the two nations in education sector.

Sri Venkateswara College is organising a programme on the theme "Deepening Ties through Two-Way Mobility" on Wednesday. The college was approached by the Australian High Commission for the visit of their delegates, its Principal C Sheela Reddy said. Clare will be the chief guest on the occasion. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will be present as the guest of honour.

The objective of the event is to highlight the importance of bilateral collaboration between India and Australia.

said Reddy. "India has a rich cultural heritage. This event will help understand the higher education aspirations of the University of Delhi undergraduate students through dia-

ogue," Reddy added. The event will help in fostering partnerships between India and Australia. During the event, CEOs, provosts and vice chancellors of 21 Australian universities and institutions will participate in a round table discussion on the topic 'Internationalising higher education'.

When asked whether any MoU is being planned, Reddy said, "In this event, we are not having an MoU. In our college premises, we are not signing any MoU." They want to visit one college of Delhi University and have chosen the college on the south campus, said

Govt's goal to plant 53L saplings this year: CM

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said the Delhi Government surpassed its target of planting 42 lakh saplings last year and the goal this year is to plant 53 lakh saplings.

Around 45 lakh saplings were planted last year in the national capital, he said. Kejriwal was speaking at the launch of a tree plantation drive here under the 'Green

Action Plan 2023 "Delhi is out of the list of the 10 most polluted cities but now, our aim is to make it to the list of the cleanest cities in the world. This programme is supposed to begin during the monsoon every year but we

that we can meet our target, the chief minister said. Kejriwal said the green



from 20 per cent in 2020 to 23 per cent in 2022 and that 10 saplings are planted for every tree felled in the city.

Three per cent (increase in green cover) might seem very less but if it is seen in comparison to other states, Delhi is doing much better. Trees are cut in every state. But if we cut a tree in Delhi, we plant ten more.

are doing it ahead of time so 'More than 80 per cent of the saplings that we planted are surviving well. Last year,

distribute 42 lakh saplings. We surpassed our target and planted around 45 lakh saplings," he said. Hence, the target for this

vear has been increased to 53 lakh, he added. Kejriwal claimed air pol-

lution in Delhi has come down by 30 per cent due to steps taken by the AAP government. "After the AAP came to power in Delhi, we took sev-

eral steps that reduced air pollution in the city by at least 30 per cent. We started running electric buses, banned polluting fuel and in the coming times, we will also bring in machines to keep the roads clean," he said.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai, who also attended the event, credited the efforts of Delhiites and Kejriwal for the reduction in pollution.



PARVESH SHARMA

In a bizarre incident that Loccurred on broad daylight, two men were seen stealing flower pots that had been placed as part of the beautification process for the upcoming G20 summit in Delhi-

The theft occurred at the Delhi-Gurugram border and was caught on video, which has since gone viral on social media. The Gurugram police have now lodged an FIR related to the matter at the DLF Phase-3 police station.
"We have received a com-

plaint from Gurugram Metropolitan Development

Authority (GMDA) following

which we have registered an FIR in the matter. The car bear-

ing number 'HR20AV0006' was registered in Hisar and the owner is a lady identified as "We will soon send her a

join investigation letter and efforts are on to develop the identity of the duo men' Umesh Kumar," Station House Officer of DLF Phase-3 police

Capital selected for participation in Japan's G-NETS leaders summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi was among the 30 cities selected for participation in Japan's Global City Network for Sustainability (G-NETS) Leaders' Summit (27th Feb – 1st March 2023). Based on the concept of a 'just and sustainable post-Covid-19 society, the summit series focused on three main themes: Inclusive and Just Societies, Safe and Secure Cities, and Environment, providing an opportunity for city leaders to share strategies for sustainable recovery and future resilience, helping to pave a path to a brighter tomor-

Representing India's capital at the summit, Smt. Reena Gupta, Advisor to the Environment Minister of Delhi, spoke about the city's policy and mission to make Delhi greener



under the leadership of CM Shri Arvind Keiriwal. Over the last century, cities

have grown in size and complexity, with climate change, health challenges, and rising inequality leading to an influx of people from one area to another. The next few years will be critical for cities as they decide on sustainable courses of action. Radical re-thinking, reimagining, and re-engineering of sustainable and long-term solutions is the key to moving 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas, and it is essential that cities work together to tackle these challenges. The G-NETS forum was an

ideal opportunity for Delhi and representatives from other cities to work together towards a better and more sustainable future. The role of cities in tackling challenges by adopting a multilevel, collaborative, and multistakeholder approach to decision-making and knowledgesharing is crucial.

G-20: Foreign Mins descend on Delhi to mull Ukraine war, sticky issues

As the war rages on in Ukraine for the last one year, thereby adversely impacting supply chains of fuel and food to the developing world, Foreign Ministers of the G-20 combine will deliberate on these issues here for two days beginning March 1. India assumed G-20's presidency on December one last year.

While Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi is unlikely to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with a Diet session(Japanese parliament), US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, France's Catherine Colonna, Germany's Annalena Baerbock and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly are among those attending the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meet.

European Union's High Representative of Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell Fontelles, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajan, Australia's Penny Wong, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Indonesia's Retno Marsudi and Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero are among those attending the meeting. A number of Foreign Ministers of non-G20 countries, including that of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, are also attending the meet fol-lowing India's invitation as

guests.

While the visiting dignitaries will be welcomed at a gala

reception on March 1, the crucial deliberations on various challenges will be held on March 2 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC) at the Raisina Hills, people familiar with the agen-

da of the meeting said.
The G20 foreign ministers meeting is taking place days after a gathering of finance ministers and the Central Bank Governors of the G20 member countries in Bengaluru failed to come out with a joint communique over sharp differences between the Western powers and Russia-China combine over the Ukraine conflict.

The meeting is expected to deliberate on multilateralism, food and energy security and development cooperation, counter-terrorism, new and emerging threats, global skill mapping and humanitarian sistance and disaster relief.

The foreign ministers are also likely to discuss ways to deal with falling economic growth, increasing inflation, lower demands for goods and services as well as increasing prices of food, fuel and fer-

However, the major flashpoint between the West and Russia-China combine is expected to be on the Ukraine conflict even as India is set to make all out efforts to bring out a joint statement following the crucial meeting.

Russia on Sunday alleged that the G20 finance ministers' meeting in Bengaluru ended without a joint communique because of the "confrontation-



from voting against Russia on the Ukraine conflict in the

United Nations General

Assembly and the United

the G20 meeting, a number of

foreign ministers are set to take

part in the Raisina Dialogue,

Îndia's annual conference on

geo-politics and geo-econom-

an intergovernmental forum of

the world's major developed

and developing economies.

The members represent around

85 per cent of the global GDP,

over 75 per cent of the global

trade, and about two-thirds of

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil,

Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia,

Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi

Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the

European Union (EU).

the world population.

The G20 or Group of 20 is

Besides participating in

Nations

Council(UNSC).

al" approach towards Moscow by the "collective West" over the situation in Ukraine.

The G20 meeting of finance ministers and Central Bank governors on Saturday was unable to come out with a joint communique following opposition by Russia and China on making any references to the war in Ukraine. A chair's summary was issued by India at the end of the meeting in its capacity as the holder of the G20 presidency.

The Russian foreign ministry, in a statement, referred to the constructive role" of the Indian presidency and its efforts to have "fair consideration of interests and positions of all countries." "Our opponents, primarily the United States, the EU and the G7, continue their paranoid attempts to isolate Russia and shift the blame for the provoked problems in the area of international security and the global econo-

my onto it," it alleged. India has, so far refrained

Will work with all, says China as Gang set to attend meeting

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW

As Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang is set to visit New Delhi to attend the G-20 Foreign Ministers conclave, Beijing on Tuesday said it is ready to work with all to ensure that the gathering will send a "positive signal" on multilateralism, food and energy security and development coopera-

Incidentally, Qin's visit to India will be the first by the Chinese Foreign Minister after his predecessor Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi in 2019 to attend the Special Representatives dialogue on the border mecha-

Moreover, Wang Yi was the first Chinese Minister to visit New Delhi last year in March after tension flared up between the two countries in May 2020 in Eastern Ladakh.

At the invitation of his Indian counterpart Minster S Jaishankar, Foreign Minister Qin will attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, India, on March 2, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here on Tuesday.

Asked about China's expectations from the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry commanders spokesperson Mao Ning told a the standoff.



media briefing in Beijing that in a world fraught with uncertainties and struggling to reboot the economy, countries have much to do to overcome the challenges to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As the premier forum for international cooperation, it is important the G20 focuses on challenges to the global economy and development and plays a bigger role in driving global economic recovery and development.

China stands ready to work with all parties to ensure that the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting will send a positive signal on multilateralism, food and energy security and development cooperation, Mao said.

Relations between China and India have virtually frozen ever since the eastern Ladakh military standoff between the two countries in May 2020. The two countries have held 17 rounds of high-level military commanders' talks to resolve

US terms India its 'strategic partner' ahead of Blinken's visit

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

As US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is about to arrive in New Delhi to attend the G-20 Foreign Ministers' conclave, Washington has said India is a global strategic partner of the US which has a wide, broad, deep relationship with the country. The US also laud-ed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that "today's era is not of war" and said Russia is challenging rules based order in obvious reference to the Ukraine conflict.

This reiteration came a day before Blinken and several other foreign ministers including from Russia, China and Australia besides others will participate in the two-day G-20 conclave beginning Wednesday. Blinken will also take part in the Quad foreign ministers' meeting on March 3 hosted by External Affairs Minister Ś Jaishankar besides holding bilateral talks with

"India is a global strategic partner of ours. We have a wide, broad, deep relationship with India. There will be a lot on the agenda in the bilateral relationship and in the multilateral engagements he takes



told reporters at his daily news conference late Monday in Washington.

'We share a vision with India of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and India is a key partner of ours bilaterally, in the context of the Quad as well as other international groupings, even as we've attempted to stitch together some of the partnerships in which India has been a key player," he said.

Quad is comprised of apan, India, Australia and the United States. The four countries had in 2017 given shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific

"We've spoken quite a bit recently of I2U2, a new partnership that involves India, it involves the UAE, it involves the United States as well. So, there are a number of elements on the agenda, and you'll have an opportunity to hear from part in on the margins of the the Secretary as he travels G20," Ned Price, State there," Price said.

Will central agencies probe allegations of money laundering against Adani's kin'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Continuing with its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adani Group, Congress on Tuesday alleged that Gautam Adani's elder brother Vinod Adani has a "central role" in the Adani Group and asked whether India's "all-powerful agencies" will investigate allegations of "round-tripping and money-laundering" by offshore shell companies connected to their

Posing a set of three questions to Prime Minister as part of the party's "Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun" series, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said in its January 29 response to "serious allegaelder brother Vinod Adani, the Adani Group had tried to distance itself stating that he does not hold any managerial position in any Adani listed entities or their subsidiaries and has no role in their day-to-day affairs. "Yet more and more revelations are coming out about Vinod Adani's central role in the Adani Group," Ramesh said, adding that this has led the Congress to also start a subseries on the allegations against Adani -- "Dikh Raha Hai Vinod".

"The PM (prime minister) can keep recycling all his old



abuses against the Congress but he cannot escape getting three pointed questions daily on his role in the Adani Maha Mega Scam," Ramesh tweeted and posted his questions to the prime minister.

Recently, Adani Group stocks had taken a beating on the bourses after US-based Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against the business conglomerate whose chairman is Gautam Adani. The group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

In a statement, Ramesh said the Adani Group had filed various memoranda with stock exchanges stating that the group means "S B Adani Family Trust, Adani Properties Private Limited, Adani Tradeline LLP, Gautam Adani, Rajesh Adani,

Vinod S Adani.'

"Now we learn that an March 18, 2020 letter from the Adani Group to the Registrar of Companies in Ahmedabad said that: 'Mr Vinod S. Adani, Promoter of the Company, has informed change (sic) in significant beneficial interest... Ramesh alleged in the state-

This letter was signed by the Adani Enterprises Company secretary and joint resident (legal) Jatin Jalundhwala and clearly shows Vinod Adani to be a key player in Adani Group affairs, he claimed. "Will this hard evidence finally lead India's allpowerful agencies to investigative allegations of roundtripping and money-laundering by Vinod Adani's offshore shell companies? Or will you continue to protect your close friend and accept his laughable fig leaf of a defence," Ramesh asked the prime minister.

India opens Young Professionals Scheme visas for UK graduates

SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW

n an effort to provide opportunities to young persons of the UK and India to live and work in either country, the Indian High Commission in London on Tuesday opened its visa application process for UK nationals to apply for the new Young Professionals Scheme (YPS). It coincided with the ballot opened by the British High Commission in New Delhi for Indian gradu-

Under the reciprocal scheme signed off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart, Rishi Sunak, at the G-20 summit in Indonesia last November, aged between 18 and 30 can apply to live and work in either country for a period of up to

There are certain set criteria for applicants applying for a visa under the scheme, including a graduate degree and sufficient funds to support

"Under the Young Professionals Scheme, announced about a month ago, young citizens of India and the UK can visit each other for up to two years at a time," said Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami,



announcing the scheme's launch on Twitter.

"I am pleased to be able to tell you that the scheme goes live from February 28. We will be launching this simultaneously in Delhi and in London, respectively for Indians to come to the UK and British citizens to go to India," he said. The Indian High

Commission's website has been cants, at a fee set at 720 pounds. The application is to be made under the E-1 Visa through the VFS Global visa service provider, indicating the purpose as "application under the Îndia-UK ŶPS programme".

Each applicant would be required to show funds equivalent to INR 2,50,000 held for a minimum period of 30 days at the time of submission of the application. According to the Indian High Commission website, successful applicants can undertake employment as an "incidental part" of their stay, with certain sectors not covered

within the scheme - such as defence, telecom, space tech, strategic infrastructure projects, civil aviation, human rights, nuclear energy and envi-ronment-related projects. Those arriving in India on the new visa would also be required to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office/ Foreign Registration Office

It comes as the British High Commission in New Delhi opened its ballot for the first set of 2,400 visas available to eligible Indians under the reciprocal scheme. The ballot, which is free to enter, opens on Tuesday afternoon and closes on March 2.

Successful candidates in the ballot need to apply for their visa by the deadline given in a subsequent invitation to apply, which is usually within 30 days. The successful candidate must travel to the UK within six months of applying for the visa.

Vice-Admiral Dinesh Tripathi takes over as Chief of Western Naval Command



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vice-Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Tuesday took over as the Chief of the Command known as the 'sword arm' of the Navy from Vice-Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh. Prior to the new assignment Tripathi served as the Chief of Personnel at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy).

An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa and National Defence Academy(NDA), he was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1985. A Communication Electronic Warfare specialist, he served on frontline warships of the Navy as Signal Communication Officer and

Electronic Warfare Officer, and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Missile Destroyer _INS Mumbai_. He commanded Indian Naval Ships Trishul, navy officials said here on Tuesday.

He has also held various important operational and staff appointments which include Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet at Mumbai, Director of Naval Operations, Principal Director Network Centric Operations and Principal Director Naval Plans at New Delhi. On promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral, he served as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) at IHQ MoD(N) and as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

As heat rises, daily checks on illnesses to be held in all States, says Health Secy



With many parts of the country already experiencing peak summer-type weather and forecasts hinting above-average temperatures in some regions, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday asked the States for daily surveillance on heat-related illnesses starting from

March 1. Bhushan said that the daily surveillance under National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) will be conducted in all States, asking the officials to disseminate this guidance document to all districts for effective preparedness of the health department and health facilities.

"Health Departments of the State must continue efforts on sensitization and capacity building of medical officers, health staff, grass-root level workers on heat illness, its early recognition and management," the top health official

"Health Facility preparedness must be reviewed for the availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines, intravenous fluids, ice packs, ORS and all necessary equipment. Availability of sufficient drinking water at all Health Facilities and continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas must be ensured,"

Jaishankar terms proposed FTA with European Union as 'game-changer'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $E^{\rm xternal\ Affairs\ Minister\ S}_{\rm Jaishankar\ on\ Tuesday}$ termed the proposed free trade agreement(FTA) with the European Union (EU) a "game changer" and said Europe and India can bolster each other's strategic autonomy and reduce dependencies.

Making this assertion here, he also said India is looking forward to a mutually advantageous conclusion to the negotiation process for the free trade pact within a "short planned timeline."

Addressing Confederation of Indian Industries(CII) India-Europe Business and Sustainability Conclave, Jaishankar also said Europe and India can strengthen each other's strategic autonomy by reducing dependencies, cooperating on critical technologies and ensuring supply-chain

restructuring. We expect the India-EU FTA will be a game-changer for the India-EU relationship. We look forward to a mutually



geous conclusion to the negotiation process within a reasonably short planned timeline," he said.

In June last year, India and the European Union restarted the negotiations for the longpending trade and investment agreement after a gap of over eight years. Launched in June 2007, the negotiations for the proposed agreement have witnessed many hurdles as both sides had major differences on crucial issues.

"India's new approach to trade agreements addresses issues of non-tariff and behind-the-border barriers, quality standards and related benchmarks," Jaishankar said.



"With like-minded partners, we have actually demonstrated in recent years a fasttrack change in our FTA negotiation processes. FTAs with the UAE and Australia were actually concluded in record time," he said.

Behind-the-border barriers are non-tariff discriminatory trade barriers within a "Europe and India can

strengthen each other's strategic autonomy by reducing dependencies; cooperating on critical technologies; and ensuring supply-chain restructuring. The India-EU FTA is, therefore, our very important goal," Jaishankar

IIT-Delhi uses immune cells to develop Covid-19 vaccine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Unlike currently used vaccines, which use synthetic materials or adenovirus to package and deliver antigens, the researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi have used the body's own immune cells to develop a nano-vaccine against Covid-

According to the study, published in the journal ACS Biomaterials Science & Engineering, this naturally derived nano-vaccine developed by the researchers could have several advantages over currently approved vaccines. It will minimise the

chance of blood clotting, which was otherwise observed in vaccinated individuals, the study said.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, scientists from around the world have been studying the disease and its epidemiology to develop effective vaccines.

The development of a vaccine that can overcome disadvantages including the stability of the materials used, limited immune response, and side effects, such as blood clotting, and provide a durable immune response will offer better protection from the deadly COVID-19 virus, the

Generally, after vaccination, the antigens are processed by the antigen-presenting cells (APCs), which eventually activate other immune cells (B and T cells) to generate the antibodies and eliminate the virus.

study said.

However, this next-generation vaccine is one step ahead as it uses the nanovesicles derived from activated APCs, which already contain processed antigens on their surface and are also equipped

with other factors required for

the direct activation of B and T cells, the study said.

The immune response elicited by this vaccine was tested in mice. The results showed that it

generated antibodies against

the COVID-19 virus and was more effective as compared to free antigen, the study said. "In fact, when injected

with a 10 times lower dose compared to the free antigen, the nano-vaccine was equally efficient in raising antiviral immunity.

"Interestingly, it showed a durable immune response, including the generation of memory cells, which can act as a safeguard for the next infection," Bhattacharyya, professor, Centre for Biomedical Engineering, IIT Delhi, said.

Maha pollution Board sleeps as Mumbai gasps for breath

Even as AQI worsens daily, MPCB has taken action on just one complaint in 7 years, reveals RTI query

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

mid news reports that the air quality in Mumbai is very bad or at times even worse than that of Delhi, shocking information has emerged through an Right to Information (RTI) query that the Mumbai division of the State-run Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has taken action on just one pollution complaint in the last seven

Sharing information obtained by a Mumbai-based activist Jeetendra Ghadge under the RTI Act, former Central Information Commissioner (CIC) Shailesh Gandhi said: "As per information received from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Mumbai division, the Board has taken action only in one single complaint during the last seven years."

of the MPCB on complaints relating to air pollution in Mumbai during the last seven years is in sharp contrast to the old data uploaded on the website of the MPCB which shows that as of March 31, 2007, as many as 54 complaints were filed under Section 37 r.w.Sec.21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution Act), 1981. Of these cases, convictions were secured in 49 cases, while four cases vere dismissed," Gandhi said.

Gandhi, who served as the CIC from September 18 2008 to July 6, 2012, said that such has been the state of affairs at the MPCB that it had not uploaded any data on its website since

"Similarly, as of 2007 two applications were filed Under Section 22A of the Air (P&C.P.) Act, 1981 But now

cation has been filed," the former CIC

"There has been absolutely no action taken by the MPCB in the last seven years on any company or individual for causing air pollution nor have they taken any action against construction-related complaints for causing dust pollution which has severely impacted the air quality of Mumbai this year," Gandhi said.

On a query raised by Ghadge, scaling details of any action talon.

seeking details of any action taken against a company or individual for causing air pollution, the Mumbai Division has gone on record saying that no penal or prosecution action has been taken against anyone causing air pollution. Ghadge of "The Young

Whistleblowers Foundation" said: "Despite Mumbai being rated as the most polluted city in the world the



MPCB doesn't seem to take its job seriously and has completely stopped taking action against individuals causing air pollution"
"The MPCB should crack down

on construction sites as well as factories that are polluting the air by not following the rules and regulations. The fact that during the lockdown the air quality remained good proves that the problem is artificially caused by human activity," the RTI activist

The inaction on the part of the MPCB's Mumbai division should be viewed in the backdrop of stringent provisions prescribed under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution Act), 1981 to deal with air polluters. Under section 22 A of the Act, the MPCB can approach a Metropolitan Magistrate of a Judicial Magistrate of the first class for restraining such a

person from emitting such air pollu-

The MPCB does not seem to have issued notices to the air polluting industries or individuals nor has it taken the legal route to deal with the air polluters in the country's commercial capital.

It may be recalled that the air quality level had worsened on the morning of February 1, 2023, with the AQI crossing the 300 mark in parts of the metropolis. The north-eastern suburb of Chembur - at 328 -- had recorded the worst air quality folrecorded the worst air quality, followed by nearby Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) at 319, Bhandup at 317, and the north-western suburb of Andheri at 305.

At 6 AM on February 1, the air quality in Mumbai was much worse with BKC recording an AQI of 362, Bhandup 314, and Chembur 324.

As Telangana election nears, Shah, Nadda meet State BJP brass



DEEPAK UPRETI NEW DELHI

The top leadership of the BJP, I which has put Telangana on the party's radar for long and seeks to take on the ruling Bhartiya Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) in the Assembly elections due before December, held a meeting here on Tuesday with State BJP leaders. This comes close on the heels of the arrest of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the liquor case where the name of BRS MLC K Kavitha has also figured.
The name of Kavitha,

daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, has figured in the report filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last year, for the remand of businessman Amit Arora in the Delhi liquor poli-

Kavitha has rejected the saying, "We will go to jail for the public. For eight years the Opposition States have been targeted but we are not afraid and we will not stop exposing

BJP bigwigs, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda held a meeting here with party leaders from Telangana as the party sees itself a challenger to the BRS and taking the space of the Congress.

Telangana BJP president,

Bandi Sanjay Kumar, besides several other central and State party leaders were present in the meeting. With an eye on Assembly polls, the BJP had held its two-day national executive meeting in Hyderabad in July last year. The party held its first post-Covid physical meeting in Hyderabad after a gap of 18 years with Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding a massive rally in the State Capital on the theme of local culture and tradition. The party also promised Hyderabad to be renamed as 'Bhagyanagar' after Bhagyalaxmi temple.

The BJP had surprised BRS by performing credibly well in the elections of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election in December 2020 with the BJP standing second winning 48 wards and the AIMIM of Asaduddin Owaisi taining only two seats.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) now renamed BRS had retained power in the State in 2018 with a two-third majority.

The TRS had then won 88 seats against 63 seats it had won in 2014. The AIMIM won 7 seats. The Congress bagged just 19 seats against 21 in 2014. The TDP of Chandrababu Naidu won 2 seats. The TDP had contested elections in an alliance with Congress.

Bandh in Katra over multi-crore ropeway project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Katra township, base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine, on Tuesday observed complete shutdown till late evening in protest against the proposed multi-crore ropeway

Ever since Shri Mata Vai-shno Devi Shrine Board author-ities had approved a proposal to set up a ropeway project, anger among the traders and other major stakeholders including local shopkeepers, tour operators, dhaba owners, was brewing in the Katra township against the unilateral decision. On Tuesday, several hun-

dred people participated in the protest march, which passed through narrow streets of Katra township and later culminated near the office of the Shrine



memorandum to the CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg.

The protesters demanded cancellation of the proposed passenger ropeway project bet-ween Tarakote Marg and Sanji Chhat along the 12-km track to the revered shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant- Governor, Manoj Sinha on February 20 during his visit to Katra, said that the tender process for a ropeway is in the final phase and the project will be undertaken with "utmost sensitivity" to safe-guard the interests of local busi-

However, the protesting traders opposed the decision alleging that the local business will get completely affected if the ropeway project takes off from Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat.



Life Mission case PTI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

out ED report on

The Kerala Assembly proceedings were disrupted briefly on Tuesday after an ED remand report, containing certain allegations against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in the Life Mission case was read out in the House by Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalnadan during discussion of the adjournment notice moved by him regarding the case in which the Chief Minister's former Principal Secretary, M Sivasankar, was fac-

ing a probe.

The ED is investigating the alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Act housing project of the Left

As permission to adjourn the House was not granted by the Speaker based on the explanation given by Kerala Minister of Local Self Governments MB Rajesh, the UDF-Opposition

staged a walkout. Rajesh opposed the adjournment motion on the ground that the allegations of corruption

in the case had been raised in the House several times. The Minister said that under the Life Mission scheme over three lakh houses have been

built for the homeless and landless in the State, but despite that the Opposition was always attacking the project. He also contended that no

official working in the Life Mission project had ever accepted a bribe, no illegality was ever committed by them and the Congress reliance on ED indicates the grand old party's "political bankruptcy".

Rajesh also argued that under the House rules, matters being adjudicated in any court should not be discussed in the Assembly and therefore, it was not right to read out the remand report and the contents of the same should not be included in the records of the legislature.

Kuzhalnadan, on the other hand, contended that according to the report, Sivasankar told the central agency that there was a meeting between him, the Chief Minister, the UAE consul general and Swapna Suresh -- an accused in the gold smuggling through diplomatic bags case.

He further said that as per the report, Sivasankar has mentioned that he briefed Vijayan after Suresh was appointed to the post of Operations Manager in the Space Park project under the Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd.

Kuzhalnadan asked, in the House, whether the CM can deny these allegations in the report to which Vijayan responded by categorically denying that anything as read out by the legislator ever happened.

No one can mar Guv-CM chemistry: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Amid an air of tension bet-ween Nabanna (State Secretariat) and Raj Bhavan over the alleged Trinamool Congress attack on Union Minister Nishit Pramanik's convoy, Bengal's ruling outfit on Tuesday made efforts to restore normalcy of relationship by saying "no amount of instigation by the Opposition BJP could damage the chemistry between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and

Addressing the media on the sidelines of a meeting with the State Vice-Chancellors at Raj Bhavan, Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu said the State Government was ready to function under the "visionary leadership of the Chief Minister and able guidance of the

"There have been instigations from various sides," the Minister said stopping short of naming the saffron party adding,



"the honourable Governor is a highly experienced and learned person and no amount of instigation from any side can damage the chemistry," between the

Government and the Raj Bhavan.

The initial cordiality between the two sides seemed to take a beating a couple of days

ago after the Governor warned the Government against lapses in law and order situation saying he would take appropriate action in cases of violation of law and order. His statement came in the

wake of an attack — by alleged TMC goons — on Pramanik's convoy at Ambari village in Coochbehar district where he had gone to see a party worker. The attack had come a few

days after his house was gheraoed by the TMC men national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee — in condemnation of a BSF firing that killed a local Raj Bangshi youth.

Following the Governor's warning, the TMC had attacked him saying he was proving himself to be a BJP man and was following in the footsteps of his predecessor Jagdeep Dhankhar he present Vice-President of India who had an acrimonious relationship with Mamata Banerjee.

ISRO successfully conducts key rocket engine test for Chandrayaan-3

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The flight acceptance hot test of the CE-20 cryogenic engine that will power the cryogenic upper stage of the launch vehicle for the Chandrayaan-3 mission was successfully conducted, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation.

The hot test was carried out for a planned duration of 25 sec-

Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu on February 24, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said.

"All the propulsion parame ters during the test were found satisfactory and closely matched with predictions," an ISRO statement said on Monday.

The cryogenic engine will be further integrated with the propellant tanks, stage structures and associated fluid lines to





The Centre on Tuesday appo-**⊥** inted senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Rajesh Malhotra as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Malhotra, a 1989-batch officer, succeeds Satyendra Prakash, who superannuated on Tuesday.

As Principal DG of PIB, he will be the principal spokesperson of the Union Government.

Malhotra was elevated to a higher grade of IIS in June last year and appointed as the Principal Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication. He continued to look after the publicity of the Ministry

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry also named Priva Kumar as the Director General of Doordarshan News (DD News). She succeeds Mayank Agrawal.

of Finance in the Press

Information Bureau.

Kumar, Additional Director General (News), DD News will also look after the charge of the Director General, DD News with effect from March 1, 2023 and until further orders, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said in its order.

CBI raids Delhi premises of PNB loan defaulter

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday said it L conducted searches in an ongoing investigation of a case at the premises of accused in Delhi which led to recovery of Rs 21.5 lakh cash, five gold watches, eight gold sovereign/coins and 14 demand drafts (DDs) of Rs 6.83 crore besides relevant documents and digital devices. A case was registered on a complaint from Punjab & Sind Bank against a private company Sterling Motors Company and others including its Proprietor Tarun Kapoor, his wife and guarantor Pawan Kapoor and related group companies, officials said.

"It was alleged that the said private company (dealing in four wheelers) obtained cash credit limit of Rs 18 crore and bank guarantee (financial) of Rs 22 crore during 2009 to 2017 from the bank against primary security of new vehicles, spare parts and accessories," the agency said. It was further alleged that the firm diverted the funds to other bank accounts and related parties and thereby misappropriated the

The loan account was irregular and the bank declared it as NPA on March 31, 2018 with an outstanding amount of Rs 35.99 crore. The probe is continuing.

Now, a device to stop train chain pullers in their tracks

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Tamil Nadu born electronics and communi-A cation engineer, who could not get a job in his State despite years of waiting, has come out with an innovation which he claims would make Indian Railways richer by crores. Selvaraj Shivaguru (42) has perfected and

developed a technology with which the loco pilot, train ticket examiners and the guard can pinpoint the compartment and bay from where the alarm chain was pulled to stop the train. The Alarm Chain System presently in operation is misused in a wilful manner by anti-social elements across the country causing delay of hundreds of trains "The alarm chain system technology being

used now is an outdated and cumbersome mechanism. Anyone can pull the chain and get out of the compartment. The loco pilots and guards have to walk the entire stretch of the train to identify the compartment from where the chain was pulled. By the time they identify the compartment, the person who pulled the chain would have reached his destination," Shivaguru told The

Shivaguru's prototype has a series of LED lamps attached to each bay and compartment of the train. "The device will sound an alert and it would emit light to attract the attention of the Railway Staff towards the bay and coach from where the chain was pulled. This will help the crew easily identify the coach and resolve the issue," said

He says it would cost Rs 10 lakh to fix the alert in each bay and compartment of the train.

The importance of the device can be gauged by a press release issued by Indian Railways last



year. "The Southern Railway collected as penalty Rs 7.11 lakh in 2021-22 from 1,043 people for unauthorised chain pulling. There were 1,400 such incidents in Southern Railway alone," said

He has submitted the details of the innovation to the National Innovation Portal administered by the Government of India to help inno-

realise the fully-integrated flight onds at the High Altitude Test Facility of the ISRO Propulsion cryogenic stage, ISRO said. Stray dog kills infant sleeping next

PTI ■ JAIPUR

month-old child, who was Amonth-old child, who was sleeping next to his mother at a Government hospital, was taken away by a stray dog and mauled to death in Sirohi district of Rajasthan, police said on Tuesday. The body was found outside the hospital ward, they said. Police said the CCTV footage showed that two dogs went inside the TB ward of the hospital late Monday night and one of them returned with the

infant in its mouth. Sitaram, SHO, Kotwali said Mahendra Meena, the father of

hospital for silicosis treatment. He said the child's mother, Rekha, who was attending to the patient along with her three children, dozed off. The officer said the hospi-

to mother in hospital in Rajasthan

the child, was admitted in the

tal staff was also not present in the ward at the time of the incident. "Post-mortem has been conducted by a medical board. A case will be registered in the matter after further investigation," the SHO said. Meanwhile, the child's father

accused the hospital authorities and police of making his wife sign blank papers and perform

the last rites of his child without informing him.

The hospital administration has also initiated a probe into the matter.

"I was admitted in the hospital on Monday. Dogs were coming inside the ward and I

chased them away. My wife woke up at 2 AM and found the dogs mauling our child. Today, the hospital authorities and police took the signature of my wife on blank papers and got the last rites of my son done without informing me. I could not even see my son's face," Meena www.dailypioneer.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Right focus

PM Modi wants 10 problem areas of the society to be identified which can be solved by artificial intelligence

rime Minister Narendra Modi's fascination for technology and focus on its use In governance is accepted as a fact of life, as a given that no one bothers to notice — like fog in December and a heat wave in June. So, his statements on Tuesday about the potential of technology and modern digital infrastructure may not attract the attention they deserve. "We are creating modern digital infrastructure in India while also ensuring that the benefits of the digital revolution reach every section of the society," he said, addressing a post-Budget webinar on the subject of 'Ease of Living using Technology.' He also said, "Can we identify 10 such problems of the society which



can be solved by Al [artificial intelligence]?" It needs to be highlighted that none of Modi's predecessors were so impressed by the wonders that technology is capable of performing — not even Jawaharlal Nehru, for all his emphasis on rationalism and 'scientific temperament.' In fact, India's relationship with technology became quite adversarial in the first part of the last century, and that was primarily because of Mahatma Gandhi's aversion to technology — indeed to even science and the Western civilisation (which he dismissed as just an "idea"). Hence the glorification of charkha, khadi, etc. — the glorification that had a baneful effect on India. Gandhiji's contributions to the nation are indisputable but some of his ideas

also caused great harm; his attitude towards technology was one of them.

Modi, however, never had antipathy towards technology. Addressing the gathering at the webinar, he said that India of the 21st century is constantly empowering its citizens with the use of technology, adding that every Budget in the past few years has stressed the ease of living for people with the help of technology. In Budget 2023-24, the Prime Minister emphasised, the priority is given to technology and a human touch. The way technology has changed our lives is also seldom noticed. Come to think of it: The way we pay our electricity and phone bills, do online shopping, buy train and plane tickets, book hotels, etc., these days was unthinkable at the turn of the century. The delivery mechanism of various welfare schemes, with the help of technology, has improved considerable—both in terms of the quantum of benefits reaching the beneficiaries and the ease with which they reach. The Prime Minister elaborated upon the role of technology in this by giving examples of One Nation One Ration Card and the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile) trinity, Arogya Setu and CoWin App, and Common Service Centers. These decisions, the Prime Minister rightly pointed out, have enhanced the ease of living of the citizens. "Going a step further, we can identify the areas where dialogue with the Government can be further eased," he added. All the systems may not be functioning perfectly but technology, and appropriate government intervention, can make things even better.



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama touches foreheads with a young boy before addressing students in Dharmshala PTI

Digitalisation: handle with care



Digitalisation is inevitable, but it must be adopted only after proper 'digital literacy'; end users must be made aware of its drawbacks

ach era has its buzz-words so has the present one. The list could include 'diversity', 'inclusion', 'innovation', 'creativity', 'digitalisation' and more can be added not only as per fashion but as per region and intellectual predilection. There is nothing wrong with that. The issue, however, is, that insufficient thought in the use of words, spreads vagueness in the environment. Fashion becomes a substitute for content. As a result, thereof, the overall sense of direction gets defused.

In the list enumerated above, the word 'digitalisation' is of particular significance. The worshippers of technology have a good case with the project 'digitalisation.' It is an important component of the growing use of technological wares. The use of microchips and other interventions has altered the character of many 'engines', including telephones and other instruments which affect everyday life. Territories like Taiwan have based their economic prosperity on the specialised manufacturing of the chip. Other territories have done the same. That is another story.

Coming into India, the situation is unique. To put it simply: India is a conglomerate of practically all slices of human civilisation since the most ancient times. Beginning with ancient times to the present, there is little binding these different slices of civilisation into a unified whole. Perhaps, it's arguable that the cultural variables put together different civilisation eras into some sort of cohesion. This cohesion is visible in terms of values, ability to deal with nature, and approach to wealth and work. This is needed not only for identifying culture but also for giving people's identities to a landscape.

The coming of digitalisation would affect almost everything in the landscape. The most obvious and universal is the use of digitalisation in the handling of money. Gold was a medium of exchange. It gave way to other systems of its kind, and then tokens token or paper currency is being progressively replaced by a symbolic transference of the control of the contro bolic transference of money from extended process may take one hand to another through dig- much time to bridge. Hence,



pound the rampant confusion. The language of communication has first to target 'literacy' both overall and in written form. If this is ignored and the digitization process is serenaded, the result is going to be great schism and confusion within society. This would not be a healthy trend. No social change process can ride the wave unless it first creates a foundation of bottom-line literacy. Hence, it is logical to conclude that digitalisation assumes literacy.

cups. Creating media hype

over the digitalisation process,

will in such cases only com-

This is one of the paradigms that cannot be wished away by a policy decision. It



IS THE OUTCOME OF AN EXTENDED PROCESS. THIS **EXTENDED** PROCESS MAY TAKE MUCH TIME TO BRIDGE. HENCE. THE **PRECURSOR ACTIVITIES OF** DIGITALISATION ARE A MUST FOR SUCCESS the precursor activities of digitalisation are a must for successful digitalisation.

Even when this is accomplished, the availability of technological gadgets is a prime instrument for the use of methods of digitalisation. Those who are not familiar with it may respond to its needs with empathy, bewilderment, or simple negation. In any of the three cases, progress is stymied.

Thus, the deduction is that digitalisation is an important follow-up step in the successful implementation of any action directed at a community. Until certain basic conditions are met, digitalisation would have to wait. As mentioned earlier, even when the basic conditions are met, modifying them for digitalisation requires certain gadgets to be physically available in given numbers. Even when those numbers are reached, maintenance may further require the vocational diversification of related professionals. People who are dealing with maintenance efforts in general, also need to be sensitised to the maintenance needs of different forms of digitalisation-related

its use requires familiarisation of commands for use of the instrument. It is bewildering to recognise that electronic devices have a variety of unique vocabularies ranging from 'cookies' to 'sync.' Many of these words don't even figure in dictionaries, and one can only get used to them through time, careful mentoring and support in the practice of the commands. All these have conditions that are difficult to attain without errors. These errors can be costly when they cover not only the earth but the "clouds" (the pun is 'unintended'). The elaboration can go on and needs to go on. The purpose of this text is to focus on the simple proposition of the precondition of effective operational digitalisation. It is about time the experts in digitalisation also started focusing on this aspect of the digitalisation process. This a process that may be seemingly difficult to grasp but inevitable in the evolution of the progressive use of 'digital-

Take the case of a mobile:

(The author is an internationally acclaimed management consultant. The views *expressed are personal*)

Benefit to economy from G20 Presidency SUDHIR HINDWAN



As G20 President India has an opportunity to emerge as a perfect choice for manufacturing and a preferred trading partner

ome of the leading economies of the world are facing challenges to maintain the expected economic growth rate. Although the abundance of cheap labour and the initiative towards FDI (foreign direct investment) has made certain economies with a promising prospect the strong foundation and tremendous trust generated by Indian banking, public and private sector units provided a much-needed impetus during and after Covid-19. Although initially, India was not very aggressive in its economic reforms, it gradually started creating an inner web of confidencebuilding measures to provide not only economic growth but also ensure the development of each section of society, thus, coming out with a framework of socio-economic justice that helped in building trust. Numerous Indian business experts and investors have carved a niche for themselves overseas, particularly in the field of information technology, biotech, pharmaceuticals and health care where even advanced countries need to still catch up. Besides,



India's indigenous entrepreneurs and industries certainly give it a huge advantage over the higher level of FDI of other leading economies of the world. For example, the Chinese export-led manufacturing progress is mainly based on FDI, which is hardly a substitute for homegrown entrepreneurship. India's strength lies in creating its internal markets as it already has a fast-growing middle class.

Financial dealings are not as simple as they appear to be and require constant monitoring by competent authorities. Besides, India has brought forward all necessary requisites required for a good,

business-friendly environment for investors across the globe. The trust generation by India's services-driven industry and an excellent political system based on pluralism and democracy further strengthen its institutional stability. Recently, there has been a revolution in the process of opening up startups as they have crossed the landmark of more than ten thousand providing a huge impetus to employment generation during the last five years alone. The robust digital Payment System and neo strategy of start-ups have created more than one lakh of both direct and indirect jobs. The strategy to enhance its operational and support network, ranging from rural to urban areas, ensured a much higher rate of return on assets. India also made magnificent strides in several areas, including knowledge and skill-based intensive services such as telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, professional services of doctors, teachers and management professionals, etc.

In the coming days, various programmes under the aegis of G 20 will get support

and agreement about limiting climate change issues and opening up gateways for renewable energy and development in technological knowhow along with channelizing the sources of power generation and creating a mechanism to withstand sudden challenges. Even though the going is getting tough globally, the G20 Presidency has provided a ripe time for India to emerge as a perfect choice not only for manufacturing and assembling in the economic arena but also for being the perfect partner globally in myriad areas. The cooperation of G 20 nations can also provide new techniques and develop challenging strategies to meet the needs of even the most vulnerable nations which would lead to the creation of an inclusive world society, though may seem like a chimaera. This will bring a positive change in International Relations towards more contiguity and harmonious relationship. (The writer is the recipient of

the Bharat Gaurav Award and is a professor and expert on strategic affairs) Concluded

RESOLVE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Sir — Apart from the US, Egypt, Jordan, Israeli and Palestinian representatives participated in the meeting held on Sunday at the Red Sea resort of Jordan's city of Aqaba. The meeting was hurriedly convened in a bid to defuse the escalation of hostilities between the two rivals in the West Bank region during the past months. Israeli and Palestinian officials vowed to defuse the escalating violence, issuing a joint statement in which Israel said it would halt work on new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank for four months. Within an hour of the announcement, Prime Minister Netanyahu tweeted, dismissing the announcement of a four-month moratorium, saying "without any change, in Judea and Samaria," using the Biblical term for the West Bank. The building and authority will continue according to the original plan and construction schedule." This means that no peace settlement is possible between the Palestinians

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

Sir — No country or region of the world is free from acute and chronic prejudicial tendencies against its citizens based on race and sex. Obtuse institutionalisation and rabid state funding of discrimination make it a far bigger menace. Quite a few layers have to be broken to separate sanity from hate. The propensity of several nations to govern through bias and hate is disdainful. No one is born with hate; he or she is 'taught' or 'programmed' to hate others. Therefore, he or she can be taught to love as well. Zero discrimination may appear too far-fetched. However, the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), broadly shaped "zero discrimination day" on the first day of March every year.

It recognises the fact that the decisive step towards minimising discrimination is to unify the minds of diverse races and cul-Save lives: decriminalise", the theme this year, highlights how decrimi-

Communal harmony at Rathotsave



he famous Chennakeshava temple at Belur presents a very heartening picture where the annual Rathotsava(chariot festival) starts only after verses from the Quran get recited by a Muslim cleric! So it is very unfortunate to witness Karnataka in the daily national news for all the wrong reasons revolving around rabid Hindutva muscle-flexing over hijab, halal, again, fictitious "love jihad", vandalism of Churches and portrayal of the Christian missionaries as "devils" going

course, misusing the name of Tipu Sultan to generate Islamophobia! When the sane section among the Indians get shuddered on witnessing rabid religious muscle-flexing leading to ugly violence in various parts of the country; the show of sanity and harmony in the historic Karnataka temple indeed acts as a soothing balm on parched bloodied hearts! Let's hope that amidst the communal mayhem all around, the people of Karnataka will draw inspiration from the Chennakeshava temple authorities and succeed in retaining this ageold syncretic tradition alive by keeping the merchants of hatred at bay. Also, inspiration can be drawn from Suntikoppa — that oasis of communal harmony and island of hope in these intolerant times — to establish the eternal and ultimate

all-out to "convert" the Hindus or tribals! And of

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

ing with HIV and AIDS can hasten the end of the dangerous disease.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

nalisation of key populations and those liv-

ANOTHER YATRA

Sir — It is good news that the Congress party is considering another Yatra from Porbandar in Gujarat to Parshuram Kund in Arunachal Pradesh and if it materialises it will be good for the Cong as well as for the Indian democracy and it will be a direct signal to other political parties that in 2024 PM candidate will be from Congress. In any democratic country, it is a common phenomenon that leaders do leave the parties and it is an ongoing Cong should stick to its core issues such as secularism and should not adopt the soft Hindutva as the party had done this mistake previously also.

Every such long march is meant for political mileage and the party should use this occasion to strengthen the party at the grass root level and to infuse enthusiasm among the common workers of the party. Congress party should continue its present

zeal created by 'The Bharat jodo yatra. as Rahul Gandhi elaborated on the last day of the plenary session of the Congress at Raipur. Whatever new enthusiasm had been created Cong should maintain the same. The country had already seen successful such type of long marches:

Rath Yatra by LK Advani and Cycle yatra by Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh as well as Narmada yatra by Digvijay Singh in. Madhya Pradesh and Kanyakumari to Delhi yatra by Chandra Shekhar and it is a well-known fact that all the above yantras mentioned proved a success for the party who organised it. It was only the Rath Yatra by LK Advani which created chaos and a law and order situation in the entire country otherwise such types of long marches do remain peaceful. Congress party should finalise the programming of the second Bharat jodo yantra and should concentrate on the next parliament elections which are to be held next year.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

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FIRST COLUMN

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES CAN REDUCE EMISSIONS

Use of cutting-edge digital technologies can help companies move towards sustainability, writes Chandrika Behl

he impacts of climate change are becoming more visible daily, putting pressure on nations to fulfil their commitments towards reducing carbon emissions. It is estimated that we need up to a 55% reduction in CO₂ emissions to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement on track. At the same time, 'sustainability' has become synonymous with addressing global warming, with most countries exploring solutions that will help them achieve sustainable development without compromising the people's future. Today, a sustainable society must be socially responsible, focussing on environmental protection and maintaining an equilibrium between humans, natural resources, and economic growth. Creating a 'Circular Economy' by rewiring high-emitting sectors around efficiency, circularity, and sustainability has emerged as the magic mantra. And 'Digital technologies can help accelerate this transformation.

An Accenture-World Economic Forum study revealed that energy, materials, and mobility were the three highest-emitting sectors (approx. 74%) in 2020. They also represent the sectors where digital technologies hold the highest potential to reduce emissions. According to the study, if digital technologies are scaled across these industries, it could deliver up to 20% of the 2050 reduction needed to hit the net-zero trajectories. These industries can immediately reduce emissions by 4-10% by quickly adopting digital technologies! Achieving sustainability is no longer the responsibility of the government alone. Most companies have set individual sustainability goals, partly to improve efficiencies and fulfil the demands of an increasingly alert consumer market.



Application of digital technologies to achieve sustainability goals Most digital technologies like Big Data analytics, advanced AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), edge computing, Blockchain, Cloud, etc., offer applications that can help an organisation migrate to low-carbon systems. However, it is up to the management to identify the application suitable for their needs. Usually, companies appoint a Chief Information Officer (CIO) responsible for successfully integrating technologies to advance the organisation's sustainability agenda. Today, companies have the choice of multiple sustainability management platforms that allow them to receive real-time information on how their plant, manufacturing facility, or offices are functioning. These platforms integrate the data sourcing and collection functions to generate analysis and accelerate the process of preparing accurate reports

How are digital technologies helping companies?

It is well known that greater technology adoption has been the driving force behind Industry 4.0. Now, Disruptive innovations and next-generation solutions are delivering on the sustainability agenda of the companies. Businesses invest in digital software and solutions that seamlessly integrate into their frameworks and internal reporting structures. This ensures that data is available, standardised, and shareable across the value chain and helps in day-to-day functions such as moving raw materials up to the product stage, optimising routes, and enhancing efficiency. Companies are also prioritising digital inclusion to achieve workforce skill development. It helps them to prepare the existing and future workforce to quickly adapt to technological advancements in the unit and safely handle digital technologies. Forging partnerships with other businesses through real-time data and insights derived with the help of digital solutions, including the company's sustainability agenda, is helping organisations venture into new and developed markets. Sustainability has emerged as an environmental, economic, and social driver, capable of transforming how businesses are done, governments function, and how people live. Digital technologies are at the forefront of helping achieve these goals and missions. With more businesses across industries exploring innovative and digital solutions to their everyday problems, technology will play a pivotal role in creating balanced economies. Digital solutions can help improve productivity and efficiency, achieve cost savings, reduce product waste, track progress across all business divisions, and analyse outcomes. Smart technologies and solutions thus have the potential to alter the entire value chain of businesses across industries.

(The writer is Managing Director, Exhibitions India Group)

Bearing the brunt of climate change



Women are the worst sufferers of climate change. It is not an 'Amrit Kaal' for them as they still have to toil hard



here is no planet B. Period. There can't be a plan B either, where the climate crisis is concerned. Nature and its resources are limited and there is no way where we could ever outsource them. No resources, no plan B. A model of climate change on the computer and big talks and red flags will not help either. Globally, we are reaching a place where climate change will soon stop becoming a threat to it becoming a reality. It is no longer distant. It is here and is for real. And it exists on this very planet. Climate Change. Catch it if you can.

From melting glaciers to burning forests, rising sea levels, worsening floods, blizzards, ice storms, cyclones, droughts, bilution, sinking cities, and Changing sea sons- the earth is running a fever. Global temperatures have increased. Mark Twain said, 'Climate is what you expect, and Weather is what you get.' According to reports, Asia is on the verge of extreme heat, rising sea levels, growing losses from severe water, and increasing food insecurity in coming decades as climate change raises temperatures and alters weather patterns across the globe.

India is hyper-diverse in terms of its natural habitats, biodiversity, and socio-cultural ethos. With over a few billion people, we need to conserve our biodiversity and ensure human well-being. And we need to worry about it. The deadly heat waves indicate we need to become serious. Given the country's large coastline, the sea level rise could become a disaster. Poor air quality is not only an urban problem but a rural one too. This gloomy blanket of air pollution has also clouded the vision of the Government at the helm. Just like the cracks that not only seem to have affected the state of Uttarakhand, because of digging for a



UN FIGURES

SHOW THAT 80% OF THE **PEOPLE** DISPLACED IN THE WORLD BY CLIMATE CHANGE ARE WOMEN. INDIA IS NO **DIFFERENT**

(The writer is an MLC, BRS. The views expressed are personal) project, there are some cracks in the system and its already fragmented and unclear policies as well.

While our Prime Minister and the Bharatiya Janata Party talk about development and Sabka Vikas, the untold truth is that we have destroyed our climate and our green cover for the sake of this 'Vikas' and 'New India'. A lot of noise is being made around 'Har Ghar Jal', but the reality is flimsy and is building castles in the air. Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led union government only makes flimsy promises for environment restoration but, there is hardly any fund released for the same.

Our rurai women still do not have access to clean tap water at home. They walk miles, away from her home and comfort zone, to ensure her household does not run dry of water. The rivers are drying up. The water reservoirs are empty. 'Amrit Sarovars' certainly do not have any 'Water' left in them. I am happy that our Prime Minister is worried about our mothers and sisters suffering and choking in the kitchens due to fuelwood smoke. The Ujjawala Scheme promises to give them LPG Cylinders. But have we succeeded? Our mothers and sisters are happy only on the posters. The reality seems to be different.

With the consistent effort of the Telangana Government, the forest cover of the state increased by 7% while the national average was only 3%. Further, talking about Telangana, many measures have been single-handedly taken for the agricultural development of farmer

welfare, especially that of marginal women farmers, by the BRS Government. The Government under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has speedily completed the Kaleshwaram Project and provided irrigation water to make Telangana an acre farm, rehabilitating ponds through Mission Kakatiya, increasing the water storage capacity, raising the groundwater level, and implementing schemes like 24-hour free electricity supply to farmers. In the year 2014-15 we had 1 Crore 31 Lakh Acres, and by the year 2021-22 2 Crore 04 Lakh Acres i.e., 70 Lakh Acres of new cultivation and cultivable land.

Mission Kakatiya is an innovative program undertaken by the Government of Telangana to restore water resources. Most of the lands supporting the ponds have been brought under cultivation by rehabilitating the chain ponds and removing the silts, the groundwater capacity has increased and the water in the wells and boreholes has increased and is useful for double crop cultivation. Around 15 lakh Ayakattu have been fixed. The government has spent Rs.5,000 crores. Through Mission Kakatiya, the government has taken measures to divert water from large and medium-scale projects to rehabilitated ponds and make the ponds full spheres with full water storage even in the dry season.

Rising issues about individuals' mental and emotional health have also become a looming concern.

The pandemic has only made us aware of prevailing gender-based violence, mental health, and physical abuse in families. It did not come with the pandemic, and, therefore, it will not recede with it. It is here because our surrounding environment is giving it a rise. The Central Government is taking a lot of pride in empowering the Nari Shakti. But this Nari Shakti is bearing the brunt of changing climate and the Government is not even ready to address that a problem like this exists. Let us not get into the game of numbers and data here, but the increasing crime rate, in BJPruled states, puts society at shame.

While climate change does not discriminate, its effects do. It may seem bizarre, but climate change does contribute to deepening poverty, displacing population, and quick deterioration of resources. These effects take a huge toll on women and girls. Just by talking about Green Growth, we do not achieve it. We need to work on the ground, with viable plans.

UN figures show that 80% of the people displaced in the world by climate change are women. India is no different. This is a special year for India as we lead the G20 nations with Presidency. If we are not able to make strong, concrete efforts now, we will never be able to reverse the damage done. The time is now to act, to make our environment and climate safer for our mothers and sisters. This would then be the real 'New India'. the 'Amrit Kaal' for our mother-

Incentivise recycling for e-waste management

Creating awareness is the key to achieving e-waste management objectives. AP Singh and Sameer Jain delve into the details

ndia ranks 3rd in terms of **Health and Environmental** producer of e-waste after LChina and the United States of America. According to a Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report for FY: 2019-2020, India generated 1,014,961.2 tonnes of e-waste for 21 types of electrical and

electronic equipment (EEE). The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and KPMG joint study on Electronic Waste Management in India released on September 2017 identified that computer equipment accounts for almost 70 per cent of e-waste, followed by telecommunication equipment phones (12 per cent), electrical equipment (8 per cent), and medical equipment (7 per cent) with remaining from household e-waste.

Challenges

E-waste poses a huge risk to humans, animals, and the environment. The presence of heavy metals and highly toxic substances such as mercury, lead, beryllium, and cadmium pose a significant threat to the environment even in minute quantities.

E-waste releases harmful chemicals, such as lead, on burning, which adversely impacts human blood, kidney and the peripheral nervous system (Health). When it is thrown into landfills, the chemicals seep into the air and groundwater affecting both land and sea animals (Environment). Decomposing e-waste is an expensive process and only a few developed countries

require special treatment and cannot be dumped in landfill

E-waste recyclers in India is predominantly an informal sector activity (small-scale, informal sector buyers often known as 'kabadiwalas, and they further sort and sell these as input material to artisanal or industrial processors). There are thousands of poor households making a living from scavenging materials from waste dumps.

Despite the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) releasing the E-waste (Management) Rules in 2016 and folowing it up with upgrades, lack of investment, infrastructure, and consumer awareness, there are still roadblocks to the can afford to do so. These effective handling of the waste.

The Way Forward

In addressing the e-waste hazard, there is an urgent need to move from a Linear & Reuse economy to a Circular economy. The linear economy follows the cycle as raw material, production, use and then to non-recyclable waste and the Reuse economy follows raw material, production, use, production and then to nonrecyclable waste, while the Circular economy follows raw material, production, use, production and then to recycle waste. The linear economy focuses on profitability, irrespective of the product life cycle, whereas the Circular

A sound market-based incentive focusing on stakeholders encourages both

economy targets sustainabili-

demand and supply-side factors to voluntarily adopt ewaste recycling. Incentives could be in the form of tax concessions or rebates, to ensure compliance across the electrical and electronics industry.

Stakeholder collaboration While producers are responsible for e-waste management (EPR), consumers, retailers, state governments, municipalities, NGOs, CSOs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), local collection agencies and others need to play an appropriate role in collection, facilitation, and creation of infrastructure to make e-waste management a success. Digitally connecting stakeholders will open opportunities for industry collabora-

stakeholders will result in implementing robust waste segregation – collection – disposal best practices.

Awareness is the Key NGOs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) need to be provided with funding and incentives to create information campaigns, capacity building, and awareness among key stakeholders including end consumers by educating them on their role in e-waste management.

This can be achieved by NGOs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and government agencies by targeting resident welfare associations (RWAs), primary and secondary schools and colleges, etc. The government needs to conduct a tions and participation by multi-stakeholder consulta-

tion with the public sector, formal and informal e-waste processing sectors, civil societies, and academics to develop an e-waste management system and promote information, education, and communication activities in schools, col-

leges, and industry. Additionally, "E-waste awareness champions" need to be instituted on educational campuses to engage and spread the key messages in ewaste management. Awareness campaigns for educational institutions need to include Ewaste films, AV guides, posters

and pamphlets disseminated. Development of course curricula for schools with emphasis on e-waste management and arranging a visit to a nearby e-waste recycling facility will help E-waste

awareness champions with a better and first-hand understanding of the end-to-end ewaste management process.

Keeping this objective in mind, Lions Clubs International in partnership with Primus Partners has launched the world's largest e-waste awareness and collection campaign "Dump or Donate".

This initiative shall be actioned by nearly 3 lakh volunteers through approximately 10000 Lions Clubs across every nook and corner of this country. Lions Clubs' basis the success plans to make this an annual event and consider taking it globally as well.

(AP Singh is the International Third Vice President of Lions Clubs International and Sameer Jain is the Managing Director of Primus Partners)

India important partner to counter China: US Senator

PTI WASHINGTON

India is precisely the kind of partner the US needs to provide a check against China, powerful American Senator Chuck Schumer told his colleagues on Monday. He said Prime Minister

Narendra Modi appreciates the point that the two largest democracies of the world need to work together against the hegemony of Chinese Communist Party or CCP.

Senator Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, just returned from a trip to India and other countries including Pakistan, Germany and Israel wherein he led a Congressional delegation of nine Senators.

"We relayed a very important message during our meeting with Indian Prime Minister Modi. India and America are going to need each other to outcompete the Chinese Communist Party. India is precisely the kind of partner that the US needs to provide a check against the hostile tactics of the CCP. They are the world's largest democracy, still young compared to its peers and primed for tremendous growth in decades to come," Schumer told his Senatorial colleagues in a speech from the Senate floor.

"I told the Prime Minister that if our democracies are to prosper in this century, we're going to have to work together, not only to boost our common defense but to promote

The Philippine president said the main

I mission of his country's military has

changed to ensure the protection of its ter-

ritory as disputes with China and US-

the urgency of shifting the military's

focus to external defence in a speech before

China's ambassador to protest the use of

a military-grade laser by the Chinese coast

guard that briefly blinded some of the crew

of a Philippine patrol vessel in the South China Sea. The Philippines condemned the

February 6. incident in one of the more

than 200 diplomatic protests it has filed against Beijing's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waterway since last

China has accused the Philippines of

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr stressed

He spoke two weeks after summoning

China rivalry intensify.

troops Monday afternoon.

means working together to strengthen our economic ties, deepen trade, and make it easier to recruit talented workers `rom abroad to work

in our country, Schumer said.

"It also means we must collaborate to establish the norms for the technologies of the future. Right now, the world's democracies are competing with the Chinese Communist Party to dominate the technologies that will rule this century, like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, clean energy, advanced semiconductor manufacturing and more," he said.

In India, the United States and all the world's democracies must make sure that these technologies become vectors of prosperity, not the weapons of autocratic regimes, he asserted.

Other members of the were are Senators Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Mark Warner, Gary Peters, Catherine Cortez-Masto, and Peter Welch. All are from the Democratic party.

We have already seen how the Chinese use artificial intelligence to eavesdrop on its people. I think the prime minister appreciated the point we were making about the need for India and the United States, the two largest democracies, to work together against the CCP hegemon," he said.

Schumer, who travelled to several Indian cities including Jaipur, Agra, Mumbai and New

Philippines leader to military: Focus on South China Sea

Philippine vessel. China claims the South

AFP has changed," Marcos told the troops,

referring to the Armed Forces of the

Philippines. "For many, many years, we

were able to maintain that peace and main-

tain that understanding with all of our

neighbours. Now things have begun to

change and we must adjust accordingly."

were being put into question, "and there

are many things that are happening so the

air force has a very big mission to fully secure the Philippines." He also cited "the

intensification of the competition between

mentioned China in his speech in central

Cebu province, but underscored that

Philippine foreign policy remains commit-

Marcos did not offer specifics nor

Despite being a relatively small coun-

the superpowers.

ted to peace.

He said that the country's boundaries

"I'm saying that your mission in the

China Sea virtually in its entirety.

'A strategic partner'

Washington: India is a global strategic partner of the US which has a wide, broad, deep relationship with the country, the Biden administration has said, as Secretary of State Antony Blinken left for New Delhi attend a host of key conferences including the G20 foreign ministers' meet-

Blinken will also attend a Quad ministerial meeting and hold a bilateral talk with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

"India is a global strategic partner of ours. We have a wide, broad, deep relationship with India. There will be a lot on the agenda in the bilateral relationship and in the multilateral engagements he takes part in on the margins of the G20," Ned Price, Department State Spokesperson, told reporters at his daily news conference on Monday.

"We share a vision with India of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and India is a key partner of ours bilaterally, in the context of the Quad as well as other international groupings, even as we've attempted to stitch together some of the partnerships in which India has been a key player," he said. player," he said.

amazing country. "I was enthralled by it. Incredible! It has a thriving diaspora, many of whom live in New York, here in the United States. Our partnership has a huge potential for growth in the 21st century."

The Senator said that during his meetings with the leaders of Pakistan, Germany, Israel and India including prime minister Modi, the congressional delegation stressed the importance of standing with Ukraine in its struggle against Russia. "We asked each of these leaders to do more.'

Schumer said it has been more than a year now since Russian President Vladimii Putin began his "illegal" invasion. "I made it clear to leaders abroad the worst thing we can do right now is waver in our support for the Ukrainian people." "I warned them that a Russian victory in Ukraine would not mean an end to Putin's escapades and expansionist proclivities so much as it would mean an escalation of his viciousness and desire for more territory. Success in Ukraine will only embolden Putin if he sees the free nations of the world turn a blind eye to

his aggressions," he said.
"Should Putin win in Ukraine, it would endanger the security of both established and burgeoning democracies across the world, and I think the leaders all nine of us spoke with got that message,"

a sovereign nation and the Philippines has

and communist insurgencies, the military

has begun to focus on defending the coun-

try's sea borders. It has launched efforts to

modernise in a programme that has faced

have been aimed to improve its air and sea

patrols to guard the archipelago's vast

coastline and build a minimal deterrence.

United States, Marcos recently approved

a wider US military presence in the

Philippines by allowing rotating batches of American forces to stay in four more

Philippine military camps. That's a sharp

turnaround from his predecessor Rodrigo

Duterte, who feared that American mili-

Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have been

locked in an increasingly tense territorial standoff in the South China Sea.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam

tary footprint could offend Beijing.

delays and financial constraints.

After decades of combating Muslim

Many of the weapons and equipment

Under a 2014 defence pact with the

a functioning government," he said.

Indian stabs cleaner, dares cops, shot dead in Sydney

A 32-year-old Indian national was shot dead by the Australian police on Tuesday after he allegedly stabbed a cleaner at a railway station in Sydney and threatened law enforcement officers, media reports said.

Mohamed Rahmathullah Syed Ahmed, who hails from Tamil Nadu, was identified by the Consulate General of India in Sydney, as the man who was fatally shot by the police.

Ahmed allegedly attacked a 28-year-old cleaner at the Auburn train station in Sydney on Tuesday before arriving at Auburn police station, Sydney Morning Herald newspaper quoted police officials as saying.

Two police officers were leaving the police station, when they were confronted by Ahmed, who tried to attack them, the report said.

A police officer fired three shots, two of which hit Ahmed in the chest. A probationary constable also used her Taser on him, it said.

Ahmed was immediately treated at the scene by paramedics and was rushed to a local hospital. But he was pronounced dead, the report said. Police officers are investigating whether mental health played a part in Ahmed stabbing the cleaner and threatening the police officers,

Ahmed had five previous interactions with the police, all of which were non-criminal and COVID-19 related, the report said.

He was living in Australia on a bridging visa. "The incident is extremely disturbing and unfortunate. We have formally taken up the matter with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New South Wales Office as well as state police authorities," the Consulate said.

At a press conference on Tuesday, New South Wales Police Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith said the officers had just seconds to respond and were left with no choice but to shoot Ahmed. "I fully support these officers. It's traumatic. It's a significant incident at one of our police stations," he said.

"There just isn't an impending time. It is immediate. He launches through the glass doors at the officers; they had very little time to react," he said. Smith said the counter-terrorism unit would be brought in to help in the investigation, the report added.

Meanwhile, police have spoken to the cleaner, who was admitted to local hospital here and is said to be in a stable condition.

Smith said he suffered a puncture wound to his left forearm before the attacker continued to "slash" him in a frenzied attack after he fell to

Tensions rise in Nigeria as opp demands new vote

Abuja: Nigeria's opposition demanded a revote on Tuesday for the country's presidential election, where the partial results show an early lead for the ruling party. At a press conference in the capital Abuja, the three main opposition parties said the election was an insult to democracy and called for Nigeria's election chief to resign. "The conduct of the 2023 election has been marred by widespread violence, rigging, intimidation of voters, doctoring of results and violation of the laid down electoral process, which was communicated by the national electoral body," said Julius Abure, chairman of the Labour Party. While the press conference was taking place, dozens of protestors took to the streets of Abuja and in the southern Delta state, accusing the election commission of disenfranchising voters.

AP

US officials make case for renewal of surveillance powers

AP WASHINGTON

Biden administration officials urged Congress on Tuesday to renew a surveillance programme that the U.S. Government has long seen as vital in countering overseas terrorism, cyberattacks and espionage operations.

The programme, which is under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, grants American spy agencies sweeping powers to surveil and examine communications of foreigners located outside the United States.

It's set to expire at year's end unless Congress agrees to renew it. Officials in the Democratic administration are bracing for a contentious debate on Capitol Hill about reauthorising the program, with civil liberties advocates aligning with Republicans in raising concerns about the scope of the government's spy powers. In an effort to preemptively head off privacy concerns, intelligence and national security officials sought to make a public case Tuesday that the statutory authorities at risk of expiring have yielded valuable insight in recent years into ransomware attacks on critical infrastructure.

Sunak sells new Brexit deal

 $B^{
m ritish\ Prime\ Minister\ Rishi}_{
m Sunak\ on\ Tuesday\ said\ he}$ was "over the moon" with the Brexit agreement inked with the European Union (EU) aimed at resolving long-standing trade issues in the region.

Sunak is currently touring Northern Ireland to sell the new "Windsor Framework" agreed between the UK and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Windsor on Monday, which replaces the controversial Northern Ireland Protocol which caused trade disputes and severely strained UK-EU relations.

Sunak later made a statement in the House of Commons to declare that the new deal delivers "free-flowing trade" for UK territory Northern Ireland with the rest of Britain by "removing any sense of the border in the Irish Sea" and creates a red lane system to resolve issues with bordering EU member-state Ireland.

"I'm really pleased - in fact, I'm over the moon - that yesterday we managed to have a decisive breakthrough with our negotiations with the EU," Sunak told local business representatives gathered at the Coca-Cola factory in County Antrim in Northern Ireland as he took questions from them on the framework.



"It's about stability in Northern Ireland. It's about real people and real businesses. It's about showing that our Union, which has lasted for centuries, can and will endure. And it's about breaking down the barriers between us," he

Sunak insisted that the new framework puts the people of Northern Ireland in charge with active democratic consent by adding a new 'Stormont Brake". This indicates that the

devolved Parliament at Stormont in Belfast, backed by the UK, can veto new EU goods laws not supported by all communities in Northern Ireland. The agreement concluded

months of intensive discussions between the UK and EU to address problems with the Northern Ireland Protocol, agreed by former British prime minister Boris Johnson, who was conspicuously absent from the Commons session on Monday, as the Opposition

dling of the issue.

In a swipe at Sunak's former boss, Labour Party Leader Keir Starmer said, "The Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip [Boris Johnson] told the people of Northern Ireland that his protocol meant 'no forms, no checks, no barriers of any kind' on goods crossing the Irish Sea after Brexit."

"That was nonsense. A point-blank refusal to engage with unionists in Northern Ireland in good faith, never mind taking their concerns seriously. And it inevitably contributed to the collapse of ower-sharing in Northern Îreland," Starmer said.

He urged Sunak to be "utterly unlike his predecessor" and not pretend the deal is something it is not.

Overall, Sunak's statement in parliament was greeted with praise from his Conservative Party MPs and many in the opposition. The reaction of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which had withdrawn from the Northern Irish devolved government process over the Protocol, now remains crucial to the new Windsor Framework working in the long term. While the regional party said it is studying the deal's fine print before giving its verdict, Sunak's tour of the region is intended to build

intruding into its territory and said its coast guard used a harmless laser to track the try, "we still have to fight for the rights of every Filipino because the Philippines is कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर जनपद-हरिद्वार

-Tender NPP Laksar / 2022-23 ई—निविदा सूचना सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर पालिका परिषद, लकसर द्वारा Door to Door Collection Segregation, Secondary Storage & Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste Management Syste कार्य हेतु Online निविदा वेबसाइट https://uktenders.gov.in पर निम्न कार्यक्रमानुसार आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। SCHEDULE OF BIDDING PROCESS

SR.	EVENT DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	Advertising Date	28/02/2023
2	RFP Document Download and Submission Start Date & Time	28/02/2023 and 07/03/2023
3	Last date & time of submission of Online Bid and (Submission of Technical and Financial Proposal)	20/03/2023, 2 P.M
4	Date for opening of technical proposal	20/03/2023, 3 P.M
5	Pre-Bid Meeting	Bidder shall have to send their Prebid queries on e-Mail address nplaksar2017@gmail.com On or before 06/03/2023 up to 11:00 am Hrs.
6	Website for downloading Tender Document, corrigendum's Addendums etc.	https://uktenders.gov.in
7	Opening of Financial proposals of Technically qualified bidders.	To Be Confirmed
8	Bid Mode Submission	The Bids should be submitted through online mode only on e-procurement website https://uktenders.gov.in
9	Detail of the contact person	Sh.Gulsanawwar, Mob.8410637880

(अम्बरीश गर्ग) अध्यक्ष (चन्द्रशेखर शर्मा) अधिशासी अधिकारी

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर जनपद-हरिद्वार

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर पालिका परिषद, लकसर द्वारा Solid Waste Processing and

Composting plant at Laksar SWM site, Laksar कार्य हेतु Online निविदा वेबसाइट https://uktenders.gov.ir

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING PROCESS

नोट- निविदा की शर्ते https://uktenders.gov.in अथवा नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर के कार्यालय में देखी ज

नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर जनपद हरिद्वार

पर निम्न कार्यक्रमानुसार आमन्त्रित की जाती है।

828/E-Tender NPP Laksar / 2022-23 ई—निवेदा सूचना

EVENT DESCRIPTION

RFP Document Download and Submission

Start Date & Time

Last date & time of submission of Online

Bid and (Submission of Technical and

Financial Proposal)

Website for downloading Tender

Document, corrigendum's Addendums etc

Opening of Financial proposals of

Technically qualified bidders

Bid Mode Submission

Detail of the contact person

(चन्द्रशेखर शर्मा) अधिशासी अधिकारी

नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर जनपद हरिद्वार

4 Date and time for opening of technical proposal

Pre-Bid Meeting

Advertising Date

नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर जनपद-हरिद्वार

DATE

28/02/2023

28/02/2023 and

07/03/2023

20/03/2023, 2 P.M

20/03/2023, 3 P.M

Bidder shall have to send their Prebid queries

on e-Mail address nplaksar2017@gmail.com On or before 06/03/2023 up to 11:00 am Hrs.

https://uktenders.gov.in

The Bids should be submitted through

online mode only on e-procurement

website https://uktenders.gov.in

Sh.Gulsanawwar, Mob.8410637880

(अम्बरीश गर्ग) अध्यक्ष

नगर पालिका परिषद लकसर जनपद-हरिद्वार

To Be Confirmed

Colombo: Sri Lankan trade unions

are all set to defy an essential services order issued by President Ranil Wickremesinghe by going ahead with their one-day token strike scheduled on March 1 to protest the government's tax and utility rates hikes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

various sectors had earlier urged the Sri Lankan government to withdraw its tax hikes and warned to hold a nationwide strike on March 1 if their demands were not

ankan trade unions to strike over tax hikes effect from January widely believed to be on demand by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Wickremesinghe last night gazetted the essential services order covering public The Sri Lankan government transport, goods transportation,

and all work related to ports and airports.
"The essential services gazette

was issued after the trade unions gave notice of strike action", a member of the Teachers' Trade

Union, Joseph Stalin said. "We will go ahead as planned gal tax orders", Ranjan Jayalal of the electricity workers' trade union

consensus on all sides.

The doctors, teachers, and bank employees including those from the central bank are said to join the token strike.

Nepal PM to reshuffle Cabinet

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda is preparing to reshuffle his Cabinet to fill as many as 16 ministries, which fell vacant after three political parties pulled out of his government, as part of his efforts to keep the newly formed fragile coalition together, according to a media report on

Nepal's second largest party in Parliament - CPN-UML - on Monday withdrew its support to the "Prachanda"led government following a rift over backing the Nepali Congress' candidate for the presidential poll, plunging the Himalayan nation to another spell of political instability.

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) has also quit the government. The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) has also withdrawn its ministers from the government. However, it would keep supporting the government from the outside. With three major parties pulling out of the government, the seven-party ruling coalition has disintegrated.

Prachanda has now joined hands with the Nepali Congress and six other parties and wants a new power-sharing deal at the earliest, the paper said.

The Janamat Party, the Nagarik Unmukti Party and the Janata Samajbadi Party, meanwhile, ditched the previous alliance and joined the new one led by the Nepali Congress and the Maoist Centre. Leaders said the prime minister will have a tough time sharing powers among the eight parties.

Thinking that Cabinet expansion

could help keep the coalition intact and garner support for the presidential polls scheduled for March 9, the prime minister is preparing to start discussions to fill vacant Cabinet positions from

Tuesday, the newspaper said. "Though the meeting of the new coalition is yet to be fixed, I think discussions will start from tomorrow," said Jagannath Khatiwada, spokesperson of the CPN (Unified Socialist), a constituent of the new coalition. "We had not expected the UML to pull out so

on. Now things may move fast."

Manahari Timilsina, the media expert to the prime minister, said the ruling parties are expected to discuss the allocation of ministerial portfolios within a day or two, as the ministries cannot be kept vacant for long. In the previous Cabinet, the Janamat Party was dissatisfied with its leaders not getting desired ministry, the Janata Samajbadi Party opted out of the government after failing to get the desired ministries while the Nagarik Unmukti Party refused to join the Cabinet as its demands were not fulfilled. The UML's decision on Monday to pull out of the government helped the prime minister to pick ministers from the newly-formed coalition partners.

On Monday, all eight UML ministers tendered their resignations to the prime minister, while four RPP minisers did so on Sunday

According to leaders privy to the development, the Nepali Congress, the largest party in Parliament, could get the ministries vacated by the UML, while the Maoist Centre wants to keep the Home Ministry for itself.

My client HDFC Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, is in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mr. Pankaj Asthana has taken a housing loan against the Unit No. H1-091 Tower No. H-1, 9th Floor, Assotech Springfields, Plot No. GH-10, Sector Zeta, Greater Noida, U.P. but in the movement of file one file containing the original Agreement dated 28.12.2005 and 2 Receipts issued by Assotech Realty Pvt. Ltd in favour of Mr. Pankaj Asthana is not traceable, if any body found the same may return to the undersigned, if anybody misuses the same, the same shall be at his/their

Karnail Singh, Advocate, K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension New Delhi Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363

This is to inform all concerned that Dr. (Mrs.) Anjali Chatterjee W/o Late Shri Krishan Gopal Chatterjee, R/o E-269B, Sector-22, Nolda, had executed a WILL in favour of SHREE SHREE ANANDAMAYEE ASHRAM, Shree Ma Anandamayee Ashram Marg, Shyan Nagar, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 in respec of her Residential Flat No.E-269B, Sector 22, NOIDA, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar-U.F 22, NOIDA, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar-U.P. which was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-III, NOIDA, in Book No.III, Volume No.1229, on pages 47 to 62, as Document No.63 dt.17.01.2020. And whereas Dr. (Mrs.) Anjall Chatterjee died on 02.11.2021 and after her death SHREE SHREE ANANDAMAYEE ASHRAM, Shree Ma Anandamayee Ashram Marg, Shyam Nagar, Kalkaji, New Delhi-10019, wants to get mutation of the said property in their favour. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Residental (Housing), Deptt. of Noida Authority within 30 days of the publication of this notice. SAMDIP DUTTA, President Shree Shree Anandamayee Ashram

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client HDFC Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi,is in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mr. Manishwar Jha and Mrs. Suchitra Jha has taken a housing loan against the Unit No. 1206-A, 13th Floor, Amrapali Village, AH Block, Ghaziabad, U.P. but in the movement of file one file containing the original Allotment cum Buyer Agreement dated 31.08.2007 and 1 Receipt issued by Ultra Home Construction Pvt Ltd in favour of Mr. Manishwar Jha and Mrs. Suchitra Jha same may return to the undersigned, if anybody misuses the same, the same shall be at his/their own risk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnail Singh, Advocate Jungpura Extension New Delhi Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363

G2





14. Khera Kalan KHKN Delhi-Sonipat North West Delhi

Date: 27.02.2023 Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment as halt contractors for sale of tickets on commission basis a ollowing halt stations for a period of five years (05). Applications in sealed envelope will be accepted from date: 28.02.2023 pto 23.03.2023 at 14:00 hrs and will be opened on date: 23.03.2023 at 15:00 hrs. Due to unforeseen reasons if on date of

op	opening of applications i.e.25.05.2025 becomes notically then applications will be opened on the next working day.									
S. N.	Name of Halt Station	Halt Station Code	Section	District	S. N.	Name of Halt Station	Halt Station Code	Section	District	
1.	Bhambewa	BHMW	Jind-Sonipat	Jind, Haryana	15.	Kohand	KFU	Kurukshetra-	Karnal, Haryana	
2.	Basai Dhankot	BDXT	Delhi- Rewari	Gurgaon, Haryana				Panipat		
3.	Budhakheda	BKDE	Jind-Panipat	Jind, Haryana	16.	Kumbhawas Mundaka Dabri	KWMD	Delhi- Rewari	Rewari, Haryana	
4.	Badka	BADK	Delhi Shahdara - Shamli	Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh	17.	Lalit Khera	LTKR	Jind-Sonipat	Jind, Haryana	
5.	Duhai	DXH	Ghaziabad - Meerut	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	18.	Lodhi Colony	LDCY	Ring Railway- Delhi Area	South Delhi, Delhi	
6.	Dighal	DGHL	Rohtak-Rewari	Jhajjar, Haryana	19.	Machhrauli	MHRI	Rohtak-Rewari	Jhajjar, Haryana	
7.	Dhurana	DHRN	Gohana-Panipat	Panipat, Haryana	20.	Mohana Haryana	MOHR	Jind-Sonipat	Sonipat, Haryana	
8.	Gokalgarh	GKG	Rohtak-Rewari	Rewari, Haryana	21	Palhawas	PLHW	Rohtak-Rewari	Rewari, Haryana	
9.	Geong	GXG	Kurukshetra- Narwana	Kaithal, Haryana	-	Pabnawa Jasmahinder	PBJM	Kurukshetra- Narwana	Kaithal, Haryana	
10.	Harsana Kalan	HNN	Delhi-Sonipat	Sonipat, Haryana	22		SWDE		Panipat, Haryana	
11.	Israna	IRA	Panipat-Rohtak	Panipat-Haryana	23.			Jind-Panipat		
12.	Jasia	JSS	Rohtak-Guhana- Panipat	Rohtak-Haryana	24.	Barahkalan	SPBK	Jakhal-Panipat	Jind, Haryana	
13.	Karsindhu	KSDE	Jind-Panipat	Jind, Haryana	25.	Surja	SUJR	Delhi Shahdara- Shamli	Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh	

nformation regarding eligibility, important dates, format of applications, Commission etc. is available at Northern Railway vebsite:- **www.nr.indianraiiway.gov.in** All corrigendum, addendums, amendments, time extensions, clarifications etc. to the lotice will be posted on the above website

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Blinken warns Central Asia of Ukraine conflict danger

¬he Biden administration ■ on Tuesday pledged to support the independence of the five Central Asian nations in a not-so-subtle warning to the former Soviet states that Russia's value as a partner has been badly compromised by its year-old war against Ukraine.

In Kazakhstan for a series of meetings with top Central Asian diplomats, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said no country, particularly those that have traditionally been in Moscow's orbit, can afford to ignore the threats posed by Russian aggression to not only their territory but to the international rules-based order and the global economy.

In all of his discussions, Blinken stressed the importance of respect for "sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence."

The Central Asian states have hewed to a studied position of neutrality on Ukraine, neither supporting Russia's invasion nor U.S. and Western condemnations of the war.

"Ever since being the first nation to recognise Kazakhstan in December of 1991, the United States has been firmly committed to the sovereignty,



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, shakes hands with Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in Astana on Tuesday

territorial integrity and independence of Kazakhstan and countries across the region," Blinken said after meeting in Astana with the foreign ministers of the so-called C5+1 group, made up of the U.S. and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and

Uzbekistan. "In our discussions today, I reaffirmed the United States' unwavering support for Kazakhstan, like all nations, to freely determine its future, especially as we mark one year since Russia lost its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in a failed attempt to deny its people that very freedom," Blinken told

reporters at a news conference with Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi.

Tileuberdi, as Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said earlier, thanked Blinken for the US commitment to Kazakhstan's freedom, but signalled that his country was unlikely to adopt either a pro-Russian or pro-Western position. Tileuberdi said Kazakhstan would continue to act in its own national interest given "the complex international situation. "Our country continues a

balanced multilateral foreign policy," he said.
Tileuberdi said that while

historic ties with both Russia and Ukraine, it would not allow its territory to be used for any Russian aggression or sanctions evasion.

He also said that even though Kazakhstan shares the world's longest land border with Russia, it did not see a threat from Moscow.

Blinken's visit to Astana on Tuesday, and Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan on Wednesday, mark his first trip to Central Asia as secretary of state and come just days after the one-year anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which has rattled the region.

None of the five former Soviet republics in Central Asia, traditionally viewed as part of the Kremlin's sphere of influence, publicly backed the attack. Kazakhstan welcomed tens of thousands of Russians fleeing from the military callup last fall.

Tokayev has spoken by phone with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy three times since Russian troops rolled into Ukraine last February, calling for a diplomatic resolution of the conflict in accordance with the U.N. charter and interna-

BSES

Jaishankar calls for decisive action against terrorists

PTI ■ GENEVA

▼ndia on Tuesday urged the Linternational community to resolutely display "zero tolerance" towards terrorism, saying the scourge is the most "indefensible violation of human rights" and those perpetrating it should always be held accountable, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

In a video message at the High-Level Segment of the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India has been at the forefront of dealing with global challenges that impact adversely on human rights, especially

"The last three years have been difficult for the world and developing countries have been hit the hardest," he

Challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, rising prices of fuel, fertilisers and foodgrains and growing debt burdens have adversely affected the enjoyment of human rights by people globally, he said.

Our collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals have been seriously set back," Jaishankar said.

"India believes that the world must resolutely display zero tolerance. After all, ter-

violation of human rights and has no justification in any circumstances. Its perpetrators must, therefore, always be held accountable," he said without naming any country.

India has been highlighting Pakistan's role in fomenting cross-border terrorism in the country.

Jaishankar reiterated that India will continue to take the requisite steps to ensure that the country will meet all its human rights obligations and ensure that its people enjoy all their basic human rights.

"Our Constitution guarantees civil and political rights as Fundamental Rights; it also has the provisions for progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. Our independent judiciary has been playing its expected role in that regard, as indeed have our media and civil society," he said.

As the world marked 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 30 years of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Jaishankar underlined the universality of all basic human rights.

'They embody India's civilisational ethos and democratic values, the edifice on which contemporary India is being built," he said.

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi

No clear conclusion on **Covid-19 origin theory: China**

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

There is no definitive con-L clusion that the COVID-19 pandemic originated from a lab in China, the White House has said.

The US government is still looking at the pandemic's origin, which has been the subject of vigorous debate among academics, intelligence experts and lawmakers.

National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby's remarks came following a report that the US Energy Department has concluded the virus most likely leaked from a lab in China.

The Wall Street Journal on Sunday, citing a classified intelligence report recently provided to the White House and key members of Congress, said the virus that drove the COVID-19 pandemic, killing close to 7 million people globally, most likely emerged from a laboratory leak in China.

Responding to questions about the report, Kirby said: "The intelligence community and the rest of the government are still looking at this. There's

NIT No.

not been a definitive conclusion, so it's difficult for me to say, nor should I feel like I should have to defend press reporting about a possible preliminary indication here.

"What the President (Joe Biden) wants is facts. He wants the whole government designed to go get those facts, and that's what we're doing. And we're just not there vet. Kirby told reporters at a daily White House news conference

on Monday. The Huanan market in central China's Wuhan city was the epicentre of the pandemic. From its origin there, the SARS-CoV-2 virus rapidly spread to other locations in Wuhan in late 2019 and then to the rest of the world.

According to the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, the department's conclusion was made with "low confidence," meaning there was a level of certainty that was "And when we're there yet

and if we have something that is ready to be briefed to the American people and the Congress, then we're going to

Tender for "Provision for shot Blasting of LHB coaches as well as Bogie & Springs of LHB coaches a

Putin orders tightening of Ukraine border as drones hit Russia

 $R^{\text{ussian President Vladimir}}_{\text{Putin on Tuesday ordered}}$ officials to tighten control of the border with Ukraine after a spate of drone attacks that Russian authorities blamed on Kyiv delivered a new challenge to Moscow more than a year after its full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

One drone crashed just 100 kilometres (60 miles) away from Moscow in an alarming development for Russian defences.

While Putin didn't refer to any specific attacks in a speech in the Russian capital, his comments came hours after drone attacks targeted several areas in southern and western Russia and authorities closed the airspace over St. Petersburg in response to what some reports said was a drone.

Also Tuesday, several Russian television stations aired officials blamed on a hacking attack. The drone attacks caused no casualties but provoked a security stir as the war with Kyiv stretched into its second year last week.

Úkrainian officials didn't immediately claim responsibility for the attacks, but they similarly avoided directly acknowledging responsibility for previous strikes and sabo-

Pilot injured in copter crash

Moscow (AP): A helicopter crashed near Russia's Arctic port of Murmansk, leaving a pilot with "serious" injuries and three other people only slightly hurt, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said on Tuesday.

According to a ministry statement, nine people were travelling in the Mi-8 aircraft from Krasnoschelye to Lovozero, two remote outposts in Russia's Kola Peninsula east of Murmansk.

The statement said the crash may have been caused by the pilots likely losing control of the aircraft after drifting into a snowy gust. It added that emergency crews were dis-

tage while emphasising Ukraine's right to hit any target in Russia following the full-scale invasion that began

A flurry of drone attacks on Monday night and Tuesday morning targeted regions inside Russia along the border with Ukraine and deeper into the country, according to local

Russian authorities.

A drone fell near the village of Gubastovo, 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Moscow, Andrei Vorobyov, governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital, said in an online statement.

The drone didn't inflict any damage, Vorobyov said. He didn't specifically describe the drone as Ukrainian, but said that it likely targeted "a civilian infrastructure object."

Pictures of the drone showed it was a Ukrainianmade type. It reportedly has a range of

up to 800 kilometres (nearly 500 miles), but isn't capable of carrying a large load of explosives. Russian forces early Tuesday shot down a Ukrainian drone over the Bryansk region, local Gov. Aleksandr Bogomaz said in a Telegram post. He said there were no casualties.

through an apartment window in its namesake capital, local authorities reported. Regional Gov Vyacheslav

Russia's Belgorod region on

Three drones also targeted

Gladkov said the drones caused minor damage to buildings and cars but no casualties.

The Russian Defence Ministry said that Ukraine used drones to attack facilities in the Krasnodar region and neighbouring Adygea.

Date: 01.03.2023 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for the following jobs Cost of Due Date & Time EMD (₹) Cost (₹) RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & CMC/BY/22-23/ 23.03.2023 13.50 13.50 23.03.2023 NSTALLATION OF CABLE END TERMINATION & RS/SkS/SV/67 14:00 Hrs 15:00 Hrs Crore Lakh STRAIGHT THROUGH JOINTING KITS FOR VARIOUS SIZES OF CABLES OF VOLTAGE RATINGS UPTO 11KV RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & CMC/BY/22-23 3.50 7.00 23.03.2023 23.03.2023 NSTALLATION OF CABLE END TERMINATION & RS/SkS/SV/68 Crore Lakh 14:00 Hrs 16:00 Hrs STRAIGHT THROUGH JOINTING KITS OF VARIOUS SIZES OF CABLES OF VOLTAGE RATINGS 33 & 66KV TURNKEY PACKAGE FOR SUPPLY, LAYING, 23.03.2023 CMC/BY/22-23/ 10.00 10.00 23 03 2023 JOINTING, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF RS/SkS/SV/69 14:00 Hrs 17:00 Hrs Lakh 33KV 3X400 SQ MM XLPE INSULATED CABLES WITH REQUIRED ACCESSORIES AS PER THE SCOPE OF WORK RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF DRY TYPE 24.03.2023 CMC/BY/22-23/ 23.03.2023 7.00 7.00 DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF RATINGS RS/SkS/SV/70 Crore Lakh 14:00 Hrs 11:00 Hrs 400, 630, 1000, 2000 KVA 11/0,415KV SUPPLY OF 66KV XLPE INSULATED 24.03.2023 CMC/BY/22-23. 5.30 5.30 23.03.2023 RS/SkS/SV/71 ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR OF SIZES 1CX1000 14:00 Hrs 11:30 Hrs Lakh & 1CX630 MM2 CMC/BY/22-23/ SUPPLY OF 33KV XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM 24.03.2023 2.00 4.00 23.03.2023 RS/SkS/SV/72 CONDUCTOR OF SIZE 3CX400 MM2 14:00 Hrs 12:00 Hrs Crore Lakh CMC/BY/22-23/ RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 11KV 3.45 23.03.2023 24.03.2023 6.90 XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR RS/SkS/SV/73 14:00 Hrs 14:00 Hrs Crore AB CABLE OF SIZE 3CX150+150 AND 1CX95+95 MM² CMC/BY/22-23/ RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF FEEDER 23.03.2023 24.03.2023 1.5 3.00 PILLAR PANEL (TYPE A-1, 8-Wav) SISKSISVITA 14:30 Hrs CMC/BY/22-23/ RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF POLE 6.30 23.03.2023 24.03.2023 MOUNTING SINGLE PHASE & THREE PHASE RS/SkS/SV/75 15:00 Hrs Lakh 14:00 Hrs DISTRIBUTION BOXES WITH ACCESSORIES

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹1,180/

CMC/BY/22-23

RS/SkS/SV/76

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tende documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our <u>website www.bsesdelhi.com</u> -->Tenders-->BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD-->Oper Head (Contracts & Materials oma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 Regd.Off: BSES Y

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF

INSULATED PIERCING CONNECTOR (IPC) OF

VARIOUS SIZES

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Name of the Work

LIMITED TENDER Through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Details of Tenders Providing Architectural and Technical consultants for fifteen (15) over Delhi Division of Northern Railway preparing Concept Plan, Master Plan, Technica Feasibility Report, Estimate, Tender schedule, Structural Design and Drawings Good for Construction Drawings and other related works for up radation of Railway Stations under AMRIT BHARAT STATIONS SCHEME

1.15

Crore

2.30

Lakh

23.03.2023

14:00 Hrs

		through Limited Tender(s).						
2.	NIT No.	Station Name (Code)	Category of Railway Station	Bid Security / EMD	Estimated Cost of the Consultancy Work (in Rs.)			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-01A	PALWAL (PWL),	NSG-3	63,200/-	31,61,191/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-02A	BALLABHGARH (BVH)	NSG-4	44,700/-	22,34,072/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-03A	FARIDABAD NT (FDN)	NSG-4	25,900/-	12,94,123/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-04A	PATAUDI ROAD (PTRD)	NSG-4	25,000/-	12,50,069/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-05A	MANSA (MSZ)	NSG-5	29,500/-	14,76,625/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-06A	NARWANA (NRW)	NSG-5	30,900/-	15,42,629/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-07A	JIND (JIND)	NSG-5	42,800/-	21,38,118/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-08A	ROHTAK (ROK)	NSG-3	44,300/-	22,16,255/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-09A	BAHADURGARH(BGZ)	NSG-4	30,500/-	15,25,429/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-10A	SONIPAT (SNP)	NSG-2	41,400/-	20,67,335/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-11A	NARELA(NUR)	NSG-4	29,100/-	14,55,486/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-12A	SUBZI MANDI (SZM)	NSG-5	23,900/-	11,92,238/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-13A	SHAMLI (SMQL)	NSG-5	26,700/-	13,35,701/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-14A	MODINAGAR (MDNR)	NSG-4	24,400/-	12,18,214/-			
	CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-15A	GOHANA (GHN)	NSG-6	24,700/-	12,35,216/-			
		L-,						

at large on		CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-11A	NARELA (NUR)	NSG-4	29,100/-	14,55,486/-			
		CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-12A	SUBZI MANDI (SZM)	NSG-5	23,900/-	11,92,238/-			
sole fatal-		CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-13A	SHAMLI (SMQL)	NSG-5	26,700/-	13,35,701/-			
said was		CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-14A	MODI NAGAR (MDNR)	NSG-4	24,400/-	12,18,214/-			
g spree a y said the		CPM-GSU-DLI-ABSS-NIT-15A	GOHANA (GHN)	NSG-6	24,700/-	12,35,216/-			
ire at an	3.	Period for Completion of Service	s 12 Months	12 Months					
alestinian g Ganeles.	4.	Bid Due Date and Time	14.03.2023 at 15:00 hrs	i. (IST)					
avelling in	5.	Bid Opening Date and Time	14.03.2023 at 15:00 hrs. (IST)						
ve further army said. heir own setting off	6.	Mode of Tendering	Limited Tenders (Single Stage) invited through IREPS (E-tendering portal) to registered firms on IREPS portal and empanelled firms on Delhi Division (through EOI), RLDA, DMRC and CPWD panel of Architects/Architectural Firms.						
later at	7.	Mode of Submission of Bids	Online submission on Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS)						
rater at		22	•						

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Ganeles died E-Procurement Portal Hadassah Medical Centre, the hospital said. RFP document Fee for each Tender (NIT)-Rs. 5900/- (Including GST) Bid Security / EMD As per Bidding Station NIT (Through IREPS Portal Only

No.:- CPM/GSU/DLI/ABSS/Consultants/NITs/2022-23 Dated: 27.02.2023

11. Validity of the Bid

.. A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delh Tender Cost: Rs. 27,70,987.50/- including GST (Rs. Twenty-Seven Lacs Seventy Thousand Nir Approx. Cost of Wor Hundred Eighty-Seven and Paise Fifty Only) Rs. 55,400.00/-**Earnest Money** Completion Period of Work 12 months of date of execution of work Cost of Tender document on NIL Date and Time for submission Upto 15:00 hrs. on 10/03/2023 Opening of tender and opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs Website particulars notice Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

E-File No.126732RT

RCNK/SNP

62 NORTHERN RAILWAY **TENDER NOTICE** Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No. S.N. 42 -2022-23-W-V Transplantation of trees in connection with construction of EMU stabling line at HNZM yard in the section of SSE/W/HNZM line under ADEN/HNZM. Rs. 1510255.00 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gatewa Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invite Earnest on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025//CE-I/CT/5/1 Rs. 30200.00 Date and time for Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.03.2023 Opening of submission of tender tender at 15.00 hrs. On 17.03.2023. & opening of tender Website particulars notice board location Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office f

24.03.2023

15:30 Hrs

624/23

Place : New Delhi

can be purchased etc.

Delton Gables Limited CIN: L31300DL1964PLC004255 Regd. Office: Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Darva Gani New Delhi -11000

Website: www.deltoncables.com, E-mail: cs@deltoncab **Notice**

Notice is hereby given that 1" Extra-Ordinary General Meeting ("EGM") for the financial year 2022-23 of the members of Delton Cables Ltd. (the "Company") is scheduled to be held on Friday. larch 24, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Mean OAVM"), to transact the business(s) as specified in EGM Notice thereof.

No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-42-2022-23-W-V Dated: 28.02.2023 641/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

he Company has sent Notice of the EGM on Monday i.e. 27.02.2023 only through electronic node to those members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/ Depositories s on cut-off date i.e. Friday, February 24, 2023, in compliance with the circulars/ Guidelines issued the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI Circulars"). The aforesaid notice is also available on the Company's website www.deltoncables.com, website of the stock exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com and website of the -voting service provider i.e. Central Depository Services (India) Limited i.e

nd Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, and Regulation 44 of the SEBI Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015 as amended from time to Listing Congations and Discoving requirements), regularities, or a manifest minimit in time, the Company is pleased to provide its members the facility to cast their vote electronically hrough the e-voting services provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), or all resolutions proposed to be considered at the aforesaid EGM urther, the facility for e-voting shall also be available at the EGM. The members who have already

As per Section 108 of the Companies Act. 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Manageme)

ast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the EGM may also attend the EGM through Video onferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") but shall not be entitled to cast their Mr. Vaibhav Sharma, Company Secretary in whole-time practice, Proprietor of M/s Vaibhav

Sharma & Associates, Company Secretaries, has been appointed as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the remote e-voting process and the e-voting at EGM in a fair and transparent manner. All the members are hereby informed that The Special Business(es) as set out in the Notice of EGM of the Company may be transacted

through voting by electronic means; The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 (10:00 a.m. IST);

The remote e-voting period ends on Thursday, March 23,2023 (5:00 p.m. IST);

Cut-off date is Friday, March17,2023;

any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes Member of the Company after dispatch of Notice by the Company and holding physical/demat shares as on the cut-of date i.e. March 17, 2023, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request a

helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on toll free no. 1800 22 55 33. The same procedure may be followed by Members holding shares in Demat/ Physical mode who have not registered/updated their Email IDs with verification details such as folio no., DP ID/Client ID PAN (scanned copy), demat account statement. However, if a member is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then existing user ID and password/PIN for casting vote is to be used. If a Member forgets password, the same is to be reset by using "Forgot User Details." $Password "option available on \underline{www.evotingindia.com}.$ the members may note that:

remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond Thursday, March 23, 2023 (5:00 p.m. IST); The facility for voting through e-voting shall be made available at the EGM of the Company and members attending the EGM who have not already casted their vote by

remote e-voting shall be able to vote at the EGM;

 a member may participate in the EGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again; D. a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial

owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut- off date i.e. March17, 2023 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as e-voting at the EGM; vii. The Notice of EGM of the Company is available on the Company's websi

(www.deltoncables.com) and CDSL's website (www.evotingindia.com); and . in case of any queries before or during the EGM, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Members and e-voting user manual available at the www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to

helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL) or call or toll free no. 1800 22 55 33. The information contained in this notice shall also be available on the website of the Compa www.deltoncables.com) and on the website of BSE limited (www.bseindia.com).

Date: February 28, 2023

Vikas Rawat Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Aid groups at the scene have said many of the passengers hailed from Afghanistan, including entire families, as

for deadly voyage to Italy **AP** ■ CROTONE

Migrants paid 8,000 euros

 $R^{ ext{escue}}$ teams pulled another body from the sea on Tuesday, bringing the death toll from İtaly's latest migration tragedy to 64, as prosecutors identified suspected smugglers who allegedly charged 8,000 euros (nearly USD 8,500) each for the "voyage of death" from Turkey to İtaly.

Premier Giorgia Meloni sent a letter to European leaders demanding quick action to respond to the migration crisis, insisting that only way to deal with it seriously and humanely is to stop migrants from risking their lives on dangerous sea

crossings. "The point is, the more people who set off, the more people risk dying," she told RAI state television late on Monday.

At least 64 people, including eight children, died when their overcrowded wooden boat slammed into the shoals iust a few hundred metres off Italy's Calabrian coast and broke apart early Sunday in rough seas.

Eighty people survived, but dozens more are feared dead since survivors indicated the boat had carried about 170 people when it set off last week from Izmir, Turkey.

well as from Pakistan, Syria and

Rescue teams pulled one body from the sea on Tuesday morning, bringing the death toll to 64, said Andrea Mortato, of the firefighter divers unit.

Crotone prosecutor Giuseppe Capoccia confirmed investigators had identified three suspected smugglers, a Turk and two Pakistani nationals. A second Turk is believed to have escaped or died in the Italy's customs police said

in a statement that crossing organisers charged 8,000 euros (around USD 8,500) each for the "voyage of death". Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi pushed back strong-

ly at suggestions that the rescue was delayed or affected by government policy discouraging aid groups from staying at sea to rescue migrants. The EU border agency

Frontex has said its aircraft spotted the boat off Crotone late Saturday and alerted Italian authorities. Italy sent out two patrol

vessels, but they had to turn back because of the poor weather. The rescue operation then went out early Sunday after the boat had splintered. 'There was no delay,"

Piantedosi said. "Everything possible was done in absolutely prohibitive sea conditions."

'Motorist killed in West Bank was US citizen

Jerusalem: Israeli authorities said on Tuesday that a motorist shot to death by a suspected Palestinian gunman in the occupied West Bank held both American and Israeli citizenship. It was the latest in a bloody string of violent attacks roiling the region.

The government identified the slain man as Elan Ganeles, 27, of West Hartford, Conn. A friend told local media he had been visiting Israel for a wedding and driving on a highway near the Dead Sea when he was shot. The attackers remained at Tuesday.

Ganeles was the s ity of what the army a multi-site shooting day earlier. The army attackers opened fi Israeli car near the Pa city of Jericho, hitting The assailants, tra

one vehicle, then drov and fired again, the ar The attackers set tl vehicle afire and fled, s a manhunt.

He is to be buried on Wednesday in the Israeli central city of Raanana. Israeli President Isaac Herzog extended condolences to Ganeles's

Fiscal deficit touches 67.8% of full-yr target

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

he Central Government's I fiscal deficit touched 67.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of January due to higher expenses and lower revenue realisations, according to official data released on Tuesday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and revenue collection during April-January period stood at ₹11.9 lakh crore, as per the data from the Controller General of Accounts

The fiscal deficit in the comparable period of 2021-22 was 58.9 per cent of that year's Revised Estimate (RE) in the Budget.

For the full year 2022-23, the government expects the deficit at ₹17.55 lakh crore or 6.4 per cent of the GDP.

The CGA data showed that the net tax collection in the first 10 months of this fiscal was

borrows from the market to finance its fiscal deficit. to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of the GDP by 2025-26.

₹16,88,710 crore or 80.9 per cent of the RE 2022-23.

In the comparable period last financial year, the collection stood at 87.7 per cent of the RE 2021-22.

The central government's total expenditure was ₹31.67 lakh crore or 75.7 per cent of RE 2022-23.

In the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on February 1, the fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 is 5.9 per cent the GDP.

For the current year ending March 2023, the deficit has been retained at 6.4 per cent of

Sensex, Nifty extend decline to eighth day

The Government intends

Retail inflation

workers rises to

6.16% in January

 $R^{\text{etail inflation for industri-}}_{\text{al workers rose to 6.16 per}}$

cent in January from 5.50 per

cent in December, mainly due

to rise in prices of certain food

the Labour Ministry also said

that food inflation stood at 5.69

per cent in January as against

4.10 per cent in December.

In a statement on Tuesday,

for industrial

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B_{\text{the eighth straight day to close at}}^{\text{enchmark Sensex and Nifty slid for}}$ four-month lows on Tuesday as growing worries over interest rate hikes to stem inflation and FII selling unnerved

Mixed global cues, selling in index heavyweights and caution by investors ahead of the release of key macroeconomic data waylaid the key indices to their longest losing run in more than three-and-a-half years. Investor wealth eroded by ₹10.58 lakh crore in the eight-day decline.

Sensex and Nifty, previously, had fallen for a record nine days on the trot in May 2019.

Paring its early gains, the BSE Sensex declined by 326.23 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at a four-month low of 58,962.12. The barometer opened higher and later touched a high of 59,483.72 in line with gains in Asian

However, European stocks opened lower and US futures also declined amid a rise in bond yields which pulled down the 30-share index around 688 points to touch a low of 58,795.97.

The NSE Nifty also retreated from



the day's highs to settle at a more than four-month low of 17,303.95, showing a loss of 88.75 points or 0.51 per cent. As many as 33 of Nifty stocks declined.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries fell the most by 2 per cent. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finsery, ITC, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finance were among the other major laggards.

Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors and HDFC were the major gainers.

"Global investors' interest in the equity market is weakening due to the slowdown in the economy, led by high inflation and contractionary monetary policy. Inflows are being diverted to safe assets, and corporate earnings growth is dropping, affecting the performance of the stock market and demanding downgrade in valuation.

Most of Adami Group stocks bounce back

Shares of eight of the ten listed firms of the Adani Group ended with gains on Tuesday after taking a beating in recent sessions.

Adani Enterprises stock jumped 14.22 per cent to settle at ₹1,364.05 on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 19 per cent to Rs 1,421.95.

Shares of Adani Ports climbed 5.44 per cent, Adani Green Energy gained 5 per cent, Adani Wilmar rose 5 per cent

and NDTV gained 4.99 per cent.
Adani Power advanced 4.98 per cent, Ambuja Cements (3.75 per cent) and ACC (2.24 per cent).

However, Adani Transmission fell 5 per cent and Adani Total Gas declined 4.99 per cent.

Since January 24 when the US short seller Hindenburg Research came out with its report on the group, all the ten firms have lost ₹12,07,848.69 crore in market valuation. At current exchange rate, this translates to around \$147

Till Monday, these companies' cumulative market capitalisation had eroded by ₹12,37,891.56 crore.

In the equity market, the BSE Sensex declined 326.23 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 58,962.12 points. The NSE Nifty dropped 88.75 points or 0.51 per

cent to 17,303.95 points.

'The negative takeaway was that Nifty witnessed drubbing despite Adani Group stocks bouncing sharply higher in today's trade," Prashanth Tapse -Research Analyst, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Nine out of the ten listed firms of the Adani Group closed in the red on Monday, with the flagship Adani Enterprises tumbling over 9 per cent.

Majority of the Adani Group firms had ended lower on Friday as well.

Adani Group stocks have taken a beating on the exchanges after USbased short seller Hindenburg Research last month made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against it.

The group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

SBI enters social loan market; raises \$1 bn from overseas markets

PTI MUMBAI

State Bank of India on Tuesday said it has concluded a landmark \$1 billion syndicated social loan, making it the largest ESG loan raised by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific market.

In a statement, the bank said the loan is of \$500 million of primary issue and an equal amount in greenshoe option. It is also the maiden such issuance from the nation's largest lender.

The deal is the largest ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) loan by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific and the second largest social loan globally, it added.

The issue got overwhelming participation from banks across Taiwan, Japan, China, and the Middle East ensuring a full subscription, including \$500 million of the greenshoe option. At current exchange rates, \$1 billion is worth more than ₹8,200 crore.

Housing finance major HDFC and state-run

Punjab National Bank on

Tuesday announced up to 25

basis points increase in their

lending interest rates, making their new and old loans expen-

The revised rates would be

Mortgage lender HDFC

has increased its retail prime

lending rate by 25 basis points

to a minimum of 9.20 per

The second-biggest public sector lender, Punjab National

Bank (PNB), increased its

Marginal Cost of Funds Based

Lending Rate (MCLR) by 10

basis points across all tenure.

MCLR, used to price most of

consumer loans such as auto,

The benchmark one-year

sive for consumers.

effective from March 1.

Growth projection of 7% for current fiscal realistic: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

hief Economic Advisor V CAnantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said India needs to grow at 4-4.1 per cent in the March quarter to achieve 7 per cent real GDP growth rate for the full financial year. He also said the growth

forecast of 7 per cent is "very According to him, there are

enough signs that manufacturing is in good health, but India has to be prepared to deal with El Nino and weatherrelated uncertainties.

"... The growth rate that we need to achieve in the fourth quarter is roughly at 4-4.1 per cent to be able to hit a 7 per cent real GDP growth.

"The trends that we have in terms of high frequency data for 2022-23 for fourth quarter do indicate that achieving that growth rate in Q4 is well within the realm of possibility and

Bank hike lending rates

personal and home, has been

revised upwards to 8.5 per cent from 8.4 per cent, PNB

said in an exchange filing.
HDFC increased its Retail

Prime Lending Rate (RPLR) on

housing loans, on which its

Adjustable Rate Home Loans

(ARHL) are benchmarked, by

25 basis points, with effect from March 1, 2023, the mort-

gage lender said in a statement.

per annum applicable for cus-

tomers availing loan with a credit score of 760 and above

Special offer 8.70 per cent



GDP growth estimate for 2022-23 is very realistic," Nageswaran told reporters.

In the current fiscal, the Indian economy grew 19.5 per cent and 23.9 per cent in June and September quarters, respectively.

The growth slowed to 4.4 er cent in the October-December quarter, mainly due to a contraction in the manufacturing sector, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on

All-India House Price Index rises 2.8% in 03: RBI data

PTI MUMBAI

 $T^{\text{he all India house price}}_{\text{index (HPI) rose 2.8 per}}$ cent in the October-December quarter of 2022-23 as compared with 3.1 per cent a year ago, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India on

The RBI releases quarterly HPI based on transactionlevel data received from the registration authorities in ten major cities. The cities are: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and The movements in HPI

during the third quarter of the current fiscal varied widely across the cities - ranging from a growth of 7.1 per cent (Kochi) to a contraction of 9 per cent (Jaipur). "On a sequential (q-o-q) basis, all India HPI increased

by 1.3 per cent in Q3:2022-23; while Lucknow, Kolkata, and Jaipur recorded sequential contraction in the index, it rose for the remaining cities," the RBI

Bill Gates calls on RBI Guv; discusses financial inclusion, microfinance

PTI MUMBAI

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates on Tuesday met Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das and discussed various issues including financial inclusion, payment systems, microfinance and digital lending among oth-"Mr.@BillGates visited RBI

Mumbai today and held wide ranging discussions with Governor @DasShaktikanta #RBI #rbitoday #rbigovernor #shaktikantadas #BillGates," RBI said in a tweet. Gates Foundation pursues a lot of activity in India

including promotion of financial inclusion, health sector and climate change.
Billionaire businessman

Gates is also engaged in largescale philanthropy activities. "Had an excellent meeting

with @BillGates on financial inclusion, payment systems, microfinance and digital lending, etc," Das said in another



Shaktikanta Das with Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates during a meeting, in Mumbai on Tuesday

In a recent article, Gates said, climate change and global health are inextricably linked.

"Hotter temperatures will make poverty reduction harder by increasing food insecurity and the prevalence of infectious diseases and diverting resources away from those who need them the most. It's a vicious cycle," he had said.

BUSINESS BRIEF

VIT-AP VARSITY ORGANISES NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY Amaravati/Vijayawada/Guntur:School

of Advanced Sciences and Innovation, incubation and entrepreneur cell of VIT-AP University jointly organized National science day at VIT-AP campus today to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Prof.

C.V.Raman in 1928. Padmasri Dr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy - Founder

Chairman and board member of Cyeint who attended the program as the chief guest has unveiled the national science day

SRM-IST OBSERVES 12TH ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY Kattankulathur: The 12th annual

'Research Day' was observed at SRM Institute of Science of Technology (SRM IST) at Kattankulathur on Tuesday 'Research Day' is held annually as part of SRM IST's efforts to

promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary learning among research scholars and encourage students to work towards preparing and presenting high-quality papers.

POWERGRID'S PROGS FOR G-20 ACWG MEET AWARENESS

Gurugram: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE of Ministry of Power, organized a number of programmes to generate public awareness in run up to the upcoming meeting of Anti-



Corruption Working Group (ACWG) of G-20 Forum to be held from 1st-3rd March, 2023 at Gurugram under the directives of Central Vigilance Commission. Debates, quiz competitions, essay writing, poster making competitions were held in various Gurugram and Delhi

INTELLISMART INFRA RECEIVES IND A/STABLE RATING New Delhi: IntelliSmart Infrastructure Private Limited, India's leading

smart metering and digital solutions provider and a joint venture of Services Limited (EESL) and National Infrastructu Investment Fund (NIIF), has received 'IND A/Stable' rating from India Ratings & Research for its debt facilities. The rating has been provided for rupee term loan, fund-based and non-fund-based working capital. The rating reflects IntelliSmart's long-term contract with a strong counterparty like Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL), minimal payment risk due to a dedicated payment security mechanism with minimum clearing balance of 1.1x the monthly payment fee, minimal equity infusion risk and moderate debt structure. The rating also draws comfort from the company's strong sponsor-led backing and experienced key management personnel with considerable experience in the smart metering sector

KSB SALES GROWTH RISES BY 22%

New Delhi: KSB Limited said that the sales value of 2022 has been recorded at Rs 1822 crore, which is about 22 per cent more than the previous year. Highlighting the results, company shared; the sales value of INR 524.6 crore achieved for this quarter is about a 18 per

GOVERNMENT DOCTORS GIVEN TRAINING

reversing cardiovascular metabolic disorders through scientific research-based approach, successfully trained 65 Government doctors from Uttarakhand in its disease reversal programme.

cent increase over the corresponding quarter of the year 2021.

Mumbai: Madhavbaug, an ayurvedic specialist in treating and

TVS Apache series global sale touches 5 million

PTI CHENNAI

wo and three wheeler Two and three man istered an overall sale of five million units of its premium motorcycle brand, TVS Apache series in domestic and overseas

Launched in 2005, the city-headquartered company has strong presence in over 60 plus countries with TVS Apache series becoming one of the fastest growing brands globally.
".. The TVS Apache series

has seen multiple upgrades over the years with the inclu-



sion of segment first and exciting features like Race-Tuned Fuel Injection (RT-Fi), ride modes, dual channel ABS, Race Tuned Slipper clutch..", the company said in a statement on



March 31, 2023.

and availing disbursement (part or full) will continue till

of increase to 250 basis points. Following the rate hike by the central bank, State Bank of India (SBI), the country's biggest bank has hiked the MCLR by 10 bps across tenures, making most consumer loans such as auto or

home loans costlier for bor-

The new rates came into

effect from February 15. Private sector Kotak Mahindra Bank too increased its lending rates by 5 basis points across tenures.

against US dollar PTI ■ NEW DELHI The rupee appreciated by 15

to close at 82.64

paise to close at 82.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, ahead of the release of key domestic macroeconomic data.

Forex traders said the central bank's intervention and lower commodity prices supported the local unit. At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.69 against the American currency and finally settled at 82.64 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 15 paise over its previous close of 82.79.

During the trading session, the rupee touched a high of 82.63 and a low of 82.75 against the dollar.

The dollar index, which

form healthcare services, edu-



gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03 per cent to

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.75 per cent to \$83.07 per bar-

According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the Indian rupee gained along with most regioncurrencies ahead of the important economic data

Ambani scion lists 5G benefits from

HDFC, Punjab National Rupee gains 15 paise Gold falls ₹110; silver declines ₹550 PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price fell by ₹110 to ₹55,550 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday amid a fall in global rates of the precious metal, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had

closed at ₹55,660 per 10 gram.
Silver also slumped by ₹550 to ₹63,000 per kg.

"Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹55,550 per 10 gram, down ₹110 per 10 gram," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst -Commodities at HDFC

Securities. In the overseas market, both gold and silver were quot ing lower at \$1,808 per ounce and \$20.47 per ounce, respec

Bharti Airtel to raise mobile services rates across all plans this yr

year, telecom firm's Chairman

Sunil Bharti Mittal said here. The company last month increased the price of its minimum recharge or the entry-level for the 28-day mobile phone service plan by about 57 per cent

when the company's balance sheet is healthy, he said the return on capital in the telecom business is very low and a tariff hike is expected this year.
"It (tariff hike) will happen

He said the company has injected a lot of capital that has made the balance sheet strong



tariff situation. I hope it happens this year," Mittal said. Asked about the impact of price increase on people at the bottom of the pyramid, he

said the hike is low compared to the spending people are making on other things. "Salaries have gone up, rents have gone up except one thing. There is no one com-

plaining. People are consuming 30 GB for almost paying nothing. We don't have more Vodafone (Idea) type of scenarios in the country.

Tata Power Renewable Energy board okays allotment of 20 cr shares to GreenForest PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ata Power on Tuesday said the board of its arm Tata Power Renewable Energy has approved allotment of 20 crore preference shares worth ₹2,000 crore to GreenForest New

"Board of Directors of Tata

Bidco

Energies Bidco.

(GreenForest).

Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL), a subsidiary of the Company, today approved the allotment of 20,00,00,000 tion, but would also be able to Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares at face value of ₹100 each at par aggregating to ₹2,000 crore on a preferential basis to GreenForest New

healthcare to education, smart cities PTI ■ NEW DELHI Akash Ambani, head of India's biggest telecom company, on Tuesday said high-speed fifth-generation cellular network or 5G will trans-

cation, agriculture and disaster management, making cities smarter and societies safer. 5G ambulances will not just allow remote consulta-

transit data and video to hospitals in real time, saving precious time for critical patients. 5G technology would also support the development of new educational applications, improve agriculture produc-



tion cameras in disaster recovery zones.

"Five months ago, on October 1, 2022, Prime

Minister inaugurated 5G services in India. In less than half a year, the industry has retooled itself and is rapidly bringing the 5G revolution to every nook and corner of the country," said Akash Ambani, chairman of

Jio, he said, has launched 'true 5G service' in 277 cities across the nation, with the largest deployment of more than 40,000 sites and almost 2.5 lakh cells of 5G network in 700

Reliance Jio, at a post-budget

Mhz as well as in the 3500Mhz "We are on the path to achieve the declared goal to increase the Jio 5G footprint month-after-month to other cities, towns, and talukas of various State/UTs, and are aiming to cover every town, every taluka, and every tehsil across

the nation by December 2023.

5G rollout," he said.

PTI ■ BARCELONA $B^{\rm harti\ Airtel\ is\ looking\ to}_{\rm raise\ mobile\ phone\ call\ and}$ data rates across all plans this

to ₹155 in eight circles. Responding to a PTI query on the need for a tariff hike

across the board," Mittal said at Mobile World Congress (MWC) here on Monday.

This will be the world's fastest but the return on capital in the



MESSI WINS FIFA BEST PRIZE

ionel Messi won The Best FIFA men's player prize for 2022 on Monday on Ithe back of his World Cup triumph with Argentina and Spain's Alexia Putellas retained the women's award at a ceremo-

Messi beat his Paris Saint-Germain teammate, and World Cup final rival, Kylian Mbappe to the men's gong with Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema having been the other contender to claim the prize.

It is the second time that Messi has won the honour inaugurated by FIFA in 2016 after football's world governing body split from Ballon d'Or organisers France

The award, which is voted for by national team coaches and captains, journalists and also fans, recognises a year in which the former Barcelona star crowned his glorious career by leading Argentina to victory at the World Cup.

Messi scored twice in an epic final in Doha as Argentina beat France on penalties despite Mbappe netting a hat-trick for Les Bleus in a remarkable 3-3 draw.

He also claimed the Golden Ball for the best player at the tournament, although Mbappe was the top scorer with eight goals, one more than Messi.

"This year was just mad for me, to be able to achieve my dream that I had fought so hard for. In the end I got it and it was the most beautiful thing that has happened in my career," Messi said of his World Cup win as he collected his award.

"It is a dream for every footballer but something that very few can make come true," added Messi, who was sat in the Paris theatre in between Mbappe and his wife Antonella Roccuzzo.



combining with Mbappe to lead PSG to a 3-0 win against Marseille in Ligue 1.

PUTELLAS SHINES

The 35-year-old, a seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, succeeds Polish star Robert Lewandowski on the FIFA honours list, while Putellas retained the women's prize despite spending the second half of last year out injured.

The 29-year-old beat England's European Championship-winning striker Beth Mead and United States star Alex Morgan to add the FIFA crown to the Ballon d'Or, which she has also won two years running.

Putellas is currently recovering from a serious knee injury suffered last July which ruled her out of the Euro in England with

Prior to that she had scored 11 goals on Barcelona's run to the Champions League final, which they lost to Lyon.

Putellas has previously said she hopes to return from injury in time to play again this season, but it remains to be seen whether she will feature for Spain at the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in July and August.

Argentina's World Cup win in Qatar was also recognised as Lionel Scaloni claimed the men's coach's honour and Emiliano Martinez was named the best male goalkeeper.

Meanwhile, England's European Championship victory helped their Dutch manager Sarina Wiegman win the prize for best women's coach, while Mary Earps was named the women's goalkeeper of the year.

Polish amputee player Marcin Oleksy took the Puskas Award for best goal, named after Hungary great Ferenc Puskas.



AP BUENOS AIRES

Argentina's World Cup-winning coach Lionel Scaloni has signed a new contract until the 2026 World Cup, the Argentine football federation announced on Monday.

Scaloni, who took over the role in 2018 and guided Lionel Messi's team to glory in Qatar in December, agreed to the

new deal while attending the FIFA Best awards in Paris.

Argentine football chief "Claudio Tapia and Lionel Scaloni met to finalise the extension of his contract until extension of his contract until 2026," a statement from the federation read under the headline "Continuity assured".

Scaloni, 44, led Argentina to the Copa America title in 2021 - the Albiceleste's first international trophy since

He then masterminded the South Americans' third World Cup title with a penalty shoot-out victory over France in the final in Doha.

He took over as coach from Jorge Sampaoli after a last-16 exit at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, initially on an interim basis before making

At the time, not everyone had welcomed the arrival of the understated Scaloni at the helm of the national team.

The late Diego Maradona, himself a former Argentina manager, offered a particularly withering assessment, praising Scaloni's character but telling the Clarin newspaper: "He's not even capable of directing traffic.'

Scaloni had no previous experience as a head coach, and was only supposed to be in charge for two months while the federation searched for Sampaoli's successor. Scaloni led Argentina on a

36-match unbeaten run heading into last year's World Cup, the highlight of which was the 2021 Copa America triumph in Brazil, which ended a 28year trophy drought.

Then in Qatar, after a shock opening loss to Saudi Arabia, he engineered a trophy-winning run to complete a Copa America and World

Argentina under Scaloni will defend their world title in 2026 in a World Cup jointly hosted by Mexico, the United States and Canada.

French football chief Noel Le Graet quits

 $F^{\mathrm{rench}}_{\mathrm{president}}$ Football Federation president Noel Le Graet resigned on Tuesday following accusations of sexual and psychological harassment, bringing to an end an 11-year spell in

The 81-year-old's time at the helm had coincided with the revival of the French men's national team as a force, with their victory at the 2018 World year's final in Qatar, which they lost on penalties to Argentina.

But Le Graet's resignation comes 13 days after the publication of a damning report into management practices at the Paris-based FFF which had been commissioned by the French sports ministry.

"Considering his conduct towards women, his public comments and the governance fail-

ings of the FFF, Mr Le Graet no longer has the necessary legitimacy to run and represent

French football," the report said. Le Graet had already agreed in January to step down pending the outcome of the audit, which concluded that he should not return to the role because his "behavioural excesses are incompatible with the carrying out of his functions.'

being investigated for sexual and psychological harassment following allegations made by a female football agent, Sonia

He was already under pressure after making dismissive remarks in a radio interview in early January about France legend Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the nation-

Fekir out for season with knee injury

 $R^{
m eal}$ Betis playmaker Nabil Fekir has been ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury, the Spanish club confirmed on Monday. The France international needs

surgery after sustaining an anterior cruciate ligament injury in the 3-2 win over Elche on Friday in La Liga. Real Betis, fifth, are fighting to qual-

ify for the Champions League and have been drawn against Premier League giants Manchester United in the Europa League.

"Nabil Fekir suffered a hyperextension of his left knee in one of the last moves of the match against Elche CF last Friday,



said Betis in a statement.

"Tests carried out by Real Betis's medical services have confirmed that he has an anterior cruciate ligament injury in

"The player will have to undergo surgery in the coming days to resolve the injury, which means he will miss the rest

Fekir, 29, has been a key player for Betis since joining from Lyon in 2019, winning the Copa del Rey with the Andalucian

Betis's other key creative midfielder, Sergio Canales, is returning from a muscular injury and is expected to be fit for the trip to Old Trafford on March 9.

Life-size statue of Tendulkar | Kyrgios withdraws from Indian Wells

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

ustralian star Nick Australian stal.

Kyrgios has withdrawn from next month's ATP/WTA Indian Wells Masters after failing to recover in time from knee surgery, organisers said on Monday.

has not appeared on the tour since playing in Tokyo last October following his run to the US Open quarter-finals the previous month.

The 27-year-old underwent knee surgery in January to repair a torn left meniscus following his withdrawal from the Australian Open.



surgery as a "great success" and indicated the temperamental star was targeting a return at Indian Wells.

Kyrgios reached the quarter-finals at Indian Wells last season, losing in three sets to Rafael Nadal.

US media reports added also withdrawn from the Miami Open, which follows immediately after Indian

Kyrgios, who reached the Wimbledon final last season, escaped a conviction earlier this month after admitting in a court in Canberra to assaulting his then-girlfriend Chiara Passari in early 2021.



Chelsea's Thiago Silva has knee ligament damage

AP ■ LONDON

helsea revealed on Tuesday that Brazilian centre-back Thiago Silva suffered knee ligament damage during the 2-0 Premier League defeat at Tottenham at the weekend.

Silva, 38, had to leave the pitch in the first half of the Blues defeat.

Chelsea have not said how long the former Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan defender will be sidelined, but his absence is another setback for under-pressure manager Graham Potter who has just two wins from the club's last 15

games in all competitions.
"Scan results have confirmed damage to Thiago's knee ligaments and he will now work closely with the club's medical department during his rehabilitation to return to action as soon as possible," the club said in a statement.

Silva has missed just three of Chelsea's Premier League matches this season.

It was revealed last month that Le Graet, whose mandate

to come up at Wankhede

Tn his own words, life has **L**come full circle for Sachin Tendulkar, who is set to be honoured with a life-size statue place where it all began for him.

The cricket icon's journey started here under childhood coach Ramakant Achrekar, and it was at this very venue that he won the World Cup with India

He also bid adieu to cricket at the same ground, by playing in his landmark 200th Test

Rublev wins opening match

against the West Indies in 2013. The statue is expected to be unveiled when he turns 50 on April 24. "I started my cricketing

journey representing Mumbai. India winning the World Cup in 2011 remains the biggest match representing India, was very memorable, and that hap-pened in Mumbai as well," Tendulkar said.

"Life has come a full circle for me at Wankhede, which has been witness to some very special moments. When the Mumbai Cricket Association suggested about my statue at Wankhede, I was pleasantly sur-

"I've always taken a lot of pride in representing Mumbai cricket, and my wonderful association with the MCA continues today as well. I'm very grateful to them for this kind of gesture," The announcement was

earlier done by Mumbai Cricket

Association president Amol Kale

on the sidelines of Tendulkar's visit to the Wankhede on Tendulkar is regarded as one the game's all-time greats, thanks to his incredible career that spanned 24 years and dur-

ing which he broke a plethora of

Kygios's manager Daniel Horsfall later described the



Irani Cup: Chance for Mayank to remain relevant Pulkit Narang, an off-spin-ner discarded by the Delhi Ranji team a few years back, has got into the ROI squad on the back of nearly 30 scalps this season. A student of Virat Kohli's child-hood coach Rajkumar Sharma, Narang, despite his limited range of skills, has been an India nets regular during the series against Australia. Ashwin's cover for the longest time, Haryana's Jayant Yadav, hasn't done anything of note in the past few seasons to

be considered. On Tuesday, there was some disappointment for ROI as leggie Mayank Markande sustained a finger injury during practice. In his place, left-arm spinner Shams Mulani from Mumbai, with 46 wickets in Ranji Trophy, has been drafted in.

Such is paucity of red-ball leg-spinners that Ravi Bisnoi and Rahul Chahar, the two IPL specialists, could not be considered.

Among pacers, Mukesh Kumar and a fit-again Navdeep Saini will keep the selectors interested along with the under-rated wicketkeeper-batter Upendra Yadav, who many consider better than Kona Bharat.

This year's Irani Cup is unique in the sense that the pending match — between Rest of India and 2019-20 Ranji champions Saurashtra — was played at the start of the season, while the game between ROI and 2021-22 Ranji champions Madhya Pradesh is being played as a domestic season finale.



AP DUBAI

ndrey Rublev began his Andrey Kubiev began in Dubai Championships title defence by spoiling Filip Krajinovic's birthday when he won 7-5, 6-2.

Krajinovic, who turned 31, raced 5-2 ahead on Monday. The second-seeded Rublev then reeled off 11 of the next 13 Rublev next faces Alejandro

Davidovich Fokina, who beat Malek Jaziri in straight sets in the Tunisian's last pro match. Also, Alexander Zverev beat

Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Lehecka won their first matchup in January in Sydney, and beat Rublev in Doha last week before blowing five match points against Andy Murray.

RUUD ADVANCES Mexico City: Casper Ruud moved into the second round of the Mexican Open by beating Argentine qualifier Guido Andreozzi 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (2).

Ruud, who won three titles and reached the French Open and US Open finals in 2022, is playing in Mexico for the second time in his career. Two years ago, he made it to the quarterfinals.

The second-seeded Ruud will next play Taro Daniel, who beat JJ Wolf 6-4, 6-4. Also on Monday, fourth-seeded Holger Rune defeated Ben Shelton 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 and will next face either Nuno Borges or Nick Chapell. Taylor Fritz, Tommy Paul, Denis Shapovalov, Michael Mmoh, Feliciano Lopez and Francis Tiafoe also won.

PTI ■ GWALIOR

The Irani Cup could rekindle Rest of India skipper Mayank Agarwal's hopes of returning to the national setup when his side takes on 2021-22 Ranji Trophy champions Madhya Pradesh in the season-ending domestic tournament beginning here Wednesday.

Though the Irani Cup has lost much of its significance in the last 15 years as most national players are always on the move, the tournament, at an individual level, is important for Agarwal, especially in the backdrop of KL Rahul's dipping

could return to the national fold at some stage during the year.

West Indies.

Cup match, Rest of India remain

Agarwal, a stylish opener, was dropped from the India team last year after a poor series in South Africa. However, with Rahul enduring a poor run of form and Agarwal ending the Ranji season at the top of the scoring charts with 990 runs, he

While the squad for the last two Tests against Australia has been selected, another good performance from Agarwal in the season-ending first-class tournament could make him a potential replacement for Rahul for the World Test Championship final in London if India qualify. He could also be seriously considered for the tour of

Kartikeya and batter Yash Dubey In the context of the Irani are no pushovers in the Madhya Pradesh side.

firm favourites against a depleted Madhya Pradesh in the If Agarwal and his likely opening partner Abhimanyu Easwaran are the two men on absence of their top batter Rajat Patidar and regular captain the national selectors' radar, Aditya Srivastava. there is another aspect that will But the likes of pacer Avesh Khan, all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer, left-arm spinner Kumar

be closely monitored by Shiv Sunder Das and Co — the next generation of spin bowlers.

Ravichandran Ashwin is 36 and Ravindra Jadeja 34. Both are still going strong in Indian conlike-for-like cover in Axar Patel. However, a look at India's next generation of spin-bowling resources paints a grim picture.

There is no clear off-break successor to Ashwin. Since Amit Mishra last played for India, there haven't been any wrist spinners who have come close to Test team selection.

ditions with the latter having a

India look to seal WTC final spot Boland in XI: Kasprowicz

ndia are expected to enhance their aura of invincibility at home with another series win while a down and out Australia will need nothing less than a monumental effort to bounce back in the third Test, beginning here Wednesday.

India have already secured the Border-Gavaskar trophy and they will now be playing for a record-extending 16th straight series win at home and a guaranteed spot in the World Test Championship final in June.

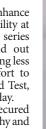
Leading 2-0 in a four-match series, India are sitting pretty and just need to make one tough decision of choosing between out-of-form K L Rahul and Shubman Gill. Rahul is no more the vice-captain of the side but the team management has shown tremendous faith in him and he might well get another opportunity to get back among

The only hundred of the series, which has been dominated by spinners, has come from the bat of Rohit Sharma. If India get to bat on day one, the conditions will be ideal for the likes of Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli to pile on the runs.

The trio of Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin and Axar Patel has not iust delivered with the ball, it has also scored the bulk of the runs so far in the series. Since they can't be expected to get runs in the lower order regularly, the onus lies on the top-order.

Contrary to Australia's inexplicable sweeping tactics, Indian batters have adopted the conventional approach against the impressive Australian spinners.

Rohit has been brilliant with his feet movement, Kohli too has looked assured in the middle and an unbeaten 31 from Cheteshwar Pujara in his 100th Test must have made him more confident going into the third Test. The square at the Holkar Stadium houses pitches



curators have decided to go with the black soil, which usually doesn't offer as much turn

> Their battered and bruised opponents, Australia, have got a lot of time to reflect on their defeats in Nagpur and Delhi. The debacle in Delhi, where they effectively lost the game in session, should hurt more. In terms of their squad composition, a lot has changed with Pat Cummins back in Australia to be with his ailing mother. Ashton Agar, Josh Hazlewood and David Warner too are back home. Steve Smith will lead the side.

and bounce compared to red soil

The visitors could not be faulted for the amount of effort

comeback in the series.

They seem ready to shun the inexplicable sweeping tactics they employed in Delhi and are expected to take a more conventional approach to counter the rampaging Ashwin and Jadeja. Such has been their domi-

nation that Patel has only got to bowl 26 overs. How the Australians defend against the spinners will be key to their chances here. Runs are always vital but their batters need to bat long. It has to be a mix of caution and aggression as the over attacking style of play is likely to be counter-productive.

Travis Ĥead is expected to open alongside Usman Khawaja. Khawaja struck a well-made they are putting in to stage a 81 in Delhi and Head briefly put

continue in the same fashion while Khawaja will be expected to play the waiting game. The fulcrum of their batting, Smith and Labuschagne, average

aggressive play. Trust head to

less than 30 so far in the series and without their runs, an Australia fightback will be highly unlikely. All-rounder Cameron Green is fit again alongside Mitchell Starc and both are expected to start on Wednesday. Australia are likely to continue with three specialists spinners in Nathan Lyon, Todd Murphy and Matthew Kuhnemann.

Australia: Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Peter Handscomb, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy, Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith (captain), Starc, Mitchell Swepson.

India: Rohit (c), KL Rahul (vc),

Shubman Gill, Pujara, Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KS Bharat, Ishan Kishan, Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Shami, Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Suryakumar Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat.

Former Australian pacer Michael Kasprowicz wants his side to play to its strengths and go for a three-pronged pace attack in Mitchell Starc, Cameron Green and Scott Boland for the third Test against India at Indore beginning on Wednesday.

Australia had gone into the second Test in New Delhi with just one pacer in skipper Pat Cummins and three specialist spinners and still lost the match by six wickets to concede a series-retaining 0-2 lead to India. "I don't mind (three quicks) — and I'm going out on a limb here I suppose — not taking India on in the spin department," Kasprowicz told SEN Radio, batting for the inclusion of Boland.

Boland could not take a single wicket in the first Test at Nagpur, but was economical conceding 34 runs from 17 overs. Boland was dropped for the Delhi Test with Australia opting for a spin-heavy attack in Lyon, Murphy and Kuhnemann.

"We don't need three spinners, if it's (Todd) Murphy or (Matthew) Kunhemann (with Nathan Lyon), I reckon get Boland in there."

"The reason why is, he'll (Boland) build up pressure from one end," said the veter-an of 113 Test wickets.

"So, from the other end as we saw in that first Test with Murphy — he (Murphy) was able to take wickets because they weren't scoring (off Boland). We've got to look to do

something else."
The 51-year-old, who represented Australia in 38 Tests and was part of the 2004-05 series that last won in India, further batting allrounder said Green becomes an obvious choice to replace opener David Warner. "Coming up to this Test match with the line-up, Cameron Green is going to be

"You'll have Starc in for (Pat) Cummins for other reasons he (Cummins) can't be there. Green will come into the middle order, he may come in for (David) Warner with the changes there," he added.

KL Rahul's removal as VC doesn't indicate anything: Rohit

India skipper Rohit Sharma kept the K L Rahul versus Shubman Gill debate open on the eve of the third Test, saying former's removal as vice-captain doesn't indicate anything and the management will continue to back the players with "potential".

Rohit and Gill batted in adjacent nets in the optional practice on Tuesday while Rahul chose to stay back in the hotel with the majority of the squad.

Both Gill and Rahul had batted simultaneously during the training

session on Monday. Rahul averages an underwhelm-

ing 33.4 after 47 Tests while Gill has been waiting patiently for his oppor-tunity in red-ball cricket after a sensational season in limited overs

Rahul, who has failed to cross the 25-run mark in his last 10 Test innings, was removed as vice-captain following the second Test in Delhi, raising hopes of a change for the remaining two games.

Rohit kept the suspense going till the very end.

"I spoke about it after the last ame as well. Players who are going through a tough time, given their potential they will be given enough



in a media interaction.

"Being vice captain or otherwise doesn't tell you anything. At that point in time he was the vice captain. His removal as vice captain doesn't indi-

cate anything."

When asked the preparation of both Gill and Rahul, the skipper added: "As far as Gill and KL Rahul are concerned, that is how they train before any game. Today was optional training session for the entire group. Whoever wanted to come they "As far as 11 is concerned, I would

like to do it at the toss. I prefer it that way considering last minute injuries

Black Caps secure historic Test win

New Zealand beat England by just one run in a second-Test thriller on Tuesday to draw the series in the most dramatic fashion in Wellington.

The hosts made a slice of history in becoming only the fourth team in 146 years of Test cricket to win after being asked Neil Wagner took the deci-

when New Zealand wicketkeeper Tom Blundell pulled off a div ing catch at the Basin Reserve to seal a memorable, nail-biting tri-

The home side had fought back to set an attacking England a target of 258 runs to win, but the visitors were all out for 256 as a gripping two-Test series fini-

It was only the second time in Test cricket that a side has won by one run, matching the West Indies team who beat Australia by the same wafer-thin margin at Adelaide in 1993.

Amazing achievement, hats off to everyone, everyone kept fighting," said left-arm pace bowler Wagner, who finished with 4-62 including the key wickets of Ben Stokes and Joe

England skipper Stokes was disappointed to have lost, as the attacking "Bazball" cricket under head coach Brendon McCullum hit the buffers, but happy to have



played his part in the drama. "That game is what Test cricket is about -- the emotions we were going through and the Kiwi boys as well," said Stokes, who was born in New Zealand. "Everyone's got their

money's worth today. "What a game. After I got out, I went to watch and what unfolded was massively up and down," added Stokes.

"It was crazy." It was the first

after being forced to follow on. England had managed it twice, against Australia in 1894 and 1981, while India beat Australia in 2001.

A topsy-turvy Test match had swung back to New Zealand during the final two days.

Captain Tim Southee praised the visitors' contribution to a pulsating Test match that will live long in the memory.

"What England have done time New Zealand have won for Test cricket over the last year

or so has been amazing," said Southee, after New Zealand halted England's run of six straight wins.

"I don't know why there always seems to be such close encounters between us, but these games bring out the best in both sides.

"We just never gave up, it was about hanging in there and trusting we would do it."

England won the first Test by a resounding 267 runs and were on course for another victory after declaring their first innings on 435-8, then bowling out New Zealand for 209.

But former skipper Kane Williamson dragged New Zealand back into the Test with a superb 132 in their secondinnings 483, leaving England 258 to win.

Having resumed at 48-1, England wobbled on Tuesday morning by losing four wickets for just 27 runs before Root steadied the ship by steering his team to 168-5 at lunch.

As England chipped away at their target, Root's vital partnership with Stokes ended on 121 when England's captain was caught at square leg off Wagner.

The pressure on England intensified dramatically after Root went for 95, also to a Wagner short ball, with England still 57 runs short. Wicketkeeper Ben Foakes

cavalier 35, surviving a dropped catch by Michael Bracewell before clubbing three fours to the boundary. But just when it looked like

Foakes might bring England heroically home, he was caught by key man Wagner in the deep off Southee. That left last pair Anderson

and Jack Leach still needing seven runs for victory — and the tension went up another notch. Anderson clubbed a four to

get within two runs, before Wagner and Blundell combined to land the knockout punch. Stokes, who will now turn

his focus towards the Ashes and Australia this summer, said it had still been a successful winter, having won 3-0 in Pakistan. "Disappointing to end on a

loss, but four (wins) out of five away from home is something we will take great pride in," he

"A few months off and get back to what we love doing.



PTI ■ INDORE

 $B_{\text{unwavering focus and}}^{\text{atting in India demands}}$ patience, and that is what Australia would aim to do in the third Test after "going away" from their plans in Delhi, said

Steve Smith on Tuesday. Smith will captain Áustralia here in the absence of Pat Cummins who has gone back home to be with his ailing mother. The team's batting mainstay was also the captain when Australia toured India in

2016-17. "I don't know if you can call it full circle. It (captaincy) has come in difficult circumstances with Patty back home.

"Things haven't gone to plan so far in this series. We have got ourselves into some good positions but not been able to take advantage of them. We can hopefully rectify it this week,' said Smith on eve of the game.

Half of the side fell to the sweep shot in the second Test, a game they could have won if it wasn't for the second innings collapse. Smith is not among the regular sweepers of the ball but the likes of Usman Khawaja and Alex Carey are. The stand-inskipper backed the batters to keep playing the sweep but only with full conviction.

"Delhi was probably a diffi-cult place to play the sweep with the variable bounce, more than anything else. A couple of us (including Smith) went away from our plans. That was disappointing.

"For a few players, the sweep is a very productive shot. They have got to stick to it a 100 percent. If they are going to play it,

they've to commit to it a 100 per-

rampaging Indian spinners by slowing the tempo of the game. "For us, it's about sticking to

our plans and methods for long periods of time. In the second innings in Delhi, a lot of us went away from our plans and got undone by them. 'We can hopefully apply

pressure on the spinners and post good totals on the board. That's key for us. Hopefully, we can put that into practice in the middle and execute under pressure," said Smith. The visitors had an intense net session on Monday but not

Smith and Marnus Labuschagne were among the ones who had a hit in the optional nets. "In India, starting your innings is the most difficult of probably anywhere in the world.

all batted a day before the game.

When you do face 30-40 balls, you can get a bit of a read on the wicket and the pace of the wick-"There are also some surorises. Some balls will skid.

Some balls will spin. There is certainly always something happening. You've got to be really focused," he said further. Part of Smith's gameplan against the spinners is to come

down the track but DRS makes

his task tougher with the LBW "It's certainly there and in play (DRS). For me in particular, I find it harder to come down the wicket to spinners. You can't

pad the ball away because you can still be given out on DRS. "Back in the day, if you were that far down the wicket, you

probably weren't going to get given out. It changes a few things technically. But at the same time, you try to put that out of your mind and just play what's in front of you.'

B'desh ready for ODI reality check against Eng series wins against Pakistan

New Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha on Tuesday said he was bracing for a reality check against England but promised an "aggressive" posture when his team take on the reigning ODI champions. The three-match series

begins in Dhaka on Wednesday and will test Bangladesh at a time when they have developed into a formidable force in the 50-over format.

They have won 12 of their last 15 ODIs, but England are the only visitors to have won a oneday series in Bangladesh since

"They are the world champions. They have one team playing somewhere else. They have another team here. They have a mind-blowing depth of talent,' Hathurusingha said, referring to the England Test team's tour of



New Zealand.

"We want to see where we are at, and find out the gap that we have to bridge. If we do well in these conditions, it will give us confidence," he added.

They have one of the best pace attacks in the world. They have five fast bowlers and three spinners on this tour. The chal-

lenge will be to play their fast bowlers in this series. Former Sri Lanka batsman

Hathurusingha, 54, returned as Bangladesh coach last week for

his second stint at the helm. During his first tenure he was widely hailed as the architect of some of the national side's finest moments, including ODI

India and South Africa. But he was often reported to be at loggerheads with

Bangladesh's senior cricketers, including current captains Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, while coach from 2014 to Since returning, Hathuru-singha said he was "very

impressed" by the team's commitment and ready for a challenge.
"We played aggressive cricket in my last stint," he said.

"There are many ways of playing aggressive cricket apart from hitting the ball out of the ground. It is the attitude that we are bringing. Whether fielding, bowling or batting, we will be

aggressive.'

The ODI series will be followed by three T20Is, beginning in Chittagong on March 9 before returning to Dhaka on March 12 T20 World Cup.

India qualify for Women's T20 WC 2024

India, by virtue of finishing Linside the top-three in their group in the recently concluded Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa, are among the eight automatic qualifiers for the 2024 edition of the tournament scheduled in Bangladesh. The top-three teams in each

of the two group of the World Cup automatically made the cut along with hosts Bangladesh and Pakistan who were ranked the highest outside the top-six direct qualifiers. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa qualified from Group 1, while England, India

from Group 2. Sri Lanka and Ireland are the only teams to have failed to qualify from the recently-held Sri Lanka are currently

and the West Indies made it ranked eighth in the rankings while Ireland are 10th.

2024 will determine the remaining two available spots, an ICC release stated.

A global qualifier in early

cent," he said. Australia aim to unsettle the